

OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting of the Board Held at Edgecombe County Board Rooms  
412 Pearl Street  
Tarboro, NC

June 11, 2007

Board Members Present:     Charlie Cobb                             Ann Kent  
                                  Janice Davidson                     Keith Pittman  
                                  John Edmondson                   Evelyn Wilson

Others Present:            Dr. Craig Witherspoon, Superintendent  
                                  Roland Whitted, Assoc. Superintendent     Jonathan Blumberg, Board Attorney  
                                  Sandra Jones, Assoc. Superintendent     Juanita Westry, Executive Assistant  
                                  Dr. Lana VanderLinden, Assoc. Superintendent  
                                  Laurie Leary, Director of Financial Services  
                                  Diane LeFiles, Director of Community Services

CALL TO ORDER – Board Chair Evelyn Wilson provided a welcome to those in attendance. The meeting was called to order. The Board led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION – There were no new personnel presented.

Board Chairperson Mrs. Evelyn S. Wilson read to the public a letter written by Board Member Dr. Florence Armstrong resigning from her position as a member of the Edgecombe County Board of Education. Dr. Armstrong resigned from her position on the Board due to moving and her change of residence now being out of District 2, which she was representing. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson accepted Dr. Armstrong’s resignation with regrets on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Diane LeFiles, Director of Public Relations, read a resolution from the Board of Education acknowledging the work Dr. Armstrong has done for the students and community of Edgecombe County. Board Chairperson Evelyn Wilson presented a gift to Dr. Armstrong for her years of service on the Board.

Board Attorney Jonathan Blumberg provided information to the Board on the process of filling the vacancy. He reminded the Board that the Board advertises the vacancy, receives letters of interest, and appoints a person from the vacant district to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Mrs. Diane LeFiles introduced Mr. Calvin Bridgers and Mr. Willie Phillips, Coker-Wimberly custodial staff, as employees being recognized for receiving the “Clean School Award” presented by the Saffelle Corporation. Mr. Bridgers and Mr. Phillips were presented with certificates and WalMart gift cards presented by Board Chairperson Evelyn Wilson and Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon.

Board Chair Evelyn Wilson announced that she had not previously spoken with members of the Board but she would be deviating from the Board agenda to say a few needed words. She voiced that it is important to parents, students, and teachers to know that the Board of Education is concerned and continues to work on extra duty pay. She voiced that the issue of extra duty pay has not been swept under the rug. Mrs. Wilson stated that she has reviewed the minutes of May 1, May 14, and May 21, 2007, and that neither the term 'hit list' nor 'trouble makers' can be found in any part of the minutes except the May 14, 2007 public comments section. Mrs. Wilson offered thanks to each person who took the time to write letters to the Board with concerns regarding extra duty pay. Mrs. Wilson asked that teachers work patiently, as the Board and administration continue to ~~work out conditions~~ *study this matter*.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Ms. Yolanda Thigpen addressed the Board with concern regarding the Board seat vacancy for District 2. She thanked Dr. Florence Armstrong for her diligence in representing the community of District 2 while serving on the Board. Ms. Thigpen voiced that she hoped the Board would take the task of filling the vacancy seriously and that they would use multiple media strategies, be mindful of the make up of District 2, and that the Board fill the vacancy and not leave it vacant for the balance of the term. Ms. Thigpen stated that she hoped the Board would continue to maintain the equal ethnic and gender balance of the Board. She voiced that she would like to see the Board use a search committee approach to fill the vacancy as was used for the search for the Superintendent. Ms. Thigpen voiced that the Board should ensure that the newly drafted Code of Ethics is used for the process.

Mr. Melvin Muhammed addressed the Board regarding the Board seat vacancy for District 2. He thanked Dr. Florence Armstrong for the service she provided for District 2 while serving on the Board. Mr. Muhammed asked that the Board consider the input of the community of District 2 as they work towards filling the vacancy. He asked that the Board give District 2 an opportunity to have a community meeting to discuss the vacancy.

