

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2007

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, April 5, 2007, 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. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Parris, Davis, Hale
Safdie, R. Smith, M. Smith
Schlafer, Randolph, Houston
Rimmer, (CCEA Rep)
Camera (PTO/PTA Rep)
Ashley Pendleton, Callie Shanks and Joshua Hardy (Student Reps)

ABSENT: None

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE TO FLAG: Taylor Houston led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

A. SMHS Girls' Basketball Team: Chairman Parris introduced the SMHS girls basketball coach, Tim Smith. Coach Smith stated that the SMHS girl's basketball team not only went to the State Tournament and placed in the final eight teams in the State of Tennessee, but their 3.6 GPA is what they are the proudest of.

B. Elks Free-Throw Shooting Contest: Ms. VanWinkle introduced Mr. Leroy Hammonds, Elks Hoop-shoot Director. Mr. Hammonds introduced Taylor Houston, who is the first boy or girl in Cumberland County in thirty-six (36) years to win the State championship in this contest. Taylor is the only student to win all categories – County, State, and Southeastern Divisions. Ms. VanWinkle added that Taylor has never made a grade below 96 on his grade card. Taylor is the son of Jeff and Lee Houston.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 13 & 26, 2007: Safdie made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the March 13th and March 26th, 2007 minutes as presented.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: (See Exhibit #1) Safdie made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the Agenda as per Exhibit #1.

VOICE VOTE: Safdie (mover-yes)
 M. Smith (seconder-yes)
 All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

A. Tony DeBord: Mr. DeBord addressed the Board on behalf of parents of students at Crab Orchard Elementary regarding three teachers that are not going to be re-hired and given tenure. He stated that the majority of parents of the community would like to see these teachers re-hired.

B. Karen Edmonds: Ms. Edmonds addressed the Board regarding the principal at Brown Elementary not being re-hired and given tenure. She spoke on behalf of about 150 persons whose signatures she has.

C. Amanda Houston: Ms. Houston addressed the Board regarding the attention given to policies that are implemented by the Board. She especially asked the Board to reconsider the policy that relates to not ever rehiring non-tenure teachers in our school system.

D. Jerry McGuckin: Mr. McGuckin addressed the Board regarding the continued violence in our schools. He especially referred to an incident that happened last week at SMHS and the fact that the punishment did not fit the policy. Mr. Eichelberger stated that the student was punished according to the policy. Mr. McGuckin was advised to go through the proper procedure channels.

ITEM #1: FACILILTIES UPDATE

A. Pine View Drainage Work: Ms. VanWinkle stated that Mr. Chamberlin could not be present tonight, but he asked her to report that the Pine View drainage work is completed. Two items are left on the punch list, but they are still working on those.

ITEM #2: SCHOOL BOARD REPORTS

A. TLN Report: Houston reported that a vote on the \$.40 cigarette tax increase was postponed this week. TSBA fully supports this tax because of the fact that it would raise approximately \$350 Million for pre-K through Grade 12. Studies show that every ten percent (10%) increase in the cigarette tax, youth smoking is reduced by seven percent (7%). Our current tax of \$.20 per pack on cigarettes is the fourth lowest in the Nation. The average tax among the States is \$.98 per pack. If the tax is raised from \$.20 per pack to \$.60 per pack, it will bring Tennessee up to 32nd place in the Nation. Everyone was asked to contact their legislators and ask them to vote “yes” on SB2326/HB2354.

B. Tort Liability Legislation: Houston reported that SB8 and SB38 would require government entities to be responsible for the payment of any judgment or award against that entity for any medical costs, even if those costs exceed applicable liability limits. TSBA is opposed to this legislation.

ITEM #3: LEGAL REPORT

A. School Bus Seat Belt Resolution: Mr. Patton read the Resolution that he has prepared to be sent to the Legislature which states that the Board opposes any law that would require Tennessee school systems to retro-fit existing school buses with seat belts, purchase new school buses that have seat belts, or enforces the use of seat belts by students and bus drivers. The Board also opposes any law that would create financial hardship on school systems without providing additional state funding to assist their compliance with that law. Chairman Parris asked Ms. VanWinkle to get all Board members’ signatures on the Resolution.

