

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 17, 2001 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a joint meeting with the Pitt County Board of Education on Monday, December 17, 2001, at 7:00 PM in the Northwest Elementary School, 1471 Holland Road, Greenville, North Carolina. A reception began at 6:00 PM and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioners present:

Mark W. Owens, Jr., Chairman
Beth Ward, Vice Chairman
Terry Shank, Commissioner
Tom Johnson, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
Randy Royal, Commissioner
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
Eugene James, Commissioner

Commissioners absent:

David Hammond, Commissioner

Staff present:

Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Tom Robinson, County Manager
John Bulow, Assistant County Manager
Arlen Holt, Public Information Officer
John Chaffee, Executive Director of Economic Development

Board of Education members present:

Don Carson, III
Michael Dixon
Richard Tolmie
Barbara Owens
Ralph Love
Sidney Scott
Ephraigm Smith

Board of Education members absent:

Mike Barnette
Jill Camnitz
Jack Collins, Jr.
Walter Gaskins
James Hopf

Schools Staff Present:

Dr. Mike Priddy, Superintendent
Brenda Strickland, Clerk, Board of Education
Barry Gaskins, Public Information Officer
Melissa Grimes, Administrative Assistant
And others

Call to Order

Chairman Owens called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

The invocation was offered by Commissioner Royal.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Ephraigm Smith.

Chairman Owens turned the meeting over to School Board Chairman Michael Dixon. Mr. Dixon spoke about the purpose of the meeting and the need to give an updated report on the Education Compact, taking care of the public trust and the strong support needed for the school system. He said the meeting was for the Board of Education to share their annual report and renew commitments. He stated that they had experienced improvements in the reading, writing and social studies programs. In addition, Mr. Dixon stated that there has been a decrease in the dropout rate.

Mr. Dixon presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Tom Robinson for his services to the schools.

Mr. Ephraigm Smith introduced Brad Robinson, Eagle Scout, who presented a United States flag to the Assistant Principal of Northwest Elementary School, Amanda Rochester.

Mr. Dixon then recognized Barbara Owens, Board of Education member to speak on Education Programs and Services Overview and Dr. Michael Priddy, Superintendent. Ms. Owens spoke on the Grade 8 summaries. Dr. Priddy thanked both boards for their work. He stated that Pitt County Schools has the most challenging promotions policy in the State. He said there had been moderate improvement in grades 3-8 in reading, math and language. He spoke of many students being below the 50th percentile but there had been substantial improvements this year. He said the Schools need a compact with the parents to encourage the parents to help the students at home. In the SAT's, Pitt County students outperformed and were in the top ten percent. He said the promotion policy has had a positive impact. He also said there were fewer children going to summer school. He spoke about the competitiveness of hiring and keeping teachers. He said they need more aggressive study in math and science and more equity for children in rural areas.

Mr. Richard Tolmie spoke about the "Local Current expense and per Capital Expense for the last three years. He stated that Pitt County is competitive on teachers' salaries but need to do better on the basic supplement.

Ms. Tammie Stevenson, President of the Parent Teachers Association was present along with the next Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Susanne Sartelle. Commissioner Bowen requested figures from other counties on dropout rates. Commissioner James spoke about the levels in high school and the numbers of people living in poverty. Commissioner James said that by 2005, he hoped that levels three and four would be above the 85% range. He spoke about students who have English as a second language and their ability to test in English. He asked detailed questions about the dropout rate in Pitt County. Dr. Priddy said that they start evaluating the drop out rate including the 9-12 grades which was 7.38% for 2001. He said the average drop out rate in North Carolina is 40% but in Pitt County the average dropout rate was 24%. Mr. Ephraigm Smith said the dropout rate is tied to remediation and it takes a lot of money for schools to do remediation. Commissioner Shank said that individualized help at an early age is what is needed. Vice Chairwoman Ward asked how many local paid personnel the Schools

had on their records. Dr. Priddy responded that they had 65 licensed people. Vice Chairwoman Ward commended the School System for looking at innovative ways to teach. She spoke about social studies having gone by the wayside in the current education system. The Boards continued with their discussion. Following discussion, Chairman Owens recognized business leaders who had been asked to make presentations. Mr. John Chaffee, Executive Director of the Economic Development Commission spoke about the importance of the education compact and the need to have a good education system when trying to encourage industries to locate in Pitt County. He said a good education system gives an edge to Pitt County compared to other communities when competing for industries. Mr. Larry Seigler, Chief Executive Officer of DSM Industries, spoke about the importance of the education compact and its impact on businesses. He spoke of the business relationship with the schools and how the schools need to exhibit improvements and results. He said he took numerous business leaders on a tour of the county and they all asked about the school system. He stated that the compact gives the schools the ability to continue to show measurable improvements. Mr. Seigler said he had been appointed to a compliance committee for the State and that the education compact in Pitt County was used as a model. Mr. Joel Butler, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chairman of Pitt County Memorial Hospital, stated the compact is the beginning of something larger. He spoke of their recruiting physicians (for PCMH) and how the physicians want to know about the education facilities for their children. He said the compact is critical for providing good education for the students and consequently providing trained or skilled personnel for positions.

Commissioner Bowen said he was disappointed in the five Board of Education members that did not attend.