Mr. Curmilius Dancy asked that he be allowed to address the Board regarding extra duty pay understanding that it was not on the agenda but because Chairperson Evelyn Wilson had made a statement on the topic. The Board declined to hear Mr. Dancy as extra duty pay was not formally an agenda topic and had not been added to the agenda.

Mrs. Della Sherrod asked to address the Board on Roberson School. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to allow Mrs. Sherrod an opportunity to address the Board, as requested. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board. Mrs. Sherrod informed the Board that she was concerned that the Board had not carried out the orders from Mr. Chambers handed out years ago regarding transporting additional students to Roberson School. Mrs. Sherrod voiced that the only individual that did anything for Roberson Schools was former Superintendent Mr. Lee Hall. She voiced that Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone did not do anything to help Roberson School and questioned what Superintendent

Dr. Craig Witherspoon plans to do. Mrs. Sherrod voiced that the Board should do what the law said to do and that taxes are paid to include Roberson and children should be moved back to the school.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairperson Evelyn Wilson requested that Consent Agenda Items (8.2.A) (8.5.A), and (8.9.A) be pulled from Consent and moved under Items for Action. Member Janice Davidson requested that Consent Item (8.7.A) be pulled and moved under Items for Action. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson requested the addition of Item (8.10.B) Board Retreat Time. Member Janice Davidson requested the addition of Item (9.1.2) License and Contracts of New Hires. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the agenda as revised. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the Open Session Minutes of May 1, 14, & 21, 2007, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Ann Kent under the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, Section 143-318.11 (a) (1), (a) (3), and (a) (6), to go into Closed Session to consider personnel matters, to consult with the attorney to preserve attorney-client privileged information, and to prevent the disclosure of student records rendered confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and the disclosure of personnel records rendered confidential under G.S. 115C-319 through 321. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – Principal Timothy Pittman, Mr. David Coker, Director of Maintenance, and Mr. Marty Pittman presented information to the Board on the SouthWest Edgecombe High School press box project proposal. Mr. Pittman informed the Board that the school had been dealing with problems with the structure of the press box that have caused safety issues. He informed the Board that because funds have been tight, the school sought other alternatives that resulted in individuals being kind enough to assist with the financial part with all being donated to cover costs with the exception of \$5,000 which will come out of the school's capital outlay funds. Mr. Pittman informed the Board that the proposed structure will be of steel with a metal frame and roof, free standing from bleachers, and will be a two-story structure. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned whether the structure would include a system for microphones, thereby improving the quality of the sound system. Mr. Pittman responded that electricity would be a problem because of the difficulty of digging through the cement in that area. Board attorney Jonathan Blumberg questioned whether the project would be considered a school system project, whether it would require bidding, and if there would be a contractor. He was informed by Mr. Marty Pittman and Principal Timothy Pittman that all services are being donated. Attorney Blumberg questioned whether the press box, when completed, would belong to the school. He was informed that it would belong to the school. Member Keith Pittman

Voiced that the same situation occurred years back when Tarboro High School's band boosters funded a concession stand for Tarboro High School. Attorney Blumberg requested that administration ensure that things like insurance and school system liability protection are in place.

Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon provided information to the Board on the Roberson Elementary School study. He informed the Board that the study was looked at in terms of size, enrollment, average daily membership, staffing, and otherwise. He reminded the Board that the Quandt Study done in 1995 provided several recommendations to the Board, one of which was the closing of Roberson School or to convert it to a multiple use facility. He informed the Board that the study also referenced the building of another facility, which the district has not been able to do. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that Roberson's enrollment has decreased causing the per pupil expenditure ratio to increase. He informed the Board that if Roberson is closed students would be divided between G.W. Carver, Princeville Montessori, and Coker-Wimberly Schools. Supporting charts and graphs were provided for viewing of information provided. Superintendent Witherspoon informed the Board that there were a lot of retirements at Roberson and there would only be four teachers remaining at Roberson to transfer, if approved.

Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon informed the Board that Edgecombe County Public Schools has been noted to have a very high short-term suspension rate. He informed the Board that the current alternative facility does not allow for a larger enrollment. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that the longest route presently to the Center for Educational Achievement is 50 minutes, and if his proposed change to move it to Roberson School is approved, the time would increase by 20 minutes. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that the proposal would require a hearing, and would be placed on the website to allow community input. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that starting in the fall, there will be three schools starting with smaller enrollments. He informed the Board that he had met with Roberson School staff and had informed them that positions would be absorbed, if the Board approves the closing of Roberson and relocation of CEA. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that he hopes his proposal will stem the tide of losing the student population. He informed the Board that the Bridgers facility had been considered, however, it would be more costly to prepare it for students because of the ADA and there is no cafeteria. Member Ann Kent voiced that she had looked at the per pupil expenditure and questioned the difference in pupil costs between Roberson and other Edgecombe County Schools. She questioned whether it would not be more expensive to run an alternative school at Roberson and questioned how it would compare economically to what is already in place at the Center for Educational Achievement. Member Keith Pittman questioned whether any thought has been given to using part of the Phillips School facility perhaps for the lower grade of alternative students and using the Center for Educational Achievement facility at North Edgecombe for high school alternative students. He voiced that the best thing would be to have a more centrally located facility. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson voiced that Roberson School is a nice school and it would be in the best interest of the community to use the facility.

Superintendent Witherspoon informed the Board that the Roberson site could serve up to 250 students that would not necessarily stay there for the entire school year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Member Keith Pittman, Chairman of the Bond Committee, informed the Board that Phase I of the bond projects have basically been completed and that the system is now ready to begin part one of Phase II. He informed the Board that bond money has to be used by January 31, 2008. Mr. Richard Andrews, architect, and Director David Coker presented the plan for Phillips School construction. Mr. Andrews informed the Board that they had considered whether to demolish the old building; however, they determined that it would be more feasible to do renovations. Drawings were presented for the Board's review. Member Ann Kent questioned whether square footage would be reduced. Mr. Andrews informed the Board that there would be more. Member Keith Pittman questioned whether everything in the building would be new. Mr. Andrews informed the Board that renovations would consist of new ceilings, floors, and paint. Member Ann Kent questioned the condition of the windows. Mr. Andrews informed the Board that windows would be replaced with double paned aluminum. Mrs. Kent questioned whether renovations to the building would include wiring for technology. She was told that it would as well as plumbing, heating, and air, with air being distributed through a floor system. Member Keith Pittman voiced that it would be a better airflow with air coming in through the floor. He requested that work be done to the entrance of the building to make it more appealing. Member Janice Davidson voiced that the change in airflow would also result in better air cleanliness. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned when the renovations would be completed. The Board was informed that the job would be completed by January 31, 2008. A motion was made by Member Keith Pittman to approve renovations for Phillips Middle School, as presented by Mr. Richard Andrews. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Member Ann Kent, Chairperson for the Policy Committee, informed the Board that the Policy Committee did not meet; however, policy 4302 Use of Seclusion and Restraint was presented for its second reading. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the second reading of policy 4302, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA – A motion was made by Member Charlie Cobb to approve consent items (8.1.A) through (8.10.A) as amended [Excluding items (8.2.A), (8.5.A), (8.7.A) and (8.9.A) that were moved under Items for Action]:

- Drivers education contract with North Carolina Driving School, Inc, in Winterville, NC at \$165.00 per student;
- Contract with Community Enrichment Organization for rental space at the Family Resource Center at a cost of \$560.00 per month, the first year of a five-year annually renewable contract;
- Payroll calendars for 2007-2008, as presented;
- Uniform rental contract with Halifax Linen for maintenance (\$3,500), warehouse (\$1,400), and transportation (4,400) for 2007-2008, as presented;
- The 2007-2008 Title I Part C-Migrant Education Program Grant Application, as presented;

- Field trip requests by SouthWest Edgecombe High School's boys' basketball team to Chapel Hill, NC [6/27-30/08], FBLA to Chicago, IL [6/27 – 7/2/07], Junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders to Greenville, NC [8/11-12 & 18-19/07]; and Tarboro High School's girls' basketball team to Havelock and ECU [6/20-24/07], as presented.

