

Board Meeting Highlights
October 5, 2015

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday October 5, 2015 at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office. Madam Chair Glendale Boone called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. The following board members were present: Glendale Boone, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum and Claire Whitehurst.

Dr. Williams listed the agenda to be covered, not necessarily in order:

- Board/Superintendent Agreement
- School Board Meeting Agenda Assessment
- New School Proposal
- Emergency Shelter Agreement with Down East Health and Rehabilitation Center

He asked Adrienne Bradley, Director of Student Services, to give information regarding the Emergency Shelter Agreement. Mrs. Bradley referred to an Agreement signed by Pamela Harvey, Administrator at Down East. Ms. Harvey had informed Mrs. Bradley that the last agreement they had on file had been signed some time ago and needed to be updated. Mrs. Bradley shared that this agreement is stating that Gates County Schools will provide assistance in times of emergency, when evacuation of their facility is needed. It is not to be used in weather related events, such as a hurricane. She shared an example of water pipes bursting at Down East in the past. The residents would be bused to the community center and would not disrupt our school day. This agreement is specific to the Down East Facility and does not include Gates House. Mr. John Leidy, Board Attorney, was present at the meeting, and cautioned that yellow buses are only insured for North Carolina. If out of state travel is required, activity buses must be used.

Dr. Williams asked Mr. Leidy to address the board meeting agenda format. Mr. Leidy suggested that if Consent Items require discussion, that a motion be made to amend the agenda, at the beginning of the meeting, to move items from the Consent Agenda to Unfinished Business or New Business. Mr. Byrum disagreed, citing the format used by NCSBA, whereby they amend the agenda, by making a motion immediately prior to the Consent Agenda. Mr. Leidy agreed that either format can be used but he preferred the amendment at the beginning of the meeting to avoid oversight. Mr. Leidy also informed that the Superintendent does not have to read the names of the personnel items discussed in closed session. A motion can be made to approve items from the closed session agenda list, and then that list will be made part of the minutes. Mr. Byrum also suggested that we post our minutes, on our website, in a more timely manner, and more easily accessible to the public. Mr. Leidy informed that we can post our minutes, before approval by the board, as long as we list them as "Draft Minutes". We can then replace with approved minutes at a later date.

Dr. Williams spoke about the article concerning the building of a new middle school, in last week's Gates County Index. He had inquired who had given the information for the article, and

Cal Bryant, with the Gates County Index, said the information had come from the County Commissioners' Joint Meeting Minutes. Dr. Williams said he was pleased with the article. He stated that he and Mr. Joe Harrell, Director of Maintenance, had toured a new school in Virginia, built by Ballard Construction. They both were impressed with the design. He stated that he would like to meet with the board on October 20, 2015 and discuss the proposal to build a new school. He would like to have Dr. Jeff Perry, Superintendent at Wythe County Schools in Virginia, present. Dr. Perry is a former colleague of Dr. Williams and has built numerous schools during his tenure. Dr. Williams is also going to ask a representative from the Department of Public Instruction to be present. After meeting with the board, he would like to meet with Mrs. Natalie Rountree, County Manager, and commissioners.

Board Members discussed working jointly with the commissioners on the new school project, and appreciate their cooperation. They asked Dr. Williams to investigate the Lease/Purchase option that was suggested by Ms. Linda Hofler, Chairman of the County Commissioners. They would like for him to present his findings at the next joint meeting with the commissioners. We also need to have a concise list of our priorities for the new building. Board Members also requested to be kept well informed of the project, since they felt they had not been adequately informed in the past, when the new gym was constructed at Gates County High School.

Dr. Williams commented that he had spoken to parents and staff at Gatesville Elementary School, concerning the proposal to build a new middle school. He felt the information was received favorably, and would like to do this at other schools also.

Dr. Williams then presented the School Board/Superintendent Agreement and briefly went over the contents. He also provided questions at the end to test the board's knowledge of the roles of the superintendent and the board.

Madam Chair Boone adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. for supper, and to be followed by Closed Session at 6:00 p.m.

Madam Chair Boone reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with following board members present: Glendale Boone, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum, Claire Whitehurst and Dr. Daniel Dickerson.

Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

Madam Chair Boone welcomed Jay Brooks, our newest member to the Student Advisory Committee.

Madam Chair Boone gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mrs. Barbara Toti, Drama Teacher at Gates County High School, signed up for public comments. She gave information concerning the Tread the Mill Event, which is an annual Special Olympics event. She commented that through this and other events held each year, they had raised over \$40,000 and were hoping to increase that to \$50,000 this year. Aron Martin passed out invitations to the board members and Dr. Williams, for the Cheryl "Mama K" Kennedy Memory Night to be held on Monday, October 12, 2015. Items will be sold that night to raise money for the "Mama K" scholarship fund. A fundraiser lunch is also planned for that day.

Olivia Parks and Deja Gainey presented a powerpoint with Good News from the schools.

