

**Minutes  
Joint Meeting  
Anson County Board of Education  
Anson County Board of Commissioners  
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

The Anson County Board of County Commissioners hosted a joint meeting with the Anson County Board of Education on Tuesday, March 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Grace Senior Center in Wadesboro. Members of the school board present were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Ann Gibson, Brian Johnson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Beulah Pratt, George Truman and Mike Turner. Other school personnel present were Michael Freeman (Superintendent), Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent), Holly Berry (Chief Finance Officer), Anne Hyatt (Clerk to the Board) and Mike Flake (Board Attorney).

Members present from the Anson County Commissioners' Board were Commissioners Anna Baucom, Jim Sims, Ross Streater, Bobby Sikes, Vancine Sturdivant, Jarvis Woodburn and Harold Smith. Other members from the County Government present were Rita James (Finance), Tiffany Edwards (Finance Officer), Bonnie Huntley (Clerk to the Board) and Scott Forbes (County Attorney).

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Anna Baucom & Bobbie Little)**

Anna Baucom and Bobbie Little welcomed all in attendance.

**II. Invocation**

Commissioner Baucom asked Rev. Bernice Bennett to give the Invocation.

**III. Adoption of Agenda**

Upon a motion by George Truman, seconded by Mike Turner, the board unanimously voted to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**IV. Discussion and Presentation (Michael Freeman, Superintendent)**

Chair Baucom invited Mr. Freeman to share his presentation. Mr. Freeman began his presentation by discussing updates and some of the great things that have happened over the past year in our schools. He explained the Youth Career Connect Academy (YCC) and presented a video that was developed by students about the YCC.

- Chair Baucom asked if the Academy was a separate entity like New Tech. Mr. Freeman said it is a school within a school and it is a part of Anson High School.
- Jarvis Woodburn said it was mentioned the YCC program was funded for four years and he asked what happens to funding after the four years. Mr. Freeman said their ambition is to continue the program and seek out grants and the hope is to receive more money from the group funding the program. Mr. Woodburn asked how many students were in the program and the grade span. Mr. Freeman said they currently have 90 students and the grade span is 9-12. He said there will be an additional 90 students each year. He explained part of the grant requirement is that they do a rubric to narrow it down to 90 students and they must currently maintain 90 students to keep the money.

Mr. Woodburn asked if there was a cap to the number of students you can have in the program. Mr. Freeman said there is not really a cap but it is frowned upon if they have too many students in the program because it could damage the success rate. He said each year the number of students will increase.

- Mr. Woodburn asked if the enrollment was decreasing. Mr. Freeman said current enrollment is 3589 students. He stated that he pulled data from the Census reports and those reports say we will level off. He explained the outlook is very similar to what has happened over the last 30 years. Mr. Freeman said if we end up getting a bypass (for example), it may push people over and increase our enrollment.
- Mr. Woodburn asked what the breakdown was for each high school. Mr. Freeman stated the enrollment at the high school campus is over 600, the Early College is over the 200 range and at New Tech it's less than 200. He said at YCC it's at the 90 mark.
- Mr. Woodburn asked what was being done for the high school so those kids don't fall through the cracks. He said they keep hearing about the other high schools but what about the regular high school. Mr. Freeman explained the Scholars Academy at Anson High School, the AVID program and further explained that even at Anson Academy they have college level instructors teaching courses. Mr. Freeman then added that students self-select to attend the traditional high school as well as Anson Academy.

Mr. Freeman showed an additional video developed by Carey Maner (student at Anson High School). He explained this student won a video contest sponsored by the NC Association of School Administrators. He mentioned this video has been shown across the state and will be shown at the state conference next week. Mr. Freeman said the video tells a story from the hearts of students in Anson County.

Mr. Freeman applauded the board of commissioners for their support of the school system. He then distributed a handout (North Carolina Guide to Strengthening Our Public Schools) and asked attendees to review the handout at their convenience.

Dr. Little called Bernice Bennett to the room and thanked her and the staff for a delicious meal. She then thanked both boards and stated she feels there is a good relationship between the two boards and then mentioned an old saying called, "TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More"!

Chair Baucom stood up and thanked everyone for attending and thanked the board of education for all they do and for being at the meeting.

## **V. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the Joint Meeting was made by Mike Turner, and seconded by George Truman. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Dr. Bobbie Little, Chairperson

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Mr. Michael H. Freeman, Secretary