

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

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on August 9, 2010, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall  
Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins  
Chris Becker  
Linda Coffey  
Dottie Darsie  
Mike LaBrose  
Darrell Pennell

The following administrative staff members were present:

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

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, gave the invocation and Brandon Trivette, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hudson Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ACTION - AGENDA**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following changes: B. 2, Revision to the 2010-2011 Calendar was added to Item XIII, and the 2010-2011 Student Transfer Request list was replaced with a revised transfer list under Item IX, A. 2., as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

### **ACTION - MINUTES**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 12, 2010, Regular Board Meeting, the July 12, 2010, Closed Session, the July 26, 2010, Work Session and the July 26, 2010, Closed Session.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall presented a certificate and lapel pin to the Caldwell County Schools Finance Department for receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award by the Association of School Business Officials International and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Mike LaBrose presented a certificate and lapel pin to Regina Barrier, Western Outreach Coordinator for the Science House of NC State University for her selection as the Secretary of the North Carolina Science Leadership Association Board.

Darrell Pennell presented a certificate and lapel pin to Bill Schreiber, Principal, Career Center Middle College, for earning their Southern Association of Colleges Accreditation.

Chris Becker 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 August: Jose Dishman, Tyler Pennington and Kasie Helton, Gamewell Middle School; Adina Jan, Phoebe Greene, and Jonathan Ramos, William Lenoir Middle School; Brandon Trivette, Aaron Moore, Sara Duncan, Dakota Spencer and Chelsea Johnson, Hudson Middle School; Matthew Huskins and Hunter Absher, Horizons Elementary School and Brittany Jolley, Granite Falls Middle School.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and Board Member Linda Coffey recognized Jill Taylor with the North Carolina Museum of Art and Norma Suddreth, Board Member, Museum of Art Board of Directors, for the recent “Art of Collaboration” grant that the Caldwell County Schools was awarded to enhance art studies at Gamewell Middle School and Kings Creek School. Teachers will plan/implement an integrated curriculum using North Carolina Museum of Art resources to improve the quality of student learning by integrating visual arts resources and object-based learning strategies into student dialogue and assignments.

## **INFORMATION – SAME GENDER CLASSROOM UPDATE**

Stephen Martin, Director, Elementary Curriculum, gave the board an update regarding the Same Gender Classrooms at Lower Creek Elementary School. Prior to implementation, fifth-grade teachers and Principal Debbie Indicott completed a one year study of the same gender proponents before introducing it to families. Two single gender fifth-grade classrooms, one male class of 22 students and one female class of 24 students, were offered at Lower Creek Elementary school in 2009-2010. The school also provided a mixed-gender classroom in which 17 students enrolled. The single gender classroom’s fifth grade discipline referrals decreased from 15 in 2008-2009 to 3 in 2009-2010. They also exceeded the school’s average attendance rate of 96 percent, posting 97 percent average compared to 94 percent average attendance in the co-ed class. North Carolina 2009-10 End-of-Grade test results also showed dramatic increases in math and reading scores. Some of the learning styles identified of young boys that lead to greater success include more movement in the classroom, use of verbal cues, and team-building activities. Teaching strategies utilized in the girls’ same gender classroom include a quieter environment, face-to-face communication and supportive leadership skills. Debbie Indicott, Principal, Lower Creek Elementary School, verified that the program had been very successful and extended her appreciation to parents and teachers. Lowell Rogers, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Male Gender Classroom Teacher and Jamie Boggs, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Female Gender Classroom teachers gave the board an overview of a typical day in the classrooms and the positive outcomes these students have enjoyed.

## **INFORMATION – SCHOOL NURSE UPDATE**

Pam Barber, Lead School Nurse, gave the board a brief update regarding the statistics of school nurse activities in the school system for the 2009-2010 school year. She reviewed the state's school nurse report and advised the board that 11 nurses serve approximately 12,630 students throughout the county. Six nurses are provided through the Caldwell County Health Department and five work for the school system. There were 594 home visits made last year and the pregnancy rate for students significantly decreased from 52 cases to 9 cases. There are 1,850 students identified with "chronic health" issues and all of these students have emergency action plans. There were also 4,512 doses of the flu vaccine administered in 2009-2010.

## **ACTION – NEW HIBRITEN MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously agreed to postpone the construction of the new Hibriten District Middle School due to the state economic condition that has affected three sources of funds for school construction as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. The board unanimously agreed to review the project every six months.

## **ACTION – REVISION TO THE 2010-2011 TRADITIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Darrell Pennell, the board unanimously approved to revise the 2010-2011 traditional school calendar and change October 29, 2010, from an Optional Planning Day to an Early Release Day and November 11, 2010, from a regular school day to an Optional Planning Day as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. These changes were made in order to accommodate voting on Election Day where 13 schools are used as polling sites.

## **ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, 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 2010-2011**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2010-2011, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson.

## **ACTION – QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND APPLICATION**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached Qualified School Construction Bond Applications as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously agreed to go into Closed Session at 8:10 PM to discuss personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143.318.11 (A) (1).

## **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously agreed to come out of Closed Session and reconvene to Open Session at 8:20 PM.

### **ACTION – ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the following administrative changes effective August 11, 2010, for a two year term, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone: Rebecca Summer, Assistant Principal, Granite Falls Middle School to Assistant Principal, Hudson Elementary School; Tommy Puett, Assistant Principal, Gamewell Elementary School to Assistant Principal, William Lenoir Middle School; Adrienne Dula, Assistant Principal, West Caldwell High School to Assistant Principal, Gamewell Elementary School; Teresa Hartley, Assistant Principal, Hudson Elementary School to Assistant Principal, Granite Falls Elementary School; Amy Lowman, Assistant Principal, Granite Falls Middle School to Assistant Principal, South Caldwell High School; Dr. Pete Yount, Principal, William Lenoir Middle School to Assistant Principal, Granite Falls Middle School; Lisa Vaughn, Principal, Valmead Elementary School to Principal, William Lenoir Middle School; Carol Sturgis, Assistant Principal, William Lenoir Middle School to Principal, Valmead Elementary School and Jeff Link, Assistant Principal at Watauga High School to Assistant Principal, West Caldwell High School.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dottie Darsie gave a report on the last Board of Education/County Commissioner's Liaison Committee meeting. Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone gave an update on the state budget noting that it was not as bad as it could have been. He advised that he and the board talked about the school system's commitment not to lay off staff and have kept that commitment for two years. Also discussed was how the budget would impact the schools with Lottery changes and reversions. He noted that the school system was not informed regarding the loss of ADM funds and that these funds would be better monitored instead of waiting on the state and/or county to advise the school system regarding balances. The commissioners asked why the school system did not know about the funding decrease and Dr. Stone explained that these funds flow to the county and funds are requested on an as needed basis. Two payments were received from the county in 2009-2010 and the school system assumed these funds came from the state. The school system was not notified by the county that we were using fund balance and not new money. Options for the new Hibriten District Middle School were also discussed in light of the decrease in Lottery funds.

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report on the NSBA Southern Regional Conference she attended in Williamsburg. The conference kicked off with a drama of Thomas Jefferson and Patrick McHenry discussing how to serve students educationally in 1776. Gary Gordon, Author of *Building Engaged Schools* gave a presentation focusing on the differences in student learning styles. Dr. Hall attended a session on using data to identify students who are dropping out and advised that there is not a "one size fits all" approach to student drop outs. She also noted that at the Race to the Top Session she attended that North Carolina has a strong chance of receiving funding in the second round of distribution. The 2011 Southern Regional Conference is being held in Asheville.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, September 13, 2010, 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 Chairman Dr. Helen Hall and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education