

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Name of person making Request: [redacted] Telephone: [redacted]

Address: [redacted] NC 28462

Complainant represents: himself/herself
 Organization (name) _____
 Other group (name) _____

Name of school owning challenged material: West Brunswick High School

Do you have a child in this school? Yes Grade: 11th

Title of item: The Color Purple

Type of media: book, film, filmstrip, recording, web resource, etc. : Book

Author/artist/composer/producer, etc.: Allice Walker

Publisher/producer (if known): _____

How did you acquire this item? It was my daughter's required read for her AP English class.

Did you read, view, or listen to the entire item? Yes If not, what parts? _____

Is this item part of a series or set? No If yes, did you examine the other items? _____

What do you believe are the theme and purpose of this item? Theme - The Book was about a woman greatly oppressed and mistreated. Purpose - I believe the book parallels Allice Walker's life in many ways

To what in the item do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages, frames, etc.)
pg 1 - 3rd paragraph, pg 49 1st paragraph, pg 77 - 79, pg 81 - 14th line down, pg 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 120, 122, 196

Are there any positive qualities to the item? The positive qualities seem to be overshadowed by the constant obscenities throughout the book.

For what age group or grade level would you recommend this item? Would never recommend the book

What do you feel might be the result of a student's reading, viewing, or listening to this item? _____

I believe the results could vary. Requiring a 16 year old hormone charged teenager to read a book filled with sexually explicit material is not using wisdom.

Are you aware of any evaluations of this item by authoritative sources?

Yes ____; No _____. If yes, did those sources agree with your opinion?

Yes ____; No _____. List the sources. _____

What would you like your school to do about this item?

____ Not assign it to your child

____ Not assign it to any child

Make it available only to those who wish to use it with parental knowledge and consent.

____ Refer it to the Media Technology Advisory Committee for reevaluation

____ Withdraw it from the media collection

Other (specify) This book should not be a required read

What would you suggest that the school purchase in lieu of this item? _____

Why is your recommendation a better choice? _____

Do you want other persons in the community to determine the kinds of materials your child may or may not use in school? The school already mandates material for my child.

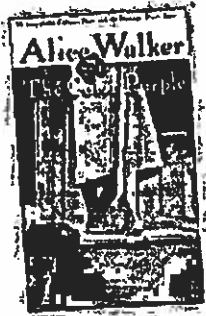
Other Comments:



Signature of complainant

12/16/13
Date

The Color Purple



This historical, epistolary novel by Alice Walker was first published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and is now published by many others. Though written for adults, *The Color Purple* is sometimes included on high school reading lists for ages 16 and up.

Plot Summary

Celle's life has never been easy. She's black and lives a life of poverty in the southern United States. At least she can go to school with her little sister, Nettie. Her teacher has never seen two girls more hungry for

knowledge.

That changes when Celle's mother decides she's done having babies. In an era before birth control, 14-year-old Celle bears the brunt of her father's pent-up sexual frustration. He rapes her and chokes her and swears her to secrecy. *It would kill your mother, he says. But keeping secrets doesn't keep a girl from getting pregnant, and with no other men in the picture, Celle's mother suspects the truth. She dies during Celle's second pregnancy. Although both babies are born healthy, her father steals them in the night. Celle doesn't know if he's killed them or sold them.*

Celle's father remarries. His teenage bride is no older than Celle and unable to cope with the demands of an already large family. He still rapes Celle whenever his wife is sick, but Celle has become infertile. Nettie has a boyfriend at church — Mr. ____ (now Celle writes his name throughout the book). He is a widower with four kids. But when he asks for Nettie's hand in marriage, her father refuses.

Mr. ____ is still in love with his former lover, Shug Avery. Celle's new mother gives her a picture of Shug that Mr. ____ dropped. She is a beautiful young woman. Celle begins to dream about Shug. Celle's father offers Celle instead of Nettie to Mr. _____. He finally agrees to marry her after a cow is included in the bargain.

Life at Mr. ____'s house is pretty much the same as life at home. Celle has sex with Mr. ____ and takes care of his small house and unruly children. He beats her. One day in town, Celle sees her daughter. She is being raised by a minister and his wife who are relatively well-off. Celle is glad that she is safe and well.

Nettie runs away from home and comes to live with Celle and Mr. _____. He tries to seduce her but fails. When Nettie refuses his advances, he tells her to leave. Celle tells Nettie about the minister and his wife. Nettie promises to write but never does.

Celle learns that after Mr. ____ married his first wife, he kept seeing Shug. She also learns that Shug is a singer. When Shug comes to town for the weekend, Mr. ____ gets all spruced up to go see her. He disappears for several days. When he returns, he refuses to work and sits moping on the porch all day, every day.

Mr. ____'s oldest son, Harpo, wants to marry Sofia, a girl he meets at church. Her parents don't approve, but he gets her pregnant and then marries her anyway. They live in a converted shed on Mr. ____'s property. Mr. ____ starts paying Harpo for the work he does on the farm. For three years, Harpo lives happily with his little family. But Sofia is different from Celle. She talks back. She doesn't always obey him. Beat her, says Mr. _____. Jealous of their happiness, Celle agrees.

Unfortunately for Harpo, Sofia is bigger — and stronger — than he. Attempted beatings turn into fights. Harpo always loses. Celle apologizes to Sofia for telling Harpo to beat her, but Harpo keeps trying.

Favorites



Moments That Last a Lifetime
It doesn't take much to influence who your child will



Media Choices Away From Home
Encouraging teens to be discerning



Guides for the Marriage Journey
Every married couple can benefit from the



Book Reviews for Parents
Click here for more book reviews.



Thriving Family Archives
Articles from the magazine and the website



FamilyResources



The First Five Years of Marriage
Keys to a strong, life-time marriage



read more >>



A Christmas Carol
A timeless story brought to life!



read more >>

Shug gets sick. No one will take her in because people say she has a "nasty woman" disease. Mr. ___ brings Shug home. Celie is delighted to finally lay eyes on Shug and eager to nurse her back to health. Shug is as nasty on the inside as she is beautiful on the outside, but Celie cares for her with fierce loyalty and slowly wins her friendship. The two become very close.

Harpo begins to eat constantly, even when he's not hungry. Sofia knows he's trying to get as big as she is so he can finally beat her. She takes the children and leaves him.

Harpo doesn't go after them. Instead, he works day and night, turning his home into a juke joint. By the time it's built, Shug is almost well. Harpo convinces her to come and sing, and the place is packed. Celie goes to watch, and Shug dedicates a song to her. Celie confides to Shug that Mr. ___ beats her when Shug's not there. Shug convinces Mr. ___ not to beat Celie anymore.

Sofia returns to Harpo's juke joint with her new boyfriend. She dances with Harpo, but Harpo's new girlfriend, Squeak, is jealous and slaps her. Sofia punches Squeak in the face and then leaves. She then gets into a physical altercation with the mayor and his wife and is arrested. She spends most of her 12-year sentence working without pay for the mayor and his wife.

Shug has become a successful singer. She returns to Mr. ___'s house for Christmas with a new car and a new husband, Grady. Shug and Celie become lovers. Grady flirts with Squeak, who wants to become a singer like Shug.

Celie finally gets a letter from Nettie. She is a missionary in Africa with the minister and his wife (Samuel and Corinne) and Celie's two children (Olivia and Adam). Shug tricks Mr. ___ into telling her where he has been hiding Nettie's letters. Celie tries to murder Mr. ___ but Shug stops her. They sneak the letters out of Mr. ___'s trunk and read them.

Nettie writes that Mr. ___ tried to rape her when she left the house, but she escaped. She went to work for Samuel and Corinne, the couple who had adopted Olivia and Adam as their own. She continued her schooling, and when the opportunity came for her to go with them to Africa, she went. For years they ministered to the Olinka tribe with discouraging results, especially when a rubber company destroyed their land and forced the village to relocate. Nettie also learned that her and Celie's father was not actually their biological parent. Their natural father had been a successful store owner before he was lynched. His death drove their mother mad.

After realizing how cruel Mr. ___ has been to keep Nettie's letters from Celie, Shug insists that she return to Tennessee with her. But first, they go to visit Celie's stepfather. His second wife took his children and left, and he married another teenage girl. He is now a wealthy store owner and has a large, beautiful house. He is dismissive to Celie. She and Shug leave after learning that both of Celie's parents are buried in unmarked graves.

Sofia finally comes home. Her children had been raised jointly by Sofia's sister Odeesa and her husband and by Harpo and Squeak. Shug, Grady and Celie announce that they are leaving and taking Squeak with them. Celie curses Mr. ___ for everything he's done to her.

While Shug travels and sings, Celie sews pants. Her sewing endeavor turns into a successful business. When Sofia's mother dies, Celie returns. Mr. ___ has changed. He works hard and is not as quick to judge others. Sofia and Harpo have also ironed out their differences and built a new home together. Celie learns that Corinne passed away and that Nettie and Samuel are married. They feel like failures as missionaries and plan to return to the U.S.

Celie's stepfather dies and leaves Celie and Nettie his house and dry goods store. Celie prepares it for the return of Nettie and her family. Shug, who is now pushing 80, falls in love with Germaine, a 19-year-old flute player. She leaves Celie but promises that she'll be back after she has her fling. Celie and Mr. ___ develop a friendship of sorts. He keeps his house spotlessly clean and collects seashells. Then Celie receives a telegram. Nettie and her family drowned when their ship was sunk by mines. All of her letters are returned unopened.

Celie is sad but doesn't believe Nettie is dead. She continues to receive letters from Nettie and Shug. She and Mr. ___ spend time on the porch talking about Shug and about Celie's children in Africa. Mr. ___ listens to her now, and she teaches him how to sew. Nettie writes that Adam has married one of the Olinka girls named Tashi. Sofia works in the dry goods store. Mr. ___ asks Celie to marry him, but she refuses. Shug returns, her fling over. She plans to retire from singing.

One day, Shug, Celie and Mr. ____ are sitting together on the porch when a vehicle drives up. Nettie, Samuel, Adam, and Tashi step out. There is a joyous reunion. Celie's unorthodox family is finally complete. She feels younger than she ever has.

Christian beliefs

Celie addresses many of her letters to God and ends some of them with Amen. She asks for God's help in different situations. When Sofia is in jail, she imagines God and His angels coming down in a chariot of fire to set Sofia free. Many characters attend church, and the Devil is mentioned.

When she is first married to Mr. ____, Celie does a lot of work around the church. Celie tells Shug that this life is short, but heaven will last forever. Shug convinces Celie not to kill Mr. ____ by reminding her that it was hard to be Jesus, and He didn't kill anyone.

When Celie stops addressing letters to God, it is because she has stopped believing in Him. She feels that God is like every other man in her life and has never given her anything good. Shug tells her not to blaspheme. Shug admits she is a sinner. Shug still believes in God but challenges Celie's idea of God as a white male. Eventually, Celie agrees with Shug's beliefs.

Samuel, Corrine and Nettie have and display pictures of Christ, the apostles and various missionaries. Samuel and Corrine have crosses on the wall of their hut. Because of their failed attempt at converting the Olinka, Samuel and Nettie's idea of God becomes less specific and more open to interpretation.

Authority roles

Jack, Odessa's husband, respects his wife and loves his kids. Samuel (Nettie's husband) is the same. No other male authority figures are positive. Men beat their wives, children and girlfriends. The sheriff and mayor abuse their power. Olinka men do not approve of education for girls. The only women with authority are Shug and Sofia. Shug uses her voice and sex appeal to manipulate men. Sofia uses her physical and emotional strength to keep herself safe. Celie respects her parents despite the wrongs they've done. A female missionary is exposed as a fraud. Missionary societies refuse to help with genuine problems, and Europeans take land away from Africans. Whites act superior to blacks.

Other belief systems

Shug believes that God is neither male nor female and that "it" lives in everyone. She feels that the highest form of worship is taking pleasure in creation, in nature, in sex, in whatever she happens to like. She believes God is pleased when she has a good time. She says that when she found God, she felt one with everything and compared the experience to having sex.

This book is dedicated to the "Spirit." In the preface, Alice Walker introduces herself as a worshiper of nature. At the end, she identifies herself as a medium and thanks the characters for "coming."

