

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 22, 2009

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, January 22nd, 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. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Parris, Schlafer, Janeway
Houston, Hyder, Scarbrough
Smith, Randolph, Blalock
Casey Conley, CCHS Student Rep
Camera, PTO/PTA Rep

ABSENT: None

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

Moment of Silence: Schlafer asked everyone to remember Joshua Stephens, a CCHS junior who passed away yesterday from cancer after a brave fight against the dreadful disease.

Pledge to Flag: Casey Conley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition:

SACS Accreditation: Principal Janet Brooker announced that SMHS will be having the SACS evaluation in two weeks. The motto for after the approval of the evaluation is, "Where Today's Success Meets Tomorrow's Dreams." Every student at SMHS has been given a T-Shirt with the motto, and every board member was given a T-shirt tonight.

A. SMHS Chorus: Ms. Brooker introduced the SMHS band director, Mr. Blake Saldana, who in turn introduced the members of the choir who will be singing for us tonight. He invited everyone to the spring concert which will be held at SMHS in April. He stated that tonight's performance is the female version of barbershop singing.

C. Eric Testorff – Technology Coordinator: Ms. VanWinkle introduced Mr. Testorff, who has taken the position of Technology Coordinator.

D. Presentation for the Board: Principal of Martin Elementary, Christy Lewis, presented the board with a beautiful set of books that will be placed in their library in honor of National School Board Appreciation Week (January 26 through January 30th); the board is honored by having each member's name on a list in the front

cover of each book. The Phoenix School prepared a delicious dinner, honoring the board, preceding this meeting tonight.

Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2008: Janeway made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the minutes of 12/18/08 with the following correction: Item #6, Business Manager's Report, Page 7, the sentence, "Due to a shortfall in property taxes" should be changed to read, "Due to the shortfall in sales taxes."

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

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

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

Community Comments: (None)

Item 1: TSBA – Randy Bennett, Deputy Executive Director

A. Board of Distinction Presentation: Before presenting the board with a beautiful two-year plaque for qualifying as a Board of Distinction, Mr. Bennett gave the requirements that the board must meet to acquire this prestigious honor. There are 136 school systems, and not even one-third of those have this distinction. Fifteen items must be fulfilled to receive this honor.

- (1) Participation in a Retreat
- (2) Conduct a Superintendent (Director of Schools) Evaluation
- (3) Up-date Five Year Plan
- (4) Conduct Annual Review of entire Policy Manual
- (5) Adopt and Adhere to Policies for effective Board Operations
- (6) Adopt TSBA's Boardmanship's Code of Ethics Policy and all members sign a pledge to abide by that Code
- (7) Develop and maintain a Plan for Promoting County Schools
- (8) Have representation at the TSBA Delegate Assembly
- (9) Be a part of the Tennessee Legislative Network
- (10) Participate in a Board Self-Evaluation on a regular basis
- (11) Have meetings critiqued by board members who are at Level 3 or above

- (12) Have attendance of at least a majority of Board Members at the Fall District Meeting
- (13) Have at least a majority of Board Members to attend the TSBA Convention for the last two years
- (14) Have at least one-third of the Board be at Level 2 or greater in the Boardmanship program
- (15) Each board member must have attended at least 75% of Board Meetings during the last two years.

B. Director of Schools Evaluation Report: (See Exhibit #2) Mr. Bennett reported that the board has completed its evaluation of Ms. VanWinkle in: Board Relationship, Community Relationships, Staff Developer, Instructional Leader, Facilities and Finance, and Planning. After being compiled by TSBA, her evaluation turned out to be a very outstanding evaluation. All comments from board members have been shared with Ms. VanWinkle by Mr. Bennett. Ms. VanWinkle thanked the board and commented that she has a good board to work with.

Item 2: Facilities Update – Kim Chamberlin & Scott Nicholson

A. North Cumberland Elementary Sewer Line Easement: (See Exhibit #3)

B. North Cumberland Sewer Connection Agreement: (See Exhibit #4)

Mr. Scott Nicholson, filling in for Mr. Chamberlin, reported that the City of Crossville has given approval on the preliminary alignment for the sewer line easements. Two aquatic resource alterations have been approved by TDEC. The Notice of Intent for Construction of Storm Water has been submitted and approved by TDEC. The easement drawings have been developed based on the preliminary alignment, and the drawings for the acquisition phase have been started. He thinks if there are no major alignment changes, the project can be finished in about three weeks. At that time, the plans will be submitted to TDEC and TDOT and then finally, to the City of Crossville. Once those approvals are obtained, work can begin.

