

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 19, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2011. All members were present. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Chief Operating Officer), Michael McLeod (Executive Director), Howard McLean (Executive Director), Juan Cordova (Chief Learning Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Anne Hyatt (Clerk to the Board of Education).

- **Call to Order**

Chairperson Lisa Davis opened the meeting and welcomed all visitors.

- **Invocation**

Chair Davis asked Rob Rollins to give the Invocation.

- **Conflict of Interest Statement**

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chair Davis reminded Board Members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. She asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated by the members. Chair Davis then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to her attention. She further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

- **Adopt Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board upon a motion by Russell Sikes, with a second by Rob Rollins. Motion carried.

- **Approve Minutes**

(Regular Meeting 11-14-11)

Beulah Pratt moved the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2011, be approved. This motion was seconded by Michael Livingston, and unanimously approved. Motion carried.

- **Closed Session**

- Matters Related To Personnel

Chair Davis entertained a motion that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a) (6) and for the purpose of

discussing the acquisition of real property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a) (5). This motion was made by Rob Rollins, seconded by Marilynn Bennett and unanimously approved. The Board went into closed session at 4:07 p.m.

There was a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by George Truman to pay the legal fees for Mr. Jerry Watts as requested by Mr. Watts. After discussion from the board, the motion was approved with one opposition from Marilynn Bennett. Motion carried.

- **Reconvene Open Session**

- The Board returned to open session at 5:06 p.m. upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Daniel Wilson. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

- **Recognition**

- The Board recognized the JROTC Color Guard and Drill Team for their recent success at several drill meets.

- **Public Comment (limited to three minutes, 20 minutes total)**

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

Public Comment is limited to three minutes per speaker. Speakers may offer objective comments about school operations and programs. The Board will not permit any expression of personnel complaints nor defamatory comments about the Board of Education personnel and students or against any person connected with the Anson County School System. Security issues and matters relating to negotiations/grievances will not be permitted.

Mr. Chuck Little was present to speak and asked the board if they were aware there is a need for teacher assistants in our schools. Mr. Little then said funding was approved for Ms. Peggy Churn and he asked where this money comes from to pay her. Chair Davis responded by saying that administration will compile a report for the January Board of Education Meeting to answer these two questions. Dr. Little asked if the teacher assistant report could also include how many teacher assistants we have, where they are located and the rationale.

- **Chair's Report**

- Public Engagement: Several members reported on public engagement opportunities where they have visited schools and attended school activities and meetings.

- **Superintendent's Report – See Attached**

- Anson New Technology High School (ANTHS) Presentation: Students from ANTHS were present to offer information on a project and vision they have been working on. The project is constructing a shop building that would allow them to make greater projects than what they do now. One student mentioned their Robotics Team and the need for having space to create and store their robots. The students explained in detail the specifics of their building (i.e. building design, exit and entrance doors, ventilation requirements, OSHA standards, commercial tools, permits, funding, etc.). Dr. Firn said the students would like to complete the project by the middle of August.

He said he will have the students to return to the board at a later date to ask for permission to move forward with their vision once their plans are finalized.

- DPI (Chuck Coker): Mr. Chuck Coker gave a presentation about District and School Transformation. He discussed the impact on Anson County Schools and the process for turning around a school or district. Mr. Coker explained three ways: create a sense of urgency, increase what adults know and are able to do (or replace them) (human capital development), enhance or create functional organizational structure and supporting systems at both the school and district level. He said Anson County Schools chose the transformation model like 95% of other school systems as well. Mr. Coker said our system including all schools and central office have had a comprehensive needs assessment. Mr. Coker discussed and reviewed what the district committed to by going with the RttT Model that was chosen. Mr. Coker said his team is here to assist for three years and Dr. Firn stated that Mr. Coker's role is more of a coach. Furthermore, Mr. Coker said he will forward the Powerpoint Presentation to Dr. Firn to send to board members for review.
- Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA)/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Glendora Hagins/Georgia Maner): Dr. Firn began by saying this is information board members need to be aware of for the purposes of changes that are coming down with the new assessment model. Mrs. Hagins and Mrs. Maner said the state is changing our testing process and adding some tests. With these changes, they explained that we must make sure testing needs are addressed. Dr. Firn chimed in by saying we have to be much more thorough as far as their rights and we must be very accurate when we submit the list of accommodations for either IDEA or ADA. He said there is much more to discuss and learn and the board will continue to be updated.
- Monthly Report: (See Attached)
Dr. Firn explained January will be a pivotal month for the system because there will be a number of individuals that will be placed on mandatory improvement. He said the challenge that we have for both building and central administration is the number of individuals that will be going in this direction and he questioned if we have the administration that can provide the type of supervision, observation and feedback that will be done authentically to lead us to the conclusion of improvement or dismissal. He explained it will be controversial but it is the right thing on behalf of kids. Dr. Firn expressed his confusion because the district has provided a tremendous amount of training and opportunities to grow. Again, he stated we are at a pivotal time and there will be reorganization that will be happening and there will be administrators that will be on plans for improvement and certainly staff. He said, unfortunately, the evidence and the data speaks loudly that it's not happening. Dr. Firn clarified further that they are at a point where they will be making staffing decisions and they will do it with dignity and respect.

- Child Nutrition: Mr. Freeman communicated to the board that future updates will be given regarding this department.
- Transportation: Mr. Freeman said they have decided not to participate in the online driver's education program. He said it's a pilot program and after studying it closely they have decided to hold off and study the program further for now.
- **Consent Items**
Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by George Truman, the Consent Items (Personnel Report and Budget Amendments) were approved by the board. Motion carried.
- **Adjourn**
A motion to adjourn was made by Russell Sikes. The motion was seconded by George Truman. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Finn, Secretary