B. Resolution to State Insurance Pool: Mr. Patton stated that if he is instructed to do so, he will draft a resolution asking for Senator Burks’ and Representative Swafford’s support regarding the release of certain information that would allow the Board to shop around for their insurance needs. It has been suggested that the Attorney General be asked to render an opinion on this subject, but because this is a Federal law, Mr. Patton is not certain that the Attorney General’s office would do that. He is in contact with the County Administration, and he thinks it would be wise to combine the Board’s interests with those of the County. Hale stated that what the Board wants has nothing to do with the HIPPA law. He further stated that this is for our non-certified employees, who are not treated fairly, and that it has been going on for over six years. Mr. Patton stated that the only way to obtain this information is directly from the employees, which everyone feels the employees should not have to do. Mr. Patton will review all options and bring those back to the Board. Rather than draft a resolution, Mr. Patton proposed that he send a letter to our Legislators, explaining the problem and start the communications that way. Further discussion was had.

ITEM #4: DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS REPORT

A. Statement for SMHS Zone Flashers: (See Exhibit #2) After a recommendation from Ms. VanWinkle, Randolph made and Davis seconded a motion to pay the City of Crossville for the zone flashers at SMHS, taking the funds out of the SMHS building project funds, as per Exhibit #2.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Randolph (mover-yes)**
 Davis (seconder-yes)
 R. Smith (yes), M. Smith (yes)
 Hale (yes), Safdie (yes)
 Houston (yes), Schlafer (yes)
 Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

B. Approval of TIE Personnel: (See Exhibit #3) Ms. VanWinkle stated that there is a packet in the FYI (See Exhibit #5) with regard to this issue. Safdie made and R. Smith seconded a motion to approve TIE Personnel as per Exhibit #3. In discussion, Schlafer stated that the Board does not make the decision on who and who will not be tenured; this is an administrative decision, made first by the principal of the school and then supported by the Director of Schools. By law, the Director of Schools is the person responsible for all school personnel. Ms. VanWinkle stated that it was a very hard decision to make, but that she has had to make the decision based on all the information supplied to her. After further discussion, Randolph made and Houston seconded an amendment to the motion to send Policy 5.117 (Procedure for Granting Tenure) back to the Policy Committee for review. After further discussion, Randolph and Houston withdrew the amendment and second. Ms. VanWinkle asked Board members to add it to the agenda for next Tuesday's Policy Committee meeting.

VOICE VOTE: **Safdie (mover-yes)**
 R. Smith (seconder-yes)
 All ayes

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

C. Personnel for 2007/2008: (See Exhibit #4) (No action required)

D. FYI: (See Exhibit #5) Ms. VanWinkle explained the items in the FYI packet.

ITEM #5: SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

A. Committee Reports: (None)

1. Safety Committee: Hale is waiting to hear from Ms. VanWinkle before doing anything further with this committee.

B. Committee Appointments/Review: (None)

ITEM #6: BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Financial Statement for 02/28/07: (See Exhibit #6) Ms. Randol reported that February Revenues are in at 70%; Property Tax is in at 95%; Expenditures are at 58.10%. Capital Outlay was low as of this report, but it will go up during the summer when some of the planned projects commence. She is keeping an eye on fuel and utility expenses, which could result in line item amendments on some of those.

B. Comptroller's Report: Schlafer suggested that a time be scheduled to discuss the Comptroller's Report that was received this week. Chairman Parris stated that Ms. VanWinkle can give this report at the next meeting.

ITEM #7: APPROVAL OF NCLB RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT HR 648: (See Exhibit #7) Schlafer explained that HR 648 is the reauthorization and improvement of the No Child Left Behind Act. He is asking everyone to support this legislation by contacting our senators and representatives and asking them to vote for and support this resolution. You can do this by logging on to www.tsba.net; click on Capital Watch in the right-hand corner; click on Federal Relations Network; the letter will be sent for you. Schlafer made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the Resolution as per Exhibit #7. Chairman Parris instructed Mr. Patton to draft the resolution.

VOICE VOTE: Safdie (mover-yes)
M. Smith (seconder-yes)
All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously.

ITEM #8: APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL VOCATIONAL CTE COURSES: (See Exhibit #8) Schlafer made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the application as per Exhibit #8.