During the Superintendent's Report Mrs. Lola Rountree, Director of Testing and Accountability, gave a report about state testing. Some of the highlights were:

- All schools met and exceeded the 95% participation rule in all tested areas
- Ranked 3rd in the Northeast Region in EOC subjects (combined) with a 48.6 proficiency rate in College and Career Ready
- Ranked 3rd in the Northeast Region in EOC subjects (combined) with a 58.6 proficiency rate in Grade Level Proficient
- Ranked 6th in EOG Math 3-8 with a 40.3 proficiency rate in College and Career Ready and 6th in EOG Math 3-8 with a 48.1 proficiency rate in Grade Level Proficient
- Ranked 5th in EOG Reading 3-8 with a 42.1 proficiency rate in College and Career and 5th in Reading 3-8 with a 54.8 proficiency rate in Grade Level Proficient
- None of our schools met ALL of the AMO Targets
- Buckland exceeded the state proficiency average in EOG Read 5 and EOG Math Grades 3, 4, 5 and Science 5 (CCR). They exceeded the state in EOG Read 5, Math 3 & 5 and Science 5 (GLP)
- Gatesville exceeded the state proficiency average in EOG Read 5 and EOG Math 4 (CCR). They exceeded the state in Read 4 & 5, Math 3 & 4, and Science 5 (GLP)
- T.S. Cooper did not meet or exceed any state proficiency averages
- Central Middle School exceeded the state proficiency average in EOG Read 6 (CCR & GLP). They did not exceed the state in any areas of Math and Science 8
- Gates County High School exceeded the state proficiency average in Biology and English II (CCR & GLP). They did not exceed in Math I.

Dr. Williams stated that we have done well in comparison to other counties in the northeast region. He said he, as well as other superintendents, disagree with the letter grade. They do not feel it adequately depicts how well a school is doing. He does not feel our elected officials have made wise decisions in approving this policy, but there have been many examples, in the past, of poor decisions. The board members agreed with Dr. Williams' statement. They feel all of our schools are doing a great job and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

During the report from the board, board members handed out presents to the principals in honor of Principal Appreciation Month. They thanked the principals for their hard work. Mrs. Whitehurst commented on the homecoming ceremony at the high school. She also stated that her class reunion had enjoyed a tour of the high school and felt it would be beneficial for the community. Mrs. Boone attended the Cooperative Extension exhibit on child obesity at the community center, and felt that was a wonderful presentation.

Mr. Blanchard presented the Financial Report for month ending September 30, 2015. He stated that we had received the initial allotment on September 24, 2015. He is in the process of analyzing of where to put the funds, and there will be possible changes. Everything looks good at this time. He gave an update on the New Beginnings Daycare. We still don't have the audit report yet, but the loss gap is closing. Dr. Simpson meets with Mrs. Jo Chatman, Director of New Beginnings, on a regular basis, and they are doing a great job in monitoring accounts. The board had concerns about collections. Mr. Blanchard stated that measures are in place, that if an account becomes delinquent, that child is no longer allowed to attend. The Board questioned if a study has been done to see if it is feasible to meet budget with state mandates placed on staff/student ratio, ect. Mr. Blanchard said they are looking at many ways to stay within budget.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Requests for the 2015-16 School Year:

- John Long for his children, Olivia Long to attend Gatesville Elementary School, William Long, to attend Central Middle School, and Daniel Long to attend Gates County High School.

The following Consent Agenda Items were presented for approval:

1. Minutes from the Regular Session Meeting August 31, 2015
2. Minutes from the Special Called Meeting September 3, 2015
3. Minutes from the Special Joint Meeting with County Commissioners September 4, 2015
4. New Beginnings Daycare's request for fundraisers
5. Gatesville Elementary School's request for fundraisers
6. Central Middle School's request for fundraisers
7. Gates County High School's request for overnight trips for Habitat for Humanity and AP Biology
8. Gates County High School's request for Advance PE field trip
9. Gates County High School's request for fundraiser
10. T.S. Cooper Elementary School's request for field trip
11. Gatesville Elementary School Improvement Plan
12. T.S. Cooper Elementary School Improvement Plan
13. Buckland Elementary School Improvement Plan
14. Central Middle School Improvement Plan
15. Gates County High School Improvement Plan
16. Final Budget Resolution

Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items one through sixteen. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

The following personnel recommendations, as discussed in closed session, were approved.

1. TEACHERS

Charlie Campbell – Health/PE Teacher at Central Middle School replacing Jacob Harrell

Angus McKellar – Social Studies Teacher at Gates County High School replacing Sherri Redmon

Amy Roth – Exceptional Children’s Teacher at T.S. Cooper Elementary School replacing Sasha Claverie

2. TEACHER ASSISTANT FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Laurie Morse - Exceptional Children’s Teacher Assistant at Buckland Elementary School

3. RESIGNATIONS

Keli Boone – Gates County High School – Girls Varsity Basketball Coach

Gary Stevens – Wastewater Operator with Maintenance Department

4. RETIREMENT

Lula Goodman – Child Nutrition Assistant at T.S. Cooper Elementary School

William Don White – Agriculture Teacher at Gates County High School

5. ESL/LEP TUTOR FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Yvonne Dixon - ESL/LEP TUTOR at T.S. Cooper Elementary School

6. MENTORS FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

William Jones
Sheri Russell
Krystal Williams
Deborah West
Deidre House
Lori Lories
Susan Casper
Barbara Toti
Heather Boyd

7. SUBSTITUTE/ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER

Krystal Brooks

8. REGULAR BUS DRIVER

Paulette H. Williams - Central Middle School

9. VOLUNTEERS

Charles Wilson – Football Coach at Central Middle School

Janine Hobbs – Gatesville Elementary School

10. OBSERVATION FOR PRACTICUM

Kimberly Perry – Central Middle School – observing in Ms. Jennifer Dail’s 8th grade math class

In Other Business, the following items were discussed:

- Fall Law Conference – Asheville, NC - October 14-16, 2015 – Mr. Byrum and Dr. Williams are attending
- NCSBA Annual Conference – Greensboro, NC - November 16-18, 2015
- November Regular Meeting will be held at Gatesville Elementary School on Monday, November 2, 2015 beginning with Executive Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. followed by an Open Session at 7:00 p.m.
- Work Session to be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Office.

There being no further business Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously. Madam Chair Boone adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.