The Olinka people worship the roofleaf plant. Nettie says the Africans believe in the Devil and worship the dead. Shug and Celie use a smoking cedar stick to drive out the evil in Celie's father's house.

Profanity/Graphic violence

God's name and the name of Jesus are misused several times. Profanity includes a--, b--ch, d--n, the f-word, h--, p--, and s--. Crudeities (such as dam, hussy, slut), racial slurs and coarse references to female anatomy are also used.

Harpo and Sofia fight. Squeak and Sofia fight. Sofia is beaten almost to death when she is arrested. Squeak is raped by her uncle. Celie's father beats, rapes and chokes Celie. Mr. ____ beats Celie. Twelve-year-old Harpo cracks Celie's head open with a rock on her wedding day. Husbands beat their wives. Fathers beat their daughters. Boyfriends kill their girlfriends. White men lynch black men. Characters hunt and carry guns.

Kissing/Sex/Homosexuality

Sex scenes are frequent, explicit and varied. At the age of 14, Celie is raped repeatedly by her stepfather. He impregnates her twice, blames her and takes away her babies. It is implied that he also tries to rape Nettie.

Mr. ___ tries to rape Nettie but fails. Mr. ___ fathers three children with Shug and four with his first wife before she is killed by her boyfriend. He continues to be sexually active with Shug while he is married to his first wife and to Celie. Celie stimulates herself when she hears Mr. ___ and Shug having sex.

Shug and Celie become unlikely lovers. Celie is aroused by Shug's body, which she describes in detail. Shug helps Celie become more acquainted with her own body. The women kiss and hug and engage in other, more intimate, sexual behaviors with one another. They become long-term partners, despite several brief hiatuses by Shug.

Shug is promiscuous. During the course of the book, she has several lovers, including Mr. ___, Celie, Grady and Germaine. The last partner is a 19-year-old boy that she falls in love (she is in her 50s). Onstage, she wears revealing clothing, as does Squeak.

Women discuss sex and describe the intimate parts of their bodies in vivid detail. Men have sex with their wives without regard to the women's feelings. Characters have sex with various partners outside of marriage. Marriages break apart, and spouses find new partners without going through a formal divorce.

Tashi undergoes female circumcision, a custom that is practiced by the Olinka tribe. Shug says the Devil loves to have sex and that her singing helps people start thinking about it. Mr. ___ keeps pornography and Shug's underwear hidden in a trunk.

Awards

National Book Award, 1983; Pulitzer Prize, 1983

Notes

Drug/Alcohol Abuse: Characters use and abuse alcohol, tobacco and marijuana.



This review is brought to you by Focus on the Family, a donor-based ministry. Book reviews cover the content, themes and worldviews of fiction books, not their literary merit, and equip parents to decide whether a book is appropriate for their children. A book's inclusion does not constitute an endorsement by Focus on the Family.

You can request a review of a title you can't find at reviewrequests@family.org.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Name of person making Request: [redacted] Telephone: [redacted]

Address: [redacted] 28461

Complainant represents: himself/herself
 Organization (name) _____
 Other group (name) _____

Name of school owning challenged material: BC High Schools

Do you have a child in this school? No Grade: _____

Title of item: The Color Purple + other literature per letter

Type of media: book, film, filmstrip, recording, web resource, etc.: books

Author/artist/composer/producer, etc.: Alice Walker

Publisher/producer (if known): Harvest Books

How did you acquire this item? N/A

Did you read, view, or listen to the entire item? partially If not, what parts? pages attached, plus summary & cliffnotes

Is this item part of a series or set? _____ If yes, did you examine the other items? _____

What do you believe are the theme and purpose of this item? _____

To what in the item do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages, frames, etc.)

The immorality, the filth, the F word, and N word. You need to be 21 to drink but we provide porn. In this day were we are being sued for using or saying the N word. Look at Paula Dean

Are there any positive qualities to the item? None

For what age group or grade level would you recommend this item? _____

What do you feel might be the result of a student's reading, viewing, or listening to this item? Trash in & trash out. Listen to people how they use the F word freely + curse - But the most important thing, they don't even realize they ^{have} said it.

Are you aware of any evaluations of this item by authoritative sources?

Yes ; No . If yes, did those sources agree with your opinion?

Yes ; No . List the sources. On-line reviews - etc.

What would you like your school to do about this item?

Not assign it to your child

Not assign it to any child

Make it available only to those who wish to use it

Refer it to the Media Technology Advisory Committee for reevaluation

Withdraw it from the media collection

Other (specify) _____

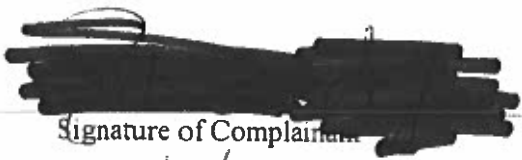
What would you suggest that the school purchase in lieu of this item? _____

Why is your recommendation a better choice? I would need to see the list of books that the teachers can pick from.

Do you want other persons in the community to determine the kinds of materials your child may or may not use

in school? Depends on the definition of other persons -

Other Comments: But above all the parents are responsible -



Signature of Complainant

12/1/13
Date

December 1, 2013

Dear Board of Education,

I regret that I was not involved in my son's education to the level I should have been, because I felt that individuals who oversee the education in our public schools were accountable to parents and responsible enough to make sure items taught brought positive values, and a direction for children to become self sustainable. But as we see, the children of today's world are influenced by television, video games, movies, music, non-educational books, magazines, internet/social media, and so on.

It is unfortunate that I must take a stand against an educational system that has become so tolerant of immoral and profane reading assignments that expose the children to such as *The Color Purple* and other books that I understand are on the list. I also understand that the book *Fifty Shades of Grey* is in the school libraries. It is very hard for me to believe that our education system has lowered the standards of our school libraries to include soft porn and maybe worse if we go looking. It is no wonder that the children are on the dark side of life and so confused.

In researching the book *The Color Purple*, I found where it stated that since the novel contains several references and details that might be considered objectionable, teachers should always allow any reader the opportunity to select another book. I understand the teachers are supposed to do this, but this sets students aside from others and could cause them to be bullied or to get a bad grade from the teacher. You know as well as I that teachers give the grades. There was another statement that said *The Color Purple* is the best way to teach moral development. I don't think so. Then there's the statement *The Color Purple* is suitable for mature high school readers. Who determines a mature high school reader? The dictionary defines mature as full grown, fully developed as a person, and perfected. If this is true, they wouldn't still be in High School would they? I look at the world's idols that our young people look up to and understand how they are being influenced by people like Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber and others. Do you describe them as full grown and mature? Look at the young people from 18 to 30, many are living with parents or grandparents, even ones with college degrees. Do you describe them as full grown and mature? Many college students that came to the Internal Revenue Service where I worked for years thought they were exempt from paying taxes. They didn't know they had to file a return. Regardless of age, are these people mature? So, you see my point is that the determination of maturity is quite arbitrary and personal to each individual depending on their circumstances.

The comment was made that *The Color Purple* may be on the college entrance exam. Upon researching you can find questions that are part of the exam on the internet, you can read the summary and cliff notes and be able to respond to these questions. In my opinion, offering this book just because it may be a question on an entrance exam, is just another excuse to bring these types of literature into our public schools. But that goes to a larger problem. Who is mandating the questions on these entrance exams? I would hope our BOE would be a bit curious about the source of exam content.

The Ten Commandments used to be on the walls of our schools and other public buildings, but have been removed. I wonder if the students have ever studied or learned anything about the Ten Commandments in the public schools in recent years? Yet, it's true history. So the Ten Commandments are too divisive and offensive, but not books containing immorality that are contrary to faith principles?

I would like to say that I am not perfect, and did not go to college, but I do know that I am responsible for my children and will be held accountable. But I hope you know that you are responsible for all the children in our school system and you will be held accountable. It is time our school educators, staff and board made a difference in our schools and go through the list of books read in the classrooms and available in the libraries and take out the ones that provide immoral and degrading content.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Patricia Sykes in cursive script.

Patricia Sykes

Southport

Alice Walker

The Color Purple

A HARVEST BOOK
HARCOURT, INC.

Orlando Austin New York San Diego Toronto London

You better not never tell nobody but God. It'd kill your mammy.

Dear God,

I am fourteen years old. ~~I am~~ I have always been a good girl. Maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me.

Last spring after little Lucious come I heard them fussing. He was pulling on her arm. She say It too soon, Fonso, I ain't well. Finally he leave her alone. A week go by, he pulling on her arm again. She say Naw, I ain't gonna. Can't you see I'm already half dead, an all of these children.

She went to visit her sister doctor over Macon. Left me to see after the others. He never had a kine word to say to me.

Just say You gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up gainst my hip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grab hold my titties. Then he push his thing inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start to choke me, saying You better shut up and git used to it.

But I don't never git used to it. And now I feels sick every time I be the one to cook. My mama she fuss at me an look at me. She happy, cause he good to her now. But too sick to last long.

And I bet you never seen Albert down there either.
I felt him, I say.

I stand there with the mirror.

She say, What, too shame even to go off and look at
yourself? And you look so cute too, she say, laughing. All
dressed up for Harpo's, smelling good and everything, but
scared to look at your own pussy.

You come with me while I look, I say.

And us run off to my room like two little prankish girls.

You guard the door, I say.

She giggle. Okay, she say. Nobody coming. Coast clear.

I lie back on the bed and haul up my dress. Yank down
my bloomers. Stick the looking glass tween my legs. Ugh. All
that hair. Then my pussy lips be black. Then inside look like
a wet rose.

It a lot prettier than you thought, ain't it? she say from
the door.

It mine, I say. Where the button?

Right up near the top, she say. The part that stick out a
little.

I look at her and touch it with my finger. A little shiver
go through me. Nothing much. But just enough to tell me
this the right button to mash. Maybe.

She say, While you looking, look at your titties too. I
haul up my dress and look at my titties. Think bout my
babies sucking them. Remember the little shiver I felt then
too. Sometimes a big shiver. Best part about having the
babies was feeding 'em.

Albert and Harpo coming, she say. And I yank up my
drawers and yank down my dress. I feel like us been doing
something wrong.

I don't care if you sleep with him, I say.

And she ta
I take me a
But when
quilt over my l
and cry.

I sneak a look at Shug.
Oh, Miss Celie, she say. And put her arms round me.
They black and smooth and kind of glowy from the
lamplight.

I start to cry too. I cry and cry and cry. Seem like it all
come back to me, laying there in Shug arms. How it hurt
and how much I was surprise. How it stung while I finish
trimming his hair. How the blood drip down my leg and
mess up my stocking. How he don't never look at me
straight after that. And Nettie.

Don't cry, Celie, Shug say. Don't cry. She start kissing the
water as it come down side my face.

After while I say, Mama finally ast how come she find
his hair in the girls room if he don't never go in there like he
say. That when he told her I had a boyfriend. Some boy he
say he seen sneaking out the back door. It the boy's hair, he
say, not his. You know how she love to cut anybody hair, he
say.

I did love to cut hair, I say to Shug, since I was a little
bitty thing. I'd run go git the scissors if I saw hair coming,
and I'd cut and cut, long as I could. That how come I was
the one cut his hair. But always before I cut it on the front
porch. It got to the place where everytime I saw him coming
with the scissors and the comb and the stool, I start to cry.

Shug say, Wellsah, and I thought it was only whitefolks
do freakish things like that.

My mama die, I tell Shug. My sister Nettie run away. Mr.
_____ come git me to take care his rotten children. He
never ast me nothing bout myself. He clam on top of me
and fuck and fuck, even when my head bandaged. Nobody
ever love me, I say.

She
and kiss
Um
too. Us I
us touch
I do
I do
The
feel like
Way

ne.

She say, I love you, Miss Celie. And then she haul off
and kiss me on the mouth.

Um, she say, like she surprise. I kiss her back, say, *um*,
too. Us kiss and kiss till us can't hardly kiss no more. Then
us touch each other.

I don't know nothing bout it, I say to Shug.

I don't know much, she say.

