

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 6:30 PM on October 12, 2009, in the Board Room of the Education Center, Lenoir, North Carolina.

The following members were present:

Dottie Darsie  
Chris Becker  
Linda Coffey  
Tim Hawkins  
Mike LaBrose

Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and Vice-Chairman Dr. Helen Hall were absent.

The following administrative staff was present:

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

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone was absent due to illness.

Dottie Darsie called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved to go into Closed Session to discuss a student matter pursuant to N.C.G.S. Sect. 143-318.11 (A) (1).

### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the closed session at 7:10 PM and return to open session at 7:15 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dottie Darsie opened the meeting for public comment. Amy Greene, parent and PTA/PTO representative for William Lenoir Middle School, addressed the board on the proposed new middle school to replace William Lenoir Middle School. Ms. Greene thanked Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church, and board members Dottie Darsie and Mike LaBrose for their patience and time regarding her concerns. She asked the board to consider the following items for action as they consider building a new school: (1) set the first meeting at William Lenoir; (2) provide ample notice of upcoming meetings; (3) invite the County Commissioners to participate in these forums; (4) disclose hurdles to construction openly; (5) prepare the new land for building; (6) use timber proceeds to defray preparation expense; (7) continue to augment fund balances if approval is delayed; (8) make preparations in advance of funding horizons so that deadlines are not missed; (9) communicate openly and transparently to the community as a whole; and (10) only accept new road for ingress and egress issues in conjunction with new site improvements.

## **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Susan Pope, Business Teacher, South Caldwell High School, gave the invocation and Thomas Horten, Dakota Cornett, Tabitha Vinson, Jordan Greene, Rayna Hudson Kalaisha Isbell, Khileigh Bowers, Destiny Ingle, Conner Dula, Patrick Miller, Noah McGuire and Yasman Ortiz, 2nd and 3rd Grade Students from West Lenoir 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 X, B4, Student Expulsion, was deleted as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

## **ACTION - MINUTES**

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 14, 2009, regular board meeting.

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Tim Hawkins presented a certificate and lapel pin to the Caldwell County Schools Finance Department for receiving the Certificate of Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the fifth consecutive year.

Mike LaBrose presented certificates and lapel pins to the following recipients of Advanced Education Degrees: Lynn Aydlett, West Lenoir Elementary School – Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, Appalachian State University; Tammy Beach, Gamewell Middle School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Tabitha Call, Davenport A+ School – Master’s Degree in Elementary Education, Appalachian State University; Sandy Church, Baton Elementary School – Master’s Degree in Instructional Technology Specialist, Appalachian State University; Marcus Dula, South Caldwell High School – Master’s Degree in Technology Education, Appalachian State University; Kelly Ervin, Gamewell Middle School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Melissa Hampton-Hogan, Hibriten High School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Patricia Hartley, Gamewell Middle School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Kimberly Hindman, Granite Falls Middle School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grade Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Stephen McMasters, West Caldwell High School – Master’s in Instructional Technology Specialist, Appalachian State University; Susan Pope, South Caldwell High School – Master’s Degree in School Administration-Principal, Gardner-Webb University; Robbie Powers, South Caldwell High School – Master’s Degree in Instructional Technology Specialist – Appalachian State University; Jeanie Robinson, Career Center Middle College – Master’s Degree Middle School Language Arts from Appalachian State University; Janice Smith, Hibriten High School – Master’s Degree in School Administrator-Principal, Appalachian State University; Bryan Speagle, Granite Falls Middle School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Jeanie Walker, Collettsville School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Mathematics, Appalachian State University; Michele Willis, Collettsville School – Master’s Degree in Middle Grades Language Arts, Appalachian State University; Courtney Wright, West Caldwell High School – Master’s Degree in School Counseling, Lenoir-Rhyne College; Reba Yarborough, Davenport A+ School – Advanced Degree in School Administrator, Superintendent – Appalachian State University; and Meredith Zur, Granite Falls Middle School – Master’s Degree in Reading, Appalachian State University.

## **INFORMATION – H1N1 VIRUS UPDATE**

Jill Duffy, Director, Student Support Services and Pam Barber, School Nurse, updated the board on the school system's plan and attendance concerning the H1N1 Flu Virus. The first case was confirmed in late August and the school system and Health Department have been working together to monitor school absences. The absentee rate for the first 30 days of school averaged 96.31%, which is normal. The second month attendance report is expected to be lower. Ms. Duffy thanked Libby Brown, School Community Services Director, for keeping the Caldwell County School's Website updated with information on the flu and noted that our Pandemic Plan would also be placed on the website. Staff and students are asked not to attend school until they no longer have a fever for 24 hours without the assistance of medication. The H1N1 vaccine is still not available; however, the "mist" is available and will be given to high risk individuals that work with sick people, pregnant women, EMS and health care employees and those who have chronic illnesses.

