

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 6:00 PM on March 14, 2011, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins
Teresa Branch
Linda Coffey
Dottie Darsie
Dr. Helen Hall
Darrell Pennell

Chris Becker was absent.

The following administrative staff members were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
Dr. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services
Dr. Caryl 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

Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Reverend Frank Hall, Pastor, Tabernacle Advent Christian Church, and Member, Clergy Crisis Support Team, gave the invocation. Ashley Branham, Granite Falls Middle School Student, David Branham, Dudley Shoals Elementary School Student, and Kimberly Branham, Career Center Middle College Student, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION – AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Upon motion of Darrell Pennell and second by Teresa Branch, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 14, 2011, Regular Board Meeting as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone presented NCSBA Certificates for 2009-2010 board training to the following board members: Chris Becker, Certificate of Achievement; Dottie Darsie, Silver Award; Dr. Helen Hall, Certificate of Advanced Achievement; and former Board of Education Member Mike LaBrose, Diploma of Honor.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the "Student Spotlight" recipient, Kelsy Smith, 12th grade student at the Caldwell Early College High School. A video was viewed by the board and audience outlining Kelsy's accomplishments and a certificate and lapel pin were presented to Kelsy by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the members of the Caldwell County Board of Education.

School Community Services Director Libby Brown announced the Honors and Recognitions recipients for the month of March and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the members of the Caldwell County Board of Education presented certificates and lapel pins to the following individuals/groups:

- National Board Certified Teachers - Carly Johnson and Sharon Green, Caldwell Career Center Middle College; Amanda Coffey, Sharon Hubbard, Amy McMasters, and Jennifer White, Collettsville School; Nadia Beam, Tonya Bentley, Christy Crouse, and David Johnson, Dudley Shoals Elementary School; Mary Bowman, Gamewell Elementary School; Tammy Beck, Tracey Holton, and Libby Yount, Granite Falls Elementary School; Missy Hampton-Hogan, Cathy MacDonald, and Kelly Payne, Hibriten High School; Ashley Moss, and Erin Penley, Hudson Elementary School; Leah Spicer, Hudson Middle School; Richard Shea Bridges, Oak Hill School; Suzanne Singer and Celeste Woodruff, Sawmills Elementary School; Marcus Dula, Ben Kohnle, Kelly Kooiker, Richard McKercher and Lenora Styres, South Caldwell High School; Ann Matthews, West Lenoir Elementary School; and Ben Belton and Amanda Cottrell, Whitnel Elementary School.
- State Honors Chorus Students – Elementary: Claire Story, 5th Grade, Granite Falls Elementary School, Adrian Evans, Chorus Teacher; Maggie Hall, 5th Grade, Hudson Elementary School, Erin Penley, Chorus Teacher. Middle School: Christina Stewart, and Dillon McDonald, 8th grade, Hudson Middle School, Sherry January, Chorus Teacher.
- NC State BETA Club Winners - South Caldwell High School - Kaylee Brookshire, 1st place, Fine Arts; Jared Dremann, 2nd place, Science, Rebekah Carswell, 3rd place, Colored Pencil Drawing and Patrick Livingston, 3rd place, US History; Jonathan Hass BETA Club Advisor; Hibriten High School - Sidney Fail, 1st place, Presidential Campaign Skit; Harrison Carter, 2nd place, Music and Fine Arts Competition and Douglas Terry, 2nd place, Chemistry; Shawna Greeno-Bridges, Beta Club Advisor.
- Caldwell County School's Spelling Bee Winners - 1st Place, Logan Clark, Hudson Middle School; 2nd Place, Kenny Self, Collettsville School and 3rd Place, Rhyann Stone, Granite Falls Middle School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins opened the meeting for public comment. Maleah Haas, Parent, addressed the board regarding Senate Bill 8 as it relates to School Board Policy 6820, System-wide Reduction in Force – Teachers. She noted that the policy is 15 years old and states "Teachers with the least seniority will be first to be reduced in force." She requested that the board revisit the policy as sometimes the teacher with the most seniority might not necessarily be the teacher that is most effective. Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins asked Mrs. Haas to email her comments to board members for further review.

