

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Work Session - Central Office Staff Development Room

December 16, 2014

The Stanly County Board of Education met for a work session on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 5:30 PM in Central Office Staff Development Room located at 1000-4 North First Street, Albemarle, NC 28001.

**Attendance:** Board members in attendance were Chairman Dr. Angela Mills, Mitzie Almond, Mike Barbee, Lonnie Chandler, Tracy Lowder Oliver, Todd Swaringen, and Sherry Vaughn. Others in attendance included Superintendent, Dr. Terry Griffin; Associate Superintendent, Dr. Sandra Carter; Chief Technology Officer, Truett Preslar; Director of Finance and Auxiliary Services, Bill Josey; Board Attorney, Mark Lowder; and Board Assistant, Hope Miller.

Chairman Dr. Angela Mills called the meeting to order, and did the invocation.

Chairman Angela Mills reminded the Board of policy 1015 requiring the Board to develop and evaluate goals and objective at planning retreats. Any action taken at the retreat by the Board must be announced at a regular open meeting. Dr. Angela Mills then turned the meeting over to Dr. Terry Griffin. Dr. Terry Griffin and staff presented a power point presentation titled *2014-15 BOE Work Session* (documentation attached) as follows.

**State of the District:** Dr. Terry Griffin discussed the State of the District by detailing information concerning past and present ADM and building capacities at each school, teacher supplements, and percentages of students receiving free and reduced lunch during a ten year time span. Mr. Bill Josey presented the Board with State budgetary changes that have occurred the last ten year and the impact that has on Local and Federal budgets. Mr. Bill Josey then discussed changes in retirement, health plans, and salaries since 2008-2014 that have also impacted the overall budget. Dr. Sandra Carter recapped information given to the Board during the December 2, 2014 BOE meeting concerning proficiency comparisons, free and reduced lunch comparing the direct correlation with poverty and proficiency scores. Dr. Sandra Carter also informed the Board of the anticipated release of report cards for all schools are expected in February and the schools that met or exceeded growth. Mr. Truett Preslar recognized technology milestones for Stanly County Schools, and the phases set in place for continued growth through technology access in the schools.

**Strategic Plan Overview/Progress:** Dr. Terry Griffin provided documentation addressing the five goals of the strategic plan, reported measures, and benchmarks of success (documentation attached). Dr. Terry Griffin informed the Board that by using an internal live document they are able to track the progress in each measureable indicator. This document is an important component piece that documents continues improvement for Stanly County Schools. Each goal, priority area, and measures of success were then discussed as follows.

- Future Ready Students - Dr. Sandra Carter provided information on professional development that focuses on the direct alignment of new curriculum areas to mirror the State rubric, utilizing Home Base and Schoolnet programs, dropout prevention teams, Quality Assurance Inventory process, and opportunities students currently have through seated and online courses. Focusing on increased opportunities' for

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cultural arts and career exploration, additional coursework for high school students and access to career development are a few of the steps discussed in insure a quality district.

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Professional - Dr. Terry Griffin discussed priority areas and goals consisting of competitive recruitment and retaining staff, differentiated professional development opportunities, and monitoring teacher turnover rate by analyzing data.
- Healthy and Safe Students and Employees - Dr. Terry Griffin addressed the implementation of secure door solution system, certified athletic trainers, and bus GPS tracking are some of the proactive steps Stanly County Schools have taken. Each school has completed required safety plans and reports needed for the 2014-15 school year.
- Leadership for Innovation and Collaboration - Dr. Terry Griffin's priority areas included Stanly County Schools Educational Foundation Inc. mini-grants, increasing public relations, opportunities for parents to be involved in the schools, as well as collaborating with Stanly County Economic Development.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Systems - Dr. Terry Griffin discussed the focus areas included the Chromebook projects, assessments to balance paper and electronic textbooks, and the possible implementation of a long range facility plan. Mr. Bill Josey addresses transportation efficiency rating and the components used to calculate the efficiency rating.

