

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

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 6:00 PM on August 8, 2011, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Chairman Darrell Pennell  
Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins  
Teresa Branch  
Linda Coffey  
Dottie Darsie  
Dr. Helen Hall  
Duane Knight

The following administrative staff members were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent  
Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services  
Dr. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services  
Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services  
Karla Miller, Finance Officer  
Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director  
Ed Blair, School Board Attorney, Groome, Tuttle, Pike and Blair  
Chairman Darrell Pennell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Dr. Terry Hunt, Senior Pastor, The Life Center and member of the Clergy Crisis Support Team gave the invocation. Hunter Baker, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, Davenport A+ School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ACTION – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

### **ACTION – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Upon motion of Teresa Branch and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the July 11, 2011, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Upon motion of Vice Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Duane Knight, the board unanimously approved the July 11, 2011, Closed Session minutes. Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the July 21, 2011, Special Session. Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the July 21, 2011, Closed Session.

### **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the Student Artwork Selections for the Education Center Art Gallery: Devin Sigmon, Lisa Byerly, Isaiah Simmons, Haley Mays and Thomas Fleming, Hudson Middle School; Trey Gregory, Dashae Chatham and Gabby Carr, William Lenoir Middle School; Jordan Winters, Davon Thomas and Cade Parker, Gamewell Middle School; Brady Childers, Ashley Oliver and Megan McNeil, Granite Falls Middle School; Amelia Hawkins, Lauren O'Connor, Meredith Matthews, Taylor Kanupp, Tucker Price, Hannah Kincaid, Emily Coydell, Casey Murphy, Andrea Alfaro and Michael Howell, Caldwell Early College High School.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and CCC&TI Board of Trustees member Alvin Daughtridge presented Inez Jones with a plaque of appreciation for her service to the Caldwell County Schools, serving from 1947 to 1990, and to the CCC&TI Board of Trustees, serving from 1991 to 2011.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Darrell Pennell opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

## **ACTION - BOARD POLICY REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 3300, STUDENT CONDUCT**

Upon motion of Teresa Branch and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved to place the attached revisions to Board Policy 3300, Student Conduct, on a thirty day comment period for possible approval at the September 12, 2011, board meeting as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **ACTION – REQUEST TO PUBLICIZE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2011, CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion of Duane Knight and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved not to publicize the Closed Session minutes of June 13, 2011, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **ACTION – ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved Lora Austin as the Assistant Principal of Gamewell Middle School as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **INFORMATION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson presented the attached personnel matters to the board for information only.

## **ACTION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson also updated the board regarding current vacancies remaining for the 2011-2012 school year.

## **ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2011-2012**

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Duane Knight, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2011-2012, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson.

## **ACTION – LOTTERY APPLICATION FOR DEBT SERVICE FOR QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS LOAN I AND LOAN II**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached Lottery Applications for Debt Service for Qualified School Construction Bond I and II Loans by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

## **ACTION – 2011-2012 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached 2011-2012 Budget Resolution as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dottie Darsie, Dr. Helen Hall and Duane Knight attended the NSBA Southern Regional Conference held in Asheville, North Carolina and gave brief reports on some of the sessions they attended. Dottie Darsie and Dr. Helen Hall attended a "Career Start" workshop aimed at middle school students that originated in the Forsythe County. The career oriented instruction engages and motivates middle school students to learn and stay in school and has made a significant difference in dropouts, test scores, etc. Dr. Helen Hall shared that Jay Keith Crisco, NC Secretary of Commerce, spoke at the general session regarding our future in education. He noted that school systems are actually in the "workforce development business" to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century changes, and that North Carolina is the 49<sup>th</sup> state in educational spending; therefore, it is critical to know how legislators feel about education and vote accordingly. Dr. Peter Gorman, Senior Vice-President of the newly formed division of News Corporation and past Superintendent in Charlotte, North Carolina, spoke about the deficiencies we are experiencing with salary schedules for educators. He believes that North Carolina should focus on rewarding the best teachers we have as "every child deserves a great teacher." Dr. Gorman's "theory of action" is to encourage highly effective teachers to stay in the field, persuade potentially highly effective individuals to enter into teaching, and to encourage ineffective teachers to find another way to serve children. Dr. Henry Johnson with the National Staff Development Council spoke regarding how home and community factors affect student success. He shared information on school improvement research and reinforced the importance of everyone's role in contributing to the success of our schools. Duane Knight added that he was also impressed with Peter Gorman who managed a 1.15 billion dollar budget while in Charlotte Mecklenburg and his recent move to News Corporation, currently owned by Rupert Murdoch. Mr. Knight agreed with Dr. Gorman's comment that "Teacher effectiveness increases student achievement" and that the days of the lone classroom teacher were over and teachers need to share among themselves. Allison Schaefer, legal council and Director of Policy with the NCSBA, discussed controversial tee shirts and students' first right amendments whereby the schools must protect the freedom of speech for both sides, no matter what one's personal views may be. Tee-shirts can not display lewd, vulgar, indecent or offensive material. Mr. Knight also attended a session on public comment at school board meetings. There are four types of public comment and he noted that Caldwell County practices the best type of public comment of the four. Ms. Schaefer noted that anyone making public comment wants to be heard and board members should listen to what they have to say without debate with the person making the comment.

## **BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chairman Darrell Pennell gave an explanation and shared results from the recent evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone where he was evaluated on over 50 items. A few of the comments included: "Dr. Stone is a strong advocate for Caldwell County Schools; Dr. Stone continues to inspire others, leads admirably and effectively and champions education in Caldwell County; His presence in the community is frequent, professional and keeps needed attention on educational issues; Dr. Stone has a very evident love of children and commitment to their education." Chairman Pennell spoke on behalf of the board noting they are very pleased and very happy to have Dr. Stone leading Caldwell County Schools as our Superintendent.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Darrell Pennell announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, September 12, 2011, 5:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center, the NCSBA District VII meeting, September 28, 2011, 4:00 PM, in Watauga County and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation meeting on October 5, 2011, 4:00 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 Tim Hawkins, second by Teresa Branch, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education