

Board Highlights **August 5, 2013**

The Gates County Board of Education met to discuss personnel as outlined in N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6).

The Gates County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting on August 5, 2013 at 7:20 p.m.

Chairman G. Douglas Lilley welcomed visitors and staff. Tammi Ward introduced Mr. Allen Keels, the new assistant principal and athletic director at Gates County High School. Mr. Felton acknowledged Mr. Jeremy Wright as the new principal of T.S Cooper Elementary School and congratulated him.

Agenda Items

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams welcomed Mr. John Leidy, Gates County School Board's Attorney, and Mr. Leidy discussed the following topics (see PowerPoint on the district webpage under "News from the Desk of the Superintendent"):

- Elimination of teacher tenure
- Strategies for dealing with the loss of tenure
- Non-renewal of teachers and non-classified staff
- Criteria for SRO's (School Safety Resource Officers) in schools
- Concealed Carry Permit guidelines
- School Improvement Team Meetings
- Elimination of Masters Supplement

Mr. Byrum expressed his concerns for the loss of teacher tenure and elimination of the Masters Supplement and Mr. Leidy detailed the process and explained that it is prescribed in State Regulations and cannot be changed at present.

During the Report from the Board, Ray Felton reported on the NSBA Southern Region Conference he and Dr. Williams attended in Destin, Florida on July 7, 2013. Mr. Felton gave an overview of the classes they attended and acknowledged the qualified experts present.

Mr. Felton shared that at the first class they attended, a speaker from the Hamblen, Tennessee School District reported that their school district had received the School District of the Year Award. The speaker touched on how challenging the students and the school system to become successful gives educators reasons to continue. He stated that there are two levels of accountability, growth accountability and faster growth among students behind closed gaps. Mr. Felton thought it would be a good idea to collaborate more with area universities like Chowan University, College of the Albemarle, etc. and expressed the benefits of expanding the Nursing

Program. The ethnic mix of students was also revealed as 6% African American, 16% Hispanic, and 70% below the poverty level. It was discussed that the poverty level was so high largely due to the loss of jobs and the reduction of coal.

The second class Mr. Felton and Dr. Williams attended was on Parent Power. There were three presenters who spoke about fundraising for education and how making personal connections should be priority. The keynote speaker was Dr. Brown who said not to designate a child as at risk, but to discover and address their needs.

The third class Mr. Felton reported on was Opening the Door through Virtual Schools. The presenter was Veronica Rashad and she noted how with virtual schools the students get a chance to be exposed to Latin and are better prepared for college. She stated that the course contents covers the fifty states and do not require a licensed teacher, just an in-school facilitator to keep the students on task.

Mr. Felton reported on the Common Core presentation and how it expects students to be able to reason to an answer. He spoke with Ramona Miller with the State of North Carolina and inquired whether Common Core was a proven method of communication or just another learning experiment. Ms. Miller indicated that it was in fact just another learning experiment, and Mr. Felton expressed his concern because there is still no explanation as to why Japan and China are continually producing students with heightened academic levels.

Tammi Ward reported that she is looking into virtual learning and struggling with the lack of a highly qualified teacher. She indicated that the Department of Public Instruction requires schools to submit curriculum as well as an application of what the school will be using and the North Carolina Virtual Public High School wants to keep abreast of everything as well.

Monique Hicks expressed that virtual schools is not for every student, but good for some of the students who take classes in middle school in order to free up some of their work load when they get to high school. She stated how Latin would be a great credit to offer due to the fact that it would enable students desiring a career in the medical field.

Mr. Byrum then noted that North Carolina is putting a lot of money into virtual learning. There is a former board member in another county who is leaving the School Board and going to a Virtual Learning Board.

Tammi Ward revealed her concern that a licensed teacher is not required to teach virtual learning, but Monique Hicks confirmed that the courses will have to be overseen by a licensed teacher in order for the students to receive proper credit. She went on to add that the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) provides a licensed teacher to supplement students for any of the courses they offer.

