PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

Board of Education Meeting – Central Office

Summary of Minutes

September 17, 2019

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in a regular scheduled meeting on September 17, 2019 – 6:00 P.M. – Central Office, Lumberton, NC.

Mike Smith, Chairman

John Campbell, Vice Chairman

Randy Lawson

Charles Bullard

Craig Lowry

Steve Martin

Brenda Fairley-Ferebee

Dr. Linda Emanuel

Loistine DeFreece

Dwayne Smith

Brian Freeman

Also in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Shanita Wooten; Dr. Robert Locklear, Karen Brooks-Floyd, Melissa R. Thompson and Jennifer Freeman, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, and Attorney Grady Hunt.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order:** Superintendent Dr. Shanita Wooten

2. **Invocation:** Mr. Randy Lawson

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman John Campbell. The Board approved the Agenda.

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Public Comments

1. Cale Lowery

I suppose to me a senior at South Robeson High School and I was moved to Purnell Swett because the school consolidation. I have a proposal you may approve or you may not. My proposal is as a whole I spoke with the senior class and we would like have a graduate for South Robeson High School the 2020 class. Would it be possible to follow through with this? I believe that we could easily attain our caps and gowns because I spoke with a member from Jostens today. They do have our caps and gowns, key chains and etc. Would it be impossible to have two board members in attendance to be there to present us our diploma? It would read Graduate of South Robeson High School. This has come to my attention that we do not always have the things we would like to have, we have lost a lot this year. One of the things that I would like to have back is my graduation. I just hope you understand because at time it is hard to get through of you.

2. Caroline Sumpter

I stand before to thank you for all the work you do for all the children and families for the Public Schools of Robeson County. While asking you to consider and the action on a view issues. Tonight I do not come before you as member of the governor board of the Town of Red Springs I stand before you as mom. Which I thank is the greatest role ever. My daughter attends Red Springs Middle School. She mention about added the assistant principal role back to Peterson Elementary School. As a member of the community and I think Ms. Sellers is here and she can attest to this. I do all that I can for our schools not just Peterson, but Red Springs High and Middle School. I have always been involved I know there are stipulations and things that are unaware to the public as a board member I understand that but I ask if you could revisit that issue of getting us an assistant principal. The last time I spoke with Ms. Melinda Sellers about this issue the enrollment was five-hundred forty-three students. I do not know what the formula is for that you are the subject matter experts. I would ask not only to assist

Ms. Sellers but also for our students and staff. We are making visits to our school to see what we can do to volunteer and help. We are putting in time and I am asking for consideration for that. If you are unable to do that, what is an alternative to that plan, is there something we can do as a community members can do, as parents with our PTO. It has been a little trying and a little testing but I ask for your reconsideration.

T**eacher of the Year Recognition**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **School** |
| Robbie Perdue | **Career Center** |
| Jessica McKeithan | **Carroll Middle** |
| Rae Don Hardin | **Deep Branch** |
| Talissa Fann | **Early College** |
| Matthew Howington | **East Robeson** |
| Julia Hodges | **Fairgrove Middle** |
| Indya Sweet | **Fairmont High** |
| Sieiara Davis Courman | **Fairmont Middle** |
| Deborah Byrd | **Green Grove** |
| Melissa Oxendine | **J.C. Hargrave** |
| Molly Sessoms | **Littlefield Middle** |
| Julia Lashley | **Long Branch** |
| Phyllis King | **Lumberton Jr.** |
| Kevin Love | **Lumberton Sr.** |
| Erica Oxendine | **Magnolia** |
| Joanna Greene | **Orrum Middle** |
| Tiffany Cummings | **Oxendine Elem.** |
| Jen Creed | **Parkton** |
| Courtney Locklear | **Pembroke Elem** |
| Karen Allen | **Pembroke Mid.** |
| Tabitha Locklear | **Peterson** |
| Sharon Oxendine | **Piney Grove** |
| Mary Chmura | **Prospect Elem.** |
| Jordan McGirt | **Purnell Swett High** |
| Lisa Carthen | **R.B. Dean Elem.** |
| Stephen Bullard | **Red Sp. High** |
| Anthony Lowery | **Red Sp. Middle** |
| Adam Elfird | **Rex-Rennert** |
| Brandi Bullard | **Rosenwald** |
| Shereena Thompson | **Rowland Middle** |
| Charles Hunt | **Rowland Norment** |
| Christina Wilkins | **South Robeson** |
| April Oxendine | **St. Pauls Elem.** |
| Tiffany Scott | **St. Pauls High** |
| Kevin Hall | **St. Pauls Middle** |
| Anna Christopher Kemp | **Tanglewood** |
| Shandra Johnson | **Townsend** |
| Karrie Beth Locklear | **Union Chapel** |
| Sandra Watson | **Union Elem.** |
| Antoinette Thompson | **W. H. Knuckles** |