The motion was seconded by Member Ann Kent and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

ITEMS FOR ACTION – Mrs. Carol Kidd, Director of Federal Programs, presented information on the Title I Basic Grant Application. Member Ann Kent questioned who would be the writer of the grant. Mrs. Kidd informed the Board that the new Director of Federal Programs will be responsible for writing the grant and that schools always write part of the grant. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the Title I Basic Grant Application for 2007-08, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon presented insurance proposals for 2007-2008. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the continuation of participation of insurance renewals for 2007-2008, as follows:

- American Advantage Marketing – all athletic (\$23,514) and middle school catastrophic athletic (\$2,100);
- NC High School Athletic Association – catastrophic athletic (\$2,449);
- NC School Board Trust Association – general liability, errors & omissions (\$22,991) and volunteer accident (\$200);
- Standard Insurance & Realty – boiler & machinery (\$3,432);
- Surry Insurance – workers' compensation (\$98,336) and auto/inland marine (\$33,268);
- NC Department of Public Instruction – property & fire (\$124,611);
- Fountain-Roberson-Anderson – Honest blanket bond (\$776) and surety bond-finance officer (\$175).

The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon and Mrs. Brenda Canady, Director of Child Nutrition, presented a proposal of price increases for 2007-2008. She informed the Board that there had been no change in prices in 20 years. Member Janice Davidson questioned whether the increase would be for paying students only. Mrs. Canady informed the Board that reduced and free meal prices are established by the Federal Government. Mrs. Canady requested that the Board make a correction to the prices listed in their packets, changing the lunch price of PK-5 from \$1.25 to \$1.50. Member Ann Kent questioned whether the price increase had anything to do with indirect costs or providing healthier meals. Mrs. Canady informed the Board that increased costs are a result of healthier food choices, labor cost, expenses, and implementing healthy food standards. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the increase in breakfast and lunch prices for 2007-2008, as follows:

- Breakfast (all grades) - \$1.00; lunch for grades PK – 5 \$1.50; and lunch for grades 6-12 \$1.75.

The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Ms. Karen Dameron, Director of New Teacher Support, presented the 2006-2007 Beginning Teacher Support Program. She informed the Board that in July 2006 the State Board of Education changed the formation of what was previously called the Initially Licensed Plan. The changes required each LEA to update their plan. Edgecombe County originally submitted a plan in 1999. Member Ann Kent questioned whether the plan will bring any dollars to the system. The state provides a state paid mentor for first and second year teachers. Member Janice Davidson questioned whether the information on page 4 of the plan under Technical Assistance referred to computer technology. Ms. Dameron informed the Board that it refers to support that teachers know about, who they can call on, not necessarily computer technologists. Ms. Dameron invited the Board to attend the New Teacher Orientation on August 15, 16, & 17, 2007 at the ECC ACT Center. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the 2006-2007 Beginning Teacher Support Program, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board. Member John Edmondson questioned whether teachers who came in December would be included in training sessions. Ms. Dameron responded that they would be included.

Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon presented the plan of reduction of central office positions in the amount of \$750,000. He informed the Board that there had been a decrease in state and federal funds coming into the school system, and while appropriations increased, increases did not keep up with spending. He informed the Board that as a result the fund balance was used to maintain the spending level causing a dramatic drop in the balance, which cannot be continued. He informed the Board that the request for an increase from the County Commissioners resulted in a \$1.9 million increase. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that \$75,000 was pulled to go to the college to honor their request from last year. He informed the Board that expansion items have been pulled, programs have been pulled, and reductions were previously made in an attempt to balance the budget. Member Janice Davidson thanked the Superintendent for taking the time to meet with individual board members to explain why he would be presenting his request. Member Keith Pittman voiced that the proposal shows that cuts are basically coming from central services in an attempt to hold schools harmless. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned whether budget issues may be a result of the decreasing student population. Dr. Witherspoon informed the Board that student decreases also decrease funds coming into the district. Member Janice Davidson voiced that a reduction in positions is not something that anyone wants to do. Members of the Board questioned whether there would be any hiring from the outside or as positions become available would people affected be given priority. The Board was informed that individuals affected would be given priority. Member Ann Kent questioned whether there would be a difference in the pay scale. Attorney Blumberg informed the Board that pay would be based on the position and that administration has placed a freeze on hiring. Member John Edmondson questioned if an individual had 25 years would they have to start over. Attorney Blumberg informed the Board that individuals would be paid for the position for which they are hired and that experience would be given if it applies to that position. Member Keith Pittman voiced that retirement would also pick up and carry on. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson voiced that

the decision that the Board has to make is a serious one. Member Keith Pittman voiced that the decision is the hardest the Board has had to face; that the Board has deep feelings for individuals losing jobs, as well as their compensation; and, the Board takes great sorrow in seeing it come to this point. A motion was made by Member Charlie Cobb to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the Reduction in Force as a result of insufficient funds, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

The Board discussed the Cornerstone property. Member Ann Kent questioned whether there is any equity built up. Dr. Witherspoon responded that he was not aware but would research. Attorney Jonathan Blumberg informed the Board that the next step the Board would take would be to offer the property to the County Commissioners, then ~~to~~ *would dispose of the property* in accordance ~~to~~ *with state* law. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to declare as surplus property, the Cornerstone building located at 1400 St. Andrews Street, Tarboro, NC, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Attorney Jonathan Blumberg provided background information to the Board on the history of district boundary lines. He informed the Board that with the merger of Tarboro City Schools and Edgecombe County Schools an effort was made to define the boundaries with legislation being passed that did not follow the agreement of the newly merged Edgecombe County Schools and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. He informed the Board that the agreement has been tweaked to mirror what should be in legislation. Attorney Blumberg informed the Board that the addition impacts four houses and some lines have been drawn to make the agreement clearer. He informed the Board that the agreement has already been cleared with the Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education, and once cleared by the Edgecombe County Board of Education, will be presented to the General Assembly for approval and finally, precleared by the Justice Department. Member Ann Kent questioned whether changes would affect funding. Attorney Blumberg informed the Board that the four houses impacted do not have children attending schools in either district. He informed the Board that time is of the essence to present the change to the General Assembly, which could possibly get through in this session. Member Keith Pittman questioned the possibility of future growth. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson voiced that the area is somewhat locked and there has not been a lot of expansion in that area. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the description of the boundary between the Edgecombe and Nash-Rocky Mount schools as prepared by Mr. Elkins for the Edgecombe County Board of Elections. This new description of the boundary does three things: (1) it generally conforms the description to the student assignments previously agreed upon by the two school boards; (2) it makes Vernon Road the boundary line east of Courtland Avenue; and (3) it makes Meadowbrook Road the boundary line between Vernon Road and Raleigh Street. The latter two changes are being made to avoid possible confusion in those areas depending on future development. As part

of the motion the Board asks that its lawyers work with the lawyers for the Nash-Rocky Mount schools and the Edgecombe County Board of Elections to have the new description enacted by the General Assembly and precleared by the United States Justice Department. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

The Board discussed a meeting date for late June to approve personnel, budget, and emergency items. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve June 28, 2007, for a Special Meeting of the Board, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Charlie Cobb and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

