Summary of Minutes

September 10, 2013

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in regular session on September 10, 2013 at 6:00P.M. at the Administrative Office Building in Lumberton, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Loistine DeFreece, Chairman Mitchell Locklear, Vice-Chairman Gary Strickland

Dwayne Smith

Brenda Fairley-Ferebee

Mike Smith

Severeo Kerns

Dr. JoAnn C. Lowery

John Campbell Steve Martin Randy Lawson

Also in attendance were Dr. Johnny Hunt, Superintendent; Dr. Linda Emanuel, Stephen Gaskins, Tommy Lowry, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer and Attorney Grady Hunt.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ms. Loistine DeFreece.

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

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Loistine DeFreece. The Board approved the revised agenda.

4. **Approval of Minutes - Open Session:** The Board unanimously approved the taped open session minutes of August 13, 2013.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Public Comments

Ms. Joe Coats invited the school board and anyone who would like to attend a Public Forum on Thursday, September 12, 2013 to be held at the Robeson Community College at 5:00 PM to express concerns regarding cuts to education. She said the guest speaker would be Eric Guckian, Education Advisor to Governor Pat McCrory.

B. Technology High School Update

Mr. Robbie Ferris and Mr. Tom Hughes, Architects with SFL+A, gave an update to the preliminary design for a Technology High School for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Mr. Hughes said the Governor has passed a career technical initiative where counties, community colleges, and universities would be working together for the education of students. He said the Public Schools of Robeson County is off to a good start with the Technology High School initiative.

6. After discussion/dialogue, regarding the Technology High School preliminary design plan, the Board set aside policy and approved for the superintendent to present the preliminary design plan for the Technology High School to the County Commissioners to request that they proceed with the evaluating feasibility of the building project as presented.

C. Learners to Leaders

Dr. Linda Emanuel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Ms. Elaine Chavis. She gave a brief update on Robeson Community College's Learners to Leaders Program.

Ms. Chavis announced that Smithfield Foods, based in Virginia, has again granted RCC a grant to work with high school students with the Learners to Leaders Program. She said this is the eighth year Smithfield Foods has presented this grant. Ms. Chavis said the grant will provide laptops, internet service, virtual mentors, and provide the students opportunities to go into various organizations/companies to see leadership at work. If interested, students must fill out an application to see if they qualify.

D. CTE State Recognition

Dr. Linda Emanuel, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Herman Locklear, CTE Director, recognized and presented a plaque to Mr. Mike Lewis who was recognized as the Trade and Industry Educator Teacher of the Year in the field of Construction and Technology at the State CTE Summer Conference in July. Mr. Mike Lewis is a teacher at the Robeson County Career Center.

E. TOY/POY Recognition

Mr. Stephen Gaskins, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, recognized the Teacher and Principal of the Year winners. The **Art Teacher of the Year** was **Ms. Ashley Berdeau.** Ms. Berdeau is a teacher at Fairmont High School. The **Principal of the Year** was **Ms. Karen Brooks-Floyd.** Ms. Floyd is the Principal at Red Springs Middle School.

F. Advisory Council Fish Fry

Mr. Stephen Gaskins, Assistant Superintendent, said the Advisory Council Fish Fry will be held on October 24, 2013 - 6:00 PM at the Transportation Department.

G. Capital LanDesk Contract

Mr. Stephen Gaskins, Assistant Superintendent, said Mr. Everette Teal, Director of Technology, and Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, have been working on a contract with Capital LanDesk. He said this company will be in charge of all internet security, software protection, and anti-virus protection. Mr. Gaskins said Capital LanDesk has offered a contract for three years which will save the school system WELL OVER $100,000.00.

7. The Board set aside policy and approved a three year contract for Capital

LanDesk as presented. H. Surplus Sale

Mr. Stephen Gaskins, Assistant Superintendent, said the surplus sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2013. He said the bids for the auctioneer went out and the winning bid went to Floyd's Auction. Mr. Gaskins said Floyd's Auction will advertise the surplus sale on their website.

8. The Board set aside policy and approved Floyd's Auctioneer for the surplus sale.

I. Leadership Award for School Board Member

Ms. Loistine DeFreece, Chairman, nominated Mr. Mike Smith for the Leadership

Award for School Board Members. All members supported Mr. Mike Smith.

9. The Board set aside policy and approved for Mr. Mike Smith to be nominated for the award.

10.  **ACTION ITEMS**

A. 2013-2014 School Fundraisers

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, presented the 2013-2014 school fundraiser projects that have been submitted by the schools. The Board approved the fundraising projects presented.

B. Financial Report

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, presented the financial report for the month. The Board approved the financial report as presented.

C. Capital Outlay Projects

Ms. Erica Setzer said a project at Red Springs High School facilitated bringing a report on capital outlay to the board so the issues there can be addressed. The capital outlay project is converting the old agricultural building to a field house. The Board approved the capital outlay projects presented.

There was some questions/concerns about the air conditioning needs in the cafeteria at Red Springs Middle School.

11. 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 (G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(6), and student transfers (G.S.

115C-402 and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1).

