

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 18, 2008**

The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 18, 2008 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, Janeway, Hyder
Scarborough, Randolph, Smith
Blalock, Schlafer
Houston (tardy - in at 7:10)
Trevor Long, SMHS Rep
Susan Serleth, CCEA Rep

Absent: None

Counsel: Mr. Earl Patton

Moment of Silence

Pledge to Flag: Jacob Campbell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition:

A. County Spelling Bee Champion: Ms. Mary Ann Huff, Principal at Pleasant Hill Elementary, introduced Jacob Campbell, a 6th grader, who has been named the 2008 County Spelling Bee Champion. Jacob's parents are Jerry and Michelle Campbell, where Ms. Campbell is a 2nd grade teacher at P.H. Ms. Jacqueline Smith and Ms. Brandy Lowe are his coaches. Jacob talked to the board about how he studied for the contest – origin of words, studying the booklet that is provided, practicing in the cafeteria. He will go on to the Regional contest level next, and then hopefully on to the National level.

B. North Cumberland Pre-K Carolers: Ms. Kathy Allen, Principal at North Cumberland Elementary, introduced Ms. Hennessee, the Pre-K teacher, along with Ms. Hyder, the music director. They brought the little pre-k students out to perform. The tiny tots sang several Christmas songs for the audience, including Jingle Bells, Up On the Housetop, and It Must be Santa Claus.

Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2008: Randolph made and Smith seconded a motion

to approve the minutes of 11/24/08 with the following corrections: Page 2, Item #1, School Board Reports, TLN Report, (1) change the word “complaints” to the word “regulations”, and change the Roman Numeral for Title IX (from VIII to IX).

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

Approval of Agenda: (See Exhibit #1) Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the agenda as per Exhibit #1. In discussion, the extra bus purchase will be added to the discussion of buses; the technology position was approved with the budget; the audit is not included on the agenda, but the corrective actions will be furnished to board members who wish to have it.

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

Community Comments: (None)

Item 1 - Facilities Update – Kim Chamberlin (See Exhibit #2)

A. Pleasant Hill Elementary: Mr. Chamberlin stated that the proposed renovations would be to the old classroom wing at the far end of the building, which is a single-story facility with a partial basement underneath. Renovating that space for classrooms could add six classrooms on the upper floor and two classrooms on the lower level. The building is structurally in pretty good shape; the roof is in decent shape; the floor structure has some areas that would need to be replaced. The mechanical, plumbing and electrical are worn out and would need full replacement. A rough number of \$1.2 Million was given as the price tag for the full renovation. In discussion, Mr. Chamberlin stated that it is tough to decide whether it would be more feasible to demolish the building and build a new structure. After all is said and done, the comparables for new construction are about the same as for renovation. The building was built around 1949/50 and it was renovated in the late 1980s. Mr. Chamberlin sees no real historical value to the building, which is one factor to be considered. Blalock asked him to come back with a comparison between a new eight-room addition and the renovations. (New construction would take somewhere between twelve and fifteen months to complete.) Blalock made and Smith seconded a motion to have Mr. Chamberlin go ahead and do an estimate for new construction of six to eight classrooms, with storage, and bring that back to the board at the next regular meeting. Mr. Chamberlin stated that no cost will be attached to this part of the job; when the go-ahead is given for a project is when the cost will start.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

B. Cumberland County High School: Mr. Chamberlin stated that a list of things that needed to be done to bring CCHS up to the standards of SMHS was done several years ago, and many of those items have been completed. The remaining items are an auditorium similar to SMHS (1200 seats, stage, and support facilities for that, band, art and choir rooms that would be part of the auditorium). The only other major item on the list was air conditioning of the gymnasium. The costs for this project will be about \$6.5 Million to bring it up to par with SMHS.

C. Baker's Crossroads Elementary School: According to Mr. Chamberlin, the new school is about 20% larger than Brown and Stone. The cost of the new school is estimated at \$14.0 Million. There has been no appreciable increase in construction cost at this time.

At this point, after Mr. Chamberlin's presentation, Blalock made and Chairman Parris seconded a motion to have Ms. VanWinkle take the 2008 building program to the County Commission after Mr. Chamberlin does a report on the Pleasant Hill project, in order to present all projects to the Commission at the same time.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Item 2 - School Board Reports

A. TLN Report

1. Press Conferences by TSBA: Schlafer announced that during the week of January 18th through the 23rd, (School Board Appreciation Week) these press conferences will take place to discuss positive things that are going on in our schools. TSBA is asking each school to spotlight one student on a 3-minute DVD to put the focus on children and to highlight positive things that are going on in public education. He asked the principals in the room, along with Ms. VanWinkle, to work on doing this. The free positive publicity is very desirable.

2. New Secretary of Education: Schlafer has emailed board members an article from the NSBA, supporting Mr. Duncan, new Secretary of Education, and what he has stood for in his 44 years in school service in Chicago.

3. Meeting in Gatlinburg: Schlafer thanked Ms. Harris, Ms. Wood and Mr. King (who attended the meeting on his own time) for attending the meeting in Gatlinburg. There is a \$800.0 Million to a \$1.0 Billion shortfall in tax revenues in the State of Tennessee,

which is very critical.

