

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 25, 2002 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Pitt County School Board met jointly on Monday, November 25, 2002, at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium in the Agricultural Building, 403 Government Circle, Greenville, North Carolina.

Both Boards and staff met at 6:00 p.m. for a brief dinner prior to the start of the business meeting.

Commissioners present:

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

Board of Education Members Present:

Mary Grace Bright
Jill Camnitz
Don Carson, III
Michael Dixon
Walter Gaskins
Richard Tolmie
James Hopf
Barbara Owens
Sidney Scott
Ephraigm Smith

Board of Education Members Absent:

Ralph Love
Mike Barnette

County Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager
John K. Bulow, Deputy County Manager
Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
Thomas Lynch, Public Information Officer
Joanne Burgdorff, County Attorney

Pitt County Schools Staff present:

Dr. Michael Priddy, Superintendent
Brenda Strickland, Clerk
Barry Gaskins, Public Information Officer
Shirley Carraway, Associate Superintendent
John Sinnett, Smith-Sinnett Association, consultant

Call to Order

Chairman Owens and Chairman Dixon called both boards to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Royal offered an invocation and which was followed with a moment of silence in memory of Rod Whitley, Pitt County Schools staff that had recently passed away.

Ephraigm Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dixon spoke about the progress on the goals and the administrative support. The purpose of this meeting is to share information and to understand the vision and the successes in the compact. He reviewed the Schools main goals and objectives. He said he appreciated the commitment to better education and also realized the budget challenges. He said the County cannot afford not to fund education because the students are beacon to the future.

Chairman Owens spoke about the education compact being an agreement between the two boards. He said he wants to hear about the growth and progress that has taken place in the county school system.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION

Motion to approve agenda as presented.

Motion made by Commissioner Bowen.

Motion seconded by Commissioner James.

Motion was unanimously approved.

EDUCATION COMPACT STATUS REPORT

Ms. Jill Camnitz spoke about both boards moving in the same direction. This, she stated, helps in strategizing and support. She spoke about the accountability in the system and the ABC's Schools of Excellence. Pitt County had three elementary schools, this year, that were acknowledged as schools of excellence. The schools of excellence were Chicod, E. B. Aycock and Elmhurst. She spoke about the high academic goals and the opportunity for high achievement.

Dr. Shirley Carraway reviewed the Status report for both boards.

Executive Summary as provided to both boards.

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 82.8% 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.

77.6% 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.

82.7% 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.

64.3% 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:

	2005	2002
Algebra I	86.5%	88.8%

Algebra II	82.0%	83.4%
Biology	70.0%	74.7%
Chemistry	74.0%	71.9%
English I	79.05	77.9%
ELP	86.5%	76.0%
Geometry	80.0%	80.2%
Physical Science	80.0%	70.6%
Physics	90.0%	83.1%
US History	70.0%	48.7%

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.

No test was administered.

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.

**987 was the overall mean score for all senior SAT test takers this past year.
1210 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 7.14%

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.

36% 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 6.0% 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%

Mr. Don Carson spoke about the need for long range planning for facility needs.

Mr. John Sinnett reported on the work that they were doing as consultants in an effort to help the schools plan for the future such as looking at the population growth and migration in county. They are doing a needs assessment including programs to offer and the objectives for education. He said people are being drawn here at an unprecedented scale. He said there is opportunity here for people. They are looking at existing facilities, interviewing staff and administration about space needs and forecasting the growth in communities and schools. They are working with other county agencies to retrieve information and statistics. This research and

plan will help with setting priorities for 7-10 years. The plan should be complete by April 1, 2003. He stated that public participation is invited as part of this project.

Financial Outlook

Mr. Richard Tolmie reviewed the long range financial plan for capital improvements. He stated that the Schools are fine financially this year but with the State reductions and projected capital outlay, they will not be able to cover all of their costs over the next four years. He reviewed committed capital outlay and noted that the schools were reduced \$836,000 from the moratorium on taxes by the legislators. He stated that the County and the Schools made these obligations together in the past and will need to figure out how to address these obligations for the future. He stated the debt from improvements to Pactolus and G. R. Whitfield as well as others need to be paid. In addition, Mr. Tolmie spoke about the need for new schools and the ability to generate funds for the new schools. Commissioner Hammond asked why G. R. Whitfield demolition work was so expensive. Dr. Priddy stated that the estimate for the work at Whitfield was \$150,000 but they only spent \$100,000.