At 6:47 PM, Chairman Dr. Angela Mills declared a recess. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:20 PM.

Dr. Terry Griffin discussed ways of balancing a quality system and ways to achieve continuous improvement, increasing funding, goals, efficiency and enrollment in Stanly County.

**BOE Requested Discussion Items:** Dr. Angela Mills then opened the floor for the Board to discuss the following items requested on the agenda.

- Operational cost of high schools - Dr. Terry Griffin informed the Board of the average operational cost of a smaller high school is approximately \$ 1.8 million. Research states the most efficient size high school ADM is between 800 and 1500 students. Based on the current number of students enrolled in Stanly County the most efficient model recommendation would be two large comprehensive high schools and a career and technical education site. If discussing an elementary school the most efficient would be a large enough school to support full staff, and include STEM and cultural arts program. The board briefly discussed job percentages affected if schools were to be consolidated.
- Individual School Academic Performance - Dr. Terry Griffin ranked the lowest performance per student proficiency based on the current percent as East Albemarle, AHS, AMS, Central, and Norwood. Dr. Terry Griffin also discussed the direct correlation of the percentage of those students that receive free and reduced lunch at those schools ranked in the lowest performance.

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- Physical Condition of Schools - Dr. Terry Griffin addressed that Mr. Todd Bowers and Mr. Bill Josey suggested addressing structural, safety, and technology needs separately to reflect accuracy due to individual costs associated with each area. The buildings in the worst structural conditions included the 1929 Locust building and North Albemarle. Schools with worst safety issues included Norwood and Oakboro (due to not being able to do a complete lock down at those locations). Schools needing the most technology upgrades in the future are Badin and Oakboro.
- Utility Efficiencies - Dr. Terry Griffin addressed this by using the cost per square foot at each school. The most inefficient per square foot are Millingport, North Albemarle, WSHS, AMS, and Badin. The most efficient per square foot are Aquadale, East, SSMS, Central, and Endy. Mr. Bill Josey added the variables that factor into cost per square foot included difference between average cost of fuel oil and natural gas as well as City of Albemarle and Duke Power.

The Board then discussed options of what consolidation would consist of and what schools are the largest campuses and addressing available seating at those schools. Mr. Bill Josey addressed and possible cost increase in transportation and percentage of the annual budget associated with the cost of certified personnel. Dr. Terry Griffin addressed the benefits associated with developing a long range building plan, and working to address specialized areas beneficial to Stanly County. Mr. Todd Swaringen then discussed budgetary decreases each year and the need to determine a long range decision to decide the future of Stanly County Schools. Dr. Terry Griffin provided data concerning surrounding areas ADM and number of high schools in those counties. The Board then discusses current enrollment numbers and needs within the district. Dr. Angela Mills suggested the need of the Board to set a goal to work towards. The Board agreed the goal is to becoming more efficient to offer all students in depth and comprehensive courses throughout the system. Ms. Mitzie Almond encouraged the Board to involve the community to receive feedback on consolidation and needs throughout the district. Dr. Terry Griffin recommended organizing a focus group on what they feel the system should look like as well as a full scale facility study to help guide future building plans. After additional discussion the Board members asked Dr. Terry Griffin to begin collecting information from focus and advisory group input on consolidation and current needs, what students would gain from consolidation, possible scenarios of closing a high school and offering a specialized location, and to rank programs that could be offered through efficiencies.

On a motion by Mr. Mike Barbee and seconded by Mr. Todd Swaringen, the meeting was sent into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters in accordance with NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) at 8:37 pm.

On a motion by Mr. Todd Swaringen and seconded by Mr. Mike Barbee, the meeting went into open session at 9:04 pm.

On a motion by Mr. Todd Swaringen and seconded by Mr. Mike Barbee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

**MINUTES**  
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**1757**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Angela Mills, Chairman

Terry F. Griffin, Secretary