

Board Meeting Highlights
Master Board Training
May 12, 2015

The Gates County Board of Education met Tuesday, May 12, 2015, in the Conference Room of the Gates County Board of Education Office, for Master Board Training. Madam Chair Glendale Boone called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. The following board members were present: Glendale Boone, Ray Felton, Leslie Byrum, Claire Whitehurst and Daniel Dickerson.

Mr. Ralph Warren led Session Four, which was entitled “Evaluating Your Board”. He commented that every board, no matter how good, can always find ways to improve.

Objectives of the Training:

- Raise the board’s awareness of its responsibilities
- Reflect on each member’s board performance
- Assess your board as a group, analyzing areas that need improvement
- Develop an action plan for those areas

Board members were asked to complete an assessment of 108 questions prior to the training session. The assessment was designed to give insight as to how the Gates County Board of Education functions.

Mr. Warren compiled the responses into graph form, using the rating scale from “Unsatisfactory” to “Excellent”. The Board members participated in the discussion of their responses, and suggestions were offered for an Action Plan.

Below is a list of Action Plan suggestions, made by the board members:

- Have a goal-setting retreat meeting at the beginning of the year, to brainstorm and create a vision; not to deal with normal business agenda
- Follow-up with quarterly meetings to continue the creative process
- Look for ways to more efficiently structure business meeting agenda, possibly set a time limit for academic report
- Would like to have a bigger space to conduct meetings
- Podium for Public Comments sign-up sheet should be placed outside door during Executive Session, to avoid disruption in start time for business session
- With decreasing funds for salary compensation, research alternatives for recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff, i.e. paid professional development, education reimbursement and bonuses, as an example – also, look at other sources for funds, such as grants

- Educate public concerning budget issues facing the board – such as repairing and building of new schools, ect.
- Utilize newspaper, and other means, to inform parents and community, of issues facing our education system – promote positive solutions
- Educate new board members on responsibilities specific to Gates County Board – check with NCSBA for resources – possible use of mentors
- Continue with Dr. Williams providing a wrap-up of board meetings in his weekly e-mail to board members
- Deliver board packets to board members well in advance of meeting
- Board Members should contact Dr. Williams on items presented for the agenda

The board members decided to meet June 26, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m., to complete the final session.

The session ended at 5:15 p.m.