

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 3, 2008

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, April 3, 2008, in the Central Office Boardroom, 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, Safdie
Schlafer, R. Smith, Houston
Randolph, M. Smith, Hale
Timson (CCEA Rep)
Camera (PTO/PTA Rep)

ABSENT: None

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

Moment of Silence

Pledge to Flag: Crab Orchard students led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition: Crab Orchard/Stone Elementary Archery & PE Program

A. Archery Program: Mr. Bruce Mullins, Stone Elementary archery coach, introduced Mr. Matt Clary with the Tennessee Wildlife Agency of Tennessee. Mr. Clary presented, with the help of Mr. Threet, a power point presentation about the archery program. The two main points he made was that it was the safest program in our school system (there have been no injuries so far), and the cost of the program is minimal. He stated that at the tournament that was held in Louisville, Kentucky, our students participated with 1577 archers, 4th through 12th grades, from 20 states, 133 schools, with 20% female participants. \$14,000.00 in scholarship money was awarded at the tournament. Ms. Cindy Miniard, Crab Orchard archery coach, reported that she actually introduces the program to 3rd graders, but they are coached from the 4th grade up. She reported that a couple of students from Crab Orchard, (?) Hennessee and (?) Davis has qualified individually to go to the National Tournament.

B. PE Program: Ms. Miniard talked about the physical education at Crab Orchard Elementary for pre-k and kindergarten students. The name of the program is Brain Gym. She gave a power point presentation, showing the students starting their day each morning with 30 minutes of Brain Gym, which entails doing movements and activities that enhance learning through opposition and bilateral movements.

Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2008: R. Smith made and Safdie seconded a motion to approve the March 12th, 2008 minutes with the following corrections:

A. Page 6, Legal Report

- 1. Line 3, 5-A, add Ms. Randol as attending the meeting in Nashville.**
- 2. Line 3, 5-A-1, delete the word “conceding” and replace with the words “will no longer require Budget Committee approval.”**
- 3. Line 1, 5-A-3, delete the words “permission to review” and replace with the words “viewing access to”.**
- 4. Last paragraph, Line 3, replace “other acts” with “other systems”.**
- 5. Last paragraph, after “Act of 1981,” add the words “that Mr. Patton knows of”.**

VOICE VOTE: Smith (mover-yes)

Safdie (seconder-yes)
All Ayes
Carried unanimously

Approval of Agenda: M. Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the agenda as per Exhibit #1.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously.**

Community Comments: (None)

Item 1: Facilities Update - Kim Chamberlin

A. Alternative School: Mr. Chamberlin reported that the pad will be poured as soon as the weather permits, with the footer work to begin shortly thereafter. He will be meeting with the staff again next week to make color selections and work on other details.

B. New Elementary School: Mr. Chamberlin did a power point presentation on the development of the concept of the new school. There are three accesses to the property - one on Hwy 70 and two on Creston Road. There are a couple of wet spots, but nothing to cause problems. The building will consist of two stories for classrooms, with the lower level consisting of pre-k, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, with 4th through 8th grades on the upper level. Mr. Chamberlin asked for comments and ideas, which are welcome at this stage. He hopes to have the schematic drawings by the May meeting.

C. Sewage at Stone and Brown: Mr. Chamberlin reported that at Stone Elementary, some traps in the floor drains of the gym were not connected; the contractor will be back next week to connect those. At Brown, regarding the water situation, the contractor will be back in April to replace all the mechanical room piping. It is working now, but the other pipe will be replaced later this month.

Item 2 - School Board Reports

A. TLN Report - Houston

1. HB2859 – Prohibits counties or municipalities from using State BEP funds to reduce local operating funds, excluding Capital Outlay and Debt Service which have been allocated or appropriated for the fiscal year. TSBA asks that communities support this bill.

2. HG3125: Starting date of school year: This bill prohibits school districts from starting the school year earlier than August 15th. TSBA is opposed to this legislation and is asking everyone to contact the House Education Committee and oppose a mandatory starting date.

3. SB2653 – Drug Testing: TSBA is supporting legislation to clearly authorize random drug testing of students who participate in extracurricular activities, since the U.S. Supreme Court has made decisions that found this practice to be constitutional.

4. SB1025 – Conversion to Special School Districts: This bill allows existing school districts to convert to special school districts. This would provide a process whereby local communities, through their Boards of Education, can decide to remove county commissions and city councils as the financial middlemen in terms of school funding and give school boards limited fiscal authority to raise the necessary funds to run school districts properly. There are fourteen (14) special school districts in Tennessee, with Tennessee being one of eleven states in the country that does not provide its elected Boards of Education with any fiscal authority.