Then I feels something real soft and wet on my breast,
feel like one of my little lost babies mouth.

Way after while, I act like a little lost baby too.

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2

Dear God,

Grady and Mr. _____ come staggering in round daybreak. Me and Shug sound asleep. Her back to me, my arms round her waist. What it like? Little like sleeping with mama, only I can't hardly remember ever sleeping with her. Little like sleeping with Nettie, only sleeping with Nettie never feel this good. It warm and cushiony, and I feel Shug's big tits sorta flop over my arms like suds. It feel like heaven is what it feel like, not like sleeping with Mr. _____ at all.

Wake up Sugar, I say. They back. And Shug roll over, hug me, and git out of the bed. She stagger into the other room and fall on the bed with Grady. Mr. _____ fall into bed next to me, drunk, and snoring before he hit the quilts.

I try my best to like Grady, even if he do wear red suspenders and bow ties. Even if he do spend Shug's money like he made it himself. Even if he do try to talk like somebody from the North. Memphis. Tennessee ain't North, even I know that. But one thing I sure nuff can't stand, the way he call Shug Mama.

I ain't your fucking mama, Shug say. But he don't pay her no mind.

Like when he be making goo-goo eyes at Squeak and

Shug sorta
don't mean

Shug h
Odessa's fr
them singi
box, Harpe
prizefighte

It nice.

Shug s
sing in pub

Mary A
and broad l
she wrong.

What al
church? Sh
good but th
make? What
death appro
on the back
panthers wo

I tell you
listening to

Aw, Mis:

Shug say
dancing and
they call wh
Listen, she sa
old times for
better listen
but if you git

You reck
eyed and deli

Shug sorta tease him about it, he say, Aw, Mama, you know I don't mean no harm.

Shug like Squeak too, try to help her sing. They sit in Odessa's front room with all the children crowded round them singing and singing. Sometime Swain come with his box, Harpo cook dinner, and me and Mr. _____ and the prizefighter bring our preshation.

It nice.

Shug say to Squeak, I mean, Mary Agnes, You ought to sing in public.

Mary Agnes say, Naw. She think cause she don't sing big and broad like Shug nobody want to hear her. But Shug say she wrong.

What about all them funny voices you hear singing in church? Shug say. What about all them sounds that sound good but they not the sounds you thought folks could make? What bout that? Then she start moaning. Sound like death approaching, angels can't prevent it. It raise the hair on the back of your neck. But it really sound sort of like panthers would sound if they could sing.

I tell you something else, Shug say to Mary Agnes, listening to you sing, folks git to thinking bout a good screw.

Aw, Miss Shug, say Mary Agnes, changing color.

Shug say, What, too shamefaced to put singing and dancing and fucking together? She laugh. That's the reason they call what us sing the devil's music. Devils love to fuck. Listen, she say, Let's go sing one night at Harpo place. Be like old times for me. And if I bring you before the crowd, they better listen with respect. Niggers don't know how to act, but if you git through the first half of one song, you got 'em.

You reckon that's the truth? say Mary Agnes. She all big eyed and delight.

Dear God,

Us sleep like sisters, me and Shug. Much as I still want to be with her, much as I love to look, my titties stay soft, my little button never rise. Now I know I'm dead. But she say, Naw, just being mad, grief, wanting to kill somebody will make you feel this way. Nothing to worry about. Titties gonna perk up, button gonna rise again.

I loves to hug up, period, she say. Snuggle. Don't need nothing else right now.

Yeah, I say. Hugging is good. Snuggle. All of it's good.

She say, Times like this, lulls, us ought to do something different.

Like what? I ast.

Well, she say, looking me up and down, let's make you some pants.

What I need pants for? I say. I ain't no man.

Don't git uppity, she say. But you don't have a dress do nothing for you. You not made like no dress pattern, neither.

I don't know, I say. Mr. _____ not going to let his wife wear pants.

Why not? say Shug. You do all the work around here. It's a scandless, the way you look out there plowing in a dress.

How you
caught in

Yeah?

Yeah.

when we

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Well,

Wha

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Jack,

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Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Notice of meeting

1 message

Jill Eubanks <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>
To: "rgreenatty@atmc.net" <rgreenatty@atmc.net>
Bcc: Jessica Swencki <jswencki@bcswan.net>

Wed, Dec 18, 2013 at 5:17 AM

OK...so the game plan has changed since our discussion yesterday. We do have a formal appeal to the board. Does this work?

The Board of Education has scheduled a special called Board meeting for Friday, January 3, 2014. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the appeal of Dr. Pruden's decision to allow Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple* to remain in the curriculum and part of the media collection of Brunswick County Schools. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Education Conference room located at 35 Referendum Drive, Bolivia, North Carolina.

Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays!

Jill

Jill C. Eubanks,
Executive Administrative Assistant
Clerk to the Board of Education
Brunswick County Schools
Phone: 910-253-1082
Fax: 910-253-2983



please don't print this e-mail unless absolutely necessary. Thank you!

"All e-mail correspondence to and from this email may be subject to disclosure in response to requests from third parties, including the news media, pursuant to the North Carolina Public Records Law and/or state and federal laws governing educational and personnel records."



Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Fwd: Office of Superintendent - Contact Us

1 message

Jill Eubanks <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>
 To: Jessica Swencki <jswencki@bcswan.net>

Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 5:17 AM

>>> On 12/18/2013 at 6:01 PM, in message <201312182301.rBIN1EXo028327@maintenance.schoolcenter.com>, [REDACTED] wrote:

Name [REDACTED]
 Email [REDACTED]
 Address [REDACTED]
 City : Southport
 State : North Carolina
 Zip : 28461
 Phone [REDACTED]

Comments: Dr. Pruden,

I am a retired teacher from NY with 32 years' classroom experience living in St. James. Since my retirement in 2005, I have volunteered with the Teen Court program training the students to be peer attorneys. I have judged senior projects at South and have contacted John Wall and asked to be placed on the mentor list for the spring session. I consider Brunswick County to be my home.

I recently wrote a letter to the editor critical of Commissioner Sykes' challenge to The Color Purple. The letter was published in both the Star News (12/17) and the Port Pilot (12/18). I read your letter to Commissioner Sykes that was posted on-line and applaud your thorough and articulate response. Two of my Teen Court students, Hannah Caison and Lauren Demko spoke passionately at the Nov 5th meeting, and teamed with the professor from UNCW and the two AP English teachers, presented a convincing argument for the book's inclusion. Unfortunately I believe, nothing can be said to change Sykes' mind. Hence, the challenge has now moved to step 3 and the school board. With Sykes and Commissioner Marty Cooke speaking in opposition to the book, as well as Commissioner Phil Norris requesting an alternative reading last year for his daughter, I see the cards are stacked against the book. Considering the commissioners vote on the school budget, I would call this a conflict of in!

terest putting undue pressure on the school board. I recalled county attorney Huey Marshall commenting that in these types of situations, a pecuniary interest is usually required to deem a conflict exists. We know however that money isn't always the issue and often ideology drives the bus. Add to the mix that Catherine Cooke is a sitting member of the school board and Shirley Babson has consistently voted to the right, I fear the pleas of teachers and students will go unheard when the school board takes on the challenge. I would have liked to speak at the special meeting on Jan. 3 but will still be up in NY with family commitments. If there is anything I can do, now or in the future, don't hesitate to ask.

Respectfully submitted,
 Fred Ammann

Date & Time Sent: December 18, 2013 - 6:00:54 pm Eastern
 Mail Originated From: cpe-174-106-046-040.ec.res.rr.com (174.106.46.40)



Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Press Release: Pruden issues book challenge decision-Board to hear final appeal

1 message

Jessica Swencki <jswencki@bcswan.net>

Tue, Dec 17, 2013 at 11:57 AM

To: caroline curran <caroline.c@hometownwilmington.com>, "clarknews85@gmail.com" <clarknews85@gmail.com>, David Ennis <david.ennis@starnewsonline.com>, editor <editor@brunswickbeacon.com>, Jason Gonzalez <jason.gonzales@starnewsonline.com>, Justin West <jwest@wect.com>, "kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com" <kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com>, News 14 <newsroom@news14.com>, "news@whqr.org" <news@whqr.org>, "newsroom@wwaytv3.com" <newsroom@wwaytv3.com>, Pressley Baird <Pressley.Baird@starnewsonline.com>, "rsloan@stateportpilot.com" <rsloan@stateportpilot.com>, "shickman@brunswickbeacon.com" <shickman@brunswickbeacon.com>, "sjones@thesunnews.com" <sjones@thesunnews.com>, Star News #2 <breakingnews@starnewsonline.com>, WECT <newsroom@wect.com>
 Cc: "Ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com" <ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com>, Deanne Meadows <dmeadows.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Edward Pruden <epruden.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, John Thompson <jthompson@bcswan.net>, ministers <brunswickministers@yahoo.com>, Robert Grimes <rgrimes.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Stephen Miley <smiley.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, susan adams <adamss@brunswickcc.edu>

An official appeal of the recent school-based decision to allow Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple* to remain in the curriculum and part of the media collection was received by Superintendent Edward Pruden on December 11, 2013.

Earlier today, Superintendent Pruden issued his written decision to support the findings of the School Improvement Team of West Brunswick High School.

Shortly after issuing his findings, an official appeal of Pruden's decision to the Board of Education was received.

The Brunswick County Board of Education will review the appeal during a special called meeting Friday, January 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at the Board of Education office in the Government Complex in Bolivia.

Brunswick County Schools is committed to honoring the challenge process outlined in Board Policy which allows for the final appeal to the Board of Education. Therefore, no additional comments will be made at this time and the system respectfully declines requests for interview.

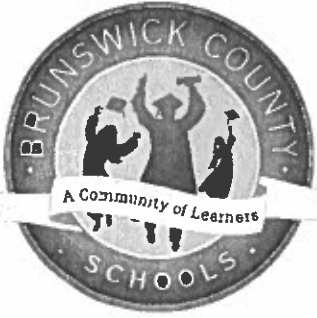
The following link will connect to Pruden's written decision:
 Superintendent Edward Pruden's Response to Appeal

Please direct questions regarding this release to Jessica Swencki at jswencki@bcswan.net or 910-200-5558.

Jessica B. Swencki, Executive Director
 Quality Assurance and Community Engagement

Brunswick County Schools
 35 Referendum Drive NE
 Bolivia, NC 28422

(910) 253-2900 ext. 1076
 (910) 200-5558 cell



BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS

35 Referendum Drive · Bolivia, North Carolina 28422 · Phone: 910-253-2900 · Fax: 910-253-2983

December 17, 2013

Mrs. Pat Sykes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Sykes:

The Brunswick County Board of Education is in receipt of your appeal of Superintendent Edward Pruden's finding to support the decision of the School Improvement Team of West Brunswick High School to retain Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple* in the curriculum and the media collection.

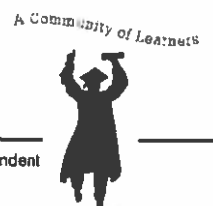
The Board of Education will review your appeal during a special called meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014. The meeting will take place in the County Commissioners' Chambers at the David R. Sandifer Administration Building at 30 Courthouse Drive, Bolivia, N.C.

As the individual who filed the official request to reconsider instructional material, we invite you to address the Board at the beginning of the meeting. You will be allotted ten minutes to make comments. The same courtesy will be afforded to members of the West Brunswick High School-School Improvement Team and Superintendent Edward Pruden. Following this comment period, others within the community who request to do so prior to the close of business Thursday, January 2, 2014 will be granted three minutes for public address.

Respectfully,

John W. Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Education

c: Board Members
Superintendent Edward H. Pruden, Ed.D.
Principal Brock Ahrens





Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Office of Superintendent - Contact Us

1 message

Sun, Nov 3, 2013 at 1:11 PM

To: Jill Eubanks <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>, [REDACTED]

Name : [REDACTED]
Email : [REDACTED]
Address : [REDACTED]
City : Ocean Isle Beach
State : NC
Zip : 28469
Phone : [REDACTED]

Comments: I would like to voice my support for the inclusion of the book "The Color Purple" in the 11th grade AP English class at WBHS. Although I cannot attend the upcoming board meeting due to my work schedule, I have sent a letter with my thoughts on this issue to Dr. Pruden. I hope that my daughter will be able to read this book and discuss it in class with the guidance of her teacher. Thank you.

