

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 in the Media Center at Pasquotank Elementary School.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman  
Jeff Dixon  
Frankie Meads  
Bettie J. Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman  
Lloyd E. Griffin, III  
Dr. William R. Sterritt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
Sheri Small, Finance Officer  
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Also present were School Superintendent Dr. Larry Cartner, members of the Board of Education, and school staff.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Winslow who thanked the Board of Education for their hard work and for hosting the meeting. Board of Education Vice-Chairman Sharon Warden thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the needs of the school system and said she is excited for the school system's future.

Chairman Winslow said Pasquotank County is a Tier I area and the only way we will ever have an opportunity for our children is through education. He stated that education is the key indicator of the vitality of any community. He thanked the board for giving the children of Pasquotank County the opportunity they deserve. He said it is hard work and requires a lot of effort, but it is well worth it. He stated that the Board of Commissioners supports and appreciates them for all their hard work and dedication.

Ms. Warden stated that she attended the session on Poverty that was presented yesterday by the school system and found it to be very informative. She learned a great deal about what we can do to meet the needs of our students who are suffering in that rim of poverty. She said some extremely pertinent information was shared and she is very happy that some of the commissioners were able to attend.

Dr. Cartner thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with them tonight. He provided a handout on CTE credentials that were awarded this year to students. He said ECPPS was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the state. Among those was a science team that placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation. In total, over 1,200 certifications were received by our students. He also provided a copy of the community update that was given on the ECPPS Strategic Plan on October 13<sup>th</sup>. He provided a report card for the school system.

Dr. Cartner presented a PowerPoint presentation on what the schools have been doing since the board's last met. He said they have completed the painting on two campuses. They are performing monthly roof inspections and maintenance reports. He said they recently surplused a lot of their material that was not in very good shape. He noted that some of the surplus items were offered to other districts that were affected by Hurricane Matthew. He stated that they have been actively engaged in grant writing. They held a community update on their strategic plan. The Quarter of a Cent Sale Tax Referendum Committee has been very active, making presentations at many local clubs and meetings.

Dr. Cartner reported that 67% of our schools met or exceeded the state growth standard. He stated that 87% of eligible teachers met or exceeded the growth standard. Of 266 eligible teachers, only 35 teachers did not meet growth. He noted that this is down from 54 teachers the previous year. At this time, he said there are only four schools in the district that fall into the low

performing category as deemed by the state. He stated that all the kids in these four schools are smart. He said some students learn differently and are motivated differently. He said we have to make sure that we as adults and teachers are changing our ways before we can expect the kids to change.

Dr. Cartner reported that graduation rate increased by 2.5%, dual enrollment with high school students attending COA increased, the number of grade 3 students reading at grade level at the beginning of school year 16-17 increased, the number of students reading at grade level in grade 3, 6, and 7 increased, the number of students working at grade level in math in grades 3, 6, 7, and 8 increased and the number of workplace credentials earned by students increased significantly. He went on to say that the number of students working at grade level in science in grades 5 and 8 increased, the number of students proficient in Math I in grade 8 increased and the number of high school students working at grade level in Biology increased. He noted there was a decrease in short-term suspensions at the elementary and high school levels, a decrease in teacher turnover rate at all three levels, and an increase in SAT scores.

The number of students with free and/or reduced lunch increased at 70.89%, which is an increase of 5.7% over the last year. He noted that 26.2 % of students in ECPPS live at or below the poverty line. There was a decrease in student access to technology as measured by the state. He stated that enrollment was down by 57 students. There has been a decrease in the number of students working at grade level in math in grades 4 and 5. He noted there has been a decrease in the number of high school students working at grade level in English II and Math I and a decrease in the number of students reading at grade level in grades 4, 5, and 8.

Dr. Cartner reported that though local funding per pupil increased last year, we remain slightly more than \$200 below the state average in local funding per pupil. 82% of all funds are in personnel, 8% in purchased services, 8% in supplies and materials, and less than 1% in equipment. He said budget reductions keep appearing for teachers.

Major initiatives include: Strategic Plan, Learning Focused Training, 1:1 delivery in November to 41 classrooms, On-line Migration – HR, Finance, Student Registration, and Power School Parent Portal, Parent Center, STEM, Poverty Training, Advisory Councils, Early College, and \$280,000 in grants received since March 2016. He noted that they have applied for an additional \$471,000 grant through the Masonboro Group and various other grants sources and are waiting for responses.

Dr. Cartner said looking ahead they plan to continue the painting of schools. There are ten schools which still need to be painted. He would like to fund two schools per year. He said changes in State Allotments for Class Size would result in a need for a minimum of 20 additional teachers. He said we have three options: 1) class sizes can be exploited, 2) squeeze out elective teachers, and 3) get additional funding locally, because there will no longer be funding from the state to pay for the teachers. He said if the allotment formulas stay as they are right now, the schools will need 20 more teachers. Hopefully, this will be fixed in January. Early college allotments have been cut by the state. He stated that right now there is no state money attached to an early college. He said they are trying to operate within what they currently have, but they will still need additional money. He added that year two of the 1:1 is estimated to cost at least \$316,500 and could be as high as \$330,000 if 20 new teachers are needed.

Dr. Cartner praised the school system for their hard work. He said our schools are in a much better place than they were last year at this time and we owe that to the Board of Education, district staff, and especially to our teachers, because they are the one meeting these changes.

Chairman Winslow thanked Dr. Cartner for the information he provided. He thanked the school Board for their hard work and dedication. He said he can see the change. He stated that both boards want the same thing; improvement in the lives of the citizens of our community.

Commissioner Parker said she believes we can make this a model city and a model school system. She stated that one of the best starts is the strategic planning that is taking place. She said we must deal with the poverty situation in our schools. She attended the session yesterday and said that it was very eye opening. She thanked the board for their hard work.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD