

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights  
October 7, 2019

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 7, 2019, at the Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 4:01 p.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments.

Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings, Executive Director of the Northeast RESA, presented Dr. Barry Williams with a plaque honoring him as the Superintendent of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year. Dr. Stallings commented that Dr. Williams has done an outstanding job, and has earned the respect of his fellow superintendents across the state.

Crystal Harden, Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, with Moorehead Planetarium, provided a powerpoint updating all the great accomplishments that have been achieved through the Saunders Science Program during the 2018-2019 school year. They consider the first year to be a monumental success, and are looking forward to even bigger and better initiatives for the 2019-2020 school year.

The principals from each of the schools provided an update on the goals they had presented to the board at the Work Session on August 13, 2019. Each of the schools seem to be on target to meet their goals for 2019-2020.

Mr. Jeremy Wright recognized Mrs. Susan Braatz, music teacher at Buckland Elementary, as the winner of the Jernigan Mini Grant. Mrs. Braatz elaborated on how she plans to use the grant funds in her classroom, and thanked the Jernigan family for their generosity.

Lola Rountree provided a powerpoint breaking down our test scores into categories, and showed how we compare with the northeast region and the state.

Dr. Williams presented the board with the North Carolina School Board Association Gold Bell Award for 2018-2019. This award goes to boards across the state where each member earned at least twelve training credits during the school year.

Mr. Byrum provided a brief summary of the commissioners meeting last week, where a budget reduction was discussed. Due to an oversight on the county's part, thereby causing a decrease in funds available, the county manager has made a recommendation to reduce the amount originally budgeted for the school system. The board has been asked to provide a written response. Board members offered suggestions, and Dr. Williams and Mr. Byrum will work together to provide a response to the county.

During the Report from the board, Mrs. Ryan provided some information from the National School Boards Association Equity Conference, that she and Mrs. Lola Rountree attended in September. Some points of interest shared:

- School systems across the nation deal with the same problems, whether they are large or small
- Need to study and dissect the data to make changes
- Research trauma sensitive schools
- Examine tolerance policy
- Write our policies with an equity lens
- Limit use of minority term
- Look at our hiring practices

Mr. Byrum noted that he and Mrs. Whitehurst met with Dr. Paula Simpson, School Nutrition Director, as directed by the board at the September meeting. They discussed ways to increase participation in the school lunch program. Some suggestions have been put in place, and there has been an increase in participation at the high school. A meeting with parent and staff representatives will be scheduled.

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, was unable to attend. Dr. Williams gave a brief financial report for August and September. It was noted that the School Nutrition department is in need of additional funding. After some discussion Mrs. Ryan made a motion to transfer \$20,000.00 from school funds to the School Nutrition Department. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Requests for 2019-2020:

- Hendrix & Rocklin Glavin to attend Buckland Elementary
- Issabella Ray Owens to attend Buckland Elementary
- Tyler Johnson to attend Buckland Elementary
- Summur Turner to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Caydence Brown to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools

There was no Unfinished Business.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2019 Regular Session
2. Revised of 2019-2020 School Calendar
3. Occupational Therapy Services Contract with Kinetic Pediatric Therapy
4. Central Middle School Construction Change Orders
5. Nomination of Leslie Byrum for the NCSBA Raleigh Dingman Award
6. Nomination for NCSBA Board Leadership Award
7. Voting Delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference
8. Fireworks at GCHS Home Football Games
9. T.S. Cooper Elementary Field Trip to Virginia Beach, VA
10. New Beginnings Daycare Fundraiser

There was no New Business.

The following personnel items were approved:

**1. NEW HIRES**

- Todd French – Gates County High EC Teacher Assistant
- Bobby Collins – Gates County High Part-time Custodian
- April Coen – Exceptional Children’s Teacher T S Cooper Elementary

**2. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

- Marcus Barber – Central Middle

**3. ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY FIELD EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT**

- Sarah Harrell – Physical Education - T.S. Cooper Elementary /Gates County High

**4. EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FIELD EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT**

- Morgan Jernigan – History - Gates County High
- Amanda Parker – K-5 - T.S. Cooper Elementary

**5. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER**

- Kelli Lane – Gates County High – substituting for Anne Brinkley

**6. VOLUNTEER**

- Gwendolyn Tallman – Gatesville Elementary

**7. COMMUNITY CENTER VOLLEYBALL/SOCCER COACHES**

- Lauren Hargett – Soccer Coach
- Melissa Jordan – Volleyball Coach
- Sarah Dunn – Volleyball Coach
- Natalie Layden – Volleyball Coach
- Lori Lolies – Volleyball Coach
- Stephanie Jordan – Volleyball Coach

- Benjamin Carter – Soccer Coach

#### **8. CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES**

- Joshua Childers – Head Soccer Coach
- Renee Nowell – Head Volleyball Coach
- Jennifer Dail – Assistant Volleyball Coach

#### **9. RESIGNATIONS**

- Michelle Broughman – Part-time Cafeteria and Bus Driver – Effective: 9/26/2019
- Sonya Godwin – Bookkeeper – Gates County High – Effective: 9/30/2019

#### **10. SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

- Emma Hall – Non-Certified
- Brianna Jordan – Non-Certified

#### **11. POSITION CHANGE**

- Bobbi Jo Morris – change status from part-time to full-time lead teacher at the New Beginnings Day Care – Effectively immediately

#### **12. EMPLOYMENT ACTIVATE**

- Crystal Evans – Social Studies Teacher

#### **13. CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Pursuant to North Carolina §115C-278, Dr. Williams recommended to extend the assistant superintendent, Mrs. Tammy Boone's contract through June 30, 2021. This contract extension will parallel the superintendent's.

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The November Regular Session Meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 2019 at T.S. Cooper Elementary School. Closed Session will begin at 4:00 pm, and Open Session at 5:00 pm.
- The board will hold a special called closed session on October 14, 2019, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Ray Felton, 441 Taylor Mill Road, Eure, NC
- Mrs. Boone made a motion to table the discussion for Master Board Training until the November 4, 2019 meeting. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved by the board.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 6.26 p.