

M I N U T E S
JOINT MEETING OF THE EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
&
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Edgecombe County Administration Building Auditorium
201 Saint Andrew Street
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886
Monday, February 14, 2011 at 6:00 P. M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Charlie R. Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Donald Boswell, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Rev. E. Wayne Hines and Ms. Viola Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Evelyn Powell.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Evelyn Wilson, Chairperson, Ms. Ann Kent, Ms. Janice Bullock, Ms. Evelyn Johnson, Mr. William Pittman, Ms. Faye Taylor and Ms. Teresa Bryant.

OTHER SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Wayne Talley, Superintendent, Mr. Jonathan Blumberg, School Attorney and Ms. Juanita Westry, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney, Carolyn Hedgepeth, Clerk to the Board, Joanne Harrell, Finance Director and Eric Evans, Assistant County Manager.

Ms. Wilson called the meeting to order and stated that this was the 9th year that the two Boards met together and she was delighted to have the opportunity.

Mr. Wiggins said that the Board of Commissioners was pleased to meet with the School Board. He said that he understood the responsibility of the school board and appreciated the chance to understand the needs of the board.

Members from both the Board of Commissioners and Edgecombe County Public School Board members introduced themselves and stated the District they represent.

Dr. Wayne Talley, Superintendent came forward to present the State Of Schools for 2010-2011.

Dr. Talley said that the number of students had declined slightly from 7297 in 2009-10 to 2160 in 2010-11. He said that during the third month of school they had 57.03% Black, 33.53% White, 7.09% Hispanic, .027% Asian and 1.96% multiracial students enrolled.

Mr. Harrell asked how many students were from the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount. The response was that 70% of the students were from Edgecombe County outside of Rocky Mount and 30% were within Rocky Mount.

Mr. Talley said that there were only three schools that had met the Annual Yearly Performance (AYP) for 2009-10 and they were Martin Middle, Early College and Tarboro High. He also said that seven schools made expected growth, four schools made high growth and Edgecombe Early College had received a School of Distinction honor.

Ms. Harris asked what the underlying component was that made North Edgecombe miss the AYP.

Ms. Janet Morris said the AYP targets looks at grade10 for a subgroup of students as individuals and at subgroups of blacks, disabled and economically disadvantaged. She

said that the complex method of determining the AYP could obscure the results and not actually reflect the overall performance of the school.

Dr. Talley said that Edgecombe County Public School students were not meeting the target in math and reading and that is the reason why the School District remains in improvement status. He said that the school was seeking accreditation as a district of quality from AdvancED accrediting agency stating that this yearlong process will challenge the district and its schools to meet quality standards and provide evidence of how they meet those standards.

Mr. Felton asked if they had a lead team to steer the accreditation process.

Ms. Lana Vanderbilt responded that they had several teams already established to assist in the process and she stated that they fully expect to obtain the accreditation.

Dr. Talley discussed the established areas of focus, which were professional learning, literacy across the curriculum, accountability monitoring, positive behavior intervention and support and data driven decision-making.

Rev. Hines asked if there were efforts to connect the schools to home and the environment with the school.

Dr. Talley said they were making efforts toward that but as usual; the parents that get involved in the school's activities are the ones that do not have students in trouble.

Dr. Talley said they had 35 students that did not have laptops because they had not paid their fees or had requested a waiver. He said there were still working to ensure that all kids had laptops.

Mr. Wiggins suggested that the School system do what they can to ensure that all kids are provided laptops.

Mr. Craig, Information Technology Director said the school had issued 2200 laptops and overall he found the program to be amazingly successful. He said there were some damages reported but overall the program was successful.

The Board continued the discussion regarding laptop availability and reiterated the need to have all students supplied a laptop.

Ms. Harris asked several questions regarding possible staff reductions in the school system.

Dr. Talley stated that it was a real possibility that some teaching and administrative staff would be reduced based on conversations from the State about reverting anywhere from 5% to 15 % of allocated state funds.

Ms. Harris asked if the school system still had truant officers. Dr. Talley acknowledged that they did have two officers that were very actively pursuing attendance issues.

Mr. Carmon came forward and welcomed the attendees present. He said that they have always had a good working relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Edgecombe County Public School Board. He said that the County had implemented water and sewer system and all 15 schools in the County have water and some of the schools with failing septic systems had sewer service also. He said the systems were built and maintained using 70% grants and 30% user fees.

He stated that the budget process is also a problem for the Board of Commissioner and the State does not leave them off the cutting block. He said the County resources were significantly stretched by the requirement to fund two different school systems.

Mr. Carmon commented on the number of school officials present.

Ms. Wilson asked the principals represented to introduce themselves.

There being no further discussion Rev. Hines moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Harris seconded the motion which carried by unanimous vote.

Leonard Wiggins

Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman

Carolyn S. Hedgepeth

Ms. Carolyn S. Hedgepeth, Clerk