Date & Time Sent: November 3, 2013 - 5:10:15 pm Eastern
Mail Originated From: 68-68-130-242.atmc.net (68.68.130.242)



Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Press Release: Official book challenge filed-school committee reaches decision

1 message

Jessica Swencki <jswencki@bcswan.net>

Tue, Dec 10, 2013 at 12:45 PM

To: caroline curran <caroline.c@hometownwilmington.com>, "clarknews85@gmail.com" <clarknews85@gmail.com>, David Ennis <david.ennis@starnewsonline.com>, editor <editor@brunswickbeacon.com>, Hilary Snow <hilary.s@hometownwilmington.com>, Jason Gonzalez <jason.gonzales@starnewsonline.com>, Justin West <jwest@wect.com>, "kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com" <kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com>, News 14 <newsroom@news14.com>, "news@whqr.org" <news@whqr.org>, "newsroom@wwaytv3.com" <newsroom@wwaytv3.com>, Pressley Baird <Pressley.Baird@starnewsonline.com>, "rsloan@stateportpilot.com" <rsloan@stateportpilot.com>, "shickman@brunswickbeacon.com" <shickman@brunswickbeacon.com>, "sjones@thesunnews.com" <sjones@thesunnews.com>, Star News #2 <breakingnews@starnewsonline.com>, WECT <newsroom@wect.com>
Cc: "Ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com" <ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com>, Deanne Meadows <dmeadows.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Edward Pruden <epruden.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, John Thompson <jthompson@bcswan.net>, ministers <brunswickministers@yahoo.com>, Robert Grimes <rgrimes.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Stephen Miley <smiley.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, susan adams <adamss@brunswickcc.edu>

An official challenge of Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple*, was received Wednesday, December 4, by West Brunswick High School Principal Brock Ahrens. The challenge came after weeks of public discourse about the merits of the book and its appropriateness to be studied as part of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

According to Board of Education Policy 3210: Parental Inspection and Objection to Materials, the challenge process begins at the school level. Following procedures, members of the West Brunswick High School-School Improvement Team and the school's media coordinator met to review the challenge on Tuesday, December 10. All members of the committee were required to read the material in its entirety before discussing the challenge and rendering a decision.

Based on their review, the committee unanimously determined the material will remain in the curriculum and part of the media collection.

Brunswick County Schools is committed to following the challenge process outlined in Board Policy which allows for appeals to the superintendent and ultimately the Board of Education. Therefore, no additional comments will be made at this time and the system respectfully declines requests for interview.

It is most important to remind the Brunswick County community that according to Board of Education Policy 2310: Parental Inspection and Objection to Materials, parents in Brunswick County absolutely retain the final say with regard to their children's exposure to works of literature. Alternate reading assignments are always available at parental request.

The following links will connect to public records related to the official book challenge and the school committee's response:

Official Challenge Document: Request to Reconsider Instructional Material

Notice of Receipt of Challenge

Notice of School Decision

Please direct questions regarding this release to Jessica Swencki at jswencki@bcswan.net or 910-200-5558.

Jessica B. Swencki, Executive Director
Quality Assurance and Community Engagement

Brunswick County Schools
35 Referendum Drive NE



Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Office of Superintendent - Contact Us

1 message

Thu, Dec 12, 2013 at 10:02 AM

To: Jill Eubanks <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>, "[REDACTED]"

Name [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City : Winnabow
State : NC
Zip : 28479
Phone [REDACTED]

Comments: Dr. Pruden, I urge you to not let Pat Sykes dictate what books are or are not in school libraries. She may find some books offensive, and there is no doubt that "The Color Purple" does contain words that are considered polite to use in public, but we can't start pulling every book that someone doesn't like. That makes us no better than the many repressive societies that we claim to abhor. Furthermore, that book does not contain any words that today's students don't already know and, unfortunately, use.

Date & Time Sent: December 12, 2013 - 2:01:30 pm Eastern
Mail Originated From: cpe-174-106-233-082.ec.res.rr.com (174.106.233.82)



Jill Coughlin <jcoughlin@bcswan.net>

Press Release: Procedures for Board meeting to review book appeal announced

1 message

Jessica Swencki <jswencki@bcswan.net>

Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 9:27 AM

To: Star News #2 <breakingnews@starnewsonline.com>, caroline curran <caroline.c@hometownwilmington.com>, David Ennis <david.ennis@starnewsonline.com>, editor <editor@brunswickbeacon.com>, Jason Gonzalez <jason.gonzales@starnewsonline.com>, Justin West <jwest@wect.com>, "kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com" <kwuzzardo@wwaytv3.com>, "news@whqr.org" <news@whqr.org>, News 14 <newsroom@news14.com>, WECT <newsroom@wect.com>, "newsroom@wwaytv3.com" <newsroom@wwaytv3.com>, Pressley Baird <Pressley.Baird@starnewsonline.com>, "sjones@thesunnews.com" <sjones@thesunnews.com>
Cc: Deanne Meadows <dmeadows.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Edward Pruden <epruden.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Robert Grimes <rgrimes.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, Stephen Miley <smiley.BCS-PO@bcswan.net>, susan adams <adamss@brunswickcc.edu>, ministers <brunswickministers@yahoo.com>, "Ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com" <ctart.cis@bizec.rr.com>, John Thompson <jthompson@bcswan.net>

The Board of Education will review the appeal of Superintendent Edward Pruden's decision to support the continued inclusion of Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple* in Brunswick County's curriculum and media collection during a special called meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2014. The meeting will take place in the County Commissioners' Chambers* at the David R. Sandifer Administration Building at 30 Courthouse Drive, Bolivia, North Carolina and is open to the public. *Please note the change in meeting location.

The Board of Education has extended invitations to the individual who filed the official book challenge, members of the School Improvement Team at West Brunswick High School, and Superintendent Edward Pruden to make comments at the beginning of the proceedings. Following this comment period, others within the community who request to do so prior to the close of business Thursday, January 2, 2014 will be granted three minutes for public address.

Members of the community to wish to sign up to deliver a public address must call 910-253-1082 and leave his/her name and telephone number prior to the close of business Thursday, January 2, 2014. Individuals will not be permitted to sign up on the day of the review.

Jessica B. Swencki, Executive Director
Quality Assurance and Community Engagement

Brunswick County Schools
35 Referendum Drive NE
Bolivia, NC 28422

(910) 253-2900 ext. 1076
(910) 200-5558 cell



BRUNSWICK COUNTY SCHOOLS

35 Referendum Drive · Bolivia, North Carolina 28422 · Phone: 910-253-2900 · Fax: 910-253-2983

December 17, 2013

Pat Sykes
1002 Fairley Street
Southport, NC 28461

Dear Mrs. Sykes,

I have received your appeal of the decision of the School Improvement Team of West Brunswick High School regarding the study of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker in upper level English classes. Your challenge and appeal followed a vigorous public debate that included remarks on both sides of the issue at the November and December meetings of the Brunswick County Board of Education. The controversy raises significant issues related to morality, freedom of expression (including the freedom to read), religion, and education. It is a painful disagreement for a community to have, as reasonable people of good will can be found on opposing sides, and ones view may be informed by faith and core values.

Your challenge document specifically refers to "the immorality, the filth, the F word, and the N word" found in the book. You attached seven excerpts from the book to illustrate your concerns. Admittedly, *The Color Purple* contains graphic descriptions of sexual acts, sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse, and violence. It is a book for mature readers and would certainly not be appropriate for children. If a school system is to include this book in its curriculum and/or have it in its library collection, the following questions should be thoughtfully considered:

1. What is the educational value of the book and does it have unique qualifiers for inclusion in the curriculum?
2. What persons and organizations play a role in the selection of literature found in the curriculum?
3. At what age or stage of education is the book appropriate?

I will attempt to address these questions as well as the specific objections mentioned in the challenge.

Regarding educational value, *The Color Purple* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1983, as well as the National Book Award for Fiction. Published in 1982, author Alice Walker indicated that the book is largely biographical of her step-grandmother and is written in her step-grandmother's "voice". It is unique in American Literature in its structure (a series of "letters to God"), voice and dialect of rural 1930's African Americans, and depiction of the plight of marginalized southern black women of that era. The book deals frankly with issues of racism, sexism, and gender roles. Scholars cite the book as an exemplar of the following literary elements: language, mood, narrative structure, syntax, theme, and tone. It is also celebrated for its use of allusions, irony, flashbacks, and foreshadowing. The author's use of dialect has been praised for "bringing the story to life; and for adding poignancy and depth to the narrative"(rationale by Patrick M. Clarke, NCTE.org). The following is offered as an example of the literary value found in *The Color Purple*:

"I think us here to wonder, myself. To wonder. To ask.
And in that wondering bout the big things, and asking about the
big things, you learn about the little ones, almost by accident. But
you never know more about the big things than you start out with.
The more I wonder, the more I love."
-Alice Walker



There are many organizations involved in the selection of curricular literature, including the National Council for Teachers of English, the American Library Association, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, The College Board (which publishes Advanced Placement Exams), and our own professionally trained and licensed English teachers and school library media coordinators. Materials are selected on the basis of merit (awards won, for example), relevance to the educational mission, age appropriateness, and interest of the student readers. Every school has a wide range of ages in their student populations. Elementary schools typically have children between four and twelve years old; middle schools from ten to fourteen; and high schools from thirteen to nineteen. Teachers and media coordinators go to great lengths to ensure that instructional materials are provided on an age-appropriate basis, and that children are not exposed to literature beyond their age and stage of educational development. The consensus among educators regarding the age at which *The Color Purple* would be appropriate is the upper levels of high school, for students at least sixteen years old. Our school system's practice is consistent with this advice.

Most important, a student's parents or legal guardians are the final arbiters. Letters are sent home describing the literature to be studied during the upcoming semester. A link to the web site of the American Library Association's list of the 100 most frequently challenged books is provided in the letter. A list of the 50 most challenged books is printed on the back of the letter. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the teacher and they may request an alternate assignment if they remain uncomfortable with a selected book. This process has worked well for our school system for many years.

The challenge document mentions immorality. Indeed, the book deals openly and frankly with this subject. Most of the characters who victimize others had been the recipient of the same harsh treatment earlier in their lives. It reinforces contemporary understanding that most child abusers were abused as children. Recall the following Biblical reference: Exodus 34:7 – "visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation".

The N word and the F word can be used gratuitously in speech and literature to offend, degrade, and to be profane. However, in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (another frequently challenged book), Mark Twain used the N word to faithfully convey the dialect and culture of the time, and in doing so exposed the moral evil of slavery to his readers. Similarly, the F word is used in *The Color Purple* to accurately portray the operant culture and the powerlessness and marginality of the main character and others caught in similar circumstances. Both the N word and the F word can be found numerous times in *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson, a riveting autobiographical account of a Methodist minister's son growing up in Oxford, NC, during the racially turbulent 1960's (a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, won the Southern Book Award for Nonfiction and the Grawemeyer Award in Religion, among others). Literature cannot be summarily dismissed because of the presence of vulgar or profane words. Such words are, regrettably, descriptive of the human condition. It is our responsibility as educators to guide our students in the study of great literature and to teach them how to discern the difference between gratuitous profanity/vulgarity and usage integral to the story.

The Color Purple's primary theme is "love redeems, meanness kills" (Clarke, NCTE). Other themes include redemption, empowerment of the downtrodden, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the powerful impulse to maintain family connections. With the guidance of a caring and sensitive instructor, *The Color Purple* can teach our older adolescents many worthwhile lessons about American history and culture, about human nature, and about the will to survive and rise above unfortunate circumstance against all odds.

For these reasons, I support the decision of the School Improvement Team of West Brunswick High School and I support the inclusion of *The Color Purple* in the curriculum for upper level high school English classes.

