

New Hanover County School Board Meeting 4/3/18

This was a regular School Board meeting. Most interesting agenda items were the announcement that the school district has been awarded a \$1.5M grant to reduce bullying (to be implemented over 3 years in the middle schools), and then a very heated discussion between Board Members on whether to revisit redistricting(having voted previously to delay it), which included one Board member implying that the only reason some members had previously voted on the delay was because of the upcoming school board elections. The end result was that the Board decided to schedule as many work sessions as needed to examine all redistricting options (elementary, middle and high school), and what it would cost the district in temporary modules if they do not redistrict middle and high schools.

All School Board members were present.

A presentation was given about the 4 programs that are housed at the Career Readiness Academy – Moseley Performance Learning Center, which is a very diverse non-traditional school. These programs include the NAF Academy of Finance which includes paid internships (80 students enrolled), the CRA-TPYA program which is a transition to work program for special needs students aged 18-22 years, the CRA-E-Academy where homeschooled students are able to dual enroll and take virtual learning classes through the district, and the Pre-K Center which has 3 classes of 3 year olds (45 students total).

There was also a presentation of the budget that will be presented to the County Commissioners later this month asking for a close to \$7M increase. The largest budget items fueling this request include a need to increase school support staff for school safety purposes, increases in teacher supplements and benefits which are required due to the State increasing teacher salaries (in the future the school district is considering a flat rate for supplements based on teacher longevity and not State salary levels), and technology replacements and updates.

Next month's meeting will be on 5/1/18 at 5:30 pm at the BOE Center, 1805 S. 13th Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Eitelman