Board of Education member Ephraim Smith offered thanks to the people who helped put the education compact together which included Commissioner Shank, Vice Chairwoman Ward, and Mr. Robinson. He said there are two chairmen that can lead education to a higher level. He said the new high school programs will be outside of the traditional box within which we typically work.

Ralph Love made closing remarks stating that most everything has been said that needed to be said.

The following was the executive summary of the report presented at the meeting.

Pitt County Board of Education and the Pitt County Board of Commissioners

Education Compact Status Report 2000-01 School Year Executive Summary

Goal I: Provide Safe and Orderly Schools:

Objective: To provide a learning environment that is inviting and supportive of high student performance.

Strategies:

- Conduct an annual climate survey for students, parents, and certified and classified employees.
- Promote increased parental involvement between administration and staff.

- Update and review system-wide safe school plans.

Measurement: By June 2005, 90% of overall responses will be positive as indicated on the annual climate survey.

For the 2000-01 school year 80.4% of overall responses to the Climate Survey were positive.

Goal II: High Student Performance:

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 1: End-of-Grade Proficiency

Strategies:

- Focus on early literacy.
- Plan and implement appropriate intervention and remediation practices.
- Provide staff development on effective strategies that promote student success.

Measurement: (A) By June 2005, 85% of pupils in grades 3 - 8 will score at a level III or above as measured by end-of-grade reading tests.

73.9% of our students in grades 3-8 scored at level III or above in Reading

(B) By June 2005, 87.5% of pupils in grades 3 - 8 will score a level III or above as measured by end-of-grade mathematics tests.

78.9% of our students in grades 3-8 scored at level III or above.

Indicator 2: Writing at Grade 7

Strategies:

- Provide staff development workshops for teachers on writing techniques.
- Provide scoring training for all teachers in grades K-10.
- Emphasize and document writing across the curriculum.

Measurement: By June 2005, 75% of pupils in grade 7 will score 2.5 or higher on the State writing test.

64.7% of students in grade 7 scored 2.5 or higher on the State Writing test.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Tests

Strategies:

- Focus instruction on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- Provide staff development focused on concept-based/differentiation of instruction.
- Provide curriculum assistance for students as needed.

Measurement: By June 2005, students will demonstrate the following proficiency levels on the 10 state end-of-course tests:

		2001
Algebra I	86.5%	84.9%
Algebra II	82.0%	79.0%
Biology	70.0%	65.8%
Chemistry	74.0%	62.6%
English I	79.05	71.3%
ELP	86.5%	75.9%
Geometry	80.0%	74.1%
Physical Science	80.0%	72.6%
Physics	90.0%	93.4%
US History	70.0%	52.3%

Indicator 4: English II Writing Test

Strategies:

- Provide staff development workshops for teachers on writing techniques.
- Provide scoring training for all teachers in grades K-10.
- Emphasize and document writing across the curriculum.

Measurement: By June 2005, 71% of pupils in grade 10 will score 2.5 or higher on the state English II writing test.

52.3% of students in grade 10 scored 2.5 or higher on the state English II writing test.

Indicator 5: Scholastic Assessment Test

Strategies:

- Encourage students to take higher-level courses for increased achievement levels.
- Encourage the development of SAT preparatory courses at each high school.

Measurement: By June 2005, the overall mean score for all senior SAT test takers will equal or surpass 1005. By June 2005, the top 10% of senior SAT test takers will have a total mean score of 1249.

990 was the overall mean score for all senior SAT test takers this past year.

1199 was the mean score of our top 10% senior test takers.

Indicator 6: Dropout Rate

Strategies:

- Expand alternative education programs that provide for continuum of services.
- Identify and provide instruction for any student identified as at-risk for dropping out.
- Improve counseling services to ensure every student is following the appropriate career path.

Measurement: By June 2005, the dropout rate will be no greater than 6.1.

The dropout rate for last year was 7.38%

Indicator 7: Scholars

Strategies:

- Inform students of NC Scholar requirements and develop career plans for potential recipients or interested students.
- Encourage students to take advanced levels of courses to meet scholars requirements.
- Provide student incentive programs.

Measurement: By June 2005, percentage of students who receive the North Carolina Scholars designation will increase to 43% of the total graduates.

37% of Pitt County Schools students received the North Carolina Scholars designation.

Indicator 8: Grade-level Retentions

Strategies:

- Provide immediate intervention and remediation when needed beginning with kindergarten.
- Ensure frequent parent contacts to discuss student performance.
- Increase number of pre-school programs that are literacy based.

Measurement: By June 2005, the percentage of student grade level retentions will have dropped to 5.4% or lower.

The percentage of grade level retentions was 7.0% for the last school year.

Goal III: Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff:

Objective: To recruit, retain, and compensate a diverse corps of quality teachers, administrators, and staff.

Strategies:

- Provide incentives to attract quality teachers Consider tuition assistance for lateral-entry teachers and for teachers working toward certification in areas of specified system needs.
- Increase supplements.

Measurement: The teacher turnover rate will show reasonable improvement each compact year. The target for 2005 is 7.85%

Teacher turnover rate for the last school year was 9.24%.

Chairman Owens stated the meeting was adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board