

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Voting Members

Ms. Carolyn Hawkins, Board Member
Mr. Charles Hedgepeth, Board Chair
Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr, Board Member
Ms. Elizabeth Silver, Board Member
Mrs. Terri Silver, Board Member
Ms. Barbara Wilkins, Vice Chair
Mr. Curtis Young, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Eric Cunningham, Superintendent

III. Opening Ceremonies - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Open Ceremonies started at 6:33 pm.

a. Welcome

b. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

c. Mission Statement & Goals

d. Public Comment

1. Halifax County Students
2. Dr. Joyce Lashley
3. Joynel Whitaker and Early College Seniors
4. Mondale Robinson

e. Conflict of Interest Statement

None

IV. Consent Agenda - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

a. Approval of Minutes - Open Minutes

Ms. Wilkins motioned to approve the open minutes except for the August 13th minutes and was seconded by Mr. M. Hawkins, Sr, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

V. Personnel

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the personnel package as discussed in closed session and was seconded by Mr. Young, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mr. Curtis Young

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VI. Action Items

a. Bi-Weekly Payroll Study - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Mr. Hedgepeth - Can we pay the school district biweekly? I want a survey to be conducted.

Mr. Young - Who would it include?

Mr. Hedgepeth - Everybody, and the majority would determine the outcome. Check our neighboring counties. Bring it back to the board, and then we will vote.

Ms. C. Hawkins - One person made a complaint. Will you provide the advantages and disadvantages of going biweekly?

Dr. Cunningham - I am still studying it.

Ms. C. Hawkins - I believe that needs to be attached.

Mr. Hedgepeth - One employee called me crying. She takes home \$1,100 a month, and it is hard to stretch it.

Ms. C. Hawkins - Are you bringing this up because of one call?

Mr. Hedgepeth - When you were board chair, I tried to get it on the agenda. This has been discussed for at least two years.

Ms. E. Silver - Neighboring counties pay biweekly.

Mr. Hedgepeth - Northampton and KIPP.

Ms. E. Silver - The pay is the same. The root of the problem is that they do not receive money quickly enough.

Ms. C. Hawkins - Where can we get more money from?

Ms. E. Silver - Look at the budget.

Mrs. T. Silver - I doubt a teacher is making \$1,100 a month. It is probably a lower-paying position. I do think it is worth looking at the study. We have people making a ridiculous amount of money.

Ms. E. Silver - Even if we cannot pay them more, what can we do to help them along the way?

Mrs. T. Silver motioned to approve the bi-weekly payroll study and was seconded by Ms. Wilkins, 6 to 1. Ms. C. Hawkins opposed.

Motion made by: Mrs. Terri Silver

Motion seconded by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Voting results:

No: Ms. Carolyn Hawkins

Yes: Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Yes: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Yes: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Yes: Mrs. Terri Silver

Yes: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Yes: Mr. Curtis Young

b. Authorization to Participate in Multi-District Social Media Litigation - Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Mr. M. Hawkins, Sr motioned to accept the authorization to participate in Multi - District Social Media Litigation and was seconded by E. Silver, all in favor.

Motion made by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Motion seconded by: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

c. Cell Phones - Dr. Eric Cunningham

Dr. Cunningham - Uniform storage plan. Endorse the cellphone storage plan.

Mr. M. Hawkins - Any student that refuses to have their device stored?

Dr. McClain - Consequences for them.

Ms. Wilkins - Parents will be sent information regarding the consequences.

Dr. McClain - Yes, once we approve it.

Ms. E. Silver - They would have it during lunch but not during transitions.

Would you have a box in the classrooms?

D. McClain - Yes, 2 out of 3 have it.

Mrs. T. Silver - They can take it to school, put it in the box, take it out when they leave class, and check the phone during lunch?

Dr. McClain - If the phone is confiscated, then the parent will have to come get the phone.

Mrs. T. Silver - How has it changed from what you are doing?

Dr. McClain - More restricted during transitions.

Mrs. T. Silver - Why do you have a problem as long as they get from A to B?

Dr. McClain - Sometimes we spend too much time in the hallways. It is a tighter implementation plan.

Ms. E. Silver - Are they arriving to class late?

Dr. McClain - Tightening down to make instruction the main focus.

Ms. E. Silver - It seems more like teachers are not enforcing it. Can I ask the principal a question? Can you walk me through it?

Ms. Jackie Williams - We go through the expectations with students and parents. We are in the process of getting the lockers. They take it with them when they go to another building. We are working on the headphones.

Mr. M. Hawkins - A student, had his phone during the transition. He was totally defiant with the teacher. I understand why you are trying to implement this.

Ms. T. Silver - Do we have to implement this for all students, or just kids that do not come to class? It seems like we are not at that point. Dr. Grant, are you having this problem?

Dr. Grant - No, ma'am.

Ms. C. Hawkins - On the policy, it talks about the phone, and this is state policy. We cannot override the state policy. We can make it a local policy for us if we want to change it.

Margaret - Policy 4313.

Dr. Cunningham - Uniform storage that can be done across the board. We want to see the same storage plan at every school.

Mr. Hedgepeth - I get what Ms. Hawkins is saying.

Grace - You are not voting to change the policy. It is how you are storing the phones.

Ms. Wilkins - It is supposed to be a storage plan at each of the schools.

Dr. McClain - Yes.

Mr. Hedgepeth - If that is the case, you do not need a vote.

Dr. Cunningham - Ok.

Ms. E. Silver - What is the current transition time?

Dr. McClain - 5-7 minutes.

