**OBSERVER REPORTING FORM – League of Women Voters, Lower Cape Fear**

**Organization –** Brunswick County Board of Education **DATE –** March 7, 2017

**Type of Meeting -** Regular **Start Time** – 6:30 PM **Adjourn Time** – ?? PM

**Meeting features YES/NO Comments**

**-Agenda posted prior to meeting** Yes Available on line

**-Members of organization present** - Ed Lemon, Charles Miller, John Thompson, and Ellen Milligan. Missing: Catherine Cooke

**-Staff present -** Leslie Tubb, Rhonda Benton, Jessica Swencki, Michelle Sharpe, Richard Green, Ann Hardy, Jill Eubanks. Missing: Deanne Meadows

**-Media coverage** ??

**-Opportunity for public comment** Yes Stuart Smith and Sarah Knotts (Board of Elections) spoke on the use of school buildings for Fall elections.

**Agenda discussion topics, decisions made:**

-Michelle Sharpe, teacher of the year, presented highlights of activities in the schools. Mr. Thompson requested that she report on “What are teachers thinking”.

-Rhonda Benton(Dir. K-8 ED) - TODAY IN THE CLASS featured an EC class & 1 K.

-Jessica Swencki discussed the efforts to lobby the legislature for more flexibility in the school calendar. All agreed that this is necessary and should be pursued aggressively.

**Issues discussed - relevant to LWV positions/programs:**

-School Calendar (above)

-Mr. Tubb announced that the Board of County Commissioners has approved the **Brunswick County Guarantee Scholarship Program** for county high school graduates. Eligible applicants can receive free tuition and fees for two years at Brunswick Community College.The scholarship fills in the gap when a student’s tuition and fees are not met by federal financial aid programs or other BCC scholarships. Students must have a 2.3 unweighted GPA, be a U.S. citizen and enroll in a college certification or diploma program. They must also begin college within four semesters of graduating from high school. To keep the scholarship, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA & complete 67% of the credit hours they have enrolled in.

**League follow up recommended:**

-Introduce league observers to Ed Lemon, chairman of the board.

**Comments:**

-There was lots of enthusiasm about free tuition at BCCC.

**Observer –** Barbara Brandes **Date report submitted –** March 22, 2017