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

13. Motion to approve closed session audio minutes of August 13, 2013. The Board approved the motion.

14. Motion to approve student transfers as amended. The Board approved the motion.

15. Motion to approve personnel as amended. The Board approved the motion.

There was some concerns/questions about teacher assistants.

Superintendent Dr. Johnny Hunt recommended the hiring of part-time mentors: Ms. Elaine Lowry, Ms. Jane West, Ms. LaJoan Addison, and Ms. Diane Odum.

He also recommended: Ms. Shanita Wooten as Interim Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Bonita Tillman to Rowland Middle as Principal, Ms. Vanessa Robinson

to Peterson Elementary School as Assistant Principal; and Ms. Angela Faulkner to Fairgrove Middle School as Assistant Principal. Superintendent Dr. Hunt said the Assistant Principal to Fairgrove Middle School is through the SIG Grant. Superintendent Dr. Hunt recommended there be a finance committee meeting before the next Board meeting.

16. Motion to adjourn. Respectfully submitted,

Loistine DeFreece, Chairman

Dr. Johnny Hunt, Secretary

Special Called Meeting - Summary of Minutes

September 23, 2013

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in special called session on September 23, 2013 at 6:00P.M. at the Administrative Office Building in Lumberton, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Loistine DeFreece, Chairman Mitchell Locklear, Vice-Chairman Gary Strickland

Dwayne Smith

Mike Smith

Dr. JoAnn C. Lowery

John Campbell Steve Martin Randy Lawson

Absent: Brenda Fairley-Ferebee

Severeo Kerns

Also in attendance were Dr. Johnny Hunt, Superintendent; Dr. Linda Emanuel, Stephen Gaskins, Tommy Lowry, Shanita Wooten, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer and Attorney Grady Hunt.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ms. Loistine DeFreece.

2. **Invocation:** Mr. John Campbell.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Loistine DeFreece. The Board approved the agenda.

4. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Technology High School Update

Dr. Linda Emanuel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, gave a brief update about the Technology High School Design plan.

Superintendent Dr. Johnny Hunt said at the last county commissioner's meeting, he and Chairman Loistine DeFreece, and board members, went before the county commissioners to present the Technology High School Design plan.

Superintendent Dr. Hunt said there was discussion about a study that needed to be done to look at different funding methods. He said the study cost is estimated around

$30,000.00. Superintendent Dr. Hunt said the commissioners asked if the school system could pay for the study.

Superintendent Dr. Hunt said there was a motion and a second made by the commissioners to approve the study. He said there was a substitute motion and a second to table it. The substitute motion failed. The original motion failed.

Mr. Robbie Ferris, Architect with SFL+A, was present at the meeting and did a presentation showing detailed layout of the facility, classrooms, auditorium, staff development center, etc.

Chairman Ms. DeFreece called a meeting to further discuss the possibility of proceeding with the study. Chairman Ms. DeFreece said the school board needed to be prepared if the county commissioners do not fund the study. She said the last study was done in

1999 and that another study needed to be done.

Superintendent Dr. Hunt said the $30,000.00 would pay for an attorney and a financial advisor to do the study of the technology high school. He said Mr. Ferris and his

company would do an entire analysis for the entire school system as it relates to the facilities, contingent upon the approval of the county commissioners moving forward with the technology high school plan. The study would show the impact of a technology high school and the capabilities of funding sources that the county may have, cost savings, etc.

There was also some questions/concerns if the school system had $30,000.00 to release to do a study.

A telephone conference call was made during the meeting to Mr. Robbie Ferris to discuss other details of the study. He said the financial advisor and the attorney would look at the county finances along with the county finance officer and make recommendations on how and if the county could afford it. He said then the financial advisor, attorney, and county finance officer would have a preliminary meeting with the local government commissioner and explain the project to them. At that point he said you will need to have a lawyer who does bonds, capital work, etc. to give resolutions to the commissioners. Then if the commissioners agree with the analysis then the commissioners will have to decide if they want to proceed. Mr. Ferris said in summary Step I is to determine the county's ability to pay for the project, and Step II is actually doing the project.

Mr. Ferris said then his company would do a county-wide facility assessment of all schools to determine the best way the school system and the county could move forward.

Mr. Ferris talked about the Governor's plan that students needed to be career/college ready when completing high school and the Public Schools of Robeson County is working towards the right path.

Dr. Linda Emanuel and Mr. Herman Locklear, Director of CTE, talked about the school system providing the needs of the students for the future. Dr. Emanuel said the school system is giving the students the minimum of what the state requires. She said a technology high school would prepare the students to meet career needs. Mr. Herman Locklear said most companies are looking for students who have taken and passed the Work Keys assessment.

There was concern about the facility needs at the present schools. There was concern if the technology high school is not provided.

After discussions, Chairman Loistine DeFreece said she and Superintendent Dr. Hunt would try to set up another meeting or discussion session with the county commissioners to talk further about the Technology High School and other capital funding needs.

Superintendent Dr. Hunt said a policy committee meeting needs to be held.

5. Motion to adjourn. Respectfully,

Loistine DeFreece, Chairman

Dr. Johnny Hunt, Superintendent