Ms. E. Silver - I agree with the uniform part. Waiting until lunch will be difficult and may create more discipline issues when they could just have their phone for those 5-7 minutes.

Mrs. T. Silver - I agree with the boxes.

Dr. McClain - We are being a little stricter. We are tightening the plan. Look at the policy. They should not have their phone until the end of the day.

Dr. Cunningham - Do I need the board to implement this?

Grace - It was brought to you with the support of the board. It does require the board to vote.

Ms. Wilkins - I vote to support uniformity.

Mr. M. Hawkins - Yes.

Mrs.T. Silver - Depends on the plan. Not the one where they cannot have the phone out during transitions.

Ms. E. Silver - No.

Ms. C. Hawkins - Yes

Mr. Young - Yes.

Mr. Hedgepeth - No.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the cell phone storage and was seconded by Mr. M. Hawkins, Sr, 4 votes approved, 2 opposed; Mr. Hedgepeth and Ms. E. Silver, and 1 undecided, pending the implementation plan; Mrs. T. Silver.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Voting results:

Yes: Ms. Carolyn Hawkins

No: Mr. Charles Hedgepeth

Yes: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

No: Ms. Elizabeth Silver

Vote Not Recorded: Mrs. Terri Silver

Yes: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Yes: Mr. Curtis Young

d. Out of State and Overnight Field Trips- Dr. LaVonne McClain

Wilkins - You are going to do a fund-raiser? A lot of different prices, depending on the room. When they fall short of raising the funds, what is going to be the next step to get the remaining?

McClain - It is not a district sponsored field trip. The family will pay into the company and there are scholarships to apply for. Optional payment plan.

Ms. C. Hawkins - I will love to make a contribution

Mr. Hedgepeth - How much will it cost?

Ms. Joynel Whitaker - \$752 quad room

Ms.E. Silver - It is valid for 30 days from July.

Ms. Joynel Whitaker - Once we get the approval we can move forward.

Ms. E. Silver- I do believe this is a good stepping stone.
Ms. Wilkins - Did anybody include the Empowerment Zone?
Ms. Joynel Whiaker - Yes included in Northwest numbers.
Mrs T. Silver - How did you select 55?
Ms. Joynel Whitaker - We didn't select, it is up to the parents.
Ms. Wilkins - 55 at each school?
Ms. J. Williams - It will be less. 55 was just the average for the cost.
Ms. Joynel Whitaker- Parents and Officer Jones will be going.
Dr. Cunningham - We have to factor the cost of the officer going.
Ms. E. Silver - What is the timeline?
Ms. Joynel Whitaker - Everyone will start paying by Nov.

Second trip - Alfred Street Baptist Church

Ms. Wilkins - How do you determine who will be going?
Dr. Grant - We look at discipline, low attendance issues, and interest in going to college.
Ms.E. Silver - There is not a minimum GPA requirement?
Dr. Grant - No.

Ms. Wilkins motioned to accept the out-of-state and overnight field trips and was seconded by Mr. M. Hawkins Sr, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mr. Michael Hawkins Sr

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

VII. Information

a. Instructional and Operational Highlights - Ms. Mahalia Carey

b. Halifax Summer Policy Updates - Ms. Carolyn Hawkins

c. Bus Drivers - Mrs. Briana Hardy, Mrs. Veronica Davis, Mr. Dwight Thompson

Mr. M. Hawkins - Kids arriving late, does it affect classroom time?

Dr. Battle - It does.

Ms. E. Silver - At 8:10, about how many students are late?

Mrs. Hardy - 15 to 20 students.

Mr. Hedgepeth - How short are you?

Mrs. Hardy - We are short 5 bus drivers.

Mrs. T. Silver - What are you doing to recruit?

Mrs. Hardy - It is posted on the district page.

Mrs. T. Silver - Post signs around the county.

Ms. Wilkins - When recruiting for teachers at career booths, do we include bus drivers?

Mrs. Hardy - Yes, we do.

Mr. M. Hawkins - I am concerned about the instructional time. Battle, can you look into this and how it may affect test scores and grades?

Dr. Battle - In the Hobgood area, 2.5 hours are being missed per week. Enfield and Scotland Neck are the affected areas.

Dr. Cunningham - Speak to the counselor to start their day in an elective rather than a core class.

d. Driver's Education - Dr. LaVonne McClain

Ms. Wilkins - Community reach, is it something that we can do on our own and not have to do community reach with others in the district?

Dr. McClain - We are the school district that offers driver ed. It is part of our program.

Dr. Cunningham - Do you understand what she is asking you?

Ms. Wilkins - Do we have to do it?

Dr. McClain - Charter, private, and home school is through us.

e. Board Report and State Bonus Local Appropriation- Mr. Dwight Thompson

Mr. Thompson - We are still waiting for funding to come down from the State.

Ms. Wilkins - Transportation of pupil; 64% has already been spent on fuel in Fund 1 and Fund 2.

Mr. Thompson - We project what the fuel will be. We are allocating ahead of time.

Ms. Wilkins - How does it look like in our fuel cost?

Mr. Thompson - Yes, it is a problem. It is a moving target. We will have to adjust and allocate.

Mr. Hedgepeth - Did the state send more for diesel?

Mr. Thompson - The state is waiting to see if the price is going to go up.

f. Articles for Board Members & Superintendent's Comments

g. Board Comments - Board Members

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjourn

Ms. Wilkins motioned to adjourn at 8:51 pm and was seconded by Mrs. T. Silver, all in favor.

Motion made by: Ms. Barbara Wilkins

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Terri Silver

Voting results: Unanimously Approved