**2019-2020 Teacher of the Year Recognition**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **School** |
| Ms. Julia Hodges | Fairgrove School |

**2019-2020 Beginning Teacher of the Year Recognition**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | School |
| Ms. Melissa Ransom Locklear | Prospect Elementary |

**Horace Mann Insurance Recognition**

Presenter the winner for the Teacher of the Year $250.00 dollars.

**2019-2020 Principal of the Year Recognition**

Dr. Shanita Wooten presented a plague to the 2019-2020 Principal of the Year to Mr. Ronald K. Prater at Fairmont High School.

**Weather Make-Up Days**

Mr. Bobby Locklear spoke about the weather make up days due to Hurricane Dorian, the Public Schools of Robeson County staff and students were out on September 5 and 6, 2019. In order to make up for loss days, we are recommending the followings:

Make-up Days for Students

September 5, 2019 = November 27, 2019 (Optional Teacher Workday)

September 6, 2019 = Banked Day

Make-up Days for PSRC Staff\*

September 5, 2019 – November 16, 2019 (Saturday)

September 6, 2019 = January 25, 2020 (Saturday)

\*This option does not allow PSRC Employees who only work when students are in session to make up the loss time. Motion made to set aside policy. Motion approved.

**School Consolidation Update**

Dr. Shanita Wooten mention that she had several principals today who was involved or principal’s at the consolidated school to come and share –

**Mr. Christopher Burton**, **Principal – L. Gilbert Carrol School** - I can speak for all the principals that no one envy the position that everyone was in to make those moves. I would like to say from day one we have come together at Carroll as a staff and we talk a lot about staying positive and moving forward. Some of the things that our staff have really embraced. For the students and the community they have all come together as one to make this work to move forward and to keep a positive attitude. I see a lot of family atmosphere in our school with the team and grade levels working closer together to make sure we do stay positive and move forward and continue to grow as a school system.

**Mr. Clyde Leviner, Principal – Purnell Swett High School** – In term of our transition – I think our students are gradually adjusting to the change to their new school. However, change is difficult and I know that our staff as well as the administration we are committed to make sure that the transition phase and the transition period for our students is a success. At Purnell Swett High School, we stand upon the same 3R’s as the Public Schools of Robeson County, which is the rigor, relevance and the relationships. However, we feel that the relationships piece that make the big difference. The relationship piece will make you or break you and I feel that what we are trying to tune in too as far as students building those relationships that is going to be lasting so that students we can better meet the needs of our students. Building those relationships and sustaining those relationships hopefully is going to make a positive impact upon our students that we receive at Purnell Swett High School.

**Ms. Angela Faulkner, Principal – Townsend Elementary School** – The transition has been challenging but it has been exciting but guess what, we made it work and it work itself out. Some of the things we needed to do we wanted to come up with a vision statement were the community could embrace the change. Our vision statement was that we are going to focus 2020 vision we were going to focus our efforts on students learning and if we can do that collaboratively together than everything else could fall into place. So we involved the community in our transitions in our consolidation we had them moving chairs we had them out doing landscape, we got a lot of partnerships with our local business along with some churches and community people. We had one to go out and solicited help and their support. Overall, the outpouring of support has been phenomenal of course, every now and then, you run on a bump but those things we expected but guess what we learn to work through them. With conversation, we learn to work through them. Ms. Demetrice McMillian said that she was not going to say anything, but I had too because she came in over the summer and we just work.

**Ms. Demetrice McMillian – Assistant Principal – Townsend Elementary School** -

I am just going to piggy-back on Ms. Faulkner just spoke about because we are going to continue to push our vision and focus our vision on student learning. I am excited to be a there and I look forward to great year.