5. SP2931 – Classroom Instruction: This bill would require school districts to spend at least 90% of their total operating expenditures on classroom instruction by the year 2016. Using data that is available at this time, Tennessee school districts average 71% of funds spent within the classroom, which places Tennessee 8th in the

nation. The bill provides no new money to schools and would require a redirection of more than \$15.0 Billion statewide.

In discussion, Schlafer stated that BEP money for Cumberland County is \$26,470,000. By comparison, Anderson County is very close at \$27,943,000. Cumberland County will only receive a \$280,817 increase in BEP because of the way education is funded in Cumberland County; Anderson County will receive \$1,407,000 because of their effort to fund their school system. Another comparison is Monroe County with a budget of \$22,980,000 but they will receive \$805,000 in additional BEP funds because of the way they fund their education system. Schlafer fully expects our County Commission to realize this fact and pass this year's budget without controversy, since Cumberland County is in the top twenty (20) counties in the state with the ability to fund education.

Item 3: Legal Report

A. Financial Management Act of 1981: Mr. Patton stated that there has been no response from the State Department of Education on this matter, but the thirty days have not lapsed yet. He expects some response by next week.

Item 4: Director of Schools Report

A. Approval of Textbook Adoption: (See Exhibit #2) Hale made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the Textbook Adoptions as per Exhibit #2. Mr. Simmons stated that the books have been displayed in the schools.

VOICE VOTE: Hale (mover-yes)
Randolph (seconder-yes)
All ayes
MOTION: Carried unanimously

B. Approval of TIE Personnel: (See Exhibit #3) After being recommended for approval by Mrs. VanWinkle, Randolph made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve TIE personnel as per Exhibit #3.

VOICE VOTE: Randolph (mover-yes)
M. Smith (seconder-yes)
All ayes
MOTION: Carried unanimously

C. Non-Tenure Personnel List for 2008-2009: (See Exhibit #4)
Mrs. VanWinkle stated that this list has been approved for re-hire, with the understanding that funding must be available for the positions through local, state and federal sources. (No action necessary)

D. Central Office Personnel List for 2008-2009: (See Exhibit #5)
Mrs. VanWinkle stated that even though these positions are essential, they are approved pending funding by state, local, and federal sources. (No action necessary)

E. FYI Folder: (See Exhibit #6)

Item 5 - School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports

1. Energy Committee: Schlafer reported that this committee met after the work session last Tuesday. Since energy is such an important issue, they moved to have the whole board hear floor presentations from four companies on two consecutive nights. The meetings will be held on May 12th and 13th, with the board to hear two companies one night and two companies the next night, with each company being allowed one hour each for their presentation. (A special called meeting may be called for the 13th after the presentation; that will be confirmed later.)

B. Committee Appointments/Review: (None)

Item 6 - Business Manager Report: (See Exhibit #7) Ms. Randol reported that the Current Property Taxes are at 98.9% to date. Local Option Sales Taxes will probably be low this

year; to be where we should be, another \$700,000 would have to be collected for the next four months, and this is unlikely. Over all, we have taken in approximately \$33.0 Million, which is 76.2% of the budget. In the Expenditures Line, we have already spent approximately \$31.0 Million, which is 67.04% of the budget.

Item 7: Approval of Budget Amendments/Resolutions

A. Central Cafeteria Fund Amendment: (See Exhibit #8) Schlafer made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the Budget Amendment as per Exhibit #8. (Mrs. VanWinkle passed the document around for board signatures.)

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

B. SpEd Budget Resolution: (See Exhibit #9) Hale made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the resolution as per Exhibit #9.

VOICE VOTE: Hale (mover-yes)
M. Smith (seconder-yes)
MOTION: Carried unanimously

Item 8: Approval of Grant Applications: (See Exhibit #10)

- A. Brown Elementary**
- B. Crab Orchard Elementary**
- C. North Cumberland Elementary**

Schlafer made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve Item #8 – A, B, and C, as per Exhibit #10.

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

Item 9: Consideration of Request from Crab Orchard for Demolition of House: (See Exhibit #11) Ms. Randol stated that the lowest bid that was gotten for the demolition of this house several years ago was \$4900.00. In discussion, Randolph suggested that the Vocational School or Vo Tech strip the copper wire and any other salvageable material out of the house before bidding it out for demolition. The building is not safe for anyone to be in, according to Mrs. VanWinkle. Safdie made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve the demolition. Mrs. VanWinkle will start the process, but she will make sure it is stripped.

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

SECOND READING ON POLICIES: (See Exhibit #12)

Item 10: Approval of 2nd Reading on Equal Opportunity Employment (5.104)

Item 11: Approval of 2nd Reading on Application and Employment (5.106)

Item 12: Approval of 2nd Reading on Supervision (5.108)

Item 13: Approval of 2nd Reading on Evaluation (5.109) (13)

Item 14: Approval of 2nd Reading on 120-Day Contracts (5.1101)

Item 15: Approval of 2nd Reading on Teacher Effect Data (5.1141)

Item 16: Approval of 2nd Reading on Staff Positions (5.116) (16)

Item 17: Approval of 2nd Reading on Retirement (5.205) (17)

Schlafer made and Hale seconded a motion to approve Items #10 through #17, as per Exhibit #12.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

FIRST READING ON POLICIES: (See Exhibit #13)

Item 18 - Approval of 1st Reading on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (5.401)

Item 19 – Approval of 1st Reading on Conflict of Interest (5.601)

R. Smith made and Davis seconded a motion to approve Item #17 and #18 as per Exhibit #13.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

Item 20 - Consent Agenda

A. Approval of School/Sport Field Trips: (See Exhibit #14)

1. Brown Elementary Chess Team
2. North Cumberland Cheerleaders
3. SMHS Automotive Class to visit Nissan Plant in Smyrna, TN
4. SMHS Sports Teams

B. Approval of South Cumberland Fund Raiser: (See Exhibit #15)

C. Approval of Volunteers: (See Exhibit #16)

1. Crab Orchard Elementary
2. Martin Elementary
3. North Cumberland Elementary
4. South Cumberland Elementary

D. Approval of CCHS Contract with Jostens: (See Exhibit #17)

E. Approval of Stone Elementary Cheerleader By-Laws: (See Exhibit #18)

F. Approval of Disposal of Pleasant Hill Surplus Items: (See Exhibit #19)

G. Approval of Specs: (See Exhibit #20)

1. Cafeteria Roofing Specs for CCHS
2. Flooring Specs for North, South, & Pleasant Hill

Hale made and M. Smith seconded a motion to approve Item #20, Consent Agenda, A through G, as per Exhibits #14 through #20.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

Item 21 - Other Old Business

A. Specs for Insurance: Mrs. VanWinkle reminded board members that she handed out, at the work session, the specs for insurance, which she feels would be a good way to obtain competitive prices for property and worker's comp insurance. The specs are exactly the same as we have now with Tennessee Risk Management. She stated that if it is going to be bid out, it needs to be done, since it will take a few months to get it finalized. In discussion, Schlafer asked to make it clear that if this is bid out, the board will lose \$39,176.00. Tennessee Risk Management has already said if this is bid out, they will not return the \$39,176.00 in dividends, even if we continue to use them as our insurance carrier. After a lengthy discussion, Hale made and Randolph seconded a motion to have Mr. Patton research to see if this practice is legal; if it is not legal, Mr. Patton will prepare a resolution for Senator Burks and Representative Swafford, asking them to introduce legislation to make this practice illegal for insurance carriers.

VOICE VOTE: Hale (mover-yes)
Randolph (seconder-yes)
8-ayes, Safdie-pass
MOTION: Carried (8-yes, 1-pass)

Randolph made and Davis seconded a motion to approve the specs and place the insurance out for bid. In discussion, Schlafer stated that his concern is that everyone did not have all of this information at the work session the other evening. Chairman Parris stated that this information just came in this afternoon. Schlafer stated that some of the information was available as early as January 7, 2008 and March 18, 2008, and he asked that the record reflect this. Mrs. VanWinkle stated that the information came later in January than the 7th, and the March information came last week, even though it has a several weeks earlier date on it. She further stated that until it was mentioned that if it was bid out, a more competitive rate might be gotten, there was no reason to distribute those two letters to board members. Schlafer agreed. Further discussion was had.

VOICE VOTE: Randolph (mover-yes)
Davis (seconder-yes)
R. Smith (yes), M. Smith (yes)
Schlafer (no), Safdie (no)
Hale (yes), Houston (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)
MOTION: Carried (7-yes, 2-no)

B. Work Sessions: Two work sessions were set for May 12th and May 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with two energy companies to make one-hour presentations each night. A special called meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 13th.

C. Change May meeting date: The regular May board meeting will be changed from Thursday, May 1st to Tuesday, May 6th, 2008 at the regular time and place.

QUESTIONS FROM MEDIA: (NONE)

(Two (2) tapes dated 4/3/08 are marked as Exhibit #20.)

ADJOURNMENT: Hale made and Randolph seconded a motion to adjourn.
VOICE VOTE: All ayes
MOTION: Carried unanimously

(Continued on Page 8)

(Minutes of 4/3/08 continued from Page 7)

**(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at
the approximate hour of 8:00 p.m.)**

**Mrs. Aarona VanWinkle
Director of Schools**

**Ms. Shirley Parris
Board Chairman**

**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 14, 2008.**

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

(My Commission expires 6/6/11)