

Board Work Session Minutes

DATE: November 16, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Betsy Flanagan, Vice Chair Melinda Fagundus, Amy Cole, Anna Barrett Smith, Caroline W. Doherty, Benjie Forrest, Worth Forbes, Tracy Everette-Lenz

PRESENT REMOTELY: Mary Blount Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Ethan Lenker, Jennifer L. Johnson, Debra Baggett, Matt Johnson, Dr. Kristi Rhone, Dr. Steve Lassiter, Karen Harrington, Don Rhodes, James Tripp Jr., Jeff Smith, Gretchen Wilson, Ron Butler, Lori Collins

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL: Emma J. Hodson

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Carolina Room, The Kathy Taft Center, 2010 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834

The Board Work Session was held at the Kathy Taft Center and called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Betsy Flanagan.

Student Services Updates

Jim Hooker and Pastor Rodney Coles presented a community feeding our children presentation with the Board members. The presentation included the following:

- Churches Outreach Network
- 1946 National School Lunch Act
- 1966 Child Nutrition Act
- Feeding Children, Seniors, Low Income Housing
- Provides Food, Fruit, Vegetables, Hygiene Kits, Cleaning Kits, Masks, Bedding
- Community Unity Resource Center located 1067A Brompton Lane, Greenville

Some discussion occurred between Mr. Hooker, Pastor Coles and the Board members. Chair Flanagan thanked Mr. Hooker and Pastor Cole for their dedicated work to feed the community.

Finance Updates

1. 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #1

Debra Baggett, Chief Finance Officer, discussed budget amendment #1 with the Board members. Some of the discussion included the following.

- Revenue by Fund – Total revenue \$291,415,115.26
- Expense by Purpose – Total Expenses \$291,415,115.26
- State Funds – Total with Amendment #1 \$160,359,084.64
- Local Funds – Total \$49,983,552.18
- Special Revenue Funds – Total with Amendment #1 \$23,292,676.64
- Total Budget Resolution - \$287,950,016.84
- Total Amendment #1 - \$3,465,098.42
- Amended Budget \$291,415,115.26

After some discussion between Ms. Baggett and the Board members, Ms. Baggett requested the 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #1 be allowed on the December 7, 2020 Consent Agenda. Consensus of the Board was to allow this item on the December 7, 2020, Consent Agenda.

2. School Nutrition Updates

Ms. Baggett discussed the following school nutrition update with the Board members.

- Net Income for FY 2018-19 and 2019-20
- FY 19-20 and 20-21 Meals Served by Month
- March-July Meals During COBID-19
- New USDA Reporting Requirements
- Projected Loss after COVID-19 Funds
- Changes Implemented to Save Cafeteria Staff
- FY 20-21 Meals Served by Week

Some discussion occurred between Ms. Baggett, Gretchen Wilson, School Nutrition Director, and the Board members.

Athletics Update

Ron Butler, Director of Community Schools, shared a brief discussion of athletics and COVID-19 restrictions with the Board members.

- Dates and Lengths of Seasons
- COVID Protocols
- Spectator Limitations
- Middle School Athletics wish to start Basketball in January

Some discussion occurred between Mr. Butler and the Board members.

HR Updates

Dr. Kristi Rhone Assistant Superintendent of HR, and Lori Collins, Educator Support Coordinator, shared the following updates with the Board members.

1. Beginning Teacher of the Year 2020

- The 20-21, BT Runner-up is Mr. Octavius Juan Johnson from E.B. Aycock Middle School
- The 20-21, BT winner is Ms. Alessandra Nysether-Santos from J.H. Rose High School
- Next Steps for Regional Recognition
- Next Steps for State Recognition

2. Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan

Ms. Collins stated “In accordance with State Board of Education Policy: TCED-016, Pitt County Schools established a Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP), under the supervision of the Teacher Support Coordinator. This plan will align with the Five Standards of the NC State Beginning Teaching Support Program”. Ms. Collins shared the plan and the changes from last year’s plan with the Board members. After some discussion between Ms. Collins and the Board members, Ms. Collins requested that the 2020-2021 Beginning Teacher Support Plan be allowed on the December 7, 2020 Consent Agenda. Consensus of the Board was to allow this item on the December 7, 2020, Consent Agenda.

PIO & EPS Updates

Dr. Steve Lassiter, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs and Services, Jennifer L. Johnson, Public Information Officer, shared the Profile of a Graduate and the Strategic Plan with the Board members. Some of the information shared included the following:

- Profile of a Graduate Information
- Goal I: Teaching, Learning and Equity (Goal Statement, Objectives and Strategies)
- Goal II: Achievement (Goal Statement, Objectives and Strategies)
- Goal III: Human Capital (Goal Statement, Objectives and Strategies)
- Goal IV: Community Engagement and Safety (Goal Statement, Objectives and Strategies)

Due to time constraints, Chair Flanagan asked Board members to contact Dr. Lenker with any questions or suggestions for edits to the Strategic Plan before being submitted for approval.

Calendar Updates

Dr. Ethan Lenker shared that he has spoken with the Board members and met with the Teacher Advisory Council, teachers and principals to discuss extending Virtual Mondays. He also shared the following:

- Virtual Mondays will be extended through the end of March
- One Academic Calendar for All Schools/Students

- Some Teacher Workdays will Move to Mondays in order to minimize the number of student days outside of school
- The Need to Continue Virtual Mondays will be revisited in February

Much discussion occurred between Dr. Lenker and the Board members. No Board members indicated opposition to the extension of virtual Mondays.

Items from the Chair

1. Chair Flanagan discussed changing the December Work Session from December 21st, due to the Christmas holiday schedule, to December 14th. Consensus of the Board members was to change the meeting to December 14, 2020.
2. Chair Flanagan, on behalf of the Board members, presented Dr. Lenker with a Rock Star Award for his leadership and attitude during the pandemic. Written on the Award was 'Dr. Ethan Lenker, Pitt County Schools, Rockstar Superintendent, "Whatever It Takes", Pandemic 2020'.

Closed Session

At 2:45 p.m., Vice Chair Fagundus made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to General Statute 143.318.11 for the following purposes:

- under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information. (*G.S. 115C-319 et.seq.*),
- under subsection (a)(3) to consult with our attorney: to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to consider and give instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action and
- under subsection (a)(5) to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract, with a second from Caroline Doherty. The motion to go into Closed Session was unanimous.

Return to Open Session

The Board members returned to open session at 3:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Chair Flanagan concluded the Board Work Session. Time adjourned was 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth M. Flanagan, Chair

Dr. Ethan Lenker, Secretary