

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 6:30 PM on April 19, 2010, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall  
Chris Becker  
Linda Coffey  
Dottie Darsie  
Tim Hawkins

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and Mike LaBrose were absent.

The following administrative staff members were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent  
Dr. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services  
Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services  
Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services  
Karla Miller, Finance Officer  
Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director  
Ed Blair, School Board Attorney, Groome, Tuttle, Pike and Blair

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sect. 143-318.11 (A) (1).

### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the closed session at 6:55 PM and return to open session at 7:00 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall opened the meeting for public comment. Karen Laws, Maleah Haas, Gina Scott and Don Barrier addressed the board regarding the proposed new William Lenoir Middle School. Ms. Laws stated that she has a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student currently attending Lower Creek and was excited about future possibilities that her child could attend a state-of-the-art middle school. She commended this board for being the board to make this 10 year project a reality and appreciates all their hard work. Maleah Haas stated her appreciation to the board on behalf of the William Lenoir Middle School PTA/PTO and thanked them for their hard work in putting their dreams into action. She distributed copies of the attached survey to board members noting that approximately 95% of the community was in favor of a new school. Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone asked Ms. Haas to provide a copy of the survey to the press.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gina Scott, parent and teacher at Davenport A+ School, commended the board for their hard work and thanked them for putting the rumors of new school into action. She thanked the board for their desire to provide a school that strongly supports the arts, their uncompromising stand for a state-of-the-art middle school and for listening to their comments and keeping their word. Don Barrier spoke as a citizen who was also a County Commissioner. He noted that although democracy is not always “pretty,” it is certainly beautiful and he commended the board for the democratic process in developing the plans for the new middle school. He thanked them for their hard work as a board and also thanked Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church for their dedication and hard work, as well. He thanked the parents and citizens on both sides of the issue and committed as one commissioner who would do his best to arrive at an “appropriate conclusion” regarding the new school. He noted he was looking forward to reviewing the final plans that were being presented to the community.

Tracy Terry, Parent, and Amy Terry and Cheyenne Suddreth, students, asked to address the board regarding Board Policy 3140, Student Athletic Eligibility. Tracy Terry advised the board that Cheyenne Suddreth’s family had an emergency and she could not attend. Mrs. Terry told the board that Cheyenne asked her to tell the board that she asked her mom, “Mom, soccer is me, why would they take away part of me?” Amy Terry told the board that her brothers attend Hibriten High School and she loves to go to that school to support them in athletic events. She noted she participates in soccer, cheerleading, and dance and has been at Davenport A+ School since kindergarten. All her friends go to Davenport A+ and over 10 of her friends, including her, would have to go back to Happy Valley School if this policy was approved and she wanted to stay in the Davenport feeder school district. Mrs. Terry advised the board that although some families choose Davenport for the art programs; they chose Davenport as a transfer school for their children due to family and there was no problem with the transfer process when her sons attended Davenport. She wants to stay consistent with the district her children are familiar with. She also noted that middle school is a critical time for kids to play sports to see what they are good at.

## **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Teresa Branch, Principal, Caldwell Early College High School, gave the invocation and Najayra Retana and Jasmine Ferguson, Caldwell Early College High School students, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ACTION - AGENDA**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **ACTION - MINUTES**

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 8, 2010, Regular Board Meeting, the March 29, 2010, Work Session and the March 29, 2010, Community Board Meeting.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone presented a certificate and lapel pin to Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services, in recognition for her selection as the North Carolina Central Office Administrator of the Year for 2010 by the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone presented a certificate and lapel pin to Dr. Trish Johnson for earning her Doctorate of Education from Appalachian State University.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Dottie Darsie presented a certificate and lapel pin to Teresa Branch, Principal, Caldwell Early College High School, for her invitation to join the New Schools Project Board of Advisors.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following middle and high school bands who placed at the NC Concert Band Festival: Collettsville Band, Superior Rating; Gamewell Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands, Excellent Rating; Granite Falls Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Excellent Rating; William Lenoir Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands, Superior Rating; and Hibriten High School Band, Superior Rating. Hudson Middle School and South Caldwell High School will be honored at the May 10, 2010, board meeting.

Tim Hawkins presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following middle and high school chorus who placed at the NC Choral Festival: Collettsville Chorus, Superior Rating; Gamewell Middle School Chorus, Excellent Rating; Granite Falls Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, Superior Rating; Happy Valley Chorus, Superior Rating; William Lenoir Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, Superior Rating; and William Lenoir Middle School Treble Chorus, Superior Rating. Hudson Middle School and South Caldwell High School will be honored at the May 10, 2010, board meeting.

