

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

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on July 09, 2007, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

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

Chris Becker was absent.

The following administrative staff were present:

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

Chairman Dottie Darsie called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Dottie Darsie opened the meeting for public comment. Tom McRary, Lorene Reece, Reggie Ford, Charles Stephenson, and Leann Prestwood spoke on behalf of Joe Hatfield, Principal, Happy Valley School, requesting that the board and superintendent retain him as the principal of Happy Valley School. Some of the reasons expressed were that constant changes in leadership has impacted the school negatively in the past ten years; new principals bring faculty changes that influence the students negatively; Mr. Hatfield is a great fit for Happy Valley; he is a strong disciplinarian and great with the students and parents; well liked in the community and has established a good relationship with business/industry in community.

Cathy Cook, Angie Macchia, Lisa Greene, Deanne Macchia and Jane Macchia spoke on behalf of Byron Jones, Assistant Principal, Hudson Middle School, requesting that the board and superintendent retain him as the Assistant Principal at Hudson Middle School. Some of the reasons expressed were Mr. Jones's firm, but fair, discipline tactics; consistency in the treatment of faculty and staff; he is a huge support to the faculty; he has a good relationship with students; and his personal motto of "Hornet Pride" instilled at the school.

Christy Triplett also signed up to speak during public comment, but did not attend the meeting.

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mike Peake, Principal, South Caldwell High School, gave the invocation and Ashley Becker and Lindsey Potter, 7th Grade Students, Granite Falls Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ACTION - AGENDA**

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the proposed modified agenda as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

## **ACTION - MINUTES**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 11, 2007, Regular Board Meeting, the June 11, 2007, Closed Session, the June 28, 2007, Special Session and the June 28, 2007, Closed Session.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone recognized Mr. Chris Burton for his retirement from administrative service with the Caldwell County Schools. However, Mr. Burton was not at the meeting to receive his recognition and plaque.

Dr. Helen Hall presented a certificate and lapel pin to Kathy Hartley, Site Director, Granite Falls Elementary WrapAround, in recognition for earning her five-star license through the North Carolina Division of Child Development. Ms. Hartley invited her staff to the podium to be recognized for their involvement in achieving this license.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone also introduced Mr. David Colwell, new principal at West Caldwell High School, to those in attendance at the board meeting.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Steve Brooks, Director, Spartan Alliance for Youth, made a presentation regarding the vision he has for the students in the Sovereign Alliance for Youth Program (SAY) at South Caldwell High School. Mr. Brooks introduced Dr. Duncan Waite with the International Center for Leadership and Social Change, Texas State University, who advised the board that Texas State University fully supports the vision for the SAY Program and is eager to partnership with the Caldwell County Schools.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to go into Closed Session at 7:46 PM to discuss personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sect. 143-318.11 (A) (1).

## **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the Closed Session at 8:45 PM and return to open session.

## **INFORMATION – UPDATE – LESSONS ON WHEELS**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised that due to the grant ending in April 2007, a private donor has agreed to fund the Lessons on Wheels program for five years through the Education Foundation and Caldwell County Smart Start will administer the day-to-day operations.

## **INFORMATION – ADMINISTRATIVE REASSIGNMENTS**

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone announced the following administrative reassignments for the 2007-2008 school year: Joe Hatfield, Principal at Happy Valley School to Assistant Principal at Hudson Middle School, Byron Jones, Assistant Principal at Hudson Middle School to an Art Teacher position and Chris Ackerman, Principal, West Lenoir Elementary School to Assistant Principal at South Caldwell High School.

## **ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO POLICY #3620-STUDENT HEALTH**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously agreed to place the attached Board Policy 3620, Student Health, on a one month comment period following a presentation by Sharon Barlow, Social Worker, Caldwell County Schools and Dr. David Masters, Pediatrician, Lenoir, NC.

## **ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

## **ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2007-2008**

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2007-2008, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell gave a brief update regarding the June Special Issues Seminars she attended. The following sessions were discussed: Board Goal Setting, Evaluating the Superintendent, and Getting Students Involved in Leadership Roles. There was also a legislative update provided. Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell noted that the Caldwell County Board of Education is on target in each of these areas.

## **BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Chairman Dottie Darsie gave an explanation and shared results from the recent evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. She noted that Dr. Stone had “passed with flying colors” and read the following comments from board member’s individual evaluation forms: “We feel that Dr. Stone is very well informed of school system financial issues, monitors spending, and makes sound recommendations for the school system’s finances. He is positive, fair, and has an open relationship with the board, listens to feedback and suggestions from the board, and is willing to discuss differences of opinion. He is building strong, positive relationships with the community, the media, and other government agencies. He delegates authority and tasks appropriately and is actively involved in seeking high quality personnel and utilizing their skills. He offers strong educational leadership to the board and staff and represents the educational philosophy of the school system to the community. He has high professional standards for himself and others. Dr. Stone is clearly working to establish his own identity as the leader of Caldwell County Schools. A very good example is his focus on the importance of everyone reading. He is an excellent communicator and has quickly become a valued and respected member of our community. He demonstrates a sincere interest in what is happening in the classroom, which means a great deal to teachers. Overall, he is doing a fabulous job.” Chairman Dottie Darsie also noted that the board “looks forward to many more productive years in working with Dr. Stone in making Caldwell County Schools the best place for children to learn.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Dottie Darsie announced the next regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 13, 2007, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, upon motion of Tim Hawkins, second by Mike LaBrose, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education