4. Elected Directors of Schools: Schlafer stated that the new State Legislature will push for this change, which he feels will be a big step backwards for us. Governor Bredesen has promised if that legislation makes it to his desk, he will veto it.

5. State Monies for Schools: Schlafer stated that extended contracts have already been cut twice in 2008, even though the BEP monies are expected to remain constant. Commissioner Webb has stated that he has been asked by Governor Bredesen to cut 33% in the discretionary funding in ancillary programs (Extended Contracts, Pre-K and Coordinated School Health).

6. Elimination of Local School Districts and Local School Boards: Schlafer stated that there is a move on to eliminate the aforementioned items, due to too much bureaucracy. He doesn't think this will happen, but it is getting attention.

Item 3 - Legal Report

A. TRANE Contract for Investment Grade Energy Audit: (See Exhibit #3)

Mr. Patton stated that TRANE has agreed that if the Board does not go ahead with the Investment Grade Energy Audit, the Board will make a good-faith effort to secure the cost of the audit in the amount of \$113,900.00 from the Cumberland County Legislative Body on or before October 15, 2009. Ms. VanWinkle stated that the State of Tennessee has not pulled their \$96.0 Million to be spent for this type of project, and the TVA also has a huge grant set aside for this type project. After the audit is completed, it will be up to the Board to decide how much of the proposal they want to implement. If only part of the project is chosen to be done, the cost of the audit is included in that price and it will be paid for by the savings that are realized from the project. (TRANE has guaranteed those savings or they will make up the difference.) Mr. Patton explained that this is only a contract for the Audit and not the Energy Solution Project. If this contract is approved tonight, the Board will be responsible for the \$113,900.00 for the Audit; if the Energy Solution Project is implemented, the cost of the Audit will be included in the cost of the ESP and will be paid for by the savings realized from the ESP. Ms. VanWinkle stated that the cost of utilities system-wide is right at \$2.0 Million annually. If we do not realize enough savings to make the payment at the end of the year, TRANE has to make up the difference. Further discussion was had, after which Schlafer made and Janeway seconded a motion to approve the contract for the TRANE audit as per Exhibit #3.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Schlafer (mover-yes)**
- Janeway (seconder-yes)**
- Hyder (yes), Scarbrough (yes)**
- Randolph (yes), Smith (yes)**
- Blalock (yes), Chairman Parris (yes)**

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

B. Communication Contract: (See Exhibit #4) Mr. Patton stated that the Cumberland County Government is asking for the use of the radio frequencies that are owned by the BOE for the purpose of building an up-graded emergency radio communications system.

He has made some adjustments to the Memorandum of Understanding that was forwarded to him. Mr. Eric Richmond, county employee, was present to answer questions about the contract. He stated that there is a precedent for sharing in Tennessee; Robertson County is sharing frequencies with their BOE, and in FCC's Rules and Regulations, there is a section that covers use of the same frequencies by multiple licensees. Ms. VanWinkle stated that all other departments of the county that have joined this effort, their costs are being covered by the County, but they want the school system to pay about \$633,000.00 for equipment to join. Mr. Richmond stated that if we want to purchase units on a small scale, we can phase those in on that basis. Mr. McAnally stated that when this was first brought up, the County had agreed to pay for the equipment for the BOE, but this later changed. He stated that we can't afford this, and we have a system in place that is working well at this time. Mr. Steve Threet stated that we entered into the radio business when we entered into the Internet business in order to get FCC reimbursements. Further discussion was had, after which Janeway made and Smith seconded a motion to table this item.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

(Houston entered the meeting during the discussion of Item #3-B)

(BREAK)

Item 4 - Director of Schools Report

A. Approval of Bus Purchase Request: (See Exhibit #5) Ms. VanWinkle stated that buses must be taken off the line fifteen years from the day they are titled, no matter what shape they are in or how many miles they have on them. (The only exception is for Special Education buses, which are good for twelve years.) She asked the board's permission to propose to the County Budget Committee that they put back in their budget the three buses that were cut from the budget, along with one small bus to replace a bus that Ms. Inman has that must come off the line. The small bus will add \$55,000.00 to the amount; the big buses will cost \$74,340.00 each. If the County will agree by January to go ahead and purchase the buses, with a letter of intent or a purchase order, the Mid-South Bus Center, Inc. (Thomas buses) will honor that same price for buses bought in the next school year. Blue Bird contacted Mr. McAnally by phone and stated that they would do the same thing for \$82,000.00 each. If the buses were to go up on price by two to three percent, taking advantage of the price now would save around \$25,000.00. Ms. VanWinkle stated that eight buses will be coming off the line by next August, which means that we must have four by then or bus routes will have to be

Janeway (no), Hyder (yes)
Scarborough (no), Schlafer (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)
Carried (7-yes, 2-no)

MOTION:

D. Budget Preparation: (See Exhibit #8) Ms. VanWinkle explained the step raises as per Exhibit #8. She asked board members to study the scales to see how much the budget would have to increase to meet these raises. No step raises were given to the support staff last year. They were given a one percent raise but not a step raise for years of experience. She further explained that “certified step raises” are mandated by the State and must be followed by law. Further discussion was had

E. FYI: (See Exhibit #9)

1. Self-evaluation form: Chairman Parris asked board members to do the self-evaluation that is included in Exhibit #9 and turn them in to Ms. Zimmerman, who will, in turn, send them on to TSBA. Ms. VanWinkle asked that they be turned in by January 15th, 2009.