**Dr. Sherry Park, Principal – South Robeson Intermediate School** – I was at South Robeson for sixteen years and I taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Sometimes, I drive up and I am tempted to go to that classroom. I tell myself that I am not going to the classroom today but another interesting thing about that is it is students from Fairgrove and Rowland Middle and from Southside/Ashpole.

During Open House I got out to make sure, I could meet as many parents as possible. I try to find out if they were by former students and they were all telling their children this was my teachers so you need to do what she say. So I am getting a lot of support from families members and even the students I had a student to come up to me the other day and he replied Dr. Park bring them the test I need a trip. The reason he said that was because at Rowland Middle, we try to tie PBIS into everything and they could earn and use them to pave their way onto a trip. We had that already we started out with mustang money and some of the students are saying we did not go anywhere this summer so you need to start testing so we can go on a trip. I thought that was wonderful because one of the thing that we do is to teach them to take ownership and responsibility for their learning. That is one of the ways we have done that we tied everything in to PBIS. The students who was with me last year they know that and the students who was not with me last year I had a young man walk up to me and say so they tell me if we do good we can buy electronics. Because the end they were able earn pucks we had people who donated candles, tablets and we late the children buy them with their pucks they have to use the cobra pucks so we doing the same thing with our mustang money this year. We are also fortunate to receive the homework grant and in the homework grant we have thirty-five students and their parent receive technology and literacy training once a month and then at the end of this training they will receive a desktop. This program is sponsor by the library and any student who do not have WIFI access or internet they will receive a hot spot. The parent and student come out and again at the end of that training then they will receive a desktop.

In addition, we are fortunate enough to receive a free trip the Museum we can take up until a 110 students.

**Ms. Tawanna Curry, Principal – Fairgrove Elementary School** – Consider the time- frame in which the decision were made to transition from one school to another I have to praise the effort and time that my staff but in to make it all work. They have been diligent, flexible, and patient. At this point things are working out fine, buses and cars are dropping off our scholars, bell had rung and school is in sessions, we had air condition in the gym students are smiling, teachers are well you know in teaching. Overall, the climate and culture of the school and community is generally positive and supporting as usual. There have been some conversation upon staff regarding the impact of the changes some have accepted the change gracefully. While others are continuing to make necessary adjustments. None of the less, together we are responding to call to press forward, lead, be creative, building relationships, listen to understand each other, be open to learn new things, show love, teach, engage, and educate our students.

**Ms. Lisa Troy and Ms. Amy Baker - W. H. Knuckles Elementary School**

First thing I can say is that we had to come together as a team first because we no longer one, it is two working together. We work well together and it helps to have a relationship as principal prior to going into this so that has help us tremendously. The second thing we have brought communities support. The community has been very supportive, we have had churches to come in, organization to come in and donate school supplies, monies, treats for our teachers so the community has really supported us in this effort. East, West and South Lumberton, exactly. Our 21st century program has started and that gives our students another opportunity to rely on each other to learning more about each other and we needed that. We have just started that so that has helped us. We are very excited because we have never had called Ms. Baker replied at J. C. Hargrave, so it is another opportunity for our students not to mention the numbers are growing in the program so that has been a real good thing. Even at the beginning as we work together as a team with the moving, I teaching had to move it took numerous hours, we do not have an elevator so climbing steps was an issue but we made it happen together as a team. It took time and Saturday’s they ask me to work so they could work on a Saturday and I said, can we have a day off, but, we did make it happen and we have to thank our teachers, our staff and our community and those that have volunteered to help us move. It took a village to do this…and that is what we have is a village. Are there some bumps in the road or course, we are still trying to figure out how efficiently feed three hundred and thirty one students before 8:00 o’clock. With five buses and so, we are still working on that but we are making it happen. We are just a few minutes behind but we are working on it. We would like to thank you for your time and your efforts and just continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

