

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Session
January 19, 2017

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office, beginning with closed session at 5:00 p.m. The regular session had been postponed from January 9, 2017, due to inclement weather. Chairman Felton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The following board members were present: Glendale Boone, Leslie Byrum, Dr. Daniel Dickerson, Ray Felton, and Claire Whitehurst.

Mr. Byrum made a motion to amend the agenda to add Item No. 10 – Request to decrease the mileage reimbursement rate, Item No. 11 – Request to purchase software for School Nutrition Department, Item No. 12 – Request for Qualification – N.C.G.S. 115C-521c and Item No. 13 – Resolution To Make Application For QZAB Funds For Renovations To Central Middle School. Mr. Byrum also added that the Board would be going back into closed session at the conclusion of the meeting. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

There was moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chase Evans, Gates County High School student, and Student Advisor to the Board.

Mr. Milton Carter and Mr. Norman Carter were present and thanked the Board for their hard work and persistence to get approval for renovations to the Central Middle School building.

Student Advisor Chase Evans provided a powerpoint with Good News from the schools.

Dr. Williams recognized the board members in appreciation of Board Appreciation Month. He praised the Board for their dedication in the Central Middle School endeavor. He reported that the County Commissioners had voted 4 to 1 to replace the 8th grade wing and renovate the 7th grade wing at a cost of approximately \$8 million. Mr. Milton Carter questioned if this was a compromise. Dr. Williams stated that the request in the beginning was for a complete new school with athletic facilities, but noted that funds are limited, and there are many departments in Gates County that have needs. Therefore, we are pleased with the outcome. Board members commented that they felt the compromise was good and would provide a nice school for our students. There was praise for our teachers and staff who have helped to make the Gates County School District one of the best. Mr. Carter questioned if there had been enough funds in the past, to adequately maintain the school. Board members commented that the maintenance department had done an excellent job in maintaining the school, but the building was poorly constructed and therefore created more problems than could be dealt with. Mr. Carter questioned why the commissioners had put a limit of \$2 million for the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. Mr. Byrum explained that the county was scheduled to get some sales tax revenue and the commissioners did not want to extend the loan beyond 15 years. Mr. Carter also stated that he had read about a federal grant that would provide funds for security for the schools. Dr. Williams asked him to get the information to him.

In the Report from the Board, Mrs. Whitehurst thanked the Board and everyone that participated in the Staff Appreciation Banquet in December. She noted that she had attended the band concert, and was very impressed with our band students. She thanked the Board for their

participation in the Christmas Parade. She noted that she had attended the Public Policy Conference this month and thought that it was very informative. She encouraged people to come out and support the Run Wild For a Child event, sponsored by the New Beginnings Daycare, on Saturday, January 21, 2017.

Mr. Felton encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics, on January 28, 2017 at Beaver Lake. He also had attended the Public Policy Conference and was very impressed with the speakers and the information provided. He and other board members thought the Staff Appreciation Banquet was great. Dr. Dickerson commented that he is still working on grants for our community and schools. He also had just returned from NASA in Texas, where he was working on some opportunities for our students. Mr. Byrum commented on a newspaper article congratulating Dustin Kirby, Gates County High School student, on his Best In Show honor at the Multi-County Student Art Exhibit at the Chowan Arts Council Gallery in Edenton. He also said he had read an article in the Carolina Country magazine, which noted that seven of our teachers had been awarded "Bright Ideas" grants for their classrooms.

Mr. Rube Blanchard requested that Mrs. Donna Winborne, CPA be allowed to present at this time. Mrs. Winborne gave a brief review of the audit report, for which an unqualified opinion was given. The Governance Letter issued by her firm indicated no findings. However, it was noted that in compliance with the Gfellar-Waller Concussion Awareness Act Documentation, there were some instances in which the information sheets related to concussion and head injuries were signed, by the student and parents, after the first sport activity. It was recommended that the first participation date be documented for each student. She noted that the General Fund Balance had increased by \$46,641, for fiscal year ending 6/30/2016, with similar increases for the past 4 to 5 years. The School Nutrition Fund showed an increase, with a final balance at \$58,998. The Child Care Fund however, showed a decrease in revenue. Mrs. Winborne suggested using caution with this fund in the future. She thanked Mr. Blanchard and his staff for a job well-done.

