

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

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on August 10, 2009, 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  
Mike LaBrose

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell was absent.

The following administrative staff members were present:

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

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services, gave the invocation and Andrew Barlow, Rising 3rd Grader, Hudson Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ACTION - AGENDA**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following changes: Item VIII, Section B, Number 3, Budget Modifications was added and XI, Closed Session, was deleted as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

### **ACTION - MINUTES**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 10 2009, Regular Board Meeting, and the July 27, 2009, Special Session.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Chris Becker 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. Finance Department Employees recognized were: Karla Miller, Finance Officer, Donna Robbins, Naomi Gilbert, Belinda Floyd, Teresa Goble, Bonnie Caudle, and Bobbie Dancy.

Linda Coffey presented a certificate and lapel pin to Regina Barrier, Western Outreach Coordinator for the Science House of NC State University for receiving a University Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development Grant for \$10,000. The “STEM” grant (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) will train middle and high school science teachers to teach through inquiry-based methodology.

## **INFORMATION – INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATORS IN CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone introduced Mr. Doug Rhoney, new principal of West Caldwell High School, to the Caldwell County Board of Education and to the community. Mr. Rhoney addressed the board and expressed his appreciation for the family atmosphere in Caldwell County and extending him the opportunity to lead West Caldwell High School.

## **ACTION – PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICY – ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved to place the attached proposed new Board Policy 4302, Integrated Pest Management, on a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO BOARD POLICY 7532 – SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS-FOLLOWING AN ADDITIONAL ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD**

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 7532, Shared Accountability Standards, following an additional one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose, and second by Dottie Darsie, Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, Tim Hawkins, and Chris Becker, the board approved the budget modifications to continue K-3 class size, increase student capacity by one student in grades 4-12, a .25% reduction in employee longevity, and a one hour per week decrease in non-certified employees’ pay. A 1.5 million dollar transfer from Caldwell County School’s Fund Balance was made in order to save most teaching and non-certified positions. Linda Coffey opposed the motion.

## **ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

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

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

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report to the board regarding the recent Board of Education/County Commissioner Liaison Committee meeting. Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone updated the committee members on the 2.9 million dollar interest free loan that Caldwell County Schools can apply for. He noted that banks were reluctant to loan this money since it is interest free. Bobby White noted that the board of education needs to move on this loan as soon as possible since it must be approved by December 2009. Dr. Hall noted that the school system may be approved to apply for as much as 5 million interest free funds and the commissioners were in favor of this opportunity. Tony Helton presented a plan regarding interest free versus conventional loans if the school system applies. Questions and answers regarding building the new William Lenoir Middle School were reviewed. It was decided to establish a “Middle School Task Force” comprised of three board of education members, two county commissioner members, the county manager, the superintendent, the Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services and both fiscal officers. Dr. Hall also announced that the Golden Leaf Presentations were scheduled for August 24 and advised that we were encouraged to attend the meeting and report on the two Golden Leaf Projects currently being funded in Caldwell County Schools.

### **BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall advised that the NCSBA requested three school board members to serve as voting delegates at their 40th Annual Conference held in the fall. Chris Becker volunteered, Dottie Darsie volunteered for part of the conference and Mike LaBrose volunteered pending any scheduling conflicts.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, September 14, 2009, 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 Tim Hawkins, second by Chris Becker, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education