**Mr. Kenneth Ronald Prater – Fairmont High School**

We have had a smooth transition a lot smoother than anybody ever anticipated. Several of you have been out looking at things and how they were going and it has been great. We started this summer first we started the transition by meeting down at South Robeson School and that day we made appointments with folks we had about two hundred students. We scheduled ninety- three appointments and all ninety- three showed up. What we did we went through the transcript with them to make sure everyone knew where they were at and did their scheduling for them and I think that help them with the transition go very smooth as well. I know the day Mr. John Campbell Board Chairman and Dr. Shanita Wooten, Superintendent was there with Department of Public Instruction we had thirty some odd students twelve of those were from South Robeson High and they were out there just helping the janitor’s get ready for the school year. They were ready to go to school, and I think that set the tone also. We have had students from both schools that is totally engaged in extra curriculum activities, athletics; we have the largest cheerleading squad that we have had in years it is about, equally divided. The Band, JROTC, National Honor Society and Beta Club tomorrow they are having social so that they could all get to know each other from both schools. So if you are there at fourth period tomorrow if you do not have anything to do just drop by. This week is homecoming so we have a large homecoming court and we have that as well as stock with people from both schools as well. All students that purchase a ring are getting ready to take a part in our ring ceremony. We have made all that work and we got two different companies we are dealing with and two different schools that have order rings and we have that worked out and that is coming in a few weeks. What the biggest thing is that we had opportunity for our new students coming in that they did not have before and causing increase of thirty-seven percent of our students that are taking college level - classes. With the help from DPI, Dr. Shanita Wooten, Superintendent and Mr. John Campbell Board Chairman, we are refurbishing our library. We have made a room that could hold about fifty students for those classes located in the media center, so that they could all take part in that and those classes began today and we hoping to have that completed so that they could move in there within the next few days. Our information highway will also, be moved to that room. I know one of the greatness concerns is that I heard was overcrowding. I went through this afternoon we have twelve classes out of one hundred and eighty nine sessions are over capacity. We have twenty-one others that are near capacity within five. I believe we have done a great job in getting that spread out. I interview three teachers that came on board two from South Robeson and one from Fairgrove this afternoon. They collective told me, that they had a lot of anxiety originally. Because they had not received placement, but once they got their placements and came out and saw were they were going to be and what they would be teaching, that kind of went away and they just jumped in an began being a part of the culture at Fairmont High School. Fairmont is a little different, then anyone else and if you have ever been out there you would know that it is different we are just a big family and that is what we have tried to do to incorporate in this transition as well.

**Mr. Jonathan Blue – Transition Administrator**

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to give a brief update. Before I do that, I would like these individuals to stand along with Dr. Sherry Park. - Let’s give them a big round of applaud. Even though consolidation are hard even though the transition may have had some bumps along the path, it would have not been, possible without these individuals seating at the table here. They did an amazing job and believe it, or not each one of the schools that I visit on multiple occasions I never felt unwelcomed, talk to multiple children throughout each one of the building. They did mention that the transition was rough and it was tough and any time change come along it going to tough for all of us. One of the things that they the kids especially in the beginning said was we wanted to go home. I learn after being moved home is where you make it. Home is where your heart is, home is where we settle down and plant roots. I just wanted to say to our administrator’s that you have done an amazing job throughout this transition as human being we resist change it is who we are our past we hold on to that past very strongly. However, as I have spoken to many children and many individuals they are embracing the present and looking forward to the future. As I said earlier and I will go back to by notes in reference to talking about our principals the major component is making this work is relationships in a relationships those that we build impact not just transitional students but all students. Not only the relationships we have within our schools but also, the relationships we have in our organization. So I employ you principals, I employ us as a school not only a school, but as the Public Schools of Robeson County. Than we continue to work on our relationships not only with your children but also, with each other. Thank you for allowing me to come and visit not once had I felt unwelcome and appreciate all that you do.

**2018-2019 Accountability Results**

Mr. Bobby Locklear presented the 2018-2019 Accountability Highlights

**Areas of Celebration:**

* Did not experience the decline in Math scores.
* Improvement in all areas of Science
* East Robeson, Red Springs High and St. Pauls Middle has exceeded growth for three consecutive years.
* Three schools Exceeded Growth for the first time in 5 or more years:

Magnolia, Prospect, Rowland Middle

* Five schools improved by greater than 5 points
* East Robeson, Long Branch, Magnolia, Prospect, Townsend

**Areas of Improvement**

* As a district, we have been identify as Low Performing.
* Increased the number of schools identified as F from two to four.