Rube Blanchard presented the financial report for the end of month two.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Requests:

*Nita Nelson, for her son, Tavion Nelson to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Senecia McNeil, for her son, Michael McNeil Jr. to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Amy Horton, for her son, Geno Godwin to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Janice Askew, for her son, Kent Askew to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Matt and Megan Bowman, for their children, Kylee and Laila Bowman to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Spencer and Gretchen Smith, for their daughter, Makayla Smith to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Edenton-Chowan County Schools and pay tuition

*Holly Harmon, for her son, Caleb Harmon to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year and pay tuition

*Mark and Amy Hall, for their daughter, Avery Hall to attend Buckland Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Hertford County Schools

*Cecil Freeman and Sabrina Butler, for their children, Sumayah and Trinity Freeman to attend Buckland Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*William Perrone, for his daughter, Savannah Perrone to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Erica Gatling, for her daughter, Destinee Sessoms to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Lisa Cross, for her son, Trenton Cross to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*April Eure, for her daughter, Alicia Bateman to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Jonathan Jones, for his daughter, Katelyn Jones to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Hertford County Schools

*Tiffany Lewis, for her daughter, Mikaela Lewis, to attend Central Middle School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Hertford County Schools and pay tuition

*Patrice Taylor-Lassiter, for her son, Torryan Lassiter, to attend Central Middle School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Hertford County Schools and pay tuition

*Bridget Boone, for her daughter, Daijha Blount, to attend Buckland Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*John and Shannon Long, for their son, Daniel Long to attend Central Middle School and their son William Long to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-13 school year pending release from Hertford County Schools

*Amanda Ward, for her son, Hudson Ward to attend Gatesville Elementary School during the 2013-14 school year

*Allen Keels, for his daughter, Alana Keels to attend Central Middle School during the 2013-14 school year

*James and Danae Yount, for their daughter, Savannah Yount to be released from Gates County Schools to attend Chowan Middle School during the 2013-14 school year pending acceptance into Edenton-Chowan County Schools

*Earl Ralph, for his son, Justin Ralph to attend Gates County High School during the 2013-14 school year pending release from Edenton-Chowan County Schools.

Mr. Felton expressed his appreciation for the recognition letter Janice Askew wrote to the Board in regards to T.S. Cooper Elementary School along with her out of district request for her son, Kent Askew.

**Adrienne Bradley presented policy 5030 – Community Use of School Facilities and after much discussion on the issue of requiring proof of liability insurance from any groups wishing to use the school system’s facilities, it was tabled for further research.

Approval Items

Child Nutrition Bids

Filed Trip Request for a One Day Leadership Retreat in Nags Head, NC for Gates County High School band students on July 29, 2013

2013-14 Gates County High School Coach’s Handbook

2013-14 Gates County High School Student Athletic Handbook

2013-14 Gates County High School Student Handbook

Fundraising requests for New Beginnings Daycare

Medicaid Reimbursement Management Agreement between Gates County Schools and Venture Rehabilitation Group

Gates County High School transfer of funds at the school level

Exceptional Children’s Transportation Contracts

2013-14 New Beginnings Daycare Parent Policy Handbook

2013-14 New Beginnings Personnel Handbook

2013-14 T.S. Cooper Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook

2013-14 Buckland Elementary School Student Handbook

Fundraising Request for Central Middle School

2013-14 Central Middle School Student Handbook

Updated Banking List

Budget Amendment No. 1 – State Funds

Award of the Brinkley Lawn Contract

TEACHERS

Matthew Sundberg – Social Studies Teacher at Gates County High School

Start Date: 8-15-2013

Teresa S. McCall-Purdy – Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Gates County High School

Start Date: 8-15-2013

INTERIM TEACHER

Donna Boyce – Interim Science Teacher at Gates County High School effective 8-15-2013 until 2nd semester 2013-2014 school year

*Debra Vaughan – Interim Math Teacher at Gates County High School effective 8-15-2013 until position vacancy is filled

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Kaye Barker – Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at Gates County High School from 11-12-2013 to 1-2-2014

Brenda Bond – Long-Term Non-Certified Substitute Teacher for Marie Perry, Lab Facilitator, at Gates County High School from 8-15-2013 until October, 2013

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Donna Boyce – Certified

TRANSFERS

Brenda Riddick – Teacher Assistant at T.S. Cooper Elementary School transferred to Exceptional Children's (EC) Teacher Assistant at T.S. Cooper Elementary School (effective 8-15-2013)

COACHING REQUEST FOR GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Renee Kittrell – Assistant Soccer Coach at Gates County High School

*Graylen Boone – Assistant Football Coach

*Matthew Sundberg – Assistant Football Coach –*contingent upon approval as Social Studies Teacher*

COACHING REQUESTS FOR CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Request for Beginning Teacher Lauren Lilley to coach volleyball and girls basketball

RESIGNATIONS

TaShawne Powell – Part-time Custodian at Buckland Elementary School
(effective 7-31-2013)

Stephen Atstupenas – PE/Health Teacher at Central Middle School
(effective 7-31-2013)