**Observer Corp Report**

**New Hanover County Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, August 2, 2016**

**All the actions reported below in the Star-News were approved by the Board of Education** of August 2, 2016 meeting. Nothing else of import occurred.

WILMINGTON -- **New** Hanover County Schools this month will open its J.C. Roe Center, where suspended students will go to continue school work in a classroom environment. During its meeting Tuesday, New Hanover County school board members could approve a model for measuring student progress at the center.

According to N.C. Board of Education policy, local school districts must adopt "accountability models" each year for alternative schools. Those schools can participate in the statewide School Performance Grades system, develop their own models or adopt a state-designed Alternative Schools’ Progress Model. That state-designed model is the one board members will consider for the Roe Center, as well as Lake Forest Academy and Mosley Performance Learning Center.

The Alternative Schools’ Progress Model gives schools a yearly score: 20 percent is based on student persistence -- how many remain enrolled, 20 percent on school achievement -- based on everything from test scores to graduation rates, and 60 percent on student growth. Year-to-year, schools will also be evaluated on whether they are progressing, maintaining or declining.

J.C. Roe will have 19 teachers and support staffers to instruct long- and short-term suspended students in grades 6 through 12. According to NHCS data from the 2014-15 school year, an average of 186 students are suspended from school any given week. J.C. Roe will also house the district's Transitions Program to help recently hospitalized students readjust to the classroom.

"All students will be treated with dignity and respect," a news release on the school's opening quoted Principal Glen Locklear. "My goal is for the students' time with us to be a positive experience. I want them to gain new skills, so when they return to their original school, they will have some better strategies for success."

In other board business, members are expected to approve a contract that will bring an [**on-campus health clinic to Hoggard High School**](http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20160717/hoggard-high-school-to-get-on-campus-health-clinic). The clinic, run by Wilmington Health Access for Teens (WHAT) and Coastal Horizons Center Inc., is set to open this academic year. WHAT already operates similar clinics at New Hanover High School, Laney High School and Ashley High School.

Board members could also approve school improvements using money from the N.C. Education Lottery. The district has about $3.5 million in lottery funds to use on capital projects, include fire sprinkler pipe replacements at Ashley, electrical gear at Laney and new playground equipment at several elementary schools.