

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 AM on February 9, 2009, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell
Vice Chairman Dr. Helen Hall
Chris Becker
Linda Coffey
Dottie Darsie
Mike LaBrose

Tim Hawkins was absent.

The following administrative staff was present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
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

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell opened the meeting for public comment. Mrs. Jackie Abernathy, parent, expressed her disapproval of the graduation date set for Friday, June 12, 2009. She asked the board to reconsider the date as she feels it is not fair to ask the seniors to come back to school two days after the last day of school on June 10, 2009. She noted that the students would complete their exams on the 4th of June and would not be coming back to school. She told the board she would like for June 5th to be considered, but noted she understood the law that requires students to attend school a total of 180 days and that June 5th would not meet this requirement. She also noted that limited staff would be available to assist students and help set up for graduation if we waited until Friday, June 12, 2009. Although Wednesday had been discussed as not being the best day for graduation due to church activities and Project Graduation, Mrs. Abernathy stated, "We can't use God when it's just convenient," and "Project Graduation is not our first priority." She advised the board that plays, band concerts, soccer and football games have been held on Wednesday nights with no controversy. She also noted that the seniors felt as if they were being punished although she realized the board did not intentionally set out to do that. She asked the board to reconsider Wednesday, June 10, 2009, as the new graduation date.

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell thanked Mrs. Abernathy for her comments and advised her that the board would take her concerns into consideration.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Kathy Kent, President, CyberKids, Inc., gave the invocation and Katie Bast, Monica Barlow and Maddie Hanson, 6th graders at William Lenoir Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following change: a revision to the draft 2009-2010 school calendar was made under Item X, A1, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 12, 2009, Regular Board Meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall presented a certificate and lapel pin to the William Lenoir Middle School CyberTeens in recognition for second place in design for the state FIRST Leggo League Robotics Championship Competition sponsored by Blue Ridge Electric Corporation.

INFORMATION – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Kathy Jo Eckard, CTE Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Career and Technical Education program. She noted that the CTE Program is driven by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and prepares students in 21st Century skills, postsecondary education, entry into the competitive workforce, academic and technical standard achievements and emerging occupations. She explained the mission and vision of the program and gave a review on Career Exploration in grades 6-8 and high school. Her report also included up-to-date enrollment figures, data from the class of 2007 and 2008 and an update on Project Lead the Way currently underway in our middle schools.

INFORMATION – VALMEAD ELEMENTARY MASCOT

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised board members that Valmead students plan to adopt a Lynx as their school mascot. The students had a penny drive to raise the \$50.00 donation fee from WWF whereby they will receive a formal adoption certificate, full-color photo; species spotlight card and a soft, plush version of the Lynx. The last known mascot used at Valmead was the Scorpions adopted during the 1980s.

INFORMATION – EDUCATION SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised board members that in August of 2008, the Caldwell County School System and CCC&TI jointly sponsored an Education Summit with over 270 participants for a one day workshop. The future of education in Caldwell County was discussed at the summit. Working committees were established to address identified opportunities and the attachment reflects the four major recommendations of the committee that was distributed to the board members. Many of the recommendations are already in place or in the five year strategic plan for the school system.

ACTION – 2008-2009 AUDIT CONTRACT

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached 2008-2009 Audit Contract awarded to Certified Public Accounting Firm Boggs, Crump and Brown, with an increase of \$500.00, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION-REVISION TO BOARD POLICIES 1600, CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN, 3610, STUDENT WELFARE AND 3810, DESTRUCTION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S RECORDS

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 1600, Caldwell County Schools Strategic Plan, following a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 3610, Student Welfare, following a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 3810, Destruction of Exceptional Children's Records, following a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION-PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICY 4260-NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, Dottie Darsie, Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, and Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, approved the attached new Board Policy 4260, Naming of School Facilities, following a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. Mike LaBrose voted no on the motion.

ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO BOARD POLICY 3100-ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS-ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to place the attached revisions to Board Policy 3100, Enrollment of Students, on a one-month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – 2008-2009 GRADUATION DATE

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and Dottie Darsie approved to change the 2008-2009 Graduation Date from Friday, June 12, 2009, to Wednesday, June 10, 2009. Mike LaBrose and Chris Becker voted no on the motion.

ACTION – ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to appoint Bill Schreiber as the Principal of the Caldwell Career Center Middle College effective March 1, 2009, for a two-year contract, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2008-2009

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2008-2009, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Trish Johnson.

ACTION – 2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR-ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to place the attached 2009-2010 School Calendar on a one-month comment period as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – BUDGET AMENDMENTS – STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND, LOCAL EXPENSE FUND AND FEDERAL GRANTS FUND

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments for the State Public School Fund, Local Expense Fund and Federal Grants Fund as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report regarding the last meeting of the Board of Education/County Commissioner Liaison Committee meeting. The local budget was the focus of discussion and the school system will present a PowerPoint presentation on the state of the schools for the County Commissioners. This PowerPoint will include academic progress, 5 year goals, financial health and future budget cuts. County Commissioners will be meeting on February 16 to announce some preliminary cuts for 2009-2010.

Dottie Darsie gave a report on the NCSBA Federal Relations Network Conference she attended, along with approximately 1,000 other board members. Updates were given on the current legislation and issues on public education. The main topic focused on the Economic Stimulus Plan and what it would do for public education. Mrs. Darsie also thanked Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns and Elementary Curriculum Director Stephen Martin, for the information they gathered for her to take to Washington. She added that they were able to speak with Senator Richard Burr and noted that education has his support in the Senate. He cautioned that Title 1 IDEA monies had been provided for two years and did not know where the funding would come from when that time period ends. They also spoke with Senator Kay Hagen who seemed supportive of educational issues as well.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

There was no board information or possible action items discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell announced the Community Board Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2009, at West Caldwell High School and the next regular board meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education