

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on May 17, 2010, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

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

The following administrative staff members were present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
Dr. 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

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director, gave the invocation and Chris Becker, Board Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following additions and corrections: Add Item VI, Honors and Recognitions, Robotics Team; delete Item VII, A. 1., Same Gender Classroom Update; add Item IX, A. 2. Whitnel Right of Way; and add Item XII. C., Board Officers, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone. Board Member Mike LaBrose added Item XII. D. Board Member Vacancy.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dottie Darsie presented a certificate, a Caldwell County School's lapel pin and a First Robotics Competition 2010 Medallion for Inspiration and Recognition for Science and Technology to the South Caldwell High School Robotics Team who were awarded the Number 1 Seated Rookie Team in the first NC Robotics Competition directed by Michael Bingham, and mentors Chris Aiken and Dean Norman. Mrs. Darsie also thanked Google for their technical support and the Ed Foundation that sponsored the trip to Raleigh.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 19, 2010, Regular Board Meeting, and the April 19, 2010, Closed Session meeting.

ACTION – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 3620, STUDENT HEALTH AND BOARD POLICY 7211, ABSTINENCE UNTIL MARRIAGE CURRICULUM

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved to place the attached revisions to Board Policies 3620, Student Health and Policy 7211, Abstinence Until Marriage Curriculum, on a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – NOTIFICATION OF TEACHERS ELIGIBLE FOR CAREER STATUS

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached Notification of Teachers Eligible for Career Status as presented by Associate Superintendent Dr. Trish Johnson.

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 – QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BOND APPLICATION

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached application to borrow up to 1.9 million dollars for the grading of a new middle school through the low interest or no interest Qualified School Construction Bonds, and an additional 8.1 million dollars for school construction if there are additional funds left over in this year's allotment as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – WHITNEL RIGHT-OF-WAY

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached Right-of-Way at Whitnel Elementary School as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

ACTION – LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE 2010-2011 BUDGET REQUEST

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached Local Current Expense 2010-2011 Budget Request as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mike LaBrose gave a report on the NSBA Conference. Mr. LaBrose noted that the conferences he attended were regarding board member leadership, major changes in the legislation of No Child Left Behind, Closing of the Achievement Gap; and legal issues that concern boards of education.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report regarding the latest Facilities Committee. The last substantial meeting of the committee was on March 29, 2010, where final drawings were examined closely in preparation for the possible construction of a new middle school. The Hudson Elementary and Sawmills Elementary Schools additions were also reviewed. The April 15, 2010, was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010, to discuss current and projected projects.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tim Hawkins gave a report on the latest Board Budget/Finance Committee. Mr. Hawkins noted we requested an additional 1.3% increase in the local budget to help cover increases to health insurance and retirement for locally paid teachers. The Governor released her budget to the Senate; it will then go to the House. The school system is looking at a very tough year financially; however, it is the board's main priority to preserve jobs and protect positions. As positions become vacant, the school system is choosing not fill them until the budget is finalized.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report on the April 20, 2010, County Commissioner/Board of Education Liaison Committee Meeting. Dr. Hall noted that Steve Walker with CBSA Architects reviewed the final drawings of the projected new middle school. The Commissioners had many questions and clarifications were made by Mr. Walker regarding issues like DOT's role in response to roads and traffic, the wetlands report now in the hands of the core of engineers and the value of the water source heat pumps at the new middle school. Also discussed were the advantages of the site such as the geo-thermal heating system, shared busing and shared fields and overall advantages created. Mr. Walker did an excellent job of explaining the costs of the grading, which includes paving and sidewalks, not just moving dirt. Funding sources were also discussed with the most current figures and an analysis of cash flow for capital projects from both the Qualified School Construction Bonds and the money to borrow traditionally for the new middle school. Commissioners requested additional information for the April 27, 2010, meeting and the board is standing firm on their position for the new middle school needed in Caldwell County.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

The attached 2010-2011 Schedule of Board Meetings was reviewed with explanations made by Superintendent Dr. Stone.

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved to add two more years to Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone's contract to remain in effect through June 30, 2014.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

In the election for the position of Chairman of the Board, Chris Becker, Tim Hawkins, Mike LaBrose, Dr. Helen Hall, Linda Coffey and Dottie Darsie voted for Dr. Helen Hall. Dr. Helen Hall was elected Chairman.

In the election for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board, Chris Becker, Mike LaBrose, Tim Hawkins, Dr. Helen Hall, Linda Coffey and Dottie Darsie voted for Tim Hawkins. Tim Hawkins was elected Vice-Chairman.

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Tim Hawkins, Chris Becker, Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall, and Dottie Darsie, the board approved to take applications and an essay for anyone interested in filling the Caldwell County Board of Education's seat on an interim basis, vacated by the death of Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, beginning May 18, 2010, through June 1, 2010. Each application will consist of the person's personal information and the essay will consist of why they want to fill the seat until the next election in November 2010. There will be a separate two year election to fill this seat through 2012, while the other incumbents running for reelection will be voted on for a four-year term. The applications/essays will be forwarded to Dawn Weese, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Mrs. Weese will copy any information received to all board members and the Caldwell County Board of Education will make a motion to fill the seat at the June 14, 2010, board of education meeting. Linda Coffey opposed the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the next regular board meeting on Monday, June 14, 2010, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center and the Special Session of the Board on June 28, 2010, at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education