

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met for a work session at 4:00 PM on November 7, 2011, in the Staff Development 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. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services
Dr. Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services
Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services
Karla Miller, Finance Officer, Caldwell County Schools
Libby Brown, School-Community Relations Director

Chairman Darrell Pennell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION

Chairman Darrell Pennell called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and asked Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins to give the invocation.

PARENT CONCERN – PARKING FEES

Rena Pilkenton addressed the board regarding the \$30.00 parking fee currently in place at the high schools. She has a 16 year old daughter attending Hibriten High School and feels the fee is excessive. She was told the fee covers sticker costs, parking lot maintenance and SRO officer security for the parking lot; however, the Student Handbook says that the school is not responsible for damage to vehicles, so what do the security services provide? She was also told that other surrounding counties charge more, which she feels is an excuse. The parking lot maintenance should be provided by the city/county taxes that are paid, as well as the security that SRO officers provide. SRO officers are school officials and our tax dollars should already be allocated for them. Car insurance is also very high for a teenager and they are already required to have their car inspected, which is an additional cost. She feels that students are being used as a funding vehicle and to tow a vehicle out of the parking lot for not paying the fee is sending the wrong message to students. Towing should be stopped altogether. She noted that Edgecombe and Vance County Schools have no parking fee for students and feels that the board should review the policy and either decrease the parking sticker fee to five or ten dollars, or do away with it all together. She left a signed petition for the board to review. Chairman Darrell Pennell thanked Mrs. Pilkenton for her time and advised that the board would take her comments into consideration.

GCA PRESENTATION

Russell Leboff, Senior Sales Director, Scott Zimmerman, Senior Regional Manager and Darren Kreakie, Human Resources Manager, GCA Services Group, addressed the board regarding their proposed in-house custodial services program for the school system. GCA would be the employer for the school system's custodians and the custodians would work for them instead of for the Caldwell County Schools. They reviewed employee transition, savings to the school system, training, benefits, wages, insurance and tax set up for custodians, worker's compensation, the recruiting and hiring process, recognition programs, as well as supervision and time benefits for school administration. GCA noted the school system would increase their custodial headcount by 20 to 30 people and could save up to 1.5 million dollars over a five year period. The board agreed for GCA to meet with the board's Finance and Facilities Committees to discuss the details prior to making a recommendation.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services, Dr. Caryl Burns, updated the board on the attached Caldwell County Schools Strategic Plan Summary for 2010-2015. She reviewed each goal, summarized the target, and explained the rating system advising board members what was being accomplished on each target and what targets need to be addressed.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, Dr. Jeff Church, updated the board on the progress of a new middle school. The attached fund balance summary was distributed and Dr. Church noted that ADM monies are completely gone and the costs of the building had increased \$729,000. Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins noted that the County Commissioners are willing to take a look at a new school without the auditorium addition and Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone noted that we would keep the project in the forecast.

DINNER

The board recessed for dinner at 5:30 PM and Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins returned thanks for the meal.

BOARD POLICIES FOR REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone addressed the following board policies for possible additions and revisions to be addressed at the December 12, 2011, Board of Education meeting:

- Policy 4310, Community Use of School Facilities – The attached revisions were discussed and approved to place on comment period at the December 12, 2011, Board Meeting.
- Policy 3300, Student Code of Conduct – Board members discussed whether to specifically address students wearing "pajama" type apparel to school on Page 14, Section 15, under Inappropriate Dress. Members reached consensus that the issue should be dealt with at the school level by administration and not be included in the policy language.
- Policy 5200, Employment of Administrators and 6610, Hiring Procedures – Regarding the residency requirement for administrators; revise the language to require the Superintendent, Associate Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to live in Caldwell County and remove the residency requirement completely for principals and assistant principals. These revisions will be placed on comment period at the December 12, 2011, Board Meeting.
- Policy 9500, Public's Right to Know – A 25 cent per sheet administrative cost will be required for extensive copy requests. The board policy will remain as is with changes in administrative procedure only.

BUDGET UPDATE

Karla Miller distributed the attached monthly financial report through October 31, 2011, and reported that the school system has spent approximately 33% of the budget; therefore, we are on schedule regarding expenses. She noted that the Board Budget/Finance Committee met with the auditors and the school system had no exceptions for 2010-2011. The auditors will give their report at the December board meeting.

CONVENE TO OPEN SESSION FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2011, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Teresa Branch, the board unanimously agreed to suspend the work session at 6:55 PM and convene to open session to hold the November 7, 2011, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

RECONVENE TO BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously agreed to reconvene to the Board of Education Work Session at 7:25 PM.

SCIENCE CENTER PROPOSAL

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone addressed the attached proposal regarding the Patterson Science Institute with the board to see if there was any interest in pursuing this initiative. Board members discussed the proposal and will investigate the project further.

LEGAL UPDATES

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone updated the board on the attached list of *Laws Related to Public Education* highlighting several Bills of interest.

NCSBA POLICY SERVICE CONTRACT

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised the board that the Board of Education Policy Manual needs to be updated to reflect new legislation and adopting school board policies is one of the most important duties of a school board. The NCSBA offers tools to help school boards fulfill their policy making decisions. Dr. Stone submitted the attached sample agreement for the board to review and they agreed to place the agreement on the December board agenda for action.

STAKEHOLDERS INPUT

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone advised board members that one of the Southern Association's recommendations was for the school system to receive more input from our stakeholders. The school system is investigating economical ways to incorporate surveys that generate communication and feedback between the schools and the community. The AlertNow system that is currently in place may provide survey capabilities. We are also looking into simplifying the Five Year Strategic Plan to make it easier for the community to understand and to provide feedback, as well as allowing more feedback from our business partners and our volunteers.

BOE MEETING PROCEDURES

Dr. Stone reviewed some of the changes that were made to board meeting procedures and the following suggestions were made by the board: (1) June and July - no student art on display and no reception/recognition for students, (2) Keep spotlight on students for all months but June, July and August, (3) Have someone check in the individuals who are being honored at the board meeting in order to know who is in attendance and who is not. Recognize the individuals who are present first; then call the names of those who were unable to attend, (4) Have receptions for retirees and National Board Certification recipients in June and (5) During these receptions have a continuous PowerPoint presentation scrolling with pictures of the honorees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board and upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, second by Linda Coffey, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education