

Pender County Board of Education

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Scheduled Board Meeting

Board Room
Pender Resource Center
798 U.S. Hwy. 117 South
Burgaw, N.C. 28425
6 pm

Board Members Present	Leadership Team Members Present
Ken Smith, Board Chair	Dr. Brad Breedlove, Superintendent
Don Hall, Vice Chair	Kevin Taylor, Director
Beth Burns	Mike Taylor, Director
Phil Cordeiro	Lisa Nowlin, Director
Brent Springer	Dr. Brandy Sawyer, Director
Brandon McPherson, Board Attorney	Bob Fankboner, Communications Coordinator

1. Determine Quorum / Call To Order

- Ken Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2.1 Pledge and Performance

- Ashley Musgrave and students from NTES performed the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and "Celebration."

3. Invocation

- Led by McKenzie Woest from Topsail High School FCA.

4. Adoption of Agenda

- Mr. Cordeiro proposed a motion to add info items:
- 7.14 - Wit & Wisdom Curriculum
- 9.8, 9.9 - Meeting procedure action and new school design-build contract.
- Seconded by Mr. Hall, Motion carried unanimously.

5. Recognitions

5.1 Recognitions

Leanne Radabaugh recognized members of the Pender County Schools Anti-Bullying Task Force
Craig Lawson recognized individuals and schools for exceptional commitment and utilization of Apptegy Rooms.

Mike Taylor recognized members of the Topsail Basketball Association for their donation of scoreboards located in the Topsail Middle School gymnasium.

6. Public Comments

1. Voicemail - Russel Johnson:

- Homeschool family requests access to tennis courts at Topsail High School during school hours (Policy 5030).

2. Voicemail - Tammy Hansen:

- Concerns about books; advocates for parental monitoring and allowing teachers to teach.

3. Michael Beck - EC Program:

- Commends the board for the EC oversight committee.
- Expresses concerns about the rushed move of the EC program and advocates for student inclusion.

4. Kristen Lash - Discipline/Expectations:

- Parent of four kids expresses concerns about admin changes impacting students.
- Raises concerns about disruptions in classrooms and emphasizes not punishing all students for one student's actions.

5. Rochelle Whiteside - Policy 3210 Book Banning:

- Expresses disappointment in the events concerning Policy 3210.
- Stresses parental involvement and opposes book banning.

6. Sandra Malpass - Policy 3210:

- Opposes changes to Policy 3210 by Mr. Cordeiro and Mr. Springer.
- Highlights the role of media advisory committees in book reviews.
- Challenges to books should come from parents; opposes book banning.

7. Ashley Milam - Policy 3210:

- Had to leave the meeting (no details provided).

8. Casey DiMeglio - Behavior:

- Expresses concerns about her son's teacher leaving abruptly.
- Raises concerns about three sexual misconduct incidents.
- Requests information on the next steps.

9. Dr. Brad Glenn - Bell Policy:

- Addresses concerns about the three-tier bell policy.
- Advocates for consideration of late departure and mixed arrival times.
- Raises concerns about the negative impact on bus demand and suggests considering alternate route options.

Mr. Hall Expressed concerns that people may not have spoken due to parking issues.

- Suggests asking if anyone couldn't sign up to speak.
- Motion passed unanimously to authorize the board to decide.

11. Andrea Roman - EC PreK Program:

- Expresses concerns about changes in the EC PreK program.
- Advocates for retaining current teachers and providing incentives.
- Highlights the importance of teachers as the voice for non-verbal students.
- Emphasizes the need for serious help in the EC program.

7. Information Agenda

7.1 First Read Policy 3210 -R

Mr. Kevin Taylor

First 8 first read policies are policy revisions due to parents' bill of rights; will answer any questions.

Mr. Smith: Any comments or questions on this group of policies (7.1-7.8)?

No questions, moving to 7.9.

7.2 First Read Policy 1310/4002

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.3 First Read Policy 1310/4002 -R

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.4 First Read Policy 3540

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.5 First Read Policy 4335

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.6 First Read Policy 4720

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.7 First Read Policy 7300

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.8 First Read 6120

Mr. Kevin Taylor

7.9 First Read Policy 3621

Mr. Kevin Taylor introduces Policy 3621, aligning it with NC State Board and NCDPI NCHSAA, requiring students to pass 75% of courses for athletics qualification. The board discusses the C average requirement.

7.10 First Read Policy 2240

Mr. Kevin Taylor proposes revisions to the Parent Advisory Council policy, changing "will" to "may" and allowing ad-hoc committees a certain role.

7.11 Consider Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kevin Taylor discusses changing committee practices to one Committee of the Whole, two weeks prior to board meetings. The board deliberates on the proposed change.

7.12 NC Center for Safer School Grant Application

Mr. Michael Taylor explains the grant application for additional tech.