Respectfully,

Edward H. Pruden, superintendent

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

November 5, 2013

The Brunswick County Board of Education met on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David Sandifer, Brunswick County Administration Building. Members present were: Charles Miller, Chairman; Olaf Thorsen, Vice-Chairman; Shirley Babson, Catherine Cooke and John Thompson. Also in attendance were: Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent; Dr. Deanne Meadows, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Helen Davis, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Mr. Mark Pasier, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Joyce Beatty, Executive Director of Student Support Services; Mrs. Freyja Cahill, Executive Director of Finance; Mr. Steve Miley, Executive Director of Operations; Mrs. Jessica Swencki, Executive Director of Quality Assurance and Community Engagement; and Mr. Richard Green, Attorney.

Mr. Charles Miller, Chairman, called the meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Shirley Babson. The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the South Brunswick High School JROTC.

Presentations

1. Karen Walker, Brunswick County Schools' Teacher of the Year, expressed appreciation on behalf of teachers in Brunswick County for the support they receive from the Board. She acknowledged Mr. Thorsen's presence at Cedar Grove Middle today. She noted that a lot of teachers are in attendance at tonight's meeting. A selection of teachers came to speak with the Board, giving ideas and suggestions on ways to work on their behalf. After sharing a story regarding one of her past students, Mrs. Walker introduced teachers to address the Board.
 - Martha O'Neil, teacher at NBHS with 19 years experience, expressed her concern regarding teacher pay in North Carolina and the process by which teachers are evaluated. She is concerned about the competition that the Education Act will create. She would like to see teacher pay return to National standards. She thanked the Board for what they do and asked that they not support the Education Act.
 - John Holloman, teacher at Leland Middle School, thanked the superintendent and the Board for their service and for inviting teachers to the meeting tonight. He spoke to the Board about possible solutions in Brunswick County. He stated that the Board stands at an important crossroads, stating that perhaps they could stand in the gap. He asked that the Board be courageous and continue the fight to support educators.
 - David Everett, 30 year veteran of Brunswick County Schools, shared a poem, "A Teacher's Ride" that he wrote regarding the "strides" of a teacher. In conclusion, "So through the days and weeks and months ahead, take heed. I'm depending on you, the public, to take the lead. It's up to you to voice your concerns, to shout, to make it last. The public school teacher may be a thing of the past."
 - Mark Deese, teacher at Cedar Grove Middle School, thanked the Board for giving teachers the opportunity to speak. He is concerned about education legislation and where it is going. Representing the teachers that he works with, Mr. Deese noted that teachers' feelings are depressed. They are frustrated and totally worn out. He stated that teachers are tired of being bullied by politicians in Raleigh on a regular and consistent basis. They act upon misconceptions, misinformation, or perhaps hidden agendas. They are asking that the Board members to be more vigilant with their voice and use their political power on teachers' behalf. They are asking that the Board find other ways to support them financially. They need the means to support their families like they support their students and are asking the Board to help them achieve those goals.

Public Address - The following people addressed the Board regarding the book *The Color Purple* which is studied by students in the advanced placement English classes in Brunswick County Schools.

1. Mr. Louie Lewis addressed the Board in opposition to the “purple book” stating that “it is a disgrace for this to be in our system for our children to read”.
2. Dr. Victor Malo-Juvera, Professor at UNCW, addressed the Board in support of the book. He explained how the book contributed to the study of English at the college level.
3. Mr. Bernest Hewett also addressed the Board in support of the book. He noted that there is sexual content in many other literary works, including the Bible. He encouraged the Board to consider its merit in any decisions that they make regarding the book.
4. Mr. Robert Norton, parent, expressed his opposition to the book. He questioned who decides when a child is old enough to be exposed to obscenity, profanity, vulgar, incest, rape... all of these things in writing and when they have to read it. He asked that the Board please pursue other options for our children and consider their education and well being.
5. Hannah Giordano, junior at WBHS, stated that, with so many other great choices of literature available, why require students to read this book. She questioned why any parent or educator would want to put this material in the hands of innocent minds.
6. Mr. Martin Cooke addressed the Board as a concerned parent. He stated that it was amazing to him that this book is considered exclusive work to be deemed college material as if this is the litmus by which we are to be judged in order to achieve a college education. If that is the case, there is something wrong with the standards which we have set. He hopes that the Board will look at other options.
7. Pat Sykes addressed the Board, also in opposition to the book. She introduced Ryan Clemmons that read a letter from Pastor Anthony Clemmons which was addressed to the Board. (Rev. Clemmons was unable to be at the meeting due to a prior commitment.) In his letter, Rev. Clemmons stated that he shares grave concerns over the book, *The Color Purple*, with many parents and grandparents in Brunswick County. The sexual content and profanity found within this book is humiliating. He asked that the Board please consider the welfare of our children and make the right decision to immediately remove this book from our school rooms.
8. Mrs. Maureen Curis, Curriculum Specialist with BCS, addressed the Board regarding the importance of studying the type of literature like *The Color Purple*. She stated that English teachers craft curriculum and instruction that provide students with the opportunities to grow. Sometimes that means they encounter language and/or content that is difficult, even offensive. English teachers embrace these opportunities because it helps students to understand why and how language can be appropriate and inappropriate. Teachers want students to understand how to communicate effectively.
9. Hanna Caison, 16 year old AP student at WBHS, stated that by opting to take an advanced placement course, students are choosing to do work at a college level. They are expected to have the maturity of a college student because their eventual goal is to obtain college credit for this course. She stated that by choosing to remove this book from the curriculum, is insulting to students by saying that they are not mature enough to do work at a college level.
10. Lauren Demco, WBHS student, wanted to express the discontent of the students in her classes for the removal of the book from the reading list. She also stated that when taking AP classes students are choosing to do work at a college level to obtain credit for the class. She stated that the parents that signed the syllabus that was sent home at the beginning of the year giving permission for their child to read *The Color Purple*, “have no valid claim here tonight”.
11. Sherill Jolly, 19 year veteran of Brunswick County Schools, believes that *The Color Purple* is an age appropriate reading for advanced juniors in high school, however, the teacher must take into consideration the mental and emotional maturity in their students when choosing this text. Ms Jolly feels that this book should not be removed completely from the curriculum.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Thompson to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

1. October 1, 2013 – Board of Education Regular Meeting
2. October 7, 2013 – Liaison Meeting
3. October 22, 2013 – Human Resources Meeting

A motion was made by Thompson and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Items

1. Policies for 2nd Reading
 - 5020 Visitors to the School
 - 5120 Relationship with Law Enforcement
2. Budget Amendments
 - State #3
 - Fund 8 #3
 - Capital #3
3. Wireless Lock Contract with Pathways Technology, Inc.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried.

Action Items

1. Policy for 2nd Reading (request waiver of 1st reading)
 - 7520 Family and Medical Leave – Mark Pasier explained the changes to this policy to the Board, requesting a waiver of the 1st reading so the policy could be implemented as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Cooke to deny the request for waiver but to approve Policy 7520 – Family and Medical Leave on 1st Reading. The motion carried unanimously.

2. School Improvement Plans – A copy of the school improvement plans for all schools were previously distributed to the Board for their review. Jessica Swencki explained the school improvement plan process to the board, requesting their approval of the plans.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Thompson to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented. Motion carried.

3. Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan – The beginning teacher support program plan was presented to the Board by Acacia Dixon. The plan will be submitted to the state after approval by the Board.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan as presented. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Waccamaw Design Contract to John Sawyer Architects, LLC – This contract was reviewed at the operations committee meeting. Mr. Thompson stated that this contract was placed on the action agenda not because discussion was warranted but to reiterate that we are moving forward with the Waccamaw project.

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Babson to approve the Waccamaw Design contract to John Sawyer Architects, LLC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Universal Free Breakfast for Elementary Schools – This item was also discussed at operations committee. Mrs. Tina Ward, Director of Child Nutrition, explained the process to the Board. Students that eat breakfast every day perform better in the classroom. Breakfast will be offered free to all students in elementary schools. Child Nutrition will file for reimbursement with the USDA based on the free and reduced status that we already know and will receive reimbursement for the students that participate.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the plan for Universal Free Breakfast for Elementary Schools as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. The County Parent Advisory Council will meet at North Brunswick High School on November 12th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. John Thompson will be the host Board member.
2. The NCSBA Annual Conference will be held in Greensboro on November 17th – 20th. Mr. Thorsen and Dr. Pruden will be attending.
3. The following committees will meet on November 18th at the following times:
 - Operations/Safe Schools – 9:00 a.m.
 - Curriculum/Policy – 11:00 a.m.
4. There will be a joint meeting of the Brunswick Community College Board and the Brunswick County School Board on November 21st at BCC. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Cooke for the Board to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(1) to preserve confidential student information pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402, pursuant to §143-318.11 (a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege -and pursuant to §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider confidential personnel matters.

The Board entered closed session at 8:41 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

At approximately 9:14 pm, Chairman Miller called the open session to order.

Mrs. Cooke made a motion to approve the personnel list, which was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. (Attachment I)

Mr. Thompson made a motion to reopen the closed session, which was seconded by Mrs. Babson. The motion carried unanimously.

The closed session resumed at approximately 9:16 pm.

At approximately 10:23 pm Chairman Miller called the open session to order.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Cooke. The motion carried unanimously.

The open session was concluded at approximately 10:24 pm.

Secretary

Chairperson

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
December 3, 2013**

The Brunswick County Board of Education met on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David Sandifer, Brunswick County Administration Building. Members present were: Charles Miller, Chairman; Olaf Thorsen, Vice-Chairman; Shirley Babson, Catherine Cooke and John Thompson. Also in attendance were: Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent; Dr. Deanne Meadows, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Helen Davis, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Mr. Mark Pasier, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Joyce Beatty, Executive Director of Student Support Services; Mrs. Freyja Cahill, Executive Director of Finance; Mrs. Jessica Swencki, Executive Director of Quality Assurance and Community Engagement; and Mr. Richard Green, Attorney.

Mr. Charles Miller, Chairman, called the meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Shirley Babson. The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the North Brunswick High School JROTC.

Reorganization of the Board - Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent of Schools, called the organizational meeting of the Board of Education to order. One of the purposes of this meeting is to elect Board officers. The first order of business is the election of the Chair. Nominations do not require a second and no motion is needed to close the nomination. Charles Miller nominated Mr. John W. Thompson. Mr. Thorsen made a motion to close the nominations. The motion carried. Mr. John W. Thompson was elected as the Chairman of the Board for a one year term by unanimous vote.

Dr. Pruden turned the meeting over to Mr. Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Education for 2014, to conduct elections for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Thompson asked for nominations for Vice -Chairman. Olaf Thorsen nominated Catherine Cooke. John Thompson nominated Shirley Babson. Shirley Babson was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Education with 3 votes for a term of one year.

Salutes

1. John Kelso began working with Communities in Schools ten years ago after he retired from his work as an attorney and a Special FBI Agent. He is a wonderful example of the type of role model we all want for our children. He helps guide and support students, giving them confidence in their critical thinking skills and speaking abilities. Today he plays a key role in the Teen Court program which provides an opportunity for first time student offenders to have their cases heard by a jury of their peers and avoid a traditional court venue. Students have grown to trust and respect John and recognize the level of expertise he brings to the Teen Court process. Thank you, John Kelso, for your dedication to the students of Brunswick County.
2. The Superintendent's Holiday Card Contest is an annual student art contest that has become a real anticipated tradition. Congratulations to the following students for their superior card designs.
 - K-2 Category—Gabrielle Kennedy, 2nd grader at JMMES
 - 3-5 Category—Danny Lewis, 5th grader at JMMES
 - 6-8 Category—Eva Real, 6th grader at SMS
 - 9-12 Category—Bailey Walker, 10th grader at ECHS

Public Address - Mr. Thompson commented that as of this date, there has been public comment only regarding the book *The Color Purple*. We have heard from proponents and opponents in public comments. There is no pending challenge for the book at this time. We are not prepared to act on any requests tonight.

1. Mrs. Wendy Jones, teacher of 22 years at Southport Elementary, addressed the Board regarding the book *The Color Purple* which is studied by students in the advanced placement English classes in Brunswick County Schools. She stated that our schools should be the one place in a child's life where they feel uplifted, motivated, positive and inspired. Schools should be a place where they feel safe and secure. She asked that the Board consider literature that inspires, empowers, and encourages so that we can stand on goodness, respect, purity, kindness, honor, peace and love. These are the values and morals of our country and what it was founded on.