Item 5 - School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports

1. Sick Leave Bank: Randolph stated that two board members must be on the sick leave bank committee. Schlafer had agreed to serve along with Randolph, but since the meetings start at 3:30 p.m., Schlafer is not able to attend. Houston agreed to fill the position.

2. Budget Review Committee: Ms. VanWinkle reported that the Budget Review Committee will have Mr. Jeff Brown, Commissioner, to serve on this committee, along with Janeway and people in the community.

B. Committee Appointments/Review

1. Security Committee: Smith asked for a report from this committee. Police Chief Dave Beaty and Sheriff Butch Burgess, along with Keith Garrison, serve on this committee. Mr. Tim Clafflin has worked closely with them in developing the plan. The plan has been turned in to the State.

Item 6 - Business Manager Report

A. Monthly Financial Report: (See Exhibit #10) Ms. Randol stated that the property taxes have come in at 19.9%, with \$2.0 Million needed by the end of February. At this time last year, the property tax was at 68.9%. Total Revenues are at 36.8%. Expenditures are at 35.31%. The amount pulled from Fund Balance as of 11/30/08 is \$396,000.00. As of this

afternoon, \$1,379,359.00 has been pulled from Fund Balance. Further discussion was had, after which Janeway made and Schlafer seconded a motion to have Mr. Patton draft a letter to the County Budget Committee, asking them what their intent is to meet their Maintenance of Effort due to the shortfall in property taxes. (Ms. Randol estimates that shortfall to be around \$200,000.00. The County has thus far provided only \$12,000.00 above their Maintenance of Effort. If the shortfall is realized at the estimated amount, the County would owe the BOE \$180,000.00.)

VOICE VOTE: **Janeway (mover-yes)**
 Schlafer (seconder-yes)
 (8-ayes, Blalock-no)

MOTION: **Carried (8-yes, 1-no)**

Item 7 - Approval of DOS Performance Evaluation Document: (See Exhibit #11)

Schlafer made and Smith seconded a motion to approve the DOS Performance Evaluation Document as per Exhibit #11.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Chairman Parris stated that this approved document will be faxed to TSBA; they will, in turn, send each board member the document by mail with a return envelope. Board members will then evaluate the director by this document, and mail it back to TSBA by the deadline. The scores will be combined by TSBA and they will bring a report back to the board. If it is not a signed copy or if it is not turned in by the deadline, it will not count.

Item 8 - Approval of SpEd Speech Contract: (See Exhibit #12)

Item 9 - Approval of Martin Elementary Food Lion Grant Proposal: (See Exhibit #13)

Schlafer made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve Item #8 as per Exhibit #12, and Item #9 as per Exhibit #13.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Item 10 - Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Brown Elementary Volunteers:** (See Exhibit #14)
- B. Approval of School Trips:** (See Exhibit #15)
 - 1. South Cumberland 8th Graders**
 - 2. SMHS Lady Basketball Team**
- C. Approval of 2nd Reading on Policies:** (See Exhibit #16)
 - 1. (1.100) School District-School Board Legal Status and Authority**
 - 2. (1.808) Registered Sex Offenders**
- D. Approval of 1st Reading on Policies:** (See Exhibit #17)
 - 1. (3.210) Safety (10.D.1)**
 - 2. (3.500) Food Service Management (10.D.2)**
 - 3. (3.501) Food Service Banquet (10.D.3)**

(Continued on Page 9)

Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, A through D, as per Exhibits #14, 15, 16 and 17.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Item 11 - Schedule Work Session for TSBA E-meeting Presentation for January 22 at 5:00

p.m.: Chairman Parris stated that this meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. before the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 2009.

Item 12 - Other Old Business

A. Advertising on Buses: Ms. VanWinkle will check buses and if there is still advertising on them, it will be removed since no revenue is being received for this.

B. Technology Position: Ms. VanWinkle stated that this position has been budgeted and the person will be hired for the second semester only. That department will still be one person short. Personnel issues need to be discussed with Ms. VanWinkle and not at board meetings, according to Chairman Parris.

C. Student Reps, PTO Reps and CCEA Rep: Schlafer is of the opinion that if these people are going to sit at the table with the board, they should have a voice in what is going on, even though their votes will not count toward the official vote.

Questions from Media

A. Andy Vaughn: Ms. VanWinkle stated that all three building projects (See Item #1, Facilities Update) will be presented to the Budget Committee after the information is obtained from Mr. Chamberlin in regard to the Pleasant Hill project.

(Two (2) tapes dated 12/18/08 are marked as Exhibit #18)

Adjournment: Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE: All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at the approximate hour of 9:05 p.m.)

(Continued on Page 10)

(Minutes of 12/18/08 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 January 9, 2009.

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

(My Commission expires 6/6/11)