7.13 Annandale Alumni Association Historical Marker Request

Request for support from the BOE for a historical marker.

7.14 Wit & Wisdom Curriculum

Mr. Cordeiro raises concerns about required reading for 4th graders. Ms. Sawyer and Ms. Owens clarify the curriculum selection process and book accessibility for parents.

The board discusses the learning objectives and electronic access for parents. Town hall meetings are planned for parent engagement in the future.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1 Board Minutes

8.2 Financial Board Report October 23

8.3 Attorney Fees

8.4 Fuel And Electric

8.5 Blazerworks EC IA Contract for CFES and STES

- Motion to approve by Ms. Burns, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro, Passed unanimously.

9. Action Agenda

9.1 Consider Second Read of Policy 3210

- Kevin Taylor presents policy changes related to the Parents' Bill of Rights.
- Discussion about potential special meetings to address concerns.
- Motion for a meeting on the 21st of November at 9:30 am was made by Mr. Cordeiro, seconded by Mr. Springer - Passed unanimously.

9.2 Consider Recognizing Excellence

- Kevin Taylor discusses recognizing academic honors; questions about future policy revisions.
- Motion to approve made by Ms. Burns, seconded by Mr. Springer, Passed unanimously.

9.3 Festival of Trees

- Beth Burns proposes sponsoring a tree in a fundraiser.
- Reading of a proclamation. Motion to approve made by Ms. Burns, seconded by Mr. Springer, Passed unanimously.

9.4 Maxim Contract Approval

- Kevin Taylor discusses a grant-funded contract.
- Motion to approve made by Mr. Cordeiro, seconded by Mr. Springer, passed unanimously

9.5 Chromebook Refresh Purchase Request

- Michael Taylor proposes replenishing Chromebooks.
- Motion to approve made by Ms. Burns, Mr. Hall seconded, passed unanimously

9.6 Interactive Panel Purchase Request

- Michael Taylor discusses replacing interactive panels.
- Motion to approve made by Ms. Burns, Mr. Springer seconded, passed unanimously

9.7 GPS Devices for Fleet Vehicles

- Michael Taylor proposes obtaining quotes for GPS devices.
- Discussion and no approval.

9.8 Meeting Procedure Discussion

- Mr. Cordeiro discusses compliance with state law for committee meetings.
- Motion made by Mr. Cordeiro to post the full board packet, agenda, minutes, streaming of any/all open meetings, recording of any/all open meetings, Mr. Springer seconded, passed unanimously

9.9 New School Design Build Contract

- Mr. Cordeiro suggests exploring the possibility of building a larger K-8 school.
- Motion to direct staff to explore the \$42m for a larger school (minimum 3500 capacity) made by Mr. Cordeiro, seconded by Mr. Springer, Passed unanimously.

10. Comments From Board Members

Mr. Springer – no

Ms. Burns – no

Mr. Hall – no

Mr. Cordeiro – said he appreciated that people can have a difference of opinions and that he hears those who commented on book issues during public comment. Mr. Cordeiro also apologized to Ms. Burns for comments made during a previous Board Meeting, Ms. Burns thanked Mr. Cordeiro.

Mr. Smith – recognized Mr. Brad George (County Commission) for attending; noted that this could be the last meeting as Board Chair due to elections in December, said it was an honor to serve and that he achieved goals he set for himself.

11. Comments From Board Attorney

- Mr. McPherson made mention of an issue before the NC Supreme Court.
- Appreciation for addressing the student bill of rights.

12. Report From The Superintendent

- Dr. Breedlove offered congratulations and recognition for achievements.
- Next board meeting on Dec. 12 at 6 pm.

13. Closed Session

I (Don Hall) move that the Board enter into closed session, subject to advice from the attorney, pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(1), and (a)(6), to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel information under G.S. §115C-319, and to consider matters relating to personnel matters. The Board will also enter into Closed Session pursuant to General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with the Board's attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to consider confidential student matters, as provided in N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(1) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g and NC General Statute §115C-402.

- Mr. Hall made the motion to enter closed session, Mr. Cordeiro seconded, passed unanimously at 8:55pm

- Motion to come out of closed session made by Ms. Burns, Mr. Hall seconded, passed unanimously

- Motion for closed session minutes to remain closed due to confidential nature made by Mr. Cordeiro, Mr. Springer seconded, passed unanimously

13.1 Human Resources Report and Addendum

- motion to approve made by Mr. Springer, seconded by Mr. Cordeiro, passed unanimously

13.2 Consideration of Pender EMS/Fire Land Request

- Not detailed.

14.1 Human Resource Report and Addendum

- Not detailed

15. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cordeiro, seconded by Mr. Springer, passed unanimously at 10:11 pm

Superintendent
Dr. Brad Breedlove

Board Chair
Ken Smith