INFORMATION – UPDATE – CHILD FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

Alicia Stanislaw, CFST School Nurse and Ashley McKinney, CFST School Social Worker, West Caldwell High School, updated the board on the success of the Child Family Support Team at West Caldwell High School. CFST provides expert teams of school/mental health care providers to students. Many times the team is the only medical person a student may ever see. The CFST initiative began in August 2006. Since its inception, West Caldwell High School's attendance has improved by an average of 1.8 days, the dropout rate went from 91 to 56 students, graduation rates have increased from 61.3% to 73.8% and there has been a 70% decrease in the pregnancy rate. Of the students that did get pregnant, only 1.7% became pregnant again, compared to the national average of 20%. The graduation rates have also increased for teen parents from 5% in 2007-08 to 12% in 2009-10. In 2005-06, the Caldwell County Schools reported 1,718 suspensions and expulsions. In 2008-09, reported suspensions and expulsions decreased to 1,397, a direct result of having CFST in place. All 23 Caldwell County Schools have at least one full-time school counselor; however, 19 of the schools share a nurse and/or social worker with only partial weekly coverage based on medical and psychiatric needs of the students, families and individual schools. In 2010, the state cut funding for 1 team from all 21 North Carolina counties being served. There are four state funded teams left in the Caldwell County Schools and the school system funded the fifth team in 2010-11. Ms. Stanislaw and Ms. McKinney implored the board to do all they could to secure funding for CFST as today's school population is more medically and emotionally diverse than ever before.

ACTION – 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDARS FOLLOWING A ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, Linda Coffey, Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and Darrell Pennell, the attached 2011-2012 Traditional School Calendar and the 2011-2012 Career Center Middle College and Caldwell Early College High School calendar were approved as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. Teresa Branch opposed the motion.

ACTION – PROPOSED REVISED BOARD POLICY 3120 – TRANSFER OF STUDENTS FOLLOWING A ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Darrell Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 3120, Transfer of Students, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 8 – CHARTER SCHOOLS

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached resolution opposing Senate Bill 8 as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

INFORMATION – PERSONNEL MATTERS

Dr. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services, presented the attached personnel matters to the board for information only.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion of Teresa Branch and second by Dottie Darsie, 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 2010-2011

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Darrell Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached revised student transfer requests for 2010-2011, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson.

ACTION – BIDS FOR DAVENPORT A+ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOFING PROJECT

Upon motion of Darrell Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached low bid to replace the roof at Davenport A+ Elementary School to Bond-Tek as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – LOTTERY APPLICATION FOR DAVENPORT A+ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached Lottery Application for Davenport A+ Elementary School as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – BIDS FOR DAVENPORT A+ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HVAC REPLACEMENT

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Darrell Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached low bid to replace the HVAC system at Davenport A+ Elementary School to Hickory Sheet Metal as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – BIDS FOR HUDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC REPLACEMENT

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved the attached low bid to replace the HVAC system at Hudson Middle School to William C. Reynolds Company, Inc., as presented by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jeff Church.

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

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Teresa Branch, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments to the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund and the Federal Grants Fund as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Helen Hall gave a report on the NCSBA Special Issues Seminars Conference she attended, noting it was an "eye-opening, challenging" workshop. Issues discussed ranged from the anticipated lean budget, discipline issues, school lunch program changes and cyber-bullying.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins read the attached resignation from Chris Becker, Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education. Board members regretfully received the resignation and Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins advised that the board would be accepting applications to fill this vacancy from March 15, 2011 through April 15, 2011. The vacancy application will be posted on the Caldwell County Schools Website and made available at all schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins announced the Community Board of Education meeting on March 28, 2011, 5:30 PM at South Caldwell High School and the next regular board meeting on Monday, April 18, 2011, 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 Dottie Darsie, second by Linda Coffey, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education