

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on February 12, 2007, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

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

The following administrative staff were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
Donnie Bassinger, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services
Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources
Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services
Bob Query, Finance Officer
Ervil Anderson, Director of Student Support Services
Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director
Ed Blair, School Board Attorney

Chairman Dottie Darsie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dottie Darsie opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Sandy Crump, Kindergarten Teacher, Lower Creek Elementary School, gave the invocation. Cy Smith, Niki Pezzi, Clyde Valentine, Thomas Green, Zachary Hatton, Kyndell Warren, Hailey Triplett, Garrett Penley, Emmanuel Lazo and Abby Charles, Kindergarten Students, Lower Creek 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 as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 8, 2007 regular board meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Dottie Darsie, members of the Caldwell County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone presented certificates of appreciation and a lapel pin to the following individuals who earned their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: Connie Nathan, Davenport A+ School; Jodie Isenhour, Dudley Shoals Elementary School; Connie Barthet, Gamewell Elementary School; Megan Lovins, Hudson Elementary School; Gaynell McCall, Carolyn Query and Skip Smith, Hudson Middle School; Sandy Crump, Lower Creek Elementary School; Kay Smith and Romi Wheeler, Sawmills Elementary School; Marc Kirkpatrick, South Caldwell High School and Nikki Malatin, Carol West and Anitra Whisnant, West Caldwell High School. These individuals bring Caldwell County's total of National Board Certified Teachers to 143, or 16% of the teaching force.

INFORMATION – UPDATE ON COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Debbie Eller, Director, Communities in Schools Program, gave a presentation summarizing general information about the program and updated the board on its progress within the Caldwell County Schools. Alvin Daughtridge, Chairman of the Board for Communities in Schools, presented a plaque to Annette Swanson who represented the teachers, staff and administration of South Caldwell High School for exceptional commitment to the individual student, as well as a plaque to the teachers, staff and administration of Caldwell County Schools for their commitment to the individual student.

INFORMATION – UPDATE ON SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Ervil Anderson, Director of Student Support Services, introduced Connie Barthet, Donna Doughty, Scott Kunkle, Rhonda Ervin, Mike Moore and Toni Parker, School Counselors, who presented "Mission Possible" to the board. The "skit" and a PowerPoint presentation demonstrated how school counselors help children succeed by promoting personal, academic and social growth and delivers individual, group and classroom guidance to students. School counselors also help prepare students for the future by assisting them in their development of personal awareness and exploring career interest, aptitudes and goals. There are 37 counselors within the school system, twelve of which are nationally certified.

ACTION – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE SCHOOL BOND

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached Resolution in support of a two billion, K-12, Public School Facility Bond Referendum for North Carolina as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the North Carolina School Board's Association.

ACTION – PROPOSED BOARD POLICY 1345 – BOARD MEMBER SERVICE

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved Policy 1345, Board Member Services, attached, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – PROPOSED 2007-2008 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the 2007-2008 proposed school calendar, attached, following a one-month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Trish Johnson.

ACTION – QUITCLAIM DEED – HUDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board approved the attached Quitclaim Deed requested by the Town of Hudson to sell a 4' x 150' strip of land to the owner of a house whose property violated the town's setback requirements when a garage was added to the home as presented by Associate Superintendent of Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – CONTRACT WITH WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to determine growth estimates through the 2014-2015 school year as presented by Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Donnie Bassinger.

ACTION – 2006-2007 AND 2007-2008 AUDIT CONTRACTS

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 audit contracts as presented by Finance Officer Bob Query.

ACTION – BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND, LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE FUND, FEDERAL GRANTS FUND AND CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments for State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grants Fund and Capital Outlay Fund as presented by Finance Officer Bob Query.

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2006-2007

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2006-2007 as presented by Student Support Services Director Ervil Anderson.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Helen Hall gave an update on the recent NCSBA School Board 101 Seminar attended by Dr. Hall, Chris Becker and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. Topics discussed were: the role the board member plays and does not play, functions of the board as a group, not as an individual, board advocacy for public education, public records and legal duties, as well as open meetings laws, personnel issues, etc.

Chris Becker gave a brief report regarding the NCSBA School Board 103 Seminar he recently attended. This seminar dealt with finance issues and focused on the new chart of accounts and new reporting system for school finance officers that will go into effect July 1, 2007.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell reported on the recent Board of Education/County Commission Liaison Committee meeting where the Early College High School was discussed. Bids are complete and construction is scheduled to begin June 1, 2007, with classes beginning August 1, 2007.

Chairman Dottie Darsie reported on the National School Board Association Federal Relations Network she attended in Washington, DC. Congress has not passed the 2007 budget yet; however, the budget has passed in the House and Senate. A 2.3 billion dollar increase in health and education is included. No Child Left Behind is under funded by 40 billion dollars, which affects our Title I and IDEA funding. These programs are mandatory by the Federal Government, and the Caldwell County Schools is short 3.6 million dollars to run these programs. The group also had the opportunity to meet with a representative from Senator Dole's staff, as well as with Senator Burr and Congressman Patrick McHenry.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

There were no Board information and/or possible action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dottie Darsie announced the Community Board Meeting at South Caldwell High School, Monday, February 26, 2007 at 7:00 PM, the next regular board meeting on Monday, March 12, 2007, 7:00 PM in Board Room of the Education Center and the Board Retreat, March 15, 2007, 3:00 PM in the Staff Development Room of the Education Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, and upon motion of Tim Hawkins, second by Linda Coffey, and the unanimous approval of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Signed _____
Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education