

League of Women Voters, Lower Cape Fear - Observation Report

Regular Meeting - **Brunswick County Board of Education** Date - **March 6, 2018**

Start Time – 6:30 PM **End Time** – approximately 7:30 PM

-Board Members present - Ed Lemon, Charles Miller, John Thompson, and Catherine Cooke. Ellen Milligan was absent due to the death of her husband.

-Staff present - Leslie Tubb, Dr. Deanne Meadows, Dr. Jerry Oates, Richard Green, Sue Rutledge, Freyja Cahill, and Jill Coughlin.

-Media coverage – Brunswick Beacon and State Port Pilot

-Opportunity for public comment – Yes: A parent spoke briefly about the need to keep communication going between parents/staff/board especially in times of anxiety such as followed the school shootings in Florida last month.

Presentations –

1. **Teacher’s Voice – Carolynn Phillips**, BCS Teacher of the Year, shared some comments from the teaching staff. Some comments expressed a need for more mental health assistance, possibly more SROs, and the overwhelming opinion that teachers did not want to deal with firearms in the schools.

Mr. Miller – There are SROs in every school. Our schools are safe. \$5 million has been spent in the last decade on security upgrades. He also said parents need to monitor their kids spaces and use of technology. And he expressed a desire to speak with the TAC (teachers advisory council).

Mrs. Cooke – Fear breeds fear: kids need to know that that there is at least ONE person that they can always go to for help in and out of school.

Dr. Oaks – Talked about how problematic posting on social media becomes in dangerous situations, and urged the spread of “Report DON’T Repost” as a defensive policy the schools should encourage.

Parliamentary Procedures - Approved unanimously:

Meeting Agenda, All Minutes from Meetings, and Consent Items (Specific details of the consent items can be found in the meeting minutes posted with the agenda.)

Action Items – Approved unanimously:

1. Copier Service Agreement with Toshiba termination and approval of contract with Xerox Corporation for Copier Services. (Expected savings \$100, 000 conservatively.)
2. Approved request for Advance Funding for Site Work (\$2.1 Million) at Town Creek Middle School that is over budget due to soil issues. Also approved Request for Additional Funding (\$2.8 Million) for Gym/Stage (at TCM) that will come from Capital Funds leaving approximately \$7 Million in reserve.

Announcements by Superintendent & Board Members

-The website is being kept up to date on bond projects and the board is happy with the response to the “in Progress” open houses.

-Dr. Oaks wants to encourage the public visit the website to complete the survey on the school calendar.

Observers– Barbara Brandes & Karen Richardson

Submitted – March 13, 2018