Supplemental Information

Dr. Priddy noted that in the back of the notebooks there was additional information such as summaries of each school and how they correspond to the Education Compact. He stated that this is the third report by the Board of Education with reduced drop-out rates and teacher retention as well as other improvements. He expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for their support. He spoke about the partnering other agencies and involving the community businesses, booster clubs, chambers and the faith community. These strategies have made a difference for the schools. They have added 143 more slots. He said the schools should get A for effort and B on achievement. He suggested the need to look forward to the next compact is arising.

County Report

Mr. Elliott congratulated the Schools on their achievements of their goals in the Education Compact. He reported that the County's objective was to increase Pitt County's per pupil allocation to the top third (33%) of North Carolina counties. He reported that the County has increased its contribution each year according to the compact. He reported that Pitt County's ranking in the system had increased from 56th in the system to 38th out of 117 in annual appropriation/expenditures. Consequently, the County has reached the top one-third of systems at this time. Mr. Elliott stated that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners' responsibilities for the future would be to lobby to seek full low-wealth funding from the State of North Carolina. The first strategy would be to continue working with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to establish a legislative goal of full low-wealth funding. The second strategy would be to continue lobby the General Assembly for full low-wealth funding, specifically the new members of the Pitt County legislative delegation.

Questions and Answers

Commissioner Bowen asked about the drop-out rate per school. Dr. Priddy stated that the drop-out rate average for Pitt County is 8.58% and the State average is 12.5%. This is an average of the schools. Commissioner James spoke about the accountability in the schools. He voiced concerns over the North Pitt High School being the lowest in ranking and questioned what the administration was doing to bring North Pitt up to the same standard as the other schools in Pitt County. Dr. Priddy replied that additional funds had been put into the schools for additional teachers, tutors, readers and other programs had been expanded. Commissioner James said

that they should check the student/teacher ratio at Belvoir and the other schools north of the river. He stated that the report showed that 10% of twelfth graders had made above 1200 on the SAT. He asked how many 12th graders had taken the SAT. He thanked the Schools staff and Board of Education for what they were doing for the children.

Don Carson said he is also not happy with the North Pitt High School but spoke about some of the funds that were being sent to North Pitt High School for specific programs. Commissioner James said that the study that Smith-Sinnett was doing could be assisted by the Pitt County Planning Department. Commissioner Shank stated concern about the drop-out situation and asked what the "systems" philosophy is on drop-outs and prevention. Mr. Dixon said that their mission is to reduce the drop-out rate and they are looking at a nine week period on that item. Dr. Priddy spoke about the students success and that they were allocating more funds to the K5-8 programs so the students will be more successful with reading and math. Grade retention is going down and they are doing more with intervention by using tutors.

Commissioner Hammond asked about putting the school buildings in the right location and how they could save money on school buildings. Vice Chairwoman Ward stated concern about the schools north of the river. She stated the "feeder" schools have come very far. She spoke of appreciation of the strategies and looking at the achievements and the growth. She stated that the compact has helped both boards focus on the students needs and the accomplishments need to be recognized. The No Child Left Behind program will help things get accomplished. Commissioner Bowen said that some feeder schools have progressed but there is a feeder school in his area that is going backwards. Dr. Priddy said that there are two out of 33 schools that are having problems. They have identified and placed good leadership there along with additional financial resources.

Mr. Dixon stated his appreciation for the Board of Commissioners support and noted that there are challenges but the two boards are committed to the progress. Chairman Owens thanked the Board of Education and the new members. He said the Compact was created because there were concerns and they wanted to improve the schools. He commented that the County was now in the top one-third and there is a reduction in the drop-out rate. Mr. Walter Gaskins commented that it would take \$100 million to do the construction that is needed for schools. He spoke of the different education agencies in Pitt County, noting that on any given school day, there are around 50,000 people in school in Pitt County.

MOTION

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Vice Chairwoman Ward made the motion.

Commissioner James seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board