Presentations

1. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - Dale Smith of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC, presented the Board with a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Brunswick County Board of Education. The report is a clean, unqualified opinion as it relates to financials and compliance per state and federal guidelines. No significant difficulties were encountered in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit. The financial statements are correct and accurately reflect the financial status of the Brunswick County Board of Education as of June 30, 2013.
2. Teacher's Voice - Karen Walker, Brunswick County Schools' Teacher of the Year, reminded the Board members about the upcoming Education Engagement Project. She will be asking for help from the Board members with this project. She asked that when the Board members visit the schools, they spend time with the teachers and the students. She asked that they make sure that the students, teachers and stakeholders know who they are and that they are approachable. She is working toward making sure that the Board members are included in activities at the schools.
3. Media Month in Review – Mrs. Jessica Swencki shared a “live” press release with the Board. Prior to the school year starting, Stephanie Boehmer, Kindergarten Teacher and Teacher of the Year at Southport Elementary, was hand selected by the State Department of Public Instruction as a member of an elite group of educators who were asked to represent North Carolina in Tennessee at an educational advocacy conference. Her leadership on this team sparked an additional invitation to attend another national convention in Chicago where her leadership and voice as an educator are being heard. Mrs. Swencki introduced Mrs. Boehmer who shared her experiences as a part of this honored group with the Board. A Common Core Standards advocate, Mrs. Boehmer stated that she was ready for a change and welcomed the new curriculum. Her trips to Tennessee and Chicago, allowed her the opportunity to learn a lot about the history of Common Core. She brought her knowledge back to Brunswick County and is currently the Elementary Representative for the State of North Carolina for Common Core. Mrs. Boehmer works with several other educators and stakeholders across the state. She feels very positive about Common Core and invited the Board to participate in Professional Development Day on January 22nd.

Mrs. Swencki also shared a project that Brunswick County Schools partnered with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office. She noted that on December 1st, a law change in North Carolina increased the penalty for those individuals caught passing a stopped school bus. Together, Brunswick County Schools and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office put together a public service announcement which has been aired on WWAY TV3. She shared this video with the Board members. This public service announcement will run throughout the region and the state over the next few months, particularly when we come back from the holidays.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

1. September 17, 2013 – Operations Committee
2. November 5, 2013 – Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Items

1. Memorandum of Understanding – Hope Harbor
2. Memorandum of Understanding – First Tee
3. BCA Local Options
4. Approval of Lottery Application to Fund SMS Roofing Project
5. Approval of 2014-2015 Budget Calendar
6. Budget Amendments
 - State # 4
 - Capital #4
 - Federal #1
 - Fund 8 # 4

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Miller to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried.

Action Items

1. Addition of Mr. Billy Johnson to the Parent Advisory Council for Waccamaw School

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Thorsen to table the approval of Mr. Billy Johnson to the Parent Advisory Council for Waccamaw School until further information is obtained from the principal and presented to the Board.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. Board members Thompson, Thorsen, Cooke and Babson will attend the NCSBA Public Policy Conference on December 5 - 6, 2013 in Wilmington, NC. Dr. Pruden will be attending a superintendent's conference in Raleigh on these dates so he will be unable to attend.
2. The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting Schedule for the calendar year 2014.
3. The December committee meetings are scheduled for December 17, 2013. The Board and Dr. Pruden discussed the possibility of cancelling the meetings for December.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Cooke for the Board to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(1) to preserve confidential student information pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402, pursuant to §143-318.11 (a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege -and pursuant to §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider confidential personnel matters.

The Board entered closed session at 8:03 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Following the closed session, Chairman Thompson called the open session to order at approximately 10:10 pm.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve payment of the Communities In Schools invoice, with discussion to be reserved as to future invoices. Mrs. Babson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mrs. Babson made a motion to approve the personnel list. Mrs. Cooke seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Cooke. The motion carried unanimously.

The open session was concluded at approximately 10:11 pm.

Secretary

Chairperson

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Called Meeting
MINUTES
January 3, 2014

The Brunswick County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 3, 2014 in a Special Called Meeting to hear the appeal by Mrs. Pat Sykes of Dr. Pruden's decision regarding the book *The Color Purple*. The meeting was held in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David Sandifer, Brunswick County Administration Building. Members present were: John W. Thompson, Chairman; Shirley Babson, Vice-Chair; Olaf Thorsen, Charles Miller, and Catherine Cooke and Mr. Richard Green, School Board Attorney.

Mr. John W. Thompson, Chairman, called the hearing to order at 10:03 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Bernest Hewett.

Mr. Thompson stated that this is a special called meeting of the Board of Education to hear an appeal regarding the challenge of *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. The Board will hear from Mrs. Pat Sykes, the complainant, followed by the West Brunswick High School Improvement Team with their initial findings. The Board will hear from Dr. Pruden, Superintendent regarding his finding. The Board will then entertain comments from the public. He stated that he would like to hear from the public regarding our general policy, suggesting that there may be some issues that need to be addressed in the future. He would like to hear any thoughts on how we might improve our policy.

Mr. Thompson asked that Mr. Green inform the audience of the rules of the hearing. Mr. Green stated that the complainant will be allowed ten minutes to speak, followed by the WBHS School Improvement Team, and followed by Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent with each also given 10 minutes to speak. Seventeen members of the public have signed up to address the Board. Each of these 17 members will be allowed three minutes each to speak.

Mrs. Pat Sykes, Complainant - Mrs. Sykes presented handouts to the Board, some of which were letters from students of WBHS. She also presented the Board with a petition with approximately 70 signatures that oppose the book.

Mrs. Sykes thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. She stated that as a citizen, a Christian and a taxpayer, she had the right and a duty to be concerned with the educational process and what our children are learning in the Brunswick County School System. Her position as a County Commissioner has nothing to do with this issue.

In her letter of appeal to the Board of Education, Mrs. Sykes stated that she was not only addressing the book *The Color Purple* but any book that is taught in our schools that contains such demeaning and crude content. To her knowledge, there is no specific requirement that *The Color Purple* or any book of the top 100 widely contested books be used in an educational setting. She stated that she was not trying to stop anyone from reading the book. Her concerns are in regards to the explicit sexual and profane language. We are spending taxpayer money teaching what many view as immoral and unsuitable material. We all want the best for our students but we need to decide where we take a stand to be different.

Mrs. Sykes continued to bring her message of appeal to the Board. She stated that as a result of this complaint, she hopes it gives the Brunswick County School System a chance to develop a process of how books are chosen and a better process of how complaints are handled. One school should not make the

determination for the county as happened with this appeal. She would also like to see more parental involvement in this process.

She thanked each person in attendance and the Board of Education for making the opportunity possible. She stated that she would respect the Board's decision whatever it may be.

Carol Desmond spoke on behalf of the School Improvement Team of West Brunswick High School. Mrs. Desmond, along with a team of Administration and Staff from WBHS, addressed the Board stating that their purpose was to reiterate their position and how the determination was made by the school improvement team regarding *The Color Purple*. After thorough and thoughtful discussion, the WBHS School Improvement Team unanimously determined that *The Color Purple* would remain in the curriculum and as part of the media collection. The team agreed on several points in their discussion, such as, the appropriateness of the material for the intended audience which in this case are the Advanced Placement students, the emotional impact on the reader and the merit of the material based on numerous credible sources. Team members felt that *The Color Purple* must be read in its entirety to gain a full appreciation for the context and meaning. The team also unanimously agreed that an individual does not have the right to remove the intellectual freedoms of a whole. An individual has the right to not allow his or her child to read a novel but he or she can not make that choice for other parents and students. While the novel might be obscene or raw at times, educators and American citizens are well aware of the dangers of censorship at any level. Ms. Desmond asked that the Board please exercise caution when making their decision as our intellectual freedom is at stake. She added that the students in every English class are given a syllabus at the beginning of the year which includes a list of the books that will be read during that school year. The parents are aware of what is going to be read. The students have the option for an alternate reading assignment.

After much discussion, Mrs. Cooke questioned the equal educational opportunity allowed students when choosing an alternative assignment. Representatives from the WBHS SIT stated that they would miss the discussion but they would be graded on what they did read. Mrs. Cooke stated that this was not equal.

Mr. Thorsen asked if the teachers used the language in the classroom. The SIT stated that the book is read by the students on their own. Language is never brought up in the class. It is more about the message of the book.

Dr. Pruden addressed the Board by stating that rather than reiterating the rationale expressed in his response to Mrs. Sykes challenge, he would offer three observations about the issue that has brought the Board together today.

Dr. Pruden stated that our community dialogue has captured the attention of a wider audience. He has received letters signed by The National Coalition Against Censorship, The National Council of Teachers of English, The American Library Association, The American Booksellers' Foundation for Free Expression, The Association of American Publishers, Society of Children's Books, Writers and Illustrators, and The American Society of Journalists and Authors. Persons and organizations who value the first amendment, free expression, and the freedom to read will always be heard from when these freedoms are challenged. We have received communications from professors at a number of universities, high school teachers, and from citizens who strongly believe in the educational merit of *The Color Purple* and in the Board of Education's right to provide it under the supervision of a highly qualified teacher to high school students age 16 and older. He stated that he was grateful to live in a free land where ideas rise and fall on their merits and where each one of us have the freedom to know and to choose.

Dr. Pruden also noted that, in Brunswick County Schools, the parent always has the last word regarding the selection of literature for their children. This has been and will to continue to be our policy regardless of the outcome of this hearing. Every effort is made to inform parents of the possible book choices at the beginning of the semester. A letter is sent home outlining the learning objectives of the class. Included in

the letter is the website of The American Library Association's list of 100 most frequently challenged books. For those who do not have internet access in their homes, a list of the top 50 is printed on the back of that letter. Parents are invited to come and discuss the selections with the teacher. The parent may request an alternative assignment. This process has worked well for us for many years. Our teachers and library media specialists go to great lengths to ensure that our students are provided with age appropriate literature.

As an educator, Dr. Pruden noted that he has observed this process not only as a participant but as a former high school government teacher and now superintendent. We all need to be reminded that our children are watching. They are learning important lifelong lessons about living in a democracy and how conflict is an inevitable part of life, even among family, friends and fellow worshipers, about how free people resolve their disagreements with respect for the law, for the agreed upon process and with respect for the other's position. Our children will be watching as our Board decides an important question in our community this morning. They will be observing the manner in which we will all leave here today. My fervent hope is that they will see fellow citizens who have had their say and who have resolved a contentious matter with a forgiving spirit. However the question is decided, Dr. Pruden stated that he hopes we can leave here today with a greater understanding in friendship and in the spirit of the beloved community.

Mr. Thorsen asked Dr. Pruden if the School Improvement Team at the other high schools are the same as the SIT at WBHS. Dr. Pruden stated that each school has a team and they deal mostly with looking at the outcomes of the previous year and determining changes that will improve student outcomes for the following year. Mr. Thorsen asked if the make up is the same. Dr. Pruden stated that each school has basically the same make up but is unaware of the number of parents on each SIT. Mr. Thorsen asked if the process is the same for choosing alternative reading at all high schools. Dr. Pruden stated that the process was the same, however, the list of books may not be the same. The teacher chooses the books based on what is most appropriate for the educational level and maturity of her class at that time. It is not always *The Color Purple*.

Discussion continued among Board members and Dr. Pruden regarding the appeal process and how it was developed. They also discussed the process by which books are chosen and the age appropriateness. Dr. Pruden explained the process stating that it falls upon teachers and library media specialists to make sure students are exposed to age appropriate material. The book *The Color Purple* is not on the shelves in the libraries. It is handed out by teachers in the class. The library selections that are open to the general public are screened carefully and then the material that is age appropriate is distributed by school staff on an age appropriate basis.

The Board noted that during the challenge process, the book will stay in the curriculum and in the library until a decision is made.

Mr. Thompson acknowledged that the speakers that signed up for public address will be called upon in the order that they signed up. The Board heard from 14 members of the public that signed up to speak regarding the book *The Color Purple*. After hearing from those that wished to address the Board, the population was almost equally divided as to those opposed and those in favor of keeping the book in the curriculum.

DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Thompson asked for discussion and/or comments. Mrs. Babson stated that she felt that parents should have the right to decide whether or not their child would read the book.

A motion was made by Mrs. Babson to make *The Color Purple* available to all students in the 11th and 12th grades with written permission from their parent or guardian. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thorsen wanted to clarify that the motion was not to remove the book from the AP English curriculum but to have the parent opt out of reading the book. Mrs. Babson stated that the parents would have to opt in to let their child read the book. Dr. Pruden feels that this process would cause teachers to have to customize the reading list for a number of children. He would like for the Board to consider leaving the process as it is, having parents to opt out; however, he stated that if the Board chooses to approve Mrs. Babson's motion he would abide by the Board's decision and develop procedures to carry it out.

To further clarify, Mr. Thorsen stated that if the Board was to approve this motion, any student would be able to opt out from reading any book and instead of the instructor teaching one book, they might have to teach multiple books. He asked Dr. Pruden if this could happen. Dr. Pruden acknowledged that it possibly could.

Mr. Miller stated that he felt that the motion was a little vague. Mr. Thompson stated that regardless of whatever happens today, the Board will be reviewing the policies and there will be some changes in those policies.

Mr. Thompson asked Mrs. Babson if her motion upholds the superintendent's finding of the appropriateness for inclusion of *The Color Purple* in the school system's media resources and literature classes and that the further requirement for future literature classes for parents to have to provide written acceptance or opt in before reading the materials.

Mrs. Babson stated that what she was trying to do today was deal with *The Color Purple* only. She did not intend to include every book. She felt that most 11th and 12th grade students can read this book and glean what they should but the parents should have a decision on whether their child could read the book.

Mr. Thompson stated that the most basic question is the appeal to the finding of the superintendent. He asked if the Board was prepared to act on it today. Mr. Thorsen stated that he was prepared to make a decision today and that the Board owes it to their constituents and educators in this county to make a decision today.

Mrs. Cooke discussed the timeline for these proceedings. The timeline for the initial appeal at the school level is 15 days. It was completed in 5 days. When the appeal went to the superintendent, there was no time limit for his decision; however, he completed his decision within 5 days. When the Board received the appeal, it was the day before the Christmas Holidays. The Board has had 3 school days, including today, to sit as a board together regarding this issue. Mrs. Cooke stated that the Board was here today to hear comments from the public. She does not feel that she has had ample time to deliberate over all the information made available today. The Board does not need to make a decision today when the Board has only had 2 or 3 days to review the material. She would like to be able to assimilate the information and pay close attention to what was said today and then give a response as a Board. Any other motions need to be reviewed by the attorney to make sure that it is clear what the response to the appeal is.

Mr. Thompson stated that he appreciated what Mrs. Cooke was saying as there are a number of issues that have arisen that the Board needs to look at. However, this is the opportunity for the Board to discuss the decision as a Board on the actual appeal, rather than reschedule at this point on the particular matter of the appeal. We have heard from the superintendent and others over the past 2 ½ hours developing background. He is of the opinion that this issue should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Mr. Miller stated that the issue should be dealt with; however, the Board was here to decide whether to uphold Dr. Pruden's appeal. Mrs. Babson's motion should come after that was decided.

Mrs. Cooke asked for the opinion of the attorney. Mr. Green reiterated that the primary and only matter before the Board at this time is the appeal from Dr. Pruden's decision. That must be dealt with first. Mrs. Babson's motion was well taken in a sense that perhaps there may be room for revisions of the policy itself. There should be comprehensive revisions to policies 3205 and 3210. Mr. Green has made suggested revisions to these policies which would allow any local BOE to appoint a media advisory committee. He suggested that in policy committee, Mrs. Babson's motion be incorporated as a subject for further discussion.

He stated again that the only thing before the Board today is the appeal regarding Dr. Pruden's decision.

Having heard the discussion, Mr. Thompson asked Mrs. Babson if she wanted to change her motion. She stated that she was willing to do whatever the Board wanted to do. She wanted the Board to come to some conclusion about something today.

Mrs. Cooke asked that in the former appeals, Mrs. Sykes was contacted individually before the decisions were made public. Does the Board owe her the privilege to contact her individually before sharing the response with the community? Mr. Thompson stated that he thought it was a public decision.

Mr. Thompson stated that there is a motion on the floor from Mrs. Babson to continue the instruction in the literature classes of *The Color Purple* in grades 11 and 12 in the future. He questioned if this means that this is upholding the superintendent's findings?

Mrs. Cooke asked for Mr. Green to clarify the appeal. Mr. Green stated that the appeal by Mrs. Sykes is an appeal of the superintendent's decision. The superintendent's decision upheld the use of *The Color Purple* in the Brunswick County School system. It is either a "yes" or "no" despite how the appeal was phrased. Does the Board agree with Mrs. Sykes or does the Board uphold the superintendent's decision. The first issue to be dealt with is the "yes" or "no" on Dr. Pruden's decision. Thereafter, depending on how the Board decides, then the Board should deal with Mrs. Babson's motion.

Mr. Thompson asked for a vote on the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 1:4.

Mr. Thorsen made a motion to uphold the decision of the School Improvement Team as well as the superintendent in regards to *The Color Purple*. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

Mrs. Babson asked that Mr. Thompson repeat the motion. Mr. Thompson stated that the motion was to uphold the superintendent's finding in support of *The Color Purple* in our AP Literature courses and as a media resource within our school system.

Mr. Miller stated that he was in favor of Mrs. Babson's suggestion of the opt in for the parents.

Mr. Thorsen stated that his motion stands to uphold the superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Thompson called for a vote which is to uphold the superintendent's findings of *The Color Purple*. Mr. Thompson stated that the vote was 3:2.

Mrs. Babson stated that the Board will decide at the January committee meeting exactly how the policy should read. After further discussion regarding an opt in policy, Mr. Thompson reminded the Board that their purpose today was only to hear the appeal.

Mr. Green addressed the Chairman stating that as he understood and so the Board fully understands, the Board voted 3:2 to "ban" the book. He stated that the Board had voted to reverse the superintendent's decision. Mrs. Babson stated that it was not the intention of the Board. Mrs. Cooke stated that when the Board voted it was to rescind Dr. Pruden's decision, not to uphold his decision. She stated that three people voted to "not uphold" Dr. Pruden's decision which means, the book will be removed from the curriculum list.

Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Thorsen's motion failed by a vote of 2:3 with Cooke, Babson and Miller opposed.

Mrs. Babson made a motion to make the book *The Color Purple* available to students in the 11th and 12th grade in Brunswick County with written permission from their parent or guardian. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2:3 with Thorsen, Cooke and Thompson opposed

Mr. Thorsen made a motion to uphold Dr. Pruden's decision, leaving it as is, with further review by the curriculum committee to determine how best to resolve this issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion failed.

The Board further discussed this issue. Mr. Thompson reminded the Board that the issue on this date is to make a decision regarding the appeal. Mrs. Cooke asked if the appeal provides for the book to be removed from the curriculum and the library. Mr. Green stated that the intent was to remove it from the curriculum. He could not answer the question regarding removing it from the library.

Mr. Miller made a motion that the book remain in the AP classes in the 11th and 12th grade and that it remain an agenda item on the 21st at which time the Board will look at the policy that is currently in place and make any revisions that the Board sees fit.

Mr. Thorsen restated the fact that the business of the Board today is to act on the appeal, either uphold or deny the appeal.

Mr. Miller added to his motion that the Board will uphold Dr. Pruden's appeal until the 21st at which time, the Board will visit the policy and make any revisions and the development of any needed committees. Mrs. Babson seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 3:2 with Cooke and Thorsen opposed.

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded to adjourn. The hearing adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
January 7, 2014

The Brunswick County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David Sandifer, Brunswick County Administration Building. Members present were: John W. Thompson, Chairman; Shirley Babson, Vice-Chair; Olaf Thorsen, Charles Miller, and Catherine Cooke. Also in attendance were Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent; Dr. Deanne Meadows, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Helen Davis, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Mr. Mark Pasier, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Joyce Beatty, Executive Director of Student Support Services; Mrs. Freyja Cahill, Executive Director of Finance; Mrs. Jessica Swencki, Executive Director of Quality Assurance and Community Engagement; and Mr. Richard Green, Attorney.

Mr. John W. Thompson, Chairman, called the meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Shirley Babson. The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the West Brunswick High School JROTC.

Salutes

1. North Carolina School Boards Association Business and Non-Profit Honor Roll - Local businesses, organizations and individual volunteers have the power to shape the community attitudes about public schools. They play a key role in supporting our schools from helping with in kind or financial contributions, donating to scholarship programs and supporting extracurricular and instructional activities by offering internship opportunities, volunteering in the schools, and sponsoring field trips, these groups contribute to student success in many ways.

Earlier this year, our Board passed a resolution naming the following businesses to the NCSBA 2013 Business and Non-Profit Honor Roll showing appreciation for their ongoing support for the public schools of Brunswick County. Their work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best educational experience possible for each child. In addition, the NCSBA recognized these organizations by publishing their names in the *NCSBA Now* newsletter in November. Each organization will be presented with a certificate from the North Carolina School Boards Association.

The Board recognized the following organizations, thanking them for their vital contributions.

- Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation (ATMC)
- Branch Banking and Trust (BB&T)
- Brunswick Community College
- Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce
- Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC)
- Communities in Schools (CIS)
- Duke Energy Progress
- First Tee of Brunswick County
- North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce
- North Brunswick Kiwanis Club
- South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club
- Southport/Oak Island Chamber of Commerce
- Southport/Oak Island Kiwanis Club

2. Special thanks and tribute go to Melanie Roberts for her time, and phenomenal effort, in planning National Nuclear Science Week (NNSW) as a major event for Brunswick County Schools. This enormous event, sponsored by WIN (Women In Nuclear) and with support from Duke Energy, brought together 48 volunteers that contributed their time and knowledge to all five High Schools and select Elementary Schools during this five day period. A total of 1500 of our students received benefit from this tremendous opportunity. Topics ranged from how nuclear energy produces electricity, pros and cons, interesting aspects of our local nuclear plant and numerous diverse careers and job opportunities that exist locally and globally in the nuclear industry. Students found it especially interesting and relevant to hear job descriptions and day to day duties from a spectrum of employees including Scientist, Engineers, Security, Safety, Maintenance and others. The Logistics Ms Roberts worked out to bring NNSW to our students so successfully were amazing. She is truly an engineer.

Public Address - N/A

Presentations

1. Teacher's Voice - Karen Walker, Brunswick County Schools' Teacher of the Year, presented the Board with a list of questions that was compiled by the Teacher Advisory Council. The TAC would like to survey all teachers in the county so they can better assist them. The survey will be conducted within the next month and will address concerns and weaknesses in areas such as facilities, class size, cleanliness. Mrs. Walker hopes to receive 60 – 70% participation from the survey.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

1. November 26, 2013 – Operations Committee
2. November 26, 2013 – Curriculum/Policy Committees
3. December 3, 2013 – Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Cooke to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Items - N/A

Action Items

1. Policy for 2nd Reading
 - 7520 Family and Medical Leave – Mr. Mark Pasier explained the changes to the policy to the Board members which was previously discussed at the committee meeting.

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Cooke to approve Policy 7520 Family and Medical Leave as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Parent Advisory Council Changes – Mr. Miller and Mr. Thorsen stated that they had both spoken with the respective principals about the following changes. They approved of the changes as recommended by the principals.
 - Waccamaw School – remove Jaymus Stanley, add Billy Johnson
 - Southport Elementary School – Add Heather Winterbottom

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Thompson to approve the Parent Advisory Council changes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Budget Amendments – Mrs. Cahill reviewed the following budget amendments with the Board.
 - State #5 - \$158,020.00
 - Local #2 - \$26,199.50
 - Fund 8 #5 - \$5,003.02

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Miller to approve the budget amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. Board of Education 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule (Revised) – The revised schedule changed the original date for the July 2014 meeting from July 7th to July 1st.
2. The Parent Advisory Council Meeting will be held at Cedar Grove Middle School on January 14th at 6:30 p.m.
3. The first round of school visits were rescheduled for January 23rd at Bolivia, Early College, BCA, Virginia Williamson and Cedar Grove.
4. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 21st as follows. The dates and times are subject to change and/or cancellation.
 - 9:00 a.m. Operations/Safe Schools
 - 11:00 a.m. Curriculum
 - 2:00 p.m. Policy
 - 3:00 p.m. Human Resources
 - 4:00 p.m. Finance

The committee structure and schedule will change beginning in February. The new committee chairs will be able to set their own schedule for the meetings.