Dr. Linda Emanuel mention are we following the trend of the state. On the Math, we were almost as comfortable as the state. We did have one grade level that had concerns and that is our fourth grade that was not comfortable to what the state perform. Across the board in other areas, I would say yes. In some areas Dr. Emanuel in Math I, we actually outperform the progress the state had made from the previous year. Dr. Emanuel mention that have you seen a sub group that struggle more than any other sub group you have. No we have not we have Mr. Jennifer with her team with Dr. Carr have been studying the sub groups and address those in the school improvement plans. Ms. Jennifer said we have seen our English Language Learners actually progress we actually working with them. We are seeing them surface as a learning group that is not performing as well. We also have look at some other areas but right now, we do not have the complete data to make that public at this time. Dr. Linda Emanuel ask if we had time to take care of the missed days. Dr. Robert Locklear said that we had several different plans where it extended their school day. They took time away from there original classes, their resource classes and enrichment classes to make up the time. Curriculum supervisor but things on line why the children was out during that time. So we done all we could to possibly make up that time.

**Curriculum Committee Updates**

Mr. Brian Freeman, Board Member mention that the Curriculum Committee met and we have a presentation from Dr. Robert Locklear and Dr. Darlene Cummings on the new our new school improvement Initiatives.

**2019-2020 School Improvement Initiatives**

Dr. Darlene Cummings and Dr. Robert Locklear submitted a presentation on The Instructional Pacing Guides and District Initiatives. All information for shared with the Board Members. Dr. Robert Locklear mention that the curriculum met a few weeks ago. Therefore, we wanted to give you a quick overview

**Instructional Pacing Guide Overview**

* What is the purpose of our pacing guides and how were they developed?
  + To create a common curriculum across the district
  + Teachers from across the district collaborated with DPI to develop the guides.
* Instructional pacing guides were developed for Math and ELA grades 3-8, English 2, Math 1, and Math 3. (<https://robeson.instructure.com/enroll/F66RXB>)
* Science pacing guides for grades 5, 8, and Biology were also developed.

**Pacing Guide Components**

All pacing guides have the following components:

* Length of coverage
* Standards addressed
* Learning Targets/Essential Questions
* Academic Vocabulary
* Assessments
* Resources

**PSRC Instructional Pacing Guides**

The PSRC Instructional Pacing Guides are housed on our CANVAS platform.

[Sample Pacing Guide (7th Grade ELA)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k-QdUbkpptOKufVLWvjgmoWvpntGxP7cEAJeSCwB3h0/edit)

**Non-Negotiables**

**PSRC Initiatives**

**Attendance Proclamation**

Dr. Shanita Wooten, Superintendent said that recently the superintendent’s across the state decided that they wanted to have a proclamation from each school system, because September is the attendance awareness month. Were they focus on the students coming to school and I think that student support services Ms. Jennifer Freeman and Ms. Jadell Hawks do an excellence job with the social workers, guidance counselors in making sure our students are showing. They are helping to find the children by going out and to find out what they need to show up at school each day. We have the proclamation and Mr. Jennifer Freeman has often to read it for us. She read the proclamation during the meeting.

**PSRC Planetarium**

Mr. Kenneth Brandt mention that he is bring to you the annual report of the planetarium and science center and the request. The master plan that would show up in a magazine call the planetarium. Which is seem more wide about twelve hundred planetariums over the world. Our architect Tim Berry is working with us with no expense to become a friend of that architect when the building does began here in North Carolina. He is not license in North Carolina so he would be friend of the architect collaborate with what every architect or firm you deem necessary.

**H. Action Items**

**A Financial Report**

Ms. Erica Setzer presented the financial report that you receive in your packet for approval. There was a motion and a second to approve the finance report.

Ms. Erica Setzer presented the Budget Amendment(s) that you receive in your packet for approval. There was a motion and a second to approve the budget amendment.

B. 2019-2020 School Fundraisers

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2019-2020 Fundraisers. The Board approved the 2019-2020 school fundraisers as presented.

5. Motion that the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County go into closed session for the purposes of discussing certified and classified personnel (N.C. Gen. Stat.§143-318.11 (a) 1 (6), student transfers (N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402 and N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) (1) The Board approved the motion.

6. Motion to come out of closed session. The Board approved the motion.

7. Motion to approve personnel as presented. The Board approved the motion.

8. Motion to adjourn. The Board approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

John Campbell, Chairman

Dr. Shanita Wooten, Secretary