

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2009

- 1 The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 23rd, 2009, in 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: Chairman Parris, Schlafer
Smith, Scarbrough, Hyder
Janeway, Blalock

ABSENT: Randolph, Houston

COUNSEL: (Absent due to illness)

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

- 3 **Moment of Silence**

- 4 **Pledge to Flag:** City Mayor J.H. Graham III led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 5 **Special Recognition: Mayor J. H. Graham III, City of Crossville**

In Ms. VanWinkle's introduction of City Mayor J.H. Graham, she stated that not only is he a leader in our county, but he is a very good friend to education. She stated that some of the things he has been very interested in this year are our SRO program at the two high schools, traffic lights at our schools, and our Energy Sustainability projects. She further stated that the completion of the North sewer project and the Homestead sewer project which will be completed by August 1st would not have happened this year except for Mayor Graham's and the city's help. Mayor Graham was presented with a basket of goodies as a token of appreciation. He was very appreciative of the gift.

Mayor Graham, in speaking to the board, mentioned the fact that the greatest recognition he has ever received was being chosen by the Tennessee Municipal League as Mayor of the Year for 2009 out of 347 cities across Tennessee, to which he attributed this award as being a community honor with the help of his City Councilmen, the Director of Schools, the Board of Education and all its staff and personnel.

He stated that over 800 5th graders were bussed to Martin Elementary to attend the Sustainability Fair this spring. He stated that by conducting this fair and the children going home and telling their parents what they had learned, more was done for the education of our adults on sustainability energy and how to conserve water and other resources than anything that has ever been done in this community. He presented a video of the fair that was very educational and enjoyable.

6. **Roll Call:** (See Above)

7. **Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2009:** Schlafer made and Hyder seconded a motion to approve the 6/25/09 minutes with the following correction:

1. Page 7, Item #22-A, add "Studio N" before the word

"Photography"

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

8. Approval of Agenda: (See Exhibit #1) Janeway made and Smith seconded a motion to approve the Agenda as per Exhibit #1. Chairman Parris made and Janeway seconded an amendment to the motion to move 12-A (b) (Efficient School Initiative Grant) from the FYI folder, (Exhibit #2) in order for it to be voted on tonight.

VOICE VOTE ON

**AMENDMENT: Parris (mover- yes)
Janeway (seconder-yes)
All ayes**

MOTION: Carried unanimously

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

9. Community Comments: (None)

10. School Board Reports

A. Tennessee School Boards Journal: Schlafer reported that on Page 11 of the journal is an article that features the SMHS Rocket Club. This journal commemorates the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. The magazine is distributed all over the State of Tennessee and is very well-read. He commended Dr. Brooker and her students for the hard work done in this club.

B. Summer Law Institute: Schlafer commended Smith and Blalock for attending the summer law institute in Gatlinburg for a week. He stated that he will give a full report on the law institute at the retreat.

C. TLN Report – NSBA Southern Region Conference Report: Schlafer stated that it was his honor to represent Cumberland County and the State of Tennessee in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 8th, 9th and 10th as one of Tennessee’s two delegates to that conference. He also served on the NSBA Southern Region’s nominating committee. He attended a reception at the William Jefferson Clinton Library, which is a very impressive building loaded with history.

11. Legal Report: (None)

12. Director of Schools Report

A. FYI: (See Exhibit #2)

1. Fall District Meeting: Ms. VanWinkle passed around a sign-up sheet for board members who plan to attend this meeting to sign; the workshop will be held on September 17th, 2009 in Smith County. Chairman Parris stated that a majority of the board needs to attend this meeting in order to keep our Board of Distinction status. Ms. Vanwinkle stated that the van will be available for anyone that wishes to ride.

2. Negotiations workshop: Ms. VanWinkle asked members who wish to attend this workshop to get back with her for scheduling.

3. Article: Ms. VanWinkle stated that the FYI folder includes an article by Schlafer that articulately and completely describes where Cumberland County has been on the issue of funding for our schools.

4. Energy Efficient School Initiative Grant: (See Exhibit #3)
Ms.

VanWinkle stated that this is a 90-page grant, with the first two pages being the application. This grant allows for \$22.00 per student, which would amount to approximately \$160,000. Smith made and Janeway seconded a motion to apply for this grant.

VOICE VOTE: **Smith (mover-yes)**
 Janeway (seconder-yes)
 All ayes
MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

13. School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports: (None)

14. Business Manager Report

A. Monthly Financial Report: (See Exhibit #4) Ms. Randol stated that Bobby Palmer, State Fiscal Consultant, will be here tomorrow to close out the books for this year. After that, she will prepare a financial report and email it to board members.

