



Photos by Tori P. Haynesworth

Elections Board member Fleming El-Amin, left, and Chairman Ken Raymond listen to the discussion by other board members.

**Poll workers**

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During the State Board of Election's conference last week, Raymond suggested having an Election Day greeter.

"The greeter's job will be to talk to any voters, standing in line, and prepare them to respond [to] questions asked by the precinct judges.

"We believe that the lines will move more quickly, if the voters know what to expect when they get to the tables," said Raymond.

Steve Hines, former director of elections, has resigned his position. His last day was Monday, Aug.

17. Hines, who was board-elected in August 2014 after months of searching for the right candidate, will be moving in hopes of serving as the Greene County elections director near his hometown of Kinston.

"I certainly hate to see Steve leave us," said Raymond. "He's worked hard and has greatly contributed to the office running better than it has in the past."

Fleming El-Amin stated that Hines' intent was "honorable" upon his service to the Board of the Elections and to Forsyth County.

Stuart Russell gave further remarks regarding Hines' departure.

"Sad to see Steve go," said Russell. "I respect his decision. I wish he could still be with us."

Other agendas during the meeting were about updating the electronic poll book to make the voting process quicker and better. Also, the Good Shepherd Moravian Church, which will be moving from 1474 Kerner Road in Kernersville, won't be used for election purposes. However, the board will be trying to figure out what facility to use for Precinct 068 to vote by next year.

For further and additional information, go to the Board of Elections website at [www.forsyth.cc/Elections](http://www.forsyth.cc/Elections).

**Stable**

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work as smoothly as possible.

"It brought our faculty closer together because we had to move in such a short period of time," she said.

Dickey said teachers used it as a teaching opportunity, talking with them and giving them presentations on the move. They held a scavenger hunt to let students get used to the new facility, which is a section of Atkins Academic and Technology Magnet School.

Dickey said that Atkins has been a wonderful host. Lowrance, which has 148 students this year, continues to operate as its own school, with its own office and entrance, but using some of the same facilities as Atkins students, such as the cafeteria. A new pod with seven mobile classrooms was added, so there is now room for all of Lowrance's classes.

"We're excited about being here and able to start the school year in a school we're going to finish the year in," said Dickey who served as Lowrance's assistant principal before becoming principal this school year.

Mashica Jefferson, Lowrance PTA president whose son is in eighth grade at the school, said she appreciated all the new accommodations for the school at Atkins this school year, such as improved parking and a new playground. She said the mobile classrooms will help greatly since a lack of space caused classes to have to share a room at the same time.

However, she hopes to soon see a new school built for Lowrance.

"We don't want them to forget we need a new school," she said.

A replacement for the aging Lowrance building was originally part of the 2006 bond issue proposal but was cut from the final package. It is now among the top priority projects in all four versions of a new bond proposal before the Board of Education, which

will be on the 2016 ballot if approved.

Hanes, which has more than 900 students, moved its seventh and eighth grades to the old Hill Middle School, which had sat empty since Hill was merged with Philo Middle School in 2012. Due to lack of space, sixth graders were sent to a vacant section of Smith Farm elementary, a relatively new school that opened in 2013. Elective teachers and administrators drove between the two schools.

This year however, with two new pods and four new trailers, every Hanes student and teacher will be at the old Hill Middle location, which now bears the Hanes name.

"We certainly had a disruption with the move and this school year is a fresh start that allows us to refocus on the things we want to do in the classroom," said Hanes Principal Melita Wise.

Wise said Hanes will also have new leadership this school year, as she is leaving to become the principal of North Forsyth High School.

PTSA President Kimber McCracken said that even with the pods, the school is too small for the Hanes' student body. She said the PTA is working to improve the facility but is making sure anything they do is mobile and can be moved to a permanent location for the school, which is another high priority item in the proposed school bond.

McCracken said she was glad to have the controversy and subsequent move behind the school. It became a divisive issue among parents, with many like her feeling it was safe. She said the controversy spilled over into the students, with her daughter

getting in arguments with other students over the school's safety. She was also glad, after her daughter went to class at Smith Farm last school year, that the entire student body is now together.

"One location, one family, it just makes it so much easier," she said.

Eighth grader Torey Bailey said he didn't want to leave the old building, as it had a lot of history to it such as NBA Star Chris Paul attending middle school there and playing basketball at Hanes.

"We have a lot of memories at the old building," said Bailey.

He said students were still getting used to the smaller space at the Hill location. He said he continues to enjoy the curriculum at Hanes, including science experiments and creating 3-D designs and is considering continuing the science track in high school at Atkins.

A possibility being considered as part of the bond is moving Hanes to the current location of Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy (WSPA). They would join the middle school students already there for a new Hanes Middle. Currently there are talks with Winston-Salem State University about moving WSPA's college prep high school students to a location there. The current location of WSPA is on Cameron Avenue in a building that housed the original Atkins High School, one of the city's "Big Four" black high schools during segregation.

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# N.C. NAACP prepares for 'America's Journey for Justice'

BY CASH MICHAELS  
EDITOR OF THE CAROLINIAN

The N.C. NAACP is urging all to take part in the North Carolina leg of "America's Journey for Justice," scheduled to come through the state starting Saturday, Aug. 29.

A national coalition led by the national NAACP and its president/CEO, Cornell William Brooks, "America's Journey for Justice" is a 40-day, 860-mile protest march which began in Selma, Alabama, on Aug. 1 from the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, where civil rights marchers were beaten and attacked by Alabama state troopers as they marched for voting rights in March 1965.

The modern-day Journey for Justice is routed from Alabama, through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, finally arriving in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 15. The North Carolina leg of the march is scheduled to reach the state Aug. 29 through Sept. 7, before it moves on to Virginia.

Marchers from across the nation will say to the nation and world family, "Our lives, our votes, our jobs, and our schools matter," the NAACP, a major coalition in the march, says. With each state stopped in, a designated issue of concern to African-Americans — such as fairness in the criminal justice system, jobs with sustainable wages, improved public education, and protection of voting rights — is addressed.

In North Carolina, according to N.C. NAACP President Rev. Dr. William Barber II, the issue is voting rights because the state has become "the national battleground for voting rights."

"In an effort to challenge a regressive Southern legislature and Congress' failure to act on strengthening the Voting Rights Act, the N.C. NAACP, the Forward Together Moral Movement, and other justice-loving North Carolinians from across the state will join the march and continue on across the Virginia state line," Barber said in a statement.

Thus, a major "Rally for Voting Rights" featuring Barber and Brooks, among others, will be held at the State Capitol in Raleigh on Thursday, Sept. 3, with activities beginning at 5 p.m.

Leading up to that, Brooks will take part in a Monday, Aug. 24 Moral Monday Livestream online to promote the Sept. 3 rally.

On Aug. 29, marchers are expected to enter North Carolina from South Carolina at U.S. Highway 1 near Rockingham County at the state line.

Later that evening, there will be a Journey for Justice Youth and Cultural Artist Teach-in, 7:30 p.m. at Southern Middle School, 717 Johnson St. in Aberdeen.

On Monday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m., the Journey for Justice Voting Rights Teach-in will be at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, 1801 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh, and on Sept. 1 at 10 a.m. at various congressional offices across the state, there will be simultaneous press conferences on voting rights action.

Supporters from across the state seeking to join the Journey for Justice March while its in North Carolina may sign up by logging onto [www.naacpsc.org](http://www.naacpsc.org), and click onto the American Journey for Justice tab, or call 919-682-4700.

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