5. Mr. Thompson informed the Board Members that there is a community meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, January 9th, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the capital program that we are currently embarked upon at Waccamaw. The project will include the replacement of a classroom building and a new auditorium/gymnasium facility. Mr. Miley stated that the purpose is also to refresh the architect and the development team with the communities wishes as to what they would like to see happen and to make sure that we have a full understanding of the project. Mr. Thompson stated that Ms. Marlowe has sent out community wide notification and feels that the meeting will be well attended.

6. Mr. Thompson stated that he would like for Dr. Pruden to schedule a Board Retreat. The Board needs to discuss facility needs as well as Career Technical Education and a potential Career Tech High School for Brunswick County. He would also like for our attorney, Mr. Green to refresh the Board on Parliamentary Procedures. Mr. Thompson asked that Dr. Pruden present the Board with some dates for the proposed meeting.
7. Mrs. Cooke stated that over the past weekend, she had a chance to review the booklet of information that was presented at the meeting on January 3rd. Since the end of the meeting turned chaotic, she feels that it was a launching pad for some real changes that need to be made in our system, starting with policy and procedures at the school level and at the administrative level. She feels that we have done a disservice to our parents in the fact that they have not known the process for a lot of things, particularly the challenge that has just taken place. We owe it to our parents, our children and our community to let them know what is being taught in our schools.

Mrs. Cooke would like to see the Curriculum and Policy meetings allow parental involvement issues, curriculum issues and other issues that affect the students in our schools. Parents should know that they are welcome to attend the committee meetings.

Mr. Thompson stated that it is the intent of the Board to continue discussions to make sure that we are doing what we say we are in regards to the content material.

Mrs. Babson commented that it was her understanding that the Board would, under Curriculum and Policy, take a close look at our policies regarding these issues.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Cooke for the Board to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(1) to preserve confidential student information pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402, pursuant to §143-318.11 (a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege -and pursuant to §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider confidential personnel matters.

The Board entered closed session at 7:26 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Thompson called the open session to order at approximately 8:47 pm.

Mr. Thorsen made a motion to approve the personnel list. Mrs. Cooke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Thorsen made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Cooks. The motion carried unanimously.

The open session was concluded at approximately 8:48 pm.

Secretary

Chairperson

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
February 4, 2014

The Brunswick County Board of Education met on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the David Sandifer, Brunswick County Administration Building. Members present were: John W. Thompson, Chairman; Shirley Babson, Vice-Chair; Olaf Thorsen, Charles Miller, and Catherine Cooke. Also in attendance were Dr. Edward Pruden, Superintendent; Ms. Helen Davis, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Mr. Mark Pasier, Executive Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Joyce Beatty, Executive Director of Student Support Services; Mrs. Freyja Cahill, Executive Director of Finance; Mrs. Jessica Swencki, Executive Director of Quality Assurance and Community Engagement; and Mr. Richard Green, Attorney.

Mr. John W. Thompson, Chairman, called the meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Shirley Babson. The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance was led by the South Brunswick High School JROTC.

Public Address -

1. Michael Jones – Mr. Jones voiced his concerns to the Board regarding the problem with head lice in our schools and our policy on this issue. He would like for the Board review their policy and come up with a better solution for controlling head lice in our schools.
2. Fred Ammann – Mr. Ammann addressed the Board regarding the book "The Color Purple". He commended the Board regarding their decision to keep the book in the AP classrooms as well as keeping the opt out policy in place.
3. Steve Beecroft – Mr. Beecroft is concerned with the graduation practice in Brunswick County Schools and the limited number of tickets available for families to come watch their children graduate. He would like for the Board to see if a bigger venue is available where one doesn't have to limit the number of family and friends that want to watch their children graduate.

Presentations

1. Teacher's Voice - Karen Walker, Brunswick County Schools' Teacher of the Year, reserved the right to speak with Mr. Pasier as he is presenting the Procedure to Implement General Assembly's 25% Law under the action agenda.
2. Media Month in Review – Jessica Swencki, Executive Director of Community Engagement, reiterated that social media is a good resource to communicate information about Brunswick County Schools. With the recent weather issues, we saw an increase of over 400 followers on our Facebook account. Mrs. Swencki shared the overwhelming success of our county wide Professional Development Day. It was a day where teachers were teaching teachers. We received media coverage as a result of this event. Also in the media this month was a video by News 14 Carolina regarding the Universal Free Breakfast. She also shared information about Representative Iler's Legislative Liaison meeting that occurred prior to this Board meeting

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

1. January 3, 2014 – Special Called Meeting
2. January 7, 2014 – Regular Meeting
3. January 21, 2014 – Curriculum Committee
4. January 21, 2014 – Policy Committee
5. January 21, 2014 – Human Resources Committee
6. January 21, 2014 – Finance Committee

A motion was made by Cooke and properly seconded by Miller to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Items

1. Policy for 2nd Reading (request waiver of 1st reading)
 - 4333 Weapons, Explosives, Bomb Threats and Other Clear Threats to Safety
2. CCTV Surveillance System Contract
3. Speech Solutions, Inc. Contract
4. Audit Contract for 2013-2014
5. Budget Amendments
 - State #6
 - Federal #2
 - Capital #5

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Miller to approve the consent items as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

1. Policy for Discussion/Revision
 - 4235/6135 Control of Head Lice

Mrs. Swencki presented the Board with a revision to policy 4235/6135 as requested by the Board at the last policy meeting. The revised policy is a combination of the previous policy and the current policy. This policy would allow students to stay in the classroom for the remainder of the school day, discretely separated from peers and referred to their parents for treatment. Students would not be allowed to attend school when lice (live bugs) or nits (eggs) are present.

Cindy Glenn, Head Nurse with the Brunswick County Health Department and David Stanley, Health Director were available to answer any questions the Board might have regarding head lice. After much discussion, Mr. Stanley suggested that schools go back to checking students when they return to school after they have been treated to make sure that have no more infestation.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve Policy 4235/6135 Control of Head Lice as presented. The motion carried 4:1 with Cooke opposed.

2. Brunswick County Schools Technology Plan 2014 – 2016 - Acacia Dixon presented the 2014-2016 Technology Plan to the Board as it was reviewed at the Operations Committee meeting. This is a revision of the previous technology plan as a result of G.S. 115C-102(6) which requires that a technology plan be submitted in order to qualify for state and federal funds. In addition, it is a requirement of federal e-rate program which allows us to pay for infrastructure and telecommunications to support our instructional program.

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Thorsen to approve the Brunswick County Schools Technology Plan for 2014-2016 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. School Calendar Proposal 2014-2015 – The Board was presented with two calendars at the committee meeting. The only difference in the two was that one would allow for a teacher workday on the November election day while the other had the workday in March, with school being in session on election day. Because of issues that were raised as a result of school being in session on election day, a third calendar is currently being considered by the calendar committee. Mr. Thompson suggested that the Board table discussion on the school calendar until the Board retreat on February 25th at which time they can hear from the committee with their final adjustments and recommendations on the calendar.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Miller to table discussion on the school calendar until the Board retreat. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Shallotte Middle School Re-Roofing Contract – Mr. Craig Eckert gave a brief overview of the roofing projects that have occurred within Brunswick County Schools. He presented the roofing contract for Shallotte Middle School to the Board. The contract is with LaFave Construction Company, the same company that has completed the new roofing at South Brunswick Middle, Lincoln Elementary and the work in progress at Leland Middle. He asked that the Board approve the contract in the amount of \$1,353,000 for Shallotte Middle.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve the Shallotte Middle School Re-Roofing Contract to LaFave Construction as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Procedure to Implement General Assembly's 25% Law – Mr. Pasier, along with Karen Walker, Teacher of the Year; Heather Broderick, Elementary Teacher of the Year; and Paul Price, Principal of Shallotte Middle School presented the Brunswick County Schools procedure to implement the General Assembly's 25% rule. Mr. Pasier stated that Dr. Pruden's primary intent was to make sure that we not only involved and informed our teachers and principals but that we surveyed them to make sure that their voice was heard throughout the entire design model process as well as the implementation that will be brought before the Board for approval tonight.

Regarding the 25% rule, the NC General Assembly passed legislation that prohibits local boards of education from granting career status to any teacher who had not earned it as of August 1, 2013. The legislation also ends career status for those who have previously earned it on June 30, 2018. Part of this 25% rule is the legal mandate of the superintendent to recommend to the school board for review and approval, 25% of our teachers for a different kind of contract. To accomplish this, each public school superintendent must "review the performance and evaluation of all teachers who have been employed by the local board for three consecutive years" and recommend 25% of those teacher to receive a four-year contract, to include a \$500 annual raise for each of the four years. The local boards of education are required to offer four-year contracts

to 25% of teachers who have been employed in the school system for at least three consecutive years and have been selected by the local education agency.

The General Assembly's 25% Rule must be put into effect by June 30, 2014. Those teachers identified to receive a four-year contract must accept or decline the contract by June 30, 2014. The State Board of Education is required to develop a model contract for use by local boards in awarding these extended contracts.

BCS Administration has developed a selection process based on:

- Three consecutive years defined as 2013-2014/2012-2013/2011-2012,
- An evaluation review including the past three years of evaluation results requiring that every standard on each year's evaluation summary be proficient or higher,
- The distribution of the extended contracts will be aligned with the number of teachers assigned in Elementary, Middle, High, and Specialty areas.
- Additional selection review criteria will be implemented by the instructional leaders and will include geographic, disciplinary, professionalism, attendance, or other considerations as well as organizational needs.

After thorough review of the process with the Board, they received comments from Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Broderick and Mr. Price. Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Broderick both agreed that instead of this being a good thing, everyone has frowned on how it will pit teacher against teacher. They are concerned about how this will affect staff moral and PLCs.

A motion was made by Miller and properly seconded by Thorsen to approve the Brunswick County School Procedure to Implement General Assembly's 25% Law as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution Regarding Changes to Teacher Employment Law (25% Rule) - Members of the Board discussed a resolution addressed to the General Assembly regarding teacher tenure. In this resolution, the Brunswick County Board of Education urges the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal the 25 percent contract provision of the Teacher Employment Law and develop a more effective long-term plan for adequate and equitable compensation for teachers.

A motion was made by Thorsen and properly seconded by Babson to approve the Resolution Regarding Changes to Teacher Employment Law (25% Rule) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS

1. The Board of Education and Dr. Pruden are scheduled to visit the following schools on February 11th as previously scheduled.
 - Supply Elementary
 - Belville
 - Lincoln
 - Leland
 - North Brunswick
2. Committee Meetings are scheduled for February 18th as follows (subject to change and/or cancellation):
 - 8:30 a.m. Operations/Safe Schools
 - 10:00 a.m. Human Resources

- 11:00 a.m. Budget and Finance
 - 1:00 p.m. Curriculum
 - 2:00 p.m. Policy
3. The Board will hold a retreat on February 25th at the St. James Community Center. The retreat will begin at 8:00 a.m. and is scheduled to end by noon.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Babson and properly seconded by Cooke for the Board to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(1) to preserve confidential student information pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402, pursuant to §143-318.11 (a)(3) to preserve attorney-client privilege -and pursuant to §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider confidential personnel matters.

The Board entered closed session at 8:48 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Chairman Thompson called the open session to order at approximately 9:56 pm.

Chairman Thompson made a motion to approve the personnel list with addendum, and Mrs. Cooke seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously.(Attachment III)

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mrs. Cooke. The motion carried unanimously.

The open session was concluded at approximately 9:57 pm.

Secretary

Chairperson