B. Approval of Budget Amendments: (See Exhibit #5) Ms. Randol explained that these budget amendments have had executive approval and therefore need board approval. They have already been sent to the Finance Department for clean-up. Smith made and Hyder seconded a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as per Exhibit #5. In answer to Blalock's question about why all the insurance money is being moved around, Ms. VanWinkle stated that it is because the Finance Department has not been paying it out of the right line item, but this is being worked on for correction.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Smith (mover-yes)**
 Hyder (seconder-yes)
 All ayes
MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

15. Approval of Transportation Report: (See Exhibit #6) Scarbrough made and Smith

seconded a motion to approve the Transportation Report as per Exhibit #6.

VOICE VOTE: **Scarbrough (mover-yes)**
 Smith (seconder-yes)
 All ayes
MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

16. Approval of Supplementary Band Instructor Grant Proposal: (See Exhibit #7) Schlafer made and Scarbrough seconded a motion to grant Mr. LeeWayne Cole permission to write this grant as per Exhibit #7. He also commended Mr. Cole and his wife for their work in preparing the grant.

VOICE VOTE: **Schlafer (mover-yes)**
 Scarbrough (seconder-yes)
 All ayes
MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

17. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Pine View Fundraiser:** (See Exhibit #8)
- B. Approval of South Cumberland Contract with Lifetouch:** (See Exhibit #9)
- C. Approval of Volunteers:** (See Exhibit #10)
 - 1. Brown Elementary**
 - 2. South Cumberland**
- D. Approval of 1st Reading on Policies:** (See Exhibit #11)
 - 1. 2.802 – Payroll Procedures (1)**
 - 2. 6.200 – Attendance (2)**
 - 3. 6.503 – Homeless Students (3)**
 - 4. 1.400 – School Board Meetings (4)**
 - 5. 1.502 – Board Meeting News Coverage (5)**
 - 6. 4.605 – Graduation Requirements (6)**
 - 7. 4.606 – Graduation Activities (7)**
 - 8. 5.305 – Family and Medical Leave (8)**
 - 9. 6.304 – Student Discrimination/Harassment & Bullying/Intimidation (9)**
 - 10. 6.502 – Foreign Exchange Students (10)**

Smith made and Scarbrough seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as per Exhibits # 8 through #11.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

18. Other Old Business

A. JROTC: Schlafer stated that since the budget has already been passed, he wants to ask one last time if there is any possible way the JROTC Program can be saved out of the funds that are available to the BOE. Ms. VanWinkle stated that the Fund Balance cannot be used for recurring expenses. Schlafer stated that it is very tough to lose the program since it has meant so much to so many students. Many of his constituents are very distressed that the program is being lost. Ms. VanWinkle stated that the only way it could be funded is if something else is cut in the Basic Education Program or in recurring revenues. Schlafer stated that while it is true that it is the Board’s responsibility to decide what and how to fund anything, the basic things that the State of Tennessee requires must be funded first. If there is no additional money there, something that is not required must be cut. He stated that this year’s budget is “a cake without the icing”; JROTC would fall within the “icing” category rather than the “cake” category. He further stated that although the JROTC is a magnificent program, it is not required and this is a sad thing that the Board has been forced into by lack of funding. Ms. VanWinkle stated that she also is sorry to lose the program, but it was necessary to pick the programs to cut that had the least effect on the least number of students.

Schlafer also asked that it be noted that although there may be enough money in Fund Balance to sustain the program, that money cannot be used for this purpose because it is only for recurring expenses and JROTC is not a one-time expenditure. It would be strictly against the law for JROTC to be funded out of Fund Balance.

At this point, Schlafer made and Chairman Parris seconded a motion to let it be noted in the minutes that it is with deep regret and remorse that the JROTC Program be discontinued.

In

discussion, it was reiterated that the Board does not want to let it go but is forced to because of

lack of funding. In further discussion, Chairman Parris stated that a motion and second was made at the County Commission meeting last Monday night to appropriate an additional penny to our schools for funds to save the program but the motion failed.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously.**

In answer to Scarbrough’s question about whether some students who were taking JROTC will be able to graduate, Ms. VanWinkle stated that since JROTC is an elective, there are other classes that will be offered to those students so they can graduate.

agenda

B. Workshop: The board workshop will be held Saturday; the

will be emailed to board members tomorrow.

stated

C. Cameras and Camcorders into Board Meetings: Janeway

that he has had comments about the change in this procedure, and he understands that the change is because of the State of Tennessee Attorneys General’s opinion. If people want to bring these into board meetings, it needs to be approved by the board beforehand. This has always been in the rules, but it referred only to the media; the opinion from the General states that it should include everybody, not just the media.

19. Questions from Media: (None)

(One (1) tape dated 7/23/09 is marked as Exhibit #12)

20. Adjournment: Blalock 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 7:00 p.m.)**

Ms. Aarona VanWinkle
Director of Schools

Ms. Shirley Parris
Chairman of the Board

(Continued on Page 6)
(Minutes of 7/23/09 continued from Page 5)

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 August 3rd, 2009.

Virgie Lotze
Court Reporter and Notary Public

At Large for the State of Tennessee
(My Commission expires 6/6/11)