(Vote on Item #8 continued on Page 6)
(Vote on Item #8 continued from Page 5)

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

ITEM #9: DOS & SCHOOL SECRETARY QUALIFICATIONS (PROSPECTIVE SUPT. ACADEMY): (See Exhibit #9) Schlafer made and Safdie seconded a motion to approve the Prospective Superintendent's Academy, as per Exhibit #9. In discussion, Davis stated that he

MOTION: Safdie (yes), Houston (yes)
 Chairman Parris (yes)
 Carried unanimously

ITEM #13: APPROVAL OF WELLNESS COORDINATOR GRANT (On file at Central Office if you wish to review): (See Exhibit #13) Schlafer made and Davis seconded a motion to approve the application for the grant as per Exhibit #3. In discussion, Schlafer thanked Ms. Hamby for instigating this grant. In answer to Randolph's question about BOE matching funds, Ms. Hamby stated that she has been able to find in-kind for a portion of the utilities, a portion of the secretary's salary, and other things, so that there will not be a requirement for additional funding from the BOE. This is a year-to-year grant, but as long as everything is in compliance, it will continue. Schlafer stated that there is a good possibility that this will become a state-funded program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Schlafer (mover-yes)
 Davis (seconder-yes)
 Randolph (yes), M. Smith (yes)
 Hale (yes), R. Smith (yes)
 Safdie (yes), Houston (yes)
 Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried unanimously

ITEM #14: APPROVAL OF 2ND READING ON POLICIES: (See Exhibit #14)

- A. (5.110) Compensation Guides and Contracts
- B. (51101) 120 Day Contracts
- C. (5.200) Suspension/Dismissal of Non-tenured Teachers
- D. (5.203) Non-renewal
- E. (5.205) Retirement
- F. (5.303) Personal and Professional Leave

Safdie made and Houston to approve the 2nd reading on Policies, A through F, as per Exhibit #14.

VOICE VOTE: Safdie (mover-yes)
 Houston (seconder-yes)
 All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

ITEM #15: CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Volunteers: (See Exhibit #15)

1. CCHS
2. Martin Elementary
3. Pine View Elementary

B. Approval of Fundraisers: (See Exhibit #16)

1. South Cumberland Elementary
2. Martin Elementary
3. Pine View Elementary

C. Approval of Field Trips: (See Exhibit #17)

1. CCHS JROTC
2. CCHS Boys' Basketball Team
3. Homestead Elementary Student Council

D. Approval of School Contracts: (See Exhibit #18)

1. CCHS with Lifetouch National Studios
2. CCJS with Balfour/Taylor Publishing

E. Approval of Specs: (See Exhibit #19)

1. Painting Specs for Martin and Pleasant Hill

M. Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as per Exhibits #15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.

VOICE VOTE:

M. Smith (mover-yes)
Randolph (seconder-yes)
All ayes

MOTION:

Carried unanimously

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

A. New School Buses: Safdie stated that he hopes the time to buy new school buses in getting closer.

B. Alternative Education Program: Ms. VanWinkle recommended that Upland Design Group be appointed as the architect for the new Alternative School. Randolph made and Schlafer seconded a motion to hire Mr. Chamberlin's group to oversee the architectural work on the new school.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Randolph (mover-yes)
Schlafer (seconder-yes)
Safdie (yes), Davis (yes)
Hale (yes), Houston (yes)
R. Smith (yes), M. Smith (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION:

Carried unanimously

C. Strategic Plan Map for April: In answer to Schlafer's question about this issue, Ms. VanWinkle responded that it is being printed by special computer and it will be in the mailboxes of Board members.

D. Purchase of New Elementary School Property: Mr. Patton asked for direction on how to proceed with the purchase of the new school property. R. Smith stated that it was the intention of his motion last month to proceed with the purchase. Ms. VanWinkle stated that \$150,000 has been budgeted, but more will be appropriated. (The County Commission is not being asked for more funds.)

QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA: None

(Two (2) tapes dated 04/05/07 are marked as Exhibit #20)

ADJOURNMENT: Randolph made and Hale 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.)

(Continued on Page 10)

(Minutes of April 5, 2007 continued from Page 9)

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 April 16th, 2007.

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

(My Commission expires 5/29/07)