The Board discussed the board retreat scheduled for June 15-16, 2007. The consensus of the Board was to change the dates and times to one day, June 15, 2007, from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Board discussed the Board's schedule for 2007-2008. Mrs. Diane LeFiles, Director of Public Information, informed the Board that October and February are months being considered for joint meetings with the County Commissioners and ECC Board. Member Janice Davidson voiced that she would not be able to meet on August 13, 2007. The Board discussed dates. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the Board's schedule for 2007-2008, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Charlie Cobb and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Chairperson Evelyn Wilson informed the public that Member John Edmondson would not be voting on item (8.2.A). A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve Embarq as the sole source provider for telephone systems for ECPS, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Charlie Cobb and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Mr. Curtis Jones, Director of Secondary Education, presented information to the Board of the 2007-2008 Career Technical Education Local Plan. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned whether the Planning and Performance Management System is for teachers, students, principals, or central office. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the system is for anyone who has an interest. He stated that the system outlines the plan and priorities on how the district proposes to use its allotted funds and can be pulled up by county to see school by school performance by program areas. Mr. Jones informed the Board as of July 1, 2007, the program will operate using Perkins IV, and will be evaluated more inline with NCLB. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned whether changes are understood by principals, parents, students, and teachers. Mr. Jones informed the Board that plans are underway for information to be passed on once the state decides what all the changes will be. Mrs. Wilson questioned a statement pertaining to under represented gender. Mr. Jones informed the Board that typically schools try to put forth an effort to recruit females. Mrs. Wilson questioned what specific courses are listed for each high school, not to be answered at this time. Mr. Jones informed the Board that data is looked at over time, pathways in place for feeder patterns, programs in place at the community college, and EVAAS Program. A motion was made by Member Janice Davidson to approve the Career Technical

Plan for 2007-2008, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Ann Kent and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Ms. Sandra Jones, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services, presented the ECPS Academically Gifted Plan for 2007-2010. Member Janice Davidson voiced that the AIG Program has been dear to her heart for many years. Mrs. Davidson requested the following changes: on page 8 under Aptitude the term “special needs” be included as is in the description on page 7 of the plan and on page 11 in the FEW description under Criteria, to add “meet” after students must... and to take off the “n” on ‘and’. Mrs. Davidson questioned whether on page 21 would classroom teachers include everyone. Mrs. Jones responded that it would. Mrs. Davidson questioned whether high schools would still offer French. Mrs. Jones responded that high schools would offer Spanish V but not French V. Mrs. Davidson questioned whether there is an Algebra I Honors class. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the state did away with that particular class two years ago. The Board was informed that Algebra I would be moved down to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. A motion was made by Member Janice Davidson to approve the AIG Plan for 2007-2008, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Ann Kent and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Mrs. Mary Williams, Director of Student Support Services, presented the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act for 2007-2008. Chairperson Evelyn Wilson questioned whether the plan addressed the tobacco free school proposal and is Edgecombe County working towards becoming a tobacco free school district. Mrs. Williams responded that the plan does address tobacco free schools and that Edgecombe County will hopefully become one. Member Ann Kent informed the Board that the school district does have a Tobacco Free Committee in place that has provided information to the Policy Committee. Mrs. Williams informed the Board that the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) has also provided support of the effort and that passing of the plan for the district to become tobacco free will depend on how the community responds in affirmation. A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Ann Kent under the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, Section 143-318.11 (a) (1), (a) (3), and (a) (6), to go into Closed Session to consider personnel matters, to consult with the attorney to preserve attorney-client privileged information, and to prevent the disclosure of student records rendered confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and the disclosure of personnel records rendered confidential under G.S. 115C-319 through 321. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

OPEN SESSION – A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation for personnel management as discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

A motion was made by Member Ann Kent to approve the closed session minutes of May 1, 14, and 21, 2007, as amended in closed session. The motion was seconded by Member Janice Davidson and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE – Chairperson Evelyn Wilson informed the Board of correspondence from Mr. Hill from SouthWest Edgecombe High School and the Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by Rocky Mount OIC.

ITEMS BROUGHT BY BOARD MEMBERS/SUPERINTENDENT FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION – Board Members were asked to provide reimbursement requests to Ms. Westry prior to June 25, 2007 for year end closeout.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Member Charlie Cobb to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Keith Pittman and, with a unanimous vote, approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Craig Witherspoon, Superintendent

Approved by the Edgecombe  
County Board of Education

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn S. Wilson, Chairperson

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_