

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

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 6:00 PM on February 13, 2012, 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. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services  
Dr. Caryl B. Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services  
Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services  
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**

Reverend Dale Fisher, Executive Director, Caldwell Baptist Association and member of the Caldwell County Schools Clergy Crisis Support Team, gave the invocation. Lindsay Woods, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student and Karleigh Looper, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, Granite Falls Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Upon motion of Duane Knight and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved a request to add Item XI., B., Request for Proposals of Custodial Services, under Board Information/Possible Action. Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda, including the addition, 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 January 9, 2012, Board Work Session minutes, the January 9, 2012, Regular Board Meeting minutes and the January 9, 2012, Closed Session minutes as presented by Chairman Darrell Pennell.

### **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the "Student Spotlight" recipient, Leah Buchar, Senior at South Caldwell High School. A video was viewed by the board and audience outlining Leah's accomplishments and a certificate and lapel pin were presented to Leah by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the members of the Caldwell County Board of Education.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the Student Artwork Selections for the Education Center Art Gallery and a certificate and lapel pin were presented to the following students by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the members of the Caldwell County Board of Education: Yoselin Salas-Velasco, Whitnel; Timothy Gordon, Austin Massagee and Jared Petri, Hudson Middle School; Miller Kirkpatrick, Granite Falls Middle School; Mallory Guy, Stephen Burchette, and Erin Tarr, Hibriten High School; Leah Sherrill, Lindsey Brewer and Ali Berry, South Caldwell High School; Abby Her, Katie Simmons, Jesse Moore and Taylor Rudisill, West Caldwell High School.

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the following individuals for honors and recognitions and a certificate and lapel pin were presented to recipients by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the members of the Caldwell County Board of Education:

- Happy Valley School for its selection as a North Carolina finalist for the National Title I Distinguished School Award sponsored by the National Association of State Title I Directors and the United States Department of Education.
- Greta Rhuberg, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, Collettsville School, for winning the “Your Community” Photo Contest through the North Carolina Geographic Alliance Geography with her entry “Table Rock from Blowing Rock.” Greta presented a framed print of her winning photo to the board of education.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **INFORMATION – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Kathy Jo Eckard, CTE Director, Career Center, and teachers Vickie Reising and LeNora Styres, South Caldwell High School, updated the board on the Career Technical Education program. There are approximately 4,300 students enrolled in CTE, with 65 course offerings. The 2010-11 graduation rate for students with a CTE concentrator was 94%. Two new courses are being offered through a partnership between Microsoft and the State of North Carolina. These courses allow students to “industry certify” in Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access. Hibriten High School successfully piloted the program last year and South Caldwell High School has certified 70 students in Word, 75 students in PowerPoint, 23 students in Excel and 25 students in Access. The program provides the skills students need for workplace performance and helps prepare them for college. The Future Business Leaders of America program allows students to learn leadership skills in business and involves students in community service projects. South Caldwell High School is currently involved in two service projects; the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure and the March of Dimes. Students are also involved in regional, state and national FBLA competitions. DECA, formerly known as Distributive Education Clubs of America, is now known as an association of marketing students. Thirty-four members were enrolled in the DECA Program at South Caldwell High School. These students attended the regional conference with 16 students qualifying from their “industry role play” and the remainder through proficiency testing. DECA students adopted 61 “Head Start” pre-school students this year providing gifts at Christmas and delivering them to the students at their respective schools. Sixteen students will be participating in the DECA State competition and this spring the DECA Students will be busy developing their own “school store.”

**ACTION – 2012-2013 TRADITIONAL SCHOOL CALENDARS FOR AN  
ADDITIONAL ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD AND TWO ADDITIONAL  
CALENDARS FOR ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised that the first three calendar options previously placed on one month comment period at the January 9, 2012, board meeting would be placed on an additional one month comment period. He also presented two additional calendars that were drafted due to the Caldwell County Schools qualification for a "Good Cause Waiver."

OPTION 1: 180 Student Day Calendar – This is a "traditional" calendar that would be an option should the General Assembly remove the five additional instructional days.

OPTION 2: 180 Student Day Calendar with Waiver Approval – This calendar would be an option if the State Board of Education approves the waiver submitted by the district requesting the five instructional days be waived. In lieu of the five student days, two mandatory "Common Core" staff development days are included and ten minutes has been added to the school day.

OPTION 3: 185 Student Day Calendar – This calendar would take affect should the General Assembly maintain that five additional instructional days be added to school calendars.

OPTION 5 and OPTION 6: 185 Student Day Calendar with Good Cause Waiver – Local Education Agencies that have missed 8 instructional days within 4 years, over the last 10 years, qualify for a "Good Cause Waiver" provided by the State for two consecutive years. Qualified school systems will be allowed to begin school before August 25 and end before June 10. Option 5 calendar begins August, 13, 2012, and ends May 31, 2013. Option 6 calendar begins August 8, 2012, and ends May 24, 2013.

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Duane Knight, the board unanimously approved to place the attached three draft traditional school calendars on an additional one month comment period and the two additional calendar options on a one month comment period 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 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 2011-2012**

Upon motion of Teresa Branch 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.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dottie Darsie reported on the Federal Relations Network she attended in Washington, DC, where updates are received on pending and needed federal legislation and a day is spent on Capitol Hill. It was noted at the conference that typically 200 bills are passed during the General Session of Congress; however, only 60 bills have been passed, 20 of which were for renaming post offices. The main issue addressed was lobbying to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind legislation currently in both the Senate and the House. Delegates pleaded for relief from expensive and non-productive areas of the current legislation. Senator Burr noted that what happens from now through April is most likely all that will get accomplished this year due to the election. He also noted the four areas that absorb the greatest amount of federal spending; Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on the national debt. These four expenditures absorb approximately 69% of funds received by the Federal government, noting that if this trend continues within the next 10 to 12 years, 100% of funding received would go to these four areas eliminating discretionary funding. Ms. Darsie noted that discretionary funds include funding for education. Delegates also met briefly with Congressman Patrick McHenry to express concerns. The National Department of Education has granted waivers to 10 states exempting them from some of the sanctions of No Child Left Behind. North Carolina is planning to apply for a waiver and will be in the next round of applications. If a waiver is granted, it may give local education agencies some flexibility and relief from these expensive sanctions. Mrs. Darsie encouraged the public to write letters to our Congressman and let our voices be heard.

## **BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chairman Darrell Pennell referred to the attached Board Committees for the 2011-2012 school year, noting there were no changes, additions or corrections.

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved to immediately suspend receiving "Request for Proposals" to privatize custodial services for the school system.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Darrell Pennell announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, March 12, 2012, 6:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board and upon motion of Teresa Branch, second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education