Dr. Williams approved the following out-of-district request:

- Ethan and Nathan Stevenson release to attend Perquimans County Schools

Mr. Blanchard gave the Financial Report for month six, and provided a financial update on the New Beginnings Daycare. He noted that the loss, for the daycare, was in part related to the state mandated employee bonuses and the fact that the daycare was closed for several days due to inclement weather. There is a \$750 per day loss each day the daycare is closed. The Board and Mr. Blanchard agreed that there is a need for restructure to avoid a continuous loss.

There was no Unfinished Business.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Approval of Minutes - December 5, 2016 Regular Session
2. Approval of Minutes - Special Called Joint Meeting with Commissioners - December 8, 2016
3. Gatesville Elementary RADA Cutlery Fundraiser
4. Gatesville Elementary Pre-K Annual Raffle
5. Change in Dates for GCHS BETA Overnight Trip to Greensboro, NC
6. Central Middle School Snowball Dance

7. Budget Amendment No. 4 - State Funds
8. Budget Amendment No.3 - Local Fund No. 2
9. Budget Amendment No. 4 - Federal Funds
10. Decrease in mileage reimbursement rate to 53.5 cents
11. Approval to use funds to purchase software for School Nutrition Department
12. Request for Qualification to issue RFQ for design and planning of the construction of Central Middle School
13. Resolution to make application for QZAB Funds for renovations to Central Middle School

There was no new business.

Mr. Felton assigned schools for board members, for second semester as follows:

Mrs. Boone	Buckland Elementary
Mr. Felton	Gatesville Elementary
Mr. Byrum	T.S. Cooper Elementary
Mrs. Whitehurst	Gates County High School
Dr. Dickerson	Central Middle School

Mr. Bryum made a motion to adjourn and go back into closed session, and then reconvene for open session to approve personnel items. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion, and board members approved the motion unanimously. Mr. Felton adjourned the meeting at 7:20. At this time refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Mr. Felton reconvened the meeting at 8:41, and the following personnel items were approved.

1. TEACHERS

- Chad Fleming – Spanish Teacher – GCHS – replacing Randy Bratton
Tentatively approved by Superintendent 12-16-2016

2. INTERIM TEACHERS

- Debra Vaughn – Math Teacher – GCHS (January 26, 2017 – June 14, 2017)
- Barbara Wiant – CTE Teacher – GCHS (January 26, 2017 – June 14, 2017)
- William Don White – CTE Teacher – GCHS (January 26, 2017 – June 14, 2017)

3. LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Stacy Unger – Long-Term Substitute Science Teacher at CMS – December 16, 2016 – (pending passing score on Praxis test and DPI approval) –
Tentatively approved by Superintendent 12-16-2016

4. PAYROLL/ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST

- Crystal Jacox – replacing Deborah Jordan after retirement
Tentatively approved by Superintendent 12-21-2016

5. TUTORS

- Lou Riddick – Gatesville Elementary – ELA Grades 3-5 (Retired Teacher)
- Kathy Byrum – Gatesville Elementary – Math 3-5 (Retired Teacher)
- Kathryn Sisson – T.S. Cooper Elementary – Retired Teacher
- Kristi Steiner-Winn- T.S. Cooper Elementary – Current Teacher
- Ken Moors – T. S. Cooper Elementary – Current Teacher
- Marcia Hobbs – T.S. Cooper Elementary – Current Teacher

6. SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER

- Schardi Beasley – *Tentatively approved by Superintendent 1-3-2017*

7. PART-TIME BUS MECHANIC I

- Kelvin Riddick, Jr. – *Tentatively approved by Superintendent 1-4-2017*

8. RESIGNATIONS

- Stacy Unger – Science Teacher at CMS – effective 12-16-2016- *Tentatively approved by Superintendent 12-15-2016*
- Schardi Beasley – Full-Time Bus Driver at Buckland Elementary
Tentatively approved by Superintendent 1-3-2017

9. TRANSFERS

Employee	From	To	Replacing	Effective Date
Sherry Reid	Activity Bus Driver	Bus Driver @ Buckland	Schardi Beasley	1-10-2017
Steven Harrell	Finance Officer Clerk/E-Rate Technology Asst.	Accounting Specialist	N/A	2-1-2017

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The February regular session board meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017, at Gatesville Elementary School. Closed Session will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by an open session at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mrs. Boone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion, and board members approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.