

New Hanover County School Board Meeting 5/1/18

This was a regular School Board meeting. Agenda items of greatest interest to our Education Action Team included:

- 1. A detailed presentation of the Restart programs for Snipes and Freeman Elementary Schools who plan to use the State rules that give charter-like flexibility to Restart schools to positively impact academic achievement at these two schools.*
- 2. Presentation of the budget that will be sent to the County Commissioners where the school district will be requesting a 7.5% increase next year (or \$100 more per pupil).*

All School Board members were present.

Anne York spoke during public comment to highlight some of the issues that the NAACP Parent's Council would like to address including the overrepresentation of minority students who receive school suspensions. She stated that she would begin making regular presentations to the Board during the public comment period.

Restart Schools: Some of the changes that are being planned for Snipes and Freeman as part of their Restart proposals to the State include implementing a modified year round calendar to provide for all day rather than half day professional development for staff as well as extended learning intercessions for students; beginning implementation of effective strategies from Visible Learning including Teacher Clarity and Effective Feedback, and taking funding for Read to Achieve summer camps and using it for instructional support during the school year.

Budget presentation: The biggest budget changes cover safety and security needs (increases in staff and facility improvements), salary and benefit increases, an increased allotment for charter schools due to projected enrollment increases, and funding for technology replacements. School staff have apparently already been negotiating with the County Commissioners around their budget increase requests, and this budget request is likely to be accepted by the County Commissioners.

Next month's meeting will be on 6/5/18 at 5:30 pm at the BOE Center, 1805 S. 13th Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Eitelman