# League of Women Voters of the Lower Cape Fear Observation Report

Brunswick County Board of Education meeting

February 2, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Sandifer Administrative Building, County Complex

This was my first time to attend a BOE meeting. Dave Pryor attended with me. We wore our LWV name tags. I got the agenda off the Brunswick County Schools webpage ahead of time. All school board members were there, along with Superintendent Tubb and other school officials.

The first part of the meeting consisted of presentations by three individuals. Sue Ruttledge, Executive Director of Operations for Brunswick County Schools. She showed a slide presentation of a $6.6 million renovation at North Brunswick High School. A new addition is “really nice” and there are no issues. It will provide space for new classrooms, particularly health science, and outdoor classroom space. Another project she reported on is Waccamaw Schools Multi-use Facility, which will be completed in August. She said the facility is beautiful and the district should be proud. The project is on time and within budget.

The second presentation was “the Teacher’s Voice,” by Laura Sokol-Scott, She reported on professional development activities. The third presentation was the “Powerful Partner Spotlight,” by Jessica Swencki. She had a video presentation on a Civitan project that provides IPads to elementary school children for classroom use. They raise money through a Hometown Heroes Chili Cookoff. So far, 4 IPads have been donated. The video showed children on task and having fun.

Other agenda items were graduation requirements and the Tiber Creek contract. One woman from the schools reported that the district needs to migrate from another operating system to Microsoft. This involves 9,000 computers. The Board of Education approved this.

Bud Thorsen reported on the meeting of Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees, to which Board of Education members were invited. Tubb also gave an update on the treatment program, which will probably be open in May.

The meeting then was going into closed session, so Dave and I prepared to leave. Board member John Thompson then came down and greeted us personally, as we know him from other contexts. He saw our nametags, and mentioned how the LWV had approached the BOE previously about doing a voter registration drive on parents’ night. He thought the event was already a “zoo” of activity, and for that reason hadn’t supported the proposal. He wished us well with efforts to inform the public and get out the vote.

**Recommendations:** Dave and I sat in the middle of the middle section.If I were to attend as an observer again, I would sit close to the front and to the side. I couldn’t see the face of those addressing the board, and had trouble reading the agenda projected on the screen and hearing the board members talk.