

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on November 3, 2008, 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
Chris Becker
Dr. Helen Hall
Tim Hawkins
Mike LaBrose

Linda Coffey was absent.

The following administrative staff was present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
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

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

Celeste Woodruff, 3rd Grade Teacher, Sawmills Elementary School, gave the invocation and Haley Cook, Allie Hadschin, Landon Powell and Issac Waters, 3rd Grade; Sawmills Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 13, 2008, regular board meeting and the October 20, 2008, community board meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Dottie Darsie, Members of the Caldwell County Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone presented a certificate, lapel pin and a plague to Kaeti Groome, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs, in recognition for 35 years of service to public education and 32 years to Caldwell County and to Ervil Anderson, Director of Student Support Services in recognition for 34 years of service to public education and 33 years to Caldwell County.

Chris Becker presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following recipients of Master's Degrees: Carly Johnson, Career Center Middle College, Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Dana Hicks, Collettsville School, Elementary Education, Appalachian State University; Denise Schulz, Granite Falls Elementary School, Academically Gifted, UNC-Charlotte; Celeste Woodruff, Sawmills Elementary School, Reading Education, Appalachian State University; Thomas Perry, South Caldwell High School, History Education, Appalachian State University; Benjamin Belton, Whitnel School, Music, Appalachian State University; and Danielle Duncan, Whitnel School, Elementary Education, Appalachian State University. The following teachers were also recognized as earning their Master's Degree, but were unable to attend the meeting: Alex Martin, Hibriten High School, Biology, Appalachian State University; Kathy Hobbs, South Caldwell High School, School Administration, Gardner-Webb University; Matthew Ingram, South Caldwell High School, History Education, Appalachian State University and Michelle Rogers, South Caldwell High School, Family and Consumer Science Education, Appalachian State University.

Mike LaBrose presented a certificate and lapel pin to Madison Rabey, Zoie Sain and Madeline Smith, Hudson Middle School, in recognition for being selected to participate in the State Middle School Honors Chorus, Sherry January, Director.

Chairman Dottie Darsie presented a certificate and lapel pin to Lower Creek Elementary School in recognition for winning the President's Challenge Physical Fitness and Sports Award for the 11th consecutive year and placing second in the nation with more than 40 million students participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Kathy Terrell, Physical Education Instructor.

INFORMATION – 2007-2008 AUDIT REPORT

Robert Brown, CPA, Boggs, Crump and Brown CPAs, gave a report on the findings of the 2007-2008 Audit Report.

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

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached budget amendments to the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund and Federal Grants Fund as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICIES-3830-STUDENT SEX OFFENDERS, 9140-REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS AND 8410-LIMITED CLAIM SETTLEMENT

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved to place the attached proposed new Board Policies 3830 - Student Sex Offenders, 9140 - Registered Sex Offenders and 8410 - Limited Claim Settlement, on a one-month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO BOARD POLICY 3300 – STUDENT CONDUCT

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the attached proposed revision to board policy 3300-Student Conduct, for a one-month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Dr. Helen Hall, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Trish Johnson.

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2008-2009

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2008-2009, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Trish Johnson in the absence of Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

INFORMATION – SURPLUS SALE

Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, provided the board with the attached list of items that were sold at the surplus sale on Wednesday, October 8, 2008.

INFORMATION – FUEL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church advised the board that the school system energy costs were \$296,702.00. Without the four-day work week and our energy management program, the cost would have been approximately \$500,000; a cost avoidance of \$204,000. Dr. Church also noted that the county's athletic directors met to discuss ways to conserve energy and decided that coaches will not idle activity buses, and when possible schools will play at the same site or play "double-headers" in order to share transportation costs among teams. They also plan to review the schedule for non-conference games.

ACTION – 2009-2013 TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the 2009-2013 Technology Plan, summary attached, as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. Helen Hall updated the board regarding the recent Board/Budget Finance Committee meeting. The committee met with Dan Boggs and Robert Brown of Boggs, Crump and Brown, CPAs, who discussed fraud risks as it applies to the Caldwell County Schools Board of Education, the boards' role in safe guarding against fraud risks within the system, cash disbursements and its means of accountability and control, and erroneous financial reporting risks.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Mike LaBrose gave a report regarding the session he attended at the NCSBA District 7

meeting with the North Carolina High School Association. The session reviewed the high incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct in various counties and the association's concern about sportsmanship, ejections, and violence that has and can occur across the state. Efforts on training for athletic directors and coaches are being upgraded to address these issues. They also discussed ideas on how to save energy and fuel costs.

Linda Coffey reported on Judge Manning's ruling that various state agencies owe \$747 million dollars to local school systems across North Carolina. These agencies have wrongly kept administrative fines owed to the NC school systems. The bulk of the money is owed by the Department of Revenue. The judgment orders that the funds be distributed to all public school boards based on student enrollment and are to be used exclusively for school technology since North Carolina is behind on providing basic technology equipment needed for students to be prepared for the 21st Century.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

Dr. Helen Hall reported on the Legal Updates session she and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone attended. Allison Schaffer and Leanne Winner, NCSBA, distributed and reviewed a summary of the 2008 statewide bills. Dr. Hall reviewed five bills of importance: (1) Students with Disabilities Amendment, now requires a basic knowledge of the child's needs for basic services related to disciplinary action, amends the definition of education services to align with the federal definition, and amends the appropriateness of homebound instruction, (2) HB 15- allows personal leave time to be taken without penalty, (3) HB 933-Jessica Lunsford Act of NC gives direction for implementing how registered sex offenders can enter schools as long as they are attending school regarding the educational needs of their children, (4) HB-2360 allows local boards to assign Nationally Board Certified teachers to full time mentorships for up to three years, and (5) SB-1541-Interstate Compact Education of Military Children includes provisions to better serve children of military families due to frequent moves and parental deployment. Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone also elaborated on the Jessica Lunsford Act and the Military Compact bills.

Chairman Dottie Darsie reported on the session presented by the Student Services Division of the Burke County Schools. They reported on three difference areas: (1) Response to Intervention or Response to Instruction whereby school systems should not wait for children to fail before the school system addresses the problem, (2) Positive Behavioral Support which recognizes the value in providing students with appropriate behavior strategies and awarding students for good behavior instead of just punishing students for bad behavior, and (3) the mental health component for some students. Burke County is contracting with their local health care provider and looking at becoming a mental health provider themselves within the next year or two.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell reported on the recent Board of Education/County Commissioner Liaison Committee meeting. Dr. Stone advised the committee that \$900,000 was distributed to teachers for the ABC bonuses in their September paychecks, but the board is lobbying for the teachers to have a lot more. He also announced that the state is projecting a deficit budget next year. Bobby White asked about the state bond prospects for next year. Dr. Pennell advised that we are lobbying hard, along with the North Carolina School Boards Association, for the state to have a bond referendum for facilities. The school system has a 10 year plan of facility needs; however, the funds are not available to complete them. Dr. Pennell encouraged those in attendance to contact their legislators and ask them to support a state bond referendum, which would benefit schools statewide. The County Commissioners asked how they could assist with the school systems long range plans and have requested a list of the school

systems top 5 needs or wants in terms of facilities. The board will develop the five items at the fall board retreat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dottie Darsie announced the Community Board Meeting on October 20, 2008, 7:00 PM at Hibriten High School, and noted it was to be held on the third Monday in the month due to the P/V day scheduled for October 27, 2008. She also announced that the next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2008, 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Education Center and advised it was on the first Monday of the month due to scheduling conflicts with the state's school board association meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, upon motion of Tim Hawkins, second by Linda Coffey, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education