

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on November 9, 2009, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

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

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and Chris Becker were 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

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

SPECIAL GUEST

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall introduced Stan Kiser, newly appointed Manager of Caldwell County. Mr. Kiser greeted the board and gave a brief overview of his past experience and how pleased he is to be in Caldwell County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pat Mitchell, Human Resource Services Department, gave the invocation and Hunter Carswell, 4th Grade Student at Hudson Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following change: Item IX, B, Approval of Credit for Board Members, was added as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 12, 2009, regular board meeting, the October 12, 2009, Closed Session and the October 25, 2009, Community Board Meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Tim Hawkins presented a certificate and lapel pin to Gamewell Middle School in recognition for being selected as a Model School in the North Carolina Positive Behavior Support Initiative.

Linda Coffey 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 12th year and winning the National Championship with more than 40 million students participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge.

INFORMATION – UPDATE – CALDWELL COUNCIL ON ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Angie Ashley, Executive Director, Caldwell Council on Adolescent Health, gave an overview of the positive impact the Council is making in Caldwell County. She noted that in 2007, Caldwell County ranked 26th out of 100 counties with the most teen pregnancies and that in 2008, Caldwell County improved that ranking to 46th of 100 counties. She also gave a review of several programs such as “In the Know” that is part of the 7th through 9th Grade curriculum to educate students about health issues such as STD's, HIV, AIDS education and teen pregnancy. She highlighted the “Reach Out,” and Tobacco Prevention programs and noted that North Carolina has declined to a 19% teen smoking rate, which is the lowest level seen in North Carolina.

ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO BOARD POLICY 1350, SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ETHICS, FOLLOWING A ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 1350, School Board Member Ethics, following a one month comment period as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – APPROVAL OF CREDIT FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved Dottie Darsie and Tim Hawkins to receive training credit from the North Carolina School Board Association for the “Same Gender Classroom” workshop they attended as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Trish Johnson.

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2009-2010

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2009-2010, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Trish Johnson.

ACTION – LOCAL OPTION ABCs GOALS FOR GATEWAY AND HORIZONS SCHOOLS

Upon motion of Dottie Darsie and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached Local Option ABCs Goals for Gateway and Horizons Schools as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

INFORMATION – 2008-2009 AUDIT REPORT

Karla Miller, Finance Officer, introduced Robert Brown, CPA, with Boggs, Crump and Brown, CPAs, who gave a very positive report on the findings of the 2008-2009 Audit.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mike LaBrose updated the board on the NCSBA School Law Conference he recently attended. Topics discussed were Athletics, Coaches and Controversy regarding ethic violations that have occurred throughout the state; bullying policies and new regulation requirements to board policies; sex education and the legislative changes that have been made, and H1N1 virus updates and our legal obligations to communicate with the public.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall gave a report on the latest Facilities Committee meeting where a cash flow analysis was examined on how to fund the new Hibriten District middle school. Sample flyers were presented and the upcoming Public Forums were planned and discussed. There were also options considered regarding a second entrance into the existing William Lenoir Middle School. A 20 year facilities draft was also reviewed, as well as the needs to maintain our current facilities.

Dottie Darsie gave a report on the recent Board/Budget Finance Committee meeting. She noted the committee met with our accountants and discussed the final Audit Report, which the school board is very pleased with. She noted that the state's revenues are down approximately 1% over what was projected; however, the school system is cautiously optimistic that we won't have the reversions we suffered last year. She also advised that she and Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall represented the board at "The Coves" luncheon, a premier community being developed in the Collettsville area. The developers were interested in learning more about the school system and the schools for prospective buyers. They also mentioned their willingness to help the schools in areas like mentoring, job shadowing and volunteering. Dottie noted they seemed to be impressed with the information brought by her and Dr. Hall and they also provided them with the Caldwell County Schools Annual Report.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

There was no board information/possible action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the William Lenoir/Board of Education Community Forums scheduled for November 10, 2009, at William Lenoir Middle School; November 19, 2009, at Hibriten High School Media Center and December 1, 2009, at Hibriten High School's Media Center, all at 6:00 PM, and the next regular board meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009, 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 Dottie Darsie, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education