

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2009**

1 The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, September 24, 2009, at the Central Office Board Room, where the meeting was called to order by Chairman Parris at the approximate hour of 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Parris, Schlafer, Houston
 Hyder, Scarbrough, Blalock
 Smith, Randolph, Janeway

ABSENT: None

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

2 **Welcome to Visitors:** Chairman Parris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3 **Moment of Silence**

4 **Pledge to Flag:** Mr. Chris King led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 **Special Recognition:** Career and Technical Education (CTE) Exemplary Program: Ms. VanWinkle recognized Mr. Chris King, Director of the CTE Program, for his work with that program. She stated that the monitors were here last week with a very intense and comprehensive inspection over two full days. The program received a Level I rating (the highest possible score); there were no findings, no problems, no improvements and no corrections. The program was declared a model for the State, which means that some of the folks involved in the program will be attending seminars and will work with other systems that want to implement a CTE Program of this caliber. There are over 4,220 of our students that are enrolled in CTE classes in a total of 35 different programs, including Agriculture, Business, Technology, Family Consumer Science, Engineering, Health Science, Marketing, and Trade and Industry. The program has at this time a 95.68% graduation rate, which is very outstanding. After further comments, Ms. VanWinkle presented Mr. King with a certificate for his leadership. He thanked everyone on behalf of the CTE department. He stated that the program consists of the greatest students in the world, outstanding support from the city, the county, and the school system overall.

6 **Roll Call:** (See above)

7 **Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2009:** Janeway made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the 8-27-09 minutes as presented.

VOICE VOTE: **Janeway (mover-yes)**
 Randolph (seconder-yes)
 All aye

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

8 **Approval of Agenda:** (See Exhibit #1) Smith made and Hyder seconded a motion to approve the agenda as per Exhibit #1.

VOICE VOTE: **Smith (mover-yes)**
 Hyder (seconder-yes)

MOTION: All ayes
Carried unanimously

9 **Community Comments:** (None)

10 **Elections/Appointments**

A. Chairman: (See Exhibit #2)

Nominations: Parris by Smith, Blalock by Scarbrough, Parris by Hyder, Schlafer by Blalock, Houston by Randolph, Parris by Janeway, Parris by Houston, Blalock by Schlafer, Janeway by Parris

Count: Parris (four votes), Blalock (two votes)
Houston (one vote), Janeway (one vote)
Schlafer (one vote)

(Houston and Janeway declined the nomination)

Vote: Parris by Parris, Parris by Randolph, Parris by Smith, Schlafer by Blalock, Schlafer by Schlafer, Blalock by Scarbrough, Parris by Janeway, Parris by Houston, Parris by Hyder

Chairman: **Parris is declared Chairman of the Board.**
Parris (six votes), Schlafer (two votes)
Blalock (one vote)

B. Vice-Chairman: (See Exhibit #3)

Nominations: Schlafer by Parris, Randolph by Scarbrough, Janeway by Hyder, Randolph by Houston, Schlafer by Janeway, Houston by Randolph, Schlafer by Smith, Schlafer by Blalock, Blalock by Schlafer

Count: Schlafer (four votes), Randolph (two votes)
Blalock (one vote), Houston (one vote),
Janeway (one vote)

(Houston and Blalock declined the nomination)

Vote: Janeway by Parris, Randolph by Scarbrough, Janeway by Hyder, Schlafer by Janeway, Randolph by Houston, Schlafer by Smith, Randolph by Randolph, Schlafer by Blalock, Schlafer by Schlafer

Vice Chairman: **Schlafer is declared Vice Chairman of the Board**
Schlafer (four votes), Randolph (three votes)
Janeway (two votes)

C. Parliamentarian: (See Exhibit #4)

Nominations: Houston by Parris, Janeway by Blalock, Janeway by Schlafer, Houston by Smith, Janeway by Randolph, Houston by Scarbrough, Houston by Hyder, Smith by Houston, Scarbrough by Janeway

Count: Houston (four votes), Janeway (three votes)
Smith (one vote), Scarbrough (one vote)

(Smith and Scarbrough declined the nomination)

Vote: Houston by Parris, Houston by Scarbrough, Houston by Smith, Janeway by Schlafer, Houston by Randolph, Janeway by Blalock, Houston by Hyder, Janeway by Houston, Houston by Janeway

Parliamentarian: **Houston is declared Parliamentarian**
Houston (six votes), Janeway (three votes)

D. TLN Representative: (See Exhibit #5)

Nominations: Janeway by Parris, Schlafer by Randolph, Schlafer by Smith, Schlafer by Scarbrough, Scarbrough by Hyder, Janeway by Houston, Scarbrough by Janeway, Janeway by Schlafer, Janeway by Blalock

Count: Janeway (four votes), Schlafer (three votes), Scarbrough (two votes)

(Schlafer and Scarbrough declined the nomination)

Janeway is declared TLN Representative by agreement.