Chris Becker presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following individuals who earned an advanced educational degree: Holly Andrews, Granite Falls Middle School, Masters Degree in Physical Education, Emporia State University; Nadia Beam, Dudley Shoals Elementary School, Masters in Birth Through Kindergarten, Appalachian State University; Danielle Braswell, Hudson Middle School, Masters in Middle Grades Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Robin Hand, Dudley Shoals Elementary School, Masters Degree in Classroom Clinical/Reading Exceptionalities, Appalachian State University; Michelle Hunt, Hudson Elementary School, Masters Degree in Elementary Education, Appalachian State University; Benjamin Kohnle, South Caldwell High School, Masters Degree in Agriculture Education, North Carolina State University; Terrie Marley, Gamewell Middle School, Masters Degree in Middle Grades Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Heather Martin, Granite Falls Middle School, Masters Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Shawn Reavis, Hudson Middle School, Masters Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Locke "Skip" Smith, Jr., Hudson Middle School, Masters Degree in Middle Grades Social Studies, Appalachian State University; Wendy Walker, Hudson Elementary School, Masters Degree in Elementary Education, Appalachian State University and Jennifer White, Collettsville School, Masters Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Chris Becker presented certificates and lapel pins to the following students who have been selected to participate in the NC Governor's School program: Abigail M. Watson, Caldwell Early College, English; Isaac A. Smith, South Caldwell High School, English; James D. Johnson, South Caldwell High School, Math and Christopher J. Hendel, Social Science, South Caldwell High School.

Linda Coffey presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following students whose artwork is on display in the Education Center Art Gallery during the month of April: Cassidy White, Ashley Mahala and Angelica Rodriguez, Valmead Elementary School; Kailee Spake, Mallory Chester and Trystan Pipes, Baton Elementary School; Gabriel Huffman, Mackenzie Williams, Sheyen Brinkley and Ryleigh Johnson, Dudley Shoals Elementary School; Austin Jones, Maurie Morales and Lindsey Townsend, Whitnel Elementary School; Nathaniel Cohee, Evelyn Nix and Anna Diego-Passqual, West Lenoir Elementary School.

## **INFORMATION – SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS UPDATE**

Student Support Services Director Jill Duffy advised the board that last month was School Social Worker's Month. She updated the board on services provided by our Social Workers from August to December of this school year. School Social Workers made 642 home visits, 1,952 student office visits, 683 parent office visits, 1,875 parent contacts, 3,152 collateral contacts and provided Christmas gifts to 2,161 students this year. Mrs. Duffy introduced the Social Worker's that were in attendance and applauded them for their dedication and valuable service to our schools and community.

## **ACTION – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 3110, ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS FOLLOWING A ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD AND BOARD POLICY 3140, STUDENT ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FOLLOWING A TWO MONTH COMMENT PERIOD**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, Mike LaBrose, Linda Coffey and Tim Hawkins, the board approved to table the attached board policies, Policy 3110, Assignment of Students and Policy 3140, Student Athletic Eligibility, for further review. Chris Becker opposed the motion.

## **INFORMATION – NOTIFICATION OF TEACHERS ELIGIBLE FOR CAREER STATUS**

Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson advised the board to review the list of teachers eligible for Career Status that she will be bringing to the board for approval at the May 10, 2010, Board of Education meeting.

## **ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson.

## **ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2009-2010**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2009-2010, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson.

## **ACTION – PROJECT LEAD THE WAY AGREEMENT**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved to the attached Project Lead the Way Agreement that adds Biomedical Sciences, consisting of four courses, to the program as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

## **ACTION – SURPLUS SALE**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to place the attached items in the Surplus Sale on May 19, 2010, as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

## **ACTION – COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROPOSAL TO BORROW FOR THE NEW HIBRITEN DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall read the attached letter on behalf of Mike LaBrose who could not attend the board meeting regarding his support for the new Hibriten Middle School.

Steve Walter, Architect, CBSA Architects, presented the final drawings for the new middle school. The plan calls for a 752 capacity auditorium with designs to allow an additional 10 classrooms, the ability to enlarge the media center by eliminating a corridor, the ability to enlarge the cafeteria by adding to the front of the building and adding additional bleachers to the gym as the student population grows to 900 students. An “Owners Preferred Brands” provision will be incorporated in the contract in order to buy locally. This project will be fully funded through state flow funds with no additional tax burden to the citizens of Caldwell County.

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously agreed to place a formal request to the County Commissioners to borrow up to 18 million dollars for the construction of a new middle school for the Hibriten District at the Board of County Commissioner’s meeting on May 3, 2010, as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

## **ACTION – BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND, LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND, AND FEDERAL GRANTS FUND**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments for the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, and Federal Grants Fund as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall advised that the presentation from Steve Walker with CBSA Architects would suffice for her Facilities Committee Report.

Dottie Darsie announced that she attended the first regional Robotics competition that students from Caldwell County had an opportunity to compete in. She noted the students were instructed to build robots that played soccer. She stated she was extremely impressed with the “gracious professionalism” displayed by every student that attended the competition, which was as far away as Brazil.

**BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

There was no board information or possible action items discussed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, May 10, 2010, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education