

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CALDWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Caldwell County Board of Education met at 7:00 PM on October 13, 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
Linda Coffey
Dr. Helen Hall
Tim Hawkins
Mike LaBrose

The following administrative staff was present:

Dr. Steve Stone, Superintendent
Trish Johnson, Associate Superintendent for Human Resource 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

Dr. Caryl Burns, Associate Superintendent for Educational Program Services was absent.

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

Holly DeLeon, Director, Davenport A+ School WrapAround, gave the invocation and Aubrey Carter, Kindergarten and Annie Vasquez, 4th Grade; Davenport A+ School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION - AGENDA

Upon motion of Tim Hawkins and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously approved the proposed agenda with the following changes: Item VIII, A2, Fuel Conservation Efforts was moved to Item XI, A2 and Item VIII, B2, Administrative Recommendation, was added as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - MINUTES

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell and second by Linda Coffey, the board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 8, 2008, regular board meeting.

HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Helen Hall presented a certificate and lapel pin in recognition for being selected as a North Carolina Green Ribbon School through the North Carolina Positive Behavior Support Initiative.

Tim Hawkins presented a certificate and lapel pin to the Davenport A+ WrapAround Program in recognition for earning their five-star license rating through the North Carolina Division of Child Development.

Mike LaBrose presented a certificate and lapel pin to William Lenoir Middle School Chorus in recognition for their selection as one of two middle school choruses selected in the state to perform at the North Carolina Music Educators Conference in Winston-Salem.

Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell presented a certificate and lapel pin to Alice Barlowe, Choral Director, South Caldwell High School, in recognition for receiving the Metrolina Theatre Association Award for Best Musical Director for "Chicago."

INFORMATION – SCHOOL SUPPORT OF FIRE AND SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT EFFORTS

Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone gave a brief report regarding the school system’s support during the tragic events surrounding the shooting death of a local law enforcement officer. The Sheriff and Lenoir Fire Departments personally came to the Education Center to thank Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone and the school system for providing two school buses to transport officers, and for making Hibriten High School and Oak Hill School available to house officers. Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone publicly thanked Lewis Wright and Dr. Phyllis Blair, Principals, and Dr. Jeff Church, Assistant Superintendent for Auxiliary Services and Libby Brown, Director of School/Community Services, for their time and cooperation in the planning and support of these efforts.

INFORMATION – THE BIG READ PROCLAMATION

Upon motion of Chris Becker and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, the board unanimously endorsed the attached "Big Read Proclamation" as a continuation of Caldwell Reads, in conjunction with the Caldwell County Public Library, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION – ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Upon motion of Linda Coffey and second by Mike LaBrose, the board unanimously approved Jill Duffy as Director of Student Support Services for a two year contract effective November 1, 2008, as presented by Superintendent Dr. Steve Stone.

ACTION - PERSONNEL MATTERS

Upon motion of Dr. Helen Hall and second by Vice-Chairman Dr. Sharon S. Pennell, 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