E. Recorder: Smith made and Schlafer seconded a motion to re-appoint Virgie Lotze as Recorder by acclamation.

VOICE VOTE: **Smith (mover-yes)**
Schlafer (second-yes)
All ayes

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

11 School Board Reports

A. TLN Report

1. **Federal Programs Conference:** Schlafer thanked the board for allowing him to be the TLN reporter for the past year. He stated that he has attended the Federal Programs Director's Conference for Middle Tennessee in Murfreesboro for the past two days (he will be going back to Murfreesboro after the meeting tonight for the conclusion tomorrow). He reported that he wished everyone could have seen the respect and admiration shown Ms. Rickie Harris, our Federal Programs Director. She is very well known and respected by area Federal Programs Directors, State Department of Education staff, by members who were there. He stated that she did not come back for the meeting tonight, but he wants her to know how much we appreciate her.

2. **Financial Status of State:** Schlafer reported that the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Tim Webb, has said that things are not getting better in the State of Tennessee. Sales tax collections in the State were off by \$35.0 Million in August. The Commissioner cut \$12.0 Million from Discretionary Money and froze another \$5.0 Million. Of the three pots of money that Tennessee has for Education, BEP and Pre-K have been kept intact by Governor Bredesen. The Discretionary money of \$240.0 Million is the only place that has been cut at the present time. He further stated that it does not look good for Extended Contracts, Coordinated School Health, Safe Schools Act, Internet Connectivity, Student Data Management Systems for Pre-K; these are very critical areas. The stimulus money has produced a false sense of security that everything is fine; everything is not fine. The stimulus money will go away and some tough decisions will have to be made concerning Education. (Education is being, quote, "propped up artificially", unquote, according to Schlafer.)

12 Legal Report

1. **Open Meetings Act:** Mr. Patton complimented the board in following the Open Meetings Act. He stated that it is a pleasure to be

associated with the least controversial governing body in the county at this time.

2. Pending Litigation: Mr. Patton stated that there are some pending matters of litigation that have been discussed with the board in private. There have been no developments whatsoever in those matters. The board will be informed when anything of importance is forthcoming in these matters.

3. Studio M Photography: Mr. Patton stated that a default judgment was taken in this matter because the defendant failed to appear in court. The company may have filed bankruptcy, and if there is money to be collected, he will do everything he can to collect it for the board, although it will be a very small portion of the debt.

4. Tansi Sewer: Mr. Patton stated that it is his understanding that there may be some developments forthcoming in this matter; hopefully, more will be known by the next meeting. If anything develops, he might ask for a special meeting if it becomes necessary.

13 Director of Schools Report

A. SCORE Final Recommendation: (See Exhibit #6) Ms. VanWinkle asked for directions regarding the SCORE recommendations, which are the best practices across the state which have been compiled into a report on how a better job can be done in the school system. She feels there are some very good recommendations in this report. Discussion was had. Schlafer made and Smith seconded a motion to allow Ms. VanWinkle to draw up a resolution, asking that these recommendations be approved as per Exhibit #6.

VOICE VOTE: **Schlafer (mover-yes)**
 Smith (seconder-yes)
 All ayes

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

B. Approval of 2010-2011 School Calendar: (See Exhibit #7) Ms. VanWinkle stated that the TCAPs have been changed since the last presentation of the calendar because of the change in the window from the State Department on testing. This calendar is changing the TCAPs to be taken before the spring break rather than after the spring break. Randolph made and Scarbrough seconded a motion to table this item until at least the November meeting, so that further public in-put can be collected, especially from teachers in the lower grades. In discussion, Randolph stated that some of the people he has talked to seem to think there are too many breaks during the school year. Mr. Simmons stated that public in-put was already gathered last spring. All teachers had an opportunity to vote on it, as well as the principals. It is also on-line, and Mr. Simmons has four or five pages of comments in regard to this. A lengthy discussion was had.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Randolph (mover-yes)**
 Scarbrough (seconder-yes)
 Houston (no), Janeway (no)
 Hyder (no), Smith (pass)
 Blalock (yes), Schlafer (no)

MOTION: Chairman Parris (no)
Failed (3-yes, 5-no, 1-pass)

Schlafer made and Janeway seconded a motion to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar as presented in Exhibit #7.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Schlafer (mover-yes)
Janeway (seconder-yes)
Hyder (yes), Scarbrough (no)
Randolph (no), Smith (no)
Blalock (no), Houston (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried (5-yes, 4-no)

C. Approval of Advanced Classes for the 2009-2010 School Year: (See Exhibit #8) Smith made and Hyder seconded a motion to approve the Advanced Classes that are offered at our high schools as per Exhibit #8. Schlafer stated that there are a lot of school systems that would like to offer these classes. This is an impressive list; these classes are serving our students well.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Smith (mover-yes)
Hyder (seconder-yes)
Janeway (yes), Houston (yes)
Scarbrough (yes), Randolph (yes)
Blalock (yes), Schlafer (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried unanimously

D. FYI: (See Exhibit #9)

1. Attendance Report for 1st month of school: (See Exhibit #9, Page 5) Ms. VanWinkle stated that this exhibit is a breakdown of the attendance at each school for the first month. The H1N1 virus is rampant, and parents are being asked to keep their children at home if they are sick, and for them to stay at home for at least 24 hours after their fever is normal. Teachers are also being encouraged to stay home if they are sick. Good hygiene is being practiced at all schools. She stated that if attendance drops to 80 or 82%, closing of the schools should be looked at seriously. Further discussion was had.

