

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on April 2, 2007, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Dottie Darsie, Chairman
Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, Vice-Chairman
Chris Becker
Tim Hawkins
Mike LaBrose
Linda Coffey

Dr. Helen Hall was absent.

The following administrative staff were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
Donnie Bassinger, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services
Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services
Bob Query, Finance Officer
Ervil Anderson, Director of Student Support Services
Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director
Ed Blair, School Board Attorney

Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources was absent.

Chairman Dottie Darsie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Dottie Darsie opened the meeting and asked Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone to introduce the Davenport A+ School Violin Master Class for a special performance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dottie Darsie opened the meeting for public comment. Four people signed up to comment on the Lessons on Wheels update: Melinda Griffin, Yvonne Roberts, Cathy McCoy and Jennifer Williams. Each parent expressed how much the program had helped their preschoolers and prepared them for Kindergarten. They also expressed their concern that this program was going to be cut from the Caldwell County School's budget and asked the board to seek funding to keep this program.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Lorrie Spencer, Teacher of the Year, Collettsville School, gave the invocation. Taylor Gilbert, Emily Huffman, Grayson Spann, and Anna Willis, 3rd Grade Students, Collettsville School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 12, 2007 regular board meeting and the March 15, 2007 board retreat.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chris Becker presented certificates of recognition and a lapel pin to the following students for their selection as 2006 Governor's East Award recipients: Megan McNeil, Drama, Kristin Greene, English, Elaine Tolbert, English, Brittany Teague, English and Cara Arizmendi, Mathematics, South Caldwell High School and Bethany Greene, English, Hibriten High School.

Tim Hawkins presented certificates of recognition and a lapel pin to the following students for their selection as 2006 Governor's West Award recipients: Isaac Gambrell, Drama, Bailey Watson, Mathematics, and Amanda Goble, Natural Science, South Caldwell High School and Nailah Robinson, Mathematics, West Caldwell High School.

Mike LaBrose presented a certificate of recognition and a lapel pen to Regina Barrier, NC State Science House, in recognition for being selected as an Outstanding Extension Service Award recipient for the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

INFORMATION – UPDATE – CALDWELL COUNTY EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

Pam Fultz, Director, Caldwell County Even Start Family Literacy Program and Sherry Brown gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the board on the many services Even Start provides to Caldwell County.

LESSONS ON WHEELS UPDATE

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone reported that the Lessons on Wheels is an excellent program; however, the school system absorbed approximately \$100,000 in expenses after the grant ended. He also advised that the school system has requested approximately 1.3 million dollars from the County Commissioners to continue the current operating expenses for the 2007-2008 school year and that the Board/Budget Finance Committee will determine budget amendments after the Commissioners determine funding to the school system.

ACTION – CCS/CCC&TI COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Roxy Poovey, Career-Technical Education Director, requested approval to change the name of the Career Center High School to the Caldwell County Career Center Middle College and to add grades 9 and 10 to the Career Center High School making it a full 9-12 grades high school, as recommended by the Caldwell County Schools/CCC&TI Cooperative Programs Advisory Committee. Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously agreed to table the name change of the Career Center High School for further discussion and bring other name recommendations to the board for possible approval at the May board meeting. Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved to add grades 9 and 10 to the Career Center High School, making the Career Center High School a full 9-12 high school effective with the 2008-2009 school year.

ACTION – EVALUATION INSTRUMENT FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the attached evaluation instrument for the superintendent's evaluation as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – 2007 LEGISLATIVE WISH LIST

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached 2007 Legislative Wish List as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – PROPOSED POLICIES FOR ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached policies 3200, Student Conduct, and 7551, Early Graduation, to be placed on a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Mary Kidder, Director, WrapAround Program Services, made four recommendations to improve the fiscal responsibility of the WrapAround Program.

(1) Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved that the WrapAround Program Services Director be granted the authority to raise or lower a Site Director's grade when a site's enrollment has increased or decreased for three consecutive months as presented by WrapAround Program Services Director Mary Kidder.

(2) Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved that Caldwell County employees with an overdue balance with the WrapAround Program will be required to pay their entire balance in full by the end of the fiscal school year, June 30, 2007, and will adhere to the Late Payment Policy as presented by WrapAround Program Services Director Mary Kidder.

(3) Upon motion of Vice Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached Summer Camp 2007 Consolidation Plan as presented by WrapAround Program Services Director Mary Kidder.

(4) Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, and second by Linda Coffey, Tim Hawkins, Mike LaBrose and Chairman Dottie Darsie, the board approved to grant authority to the WrapAround Program Services Director to eliminate two site director positions at Collettsville and Gamewell Middle School and close the WrapAround Programs based on low enrollment as presented by WrapAround Program Services Director Mary Kidder. Chris Becker voted against the motion.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the attached list of teachers eligible for Career Status as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – SURPLUS SALE

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached list of items for surplus sale on May 16, 2007 as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – BIDS FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENTS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached bid awarded to Davison Sash for window replacements at Gamewell Middle, Hibriten High, Hudson Middle, Happy Valley, Granite Falls Elementary and Valmead Elementary Schools as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – LOTTERY APPLICATION FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENTS AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached lottery application for window replacements at Gamewell Middle, Hibriten High, Hudson Middle, Happy Valley, Granite Falls Elementary and Valmead Elementary Schools as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND AND FEDERAL GRANTS FUND

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments for State Public School Fund and Federal Grants Fund as presented by Finance Officer Bob Query.

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2006-2007

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2006-2007 as presented by Student Support Services Director Ervil Anderson. Ms. Anderson also reminded the public that open enrollment for transfers for the 2007-2008 school year ends April 6, 2007.

ACTION – PROJECT LEAD THE WAY SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached agreement for Project Lead the Way to be incorporated at William Lenoir Middle School beginning with the 2007-2008 school year as presented by Career-Technical Education Director Roxy Poovey.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tim Hawkins, Chairman, Board/Budget Finance Committee, reported that Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone, Finance Officer Bob Query and Chairman Dottie Darsie attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting to request a total of \$1,323,639 to cover the 2007-2008 budget. This request was based on unexpected increases from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that took place last year forcing the school system to use \$815,378 from fund balance. This year's request includes these estimated increases yet to be determined by the state, as well as the funding needed for the continuation budget. Once the County Commissioners determine the amount of funds to be allotted to the school system, the Board/Budget Finance Committee will meet to determine if and what changes will be made.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell gave an update on the recent Board of Education/County Commission Liaison Committee meeting where the budget was discussed at length. They discussed including a teacher supplement to better line up with neighboring counties and the Commissioners in attendance were very open to that request. An update on the Early College High School was discussed and it is on schedule. The new core course of study for the high schools was also discussed.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

There was no board information and/or possible action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dottie Darsie announced the Community Board Meeting at Hibriten High School, Monday, April 30, 2007 at 7:00 PM and the next regular board meeting on Monday, May 14, 2007, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, and upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, second by Tim Hawkins, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Signed _____
Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education

***Pending board approval May 14, 2007*