### **ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION TO BOARD POLICY 3120, TRANSFER OF STUDENTS, FOLLOWING A ONE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached revisions to Board Policy 3120, Transfer of Students, following a one month comment period as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

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

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved to place revisions to Board Policy 1350, School Board Member Ethics, on a one month comment period as presented by Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

### **ACTION – RESOLUTION – PERPETUAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE**

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached Perpetual Memorial Day Observance Resolution as presented by Eddie Tapper, American Legion, Hudson Post 392 and Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services Dr. Caryl Burns.

### **ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services, updated the board on changes to the Caldwell County Schools Mentor Training Program. Upon motion Tim Hawkins and second by Chris Becker, Dottie Darsie and Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the attached personnel matters as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services Trish Johnson. Mike LaBrose abstained from the vote.

### **ACTION – STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS FOR 2008-2009**

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the attached student transfer requests for 2009-2010, as presented by Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Trish Johnson.

## **INFORMATION – UPDATE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, provided the board with an update of school construction projects. He noted that the County Commissioner's approved 2.9 million dollars for additions and renovations to Hudson Elementary and Sawmills Elementary Schools. He also noted that the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2010, for Stimulus Package funding and noted that the Facilities Committee continues to work on the possibilities of a new William Lenoir Middle School.

## **ACTION – BIDS/ADDITIONS AT HUDSON ELEMENTARY AND SAWMILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Upon motion of Mike LaBrose and second by Chris Becker, the board unanimously approved the bids for Hudson Elementary School and Sawmills Elementary School to low bidder Marlow-Moss for additional classrooms and restrooms at Hudson Elementary School and additional classrooms, restrooms and cafeteria expansion at Sawmill Elementary School, as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services Dr. Jeff Church

## **ACTION – 2009-2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Tim Hawkins, the board unanimously approved the attached 2009-2010 Budget Resolution as presented by Finance Officer Karla Miller.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mike LaBrose updated the board on the NCSBA District 7 meeting he attended with other board members at Mooresville Intermediate School in Mooresville, NC. Mr. LaBrose noted how nice the new school facility was and appreciated the chance to get some good ideas if we build a new middle school. The focus of the meeting was on the budget crisis and that next year doesn't look any better. He also noted that the legislative summary was discussed and a learned that a Board Member Code of Ethics would be required for all boards of education. Each board member is now required to earn two additional credit hours in ethics training.

Chris Becker gave a report on the last Facilities Committee meeting and noted that CBSA Architects have drawn a possible rendering of the new William Lenoir Middle School. Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services, will make these plans available at the William Lenoir Middle School public forums. Plans are also being made to put signage at the site of the proposed new school at the corner of Highway 90 and 18 stating "Future Site of Hibriten District School." Mr. Becker also noted the three public forums that are being held in November. They are also looking at plans for a second entrance into the existing William Lenoir Middle School.

Tim Hawkins gave a report on the last William Lenoir Middle School Task Force meeting, which was created at the request of the County Commissioners. Three Caldwell County Board of Education members, two Caldwell County Board of County Commissioner members, the Caldwell County School's Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, the Interim Caldwell County Manager, as well as the Finance Officers of both boards comprise the taskforce. Mr. Hawkins noted that progress is being made as they discuss the possibility of the new William Lenoir Middle School and conversations are open and useful.

## **BOARD INFORMATION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Dottie Darsie announced the following dates for the William Lenoir Middle School Public Forums: November 10, 2009, Middle School, Martin Luther King Center, geared toward the current population at William Lenoir; November 19, 2009, Hibriten High School Media Center, geared toward the feeder schools to Hibriten High School and November 24, 2009, Hibriten High School Media Center, geared toward the K-8 schools. All meetings begin at 6:00 PM.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dottie Darsie announced the Community Board Meeting on October 26, 2009, 7:00 PM at South Caldwell High School, and the next regular board meeting on Monday, November 9, 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 Chris Becker, and the unanimous approval of the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Signed:

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Chairman, Caldwell County Board of Education

Attest:

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Secretary, Caldwell County Board of Education