14 School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports/Appointments

Chairman Parris announced that all the committees are abolished except for the policy committee. Since Houston is the parliamentarian, he will chair this committee. Hyder and Smith also agreed to serve on the policy committee.

15 Business Manager Report

A. Monthly Financial Report: (See Exhibit #10) Ms. Randol stated that no property taxes have been collected this month; hopefully, they will come in quickly next month. On Miscellaneous Refunds, we already have 112%. This money has been journal-entried back into the fuel line, but it didn't show up at the end of August. On the Expenditures side, Ms. Randol stated that we have drawn down \$1.6 Million from Fund Balance through August. At this point,

there is \$2.2 Million in Fund Balance. BEP was received about September 15th; therefore, only \$641,000 has been pulled from Fund Balance as of this date. However, there will be another payroll to meet at the end of September and one on October 15th before BEP is received again. Ms. VanWinkle reiterated how important it is to sustain a substantial Fund Balance, otherwise, at this time, we would be borrowing money to meet the payroll if property tax collections did not pick up. She stated that this is a perfect example of why the Fund Balance cannot be pulled down to 3%; the Fund Balance must be protected so that there is enough in there to meet payroll – especially for the first four months of school before property taxes start coming in – because the school system cannot go in the red. (To meet one payroll, the amount is \$1.3 Million.) Smith asked Ms. VanWinkle to check on why some people’s checks are smaller since the new way of paying has been implemented (paying people after they have worked instead of before they have worked). Ms. Randol reported that the September sales tax receipts for this year are less than September last year and not very much more than September of 2007-08.

B. Approval of Budget Resolution: (See Exhibit #11) (See below)

16 Approval of Safe Schools Act Application: (See Exhibit #12) (See below)

Schlafer made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve Item #15-B, (Approval of two Budget Resolutions) as per Exhibit #11, and Item #16 (Approval of Safe Schools Act Application) as per Exhibit #12.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Schlafer (mover-yes)
 Randolph (seconder-yes)
 Houston (yes), Blalock (yes)
 Scarbrough (yes), Hyder (yes)
 Janeway (yes), Smith (yes)
 Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried unanimously

17 Consent Agenda

A. Approval of School Trips: (See Exhibit #13)

1. Brown Elementary
2. CCHS Girls Basketball Team
3. CCHS Baseball Team
4. CCHS/SMHS CTE Clubs
5. South Cumberland Elementary
6. Stone Elementary

B. Approval of Volunteers: (See Exhibit #14)

1. Brown Elementary
2. Crab Orchard Elementary
3. CCHS
4. Homestead Elementary
5. Martin Elementary
6. North Cumberland Elementary
7. Pleasant Hill Elementary
8. South Cumberland Elementary
9. Stone Elementary
10. SMHS

C. Approval of SMHS Non-Faculty Coach: (See Exhibit #15)

- D. **Approval of Pleasant Hill Contract with Coca-Cola Enterprises:** (See Exhibit #16)
- E. **Approval of North Cumberland Fundraiser:** (See Exhibit #17)
- F. **Approval of Disposal of Martin Elementary Surplus Property:** (See Exhibit #18)

Randolph made and Hyder seconded a motion to approve Item #17, Consent Agenda, as per Exhibits #13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

VOICE VOTE: **Randolph (mover-yes)**
 Hyder (seconder-yes)
 All ayes

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

18 Other Old Business

A. Changing of Pay Periods: In answer to Blalock's question, Ms. VanWinkle stated that part of the reason for the change was because of the teachers complaining that they sometimes went five weeks without a paycheck at some point in the year; another reason for the change is because of the policy of not paying people before they work. (This was being done before.) Further discussion was had.

B. Investments: Janeway asked Ms. VanWinkle to track investments and report back next month.

19 Questions from Media

(One (1) tape dated 9-24-09 is marked as Exhibit #19)

20 Adjournment: Smith made and Janeway seconded a motion to adjourn.

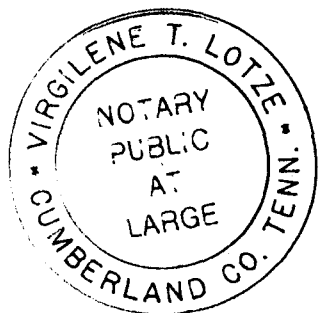
VOICE VOTE: **All ayes**

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**
 (WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at the
 approximate hour of 7:30 p.m.)

Ms. Aarona VanWinkle
Director of Schools

Ms. Shirley Parris
Chairman of the Board

I, Virgie Lotze, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing minutes and that I delivered said minutes to the office of the Director of Schools on October 5th, 2009.



Virgie Lotze

Virgie Lotze
Court Reporter and Notary Public
at Large for the State of Tennessee

(My Commission expires 6-6-11)