

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on October 11, 2010, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

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

The following administrative staff was present:

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
Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone

A video entitled "I am Tyler" was shown to the audience prior to the official opening of the board meeting to kick-off October as Ability Awareness Month.

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She also recognized Boy Scout Troop 265 that was in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Meredith Belk, 7th Grade Language/Arts Teacher, Hudson Middle School, gave the invocation and Blaine Massey, 7th Grade and Hannah Stallings, 8th Grade; Hudson Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following change: Item XIII, A3, Board Member Training Credit, was added as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Dottie, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 13, 2010, regular board meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the Caldwell County Board of Education members presented a certificate, lapel pin and a plaque to former principal's Teresa Branch, Katie Justice and Lewis Wright in honor of their retirement from the Caldwell County Schools.

Darrell Pennell presented certificates and lapel pins to the following recipients of Advanced Education Degrees: Frances Houston, William Lenoir Middle School, Masters in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Sarah Maney, Baton Elementary School, Masters in Elementary Reading, Walden University; and Tracy Roberts, South Caldwell High School, Master's Degree in Behavior/Emotional Handicapped, Appalachian State University.

Chris Becker presented certificates and lapel pins to the following recipients of School Administration Certification: Meredith Belk, Hudson Middle School, Masters in School Administration – Principal, Appalachian State University; Libby Carter, The Education Center, Add-On Licensure in School Administration – Principal, Appalachian State University; Candis Hagaman, Caldwell Early College High School, Add-On Licensure in School Administration – Principal, Appalachian State University and Donna McGee, Caldwell Early College High School, Add-On Licensure, School Administration – Principal, Gardner-Webb University.

Linda Coffey presented a certificate and lapel pin to the following students whose artwork is on display in the Education Center Art Gallery during the month of September: Lea Calloway, Hunter Gentry and Samuel Ace, Baton Elementary; Taylor Faherty, Colton Kirby, Megan Minton, Savanna Davidson, Kevin Lopez and Fiona Docherty, Dudley Shoals Elementary; Christian Yates, Nicole Matamor, and Teonte Felder, Valmead Elementary; Savannah Moulton, Roxanna Rangel and Cassey Vaught, West Lenoir Elementary; and Jennifer Soto, Savanna Sides and Alexis Cable, Whitnel Elementary.

ACTION – MOTION TO SUPPORT NCSBA EFFORTS TO SEEK CLARITY FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NORTH CAROLINA

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved to support NCSBA's efforts to seek clarity from the Attorney General of North Carolina.

ACTION – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL ABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Upon motion of Darrell Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached resolution to designate the month of October to support National Ability Awareness Month as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – APPLICATION FOR BOARD MEMBER TRAINING CREDIT

Upon motion of Mike Labrose and second by Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved an application for Dottie Darsie to receive board member training credit as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion Dottie Darsie and second by Chris Becker, Chairman Helen Hall, Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, Linda Coffey, and Darrell Pennell, the board approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Dr. Trish Johnson. Mike LaBrose abstained from the vote.

ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2010-2011

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Dottie Darsie, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2010-2011, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Trish Johnson.

INFORMATION – UPDATE – ABC/AYP/DROP OUT REPORT

Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, gave a report to the board regarding the school system's progress on ABCs, AYP and the annual Drop Out Report. The Caldwell County School System achieved a 10% improvement in End of Grade math tests and a significant gain of 14.35 percent in End of Grade reading test scores in grades 3-8. Twenty-two of 26 schools made Expected or High Academic Growth status, the highest growth standards established by the state for elementary, middle and high school. Collettsville and Caldwell Early College were recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as Honor Schools of Excellence for academic achievement. High school student performance on End of Course tests jumped from 75% proficiency to 78% proficiency or above.

The Caldwell County Schools also reached its highest level of performance in the percentage of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Twenty-three of 26 schools made AYP, or 88 percent, up from 75% the previous year. The school system met 56 of 60 target goals, another improvement over last year's data.

The school system's graduation rate is up to 75.3%; although, the state has not released the statistics on the drop out rate.

Dr. Burns reported on the strategies used that were directly responsible for increasing our numbers. She advised that the Education Center added an elementary, middle and high school curriculum director and our data assessment system was realigned through a three year process of working with a data warehouse. Letterland and DIBELS were implemented at the elementary level that assists students with phonics, etc. for reading enhancement. More professional development was offered at the middle school level, i.e. "Breaking Ranks in Middle School" and Career and Technical Education was enhanced through "Project Lead the Way." "Future for Kids" was implemented in K through 8 and STEM subjects were also added. Improvements were made in regards to exceptional children at the high school level where there is now co-teaching. The school system continues to implement the Graduation Project as well. We are in the process of getting every school SACS accredited this year and have also completed our Five-Year Strategic Plan.

INFORMATION – 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 Audit. He noted that this is the school system's ninth consecutive clean audit and that the school system is well positioned financially for any financial situation that could come up in the future.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall updated the board on the NCSBA District 7 meeting she attended noting that there were panel discussions regarding upcoming legislation and the impending budget concerns for next year. There were no clear answers given on where local education agencies stand on local control of the school calendar and the chances that the Governor could take away LEAs Lottery funds to cover budget shortfalls was discussed. Ed Dunlap, with the NCSBA, gave an update on the budget and three clinics were provided. Chairman Hall attended a clinic entitled "I Learn" that focused on using technology to bridge the gap between savvy technically advanced students and those that are not as technically savvy. She noted that Mount Airy Schools are providing a "POD-touch" for each student in their school system at a cost of 150,000 per year for 3 years. They are eager to see if the results are positive.

Dottie Darsie reported to the board regarding the CUBE Conference she attended in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended a presentation regarding the value of charter schools and noted one charter school in Maryland has teachers that are certified like they are in public school and are required to provide all exceptional children's services. She also attended "The Great Kids Farm," an orphanage that was deeded to Baltimore 55 years ago and has been turned into a working farm. Students sell the produce to the local farmer's market and some of the schools have also started their own "school gardens." She also noted several other offerings at the conference regarding a Star Based Technical STEM program, a Social Media Session, a discussion on the movie "Waiting for Superman" highlighting a charter school in New York City and education for Latino students, noting it is the fastest growing minority group in America.

BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION

There was no board information or possible action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Dr. Helen Hall announced the Board of Education Fall Retreat on Monday, October 25, 2010, 4:00 PM, at Hibriten High School, the Community Board Meeting on October 25, 2010, 7:00 PM at Hibriten High School, and the next regular board meeting on Monday, November 8, 2010, 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 Vice-Chairman Tim Hawkins, second by Linda Coffey, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Signed:

Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education