Summary of Brunswick County School Board Meeting - March 1, 2016

Board Salutes

School Superintendent, Mr. Les Tubb, recognized Jessie Mae Monroe Elementary School’s maintenance staff with the Clean School Award. Board members congratulated and thanked the school recipients and continued with praise for the maintenance of all of the Brunswick County Schools.

Presentations

-Katlynn Taggett presented her Senior Project: Making NBH a Storm Ready School and was praised by the board.

-Doug Burns of KSQ Architects presented the 30th computer monitor that his firm has donated to the Brunswick County Schools and was heartily thanked by Mr. Thorsen.

-Mr. Tubb reported the results of the Student Dress Code Focus Group. The work is not complete, but he praised the group (with representatives from all of the high schools) for their serious approach to the subject and the maturity exhibited.

-Laura Sokol-Scott, Teacher’s Voice, reported on individual success stories that were shared by various schools and discussed meeting with NC Representative Frank Iler to discuss the school calendar for next year. The teaching staff is very concerned that the distribution of teacher workdays does not provide adequately for professional growth opportunities. Mr. Thompson emphatically echoed the same concern.

-In an item leftover from last month, the board acknowledged a gift of iPads for use by EC classes that were donated from the organization, Civitans.

-Jessica Swencki shared a video that spotlighted a Powerful Partner: Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island. She and the board thanked the representatives present for all that they do to assist children in the Brunswick County Schools.

Approval of Minutes and Consent Items

All listed meeting minutes and consent items were approved unanimously.

Action Items for Approval

The 2016-2017 Draft School Calendar was approved but this item sparked much discussion as no one is satisfied with the calendar as it stands, but the ability to make adjustments lies with decisions in the legislature. Efforts will be made to influence the laws governing the school calendar by contacting local legislators before final approval of next year’s calendar.

Other Discussion

Shirley Babson moved to have the Board take a survey of the public, staff, and students concerning the bond issue. The rest of the board thought this was unnecessary at this time and might even confuse the public since there is a state bond issue on the ballot in the March primary election. John Thompson stated that he felt that promotion of the school bond should be delayed until the board hears from the county commissioners. There was no second to the motion.

The board moved to Closed Session.

Submitted by LWVLCF Observer, Barbara Brandes - March 6, 2016