Ms. Sally Oglesby stated that the City of Crossville has already begun, on good faith, the acquisition of the easements on the board's behalf. There are 47 easements and she has already signed 22 of those. The additional help that is required on her behalf to help with these easements will cost \$150.00 each. (Her time is not charged to the board but is included in her job for the City of Crossville.) The only other additional costs will be the recording fees, which run around \$17.00 per easement. The City will ask for reimbursement of these charges.

After discussion, Smith made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve the North Cumberland Sewer Line Easement Contract as per Exhibit #3 and the North Cumberland Sewer Connection Agreement as per Exhibit #4.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Smith (mover-yes)

**Randolph (seconder-yes)
Blalock (yes), Schlafer (yes)
Scarborough (yes), Hyder (yes)
Janeway (yes), Houston (yes)
Chairman Parris (yes)**

MOTION: Carried unanimously

C: Pleasant Hill Renovation: Mr. Nicholson reported that the old existing building at P.H. has about 12,000 square feet, and Mr. Chamberlin is proposing a new two-story building with about 22,000 square feet. This would incorporate everything that the principal has asked for. The upper floor would have 8 classrooms, restrooms, a workroom and some custodial area. The lower part would be for storage, a large all-purpose room, and restrooms. The estimated cost for the new building (22,000 square feet) will be about \$2.4 Million, including demolition of the old building. The cost for renovation of the old building (12,000 square feet) would be about \$1.2 Million. The new project would cost about \$110.00 per square foot, and renovation of the old building would be about \$105.00 per square foot. In discussion, Principal Mary Ann Huff stated that the new proposal would be her “wish”, but she realizes that it is not necessarily what she will get. A lengthy discussion was had, after which it was decided to schedule a work session with Mr. Chamberlin for more discussion on this matter before taking any of the building plan to the County Commission.

Item 3 - School Board Reports:

A. TLN Report

(1) 2009 Legislative Session: (See Exhibit #5) Schlafer asked permission to send the “TLN Notes” to all personnel of the Cumberland County School System. (Permission was granted.) In turn, he asked board members to send them to anyone that they feel will be interested. He has subscribed to the NSBA “Legal Clips”, and he will be glad to send those to everyone on a weekly basis. He also asked every board member that can possibly attend the “Day on the Hill” to please attend. Ms. VanWinkle stated that the van will leave the Central Office at 5:00 a.m. that day, February 24th, for anyone that wants to ride.

(2) TLN Notes from 1/26/09: (See Exhibit #6) Schlafer remarked about the make-up of the new state legislature as far as committees, etc. He touched on the 2010 budget that Governor Bredesen will present on February 9th, a later date than he usually presents the budget, to have a better idea of what Federal funds will be available to us. The next biggest idea of concern after the budget is the “elected superintendent” issue. Schlafer asked Chairman Parris to put the resolution that is included in the FYI packet (Page 3) on the agenda for the February meeting. He asked board members to be sure to file their disclosure form with the Tennessee Ethics Commission by the end of January. If this is not turned in, there is a \$10,000 fine assessed.

(3) FRN Conference: (See Exhibit #7) Schlafer announced that this time next Thursday, he will be in Washington to attend this conference.

Item 4 - Legal Report

A. FCC Memorandum of Understanding: (See Exhibit #8) Mr. Patton stated that this is the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cumberland County School Board and Cumberland County Government regarding the radio frequencies that

the County is asking to share with the CC School Board. This agreement has been edited from the one presented last month, and from the Board's standpoint, it protects the Board if it decides to allow the County to use the frequencies that it owns. In discussion, Mr. Eric Newman stated that the County is currently using 10 of the frequencies and plans to use the other ten. (None of the frequencies are being used by the Board at this time, and the frequencies will always be used by the County only on a secondary basis.) The cost of the radios was discussed. After further discussion and after very firm assurance from Mr. Newman that this will not affect the Board's use of its Internet services or its communications system in any way whatsoever, Schlafer made and Janeway seconded a motion to allow Cumberland County to use these frequencies, with the understanding that the County is responsible for any fees relating to their use of these frequencies.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Schlafer (mover-yes)

Janeway (seconder-yes)

Hyder (yes), Scarbrough (yes)

Smith (yes), Blalock (yes)

Randolph (yes), Houston (yes)

Chairman Parris (yes)

Student Rep Conley (yes)

PTO/PTA Rep Camera (yes)

MOTION:

Carried unanimously

Schlafer asked that Ms. VanWinkle send the County a letter, stating that the Board wants to do everything it can to protect and preserve the safety of our people, and even though this is not something the Board has to do, it is something it wants to do.

C: Change of Law Firm: Mr. Patton stated that as of February 1st, 2009, he will be moving to a new law firm – Patton & Hyder – at 157 Lantana Road. His new partner will be Susan Hyder. He assured the Board that its representation will not be interrupted, and he looks forward to carrying on business as usual.

Item 5 - Director of Schools Report

A. Security Report – Tim Claflin: Mr. Claflin gave a very comprehensive slide presentation on what is being done to keep our schools safe. The first goal was to have all schools with the same safety plan, using FEMA guidelines, which has been done. Everything Mr. Claflin has done, he has consulted with the Emergency Management Director, Keith Garrison. Also, the self-assessment of the school system's emergency plan that was submitted was due by October 1st, 2008; Cumberland County was one of 61 districts out of 141 that did not require applying for a waiver because of its timely completion. (Our assessment was submitted electronically on September 12th, 2008.) Mr. Claflin ran a video of how easily and quickly information can be obtained on any student via the Internet. In 20 minutes, everything about a child can be found. He ended the presentation with a video of how this information was used to find a 13-year old girl and how that child ended up losing her life at the hands of an

Internet predator. This was very eye-opening information. He plans to take his program to all the schools, with different presentations for the upper and lower grades.

In further discussion, Ms. VanWinkle stated that when school is being cancelled, there is a school messenger that sends out a call to every student who has a registered phone number. This call reaches thousands of households every time school is cancelled.

B. FYI: (See Exhibit #9)

Item 6 - School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports (None)

Item 7 - Business Manager Report

A. Monthly Financial Report: (See Exhibit #10) Ms. Randol, in referring to the December financial statement, called attention to the current Property Tax collection at 48.1%, which leaves the schools ahead of the game at this point in that line item. Local Option Sales Tax collections will be just about balanced out next month. She explained other items on the report.

B. General Purpose School Fund Resolution: (See Exhibit #11)

C. SpEd Budget Resolution: (See Exhibit #12)

Randolph made and Schlafer seconded a motion to approve Item #7-B as per Exhibit #11 and Item #7-C as per Exhibit #12.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Randolph (mover-yes)

Schlafer (seconder-yes)

Blalock (yes), Smith (yes)

Houston (yes), Janeway (yes)

Hyder (yes), Scarbrough (yes)

Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried unanimously

Item 8 - Consent Agenda

A. Approval of CCHS Volunteers: (See Exhibit #13)

1. CCHS

2. SMHS

B. Approval of School Trips: (See Exhibit #14)

1. CCHS Beta Club

2. CCHS Wrestling Team

3. Pine View Junior High

C. Approval of 2nd Reading on Policies (See Exhibit #15)

1. (3.210) Safety

2. (3.500) Food Service Management

3. (3.501) Food Service Banquet

D. Approval of 1st Reading on Policies: (See Exhibit #16)

1. (4.202) Special Education

2. **(4.406) Use of the Internet**
3. **(4.602) Class Ranking**

Randolph made and Smith seconded a motion to approve Item #8, Consent Agenda, as per Exhibits 13, 14, 15 and 16.

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

Item 9 - Other Old Business

A. Subscribing to emeeting services: Schlafer asked Chairman Parris to consider discussion of subscribing to the emeeting services on the February agenda. She will do that.

B. Meeting with County Education Committee: At the request of Commission Jeff Brown, Ms. VanWinkle set a meeting date of February 9th or 10th to meet with the County Education Committee. She will get back with board members to see which date suits Mr. Brown.

C. Reconstitution of Growth Committee: Chairman Parris stated that Mayor Hill has asked for a board member to be appointed to the Growth, Policy, Annexation and Incorporation Committee for Cumberland County, which has to do with the industrial park in the eastern part of Cumberland County. (See Page 7 of Exhibit #9, FYI.) Scarbrough volunteered to be on the committee.

Questions from Media: (None)

(Two (2) tapes dated 1/11/09 are marked as Exhibit #17)

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

VOICE VOTE: **All ayes**
MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

**(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned
at the approximate hour of 8:30 p. m.)**

Ms. Aarona VanWinkle
Director of Schools

Ms. Shirley Parris
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 February 3rd, 2009.

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

(My Commission expires 6/6/11)