

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
November 24, 2008**

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 24, 2008, 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. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Parris, Randolph, Schlafer
Houston, Hyder, Scarbrough
Smith, Blalock, Janeway
Connie Cassie, CCHS Student Rep
Winnie Pickens, SMHS Student Rep

ABSENT: None

COUNSEL: None

Moment of Silence

Pledge to Flag: Mr. Bruce Simmons led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition

A. Janet Graham, CCHS Principal of the Year: Chairman Parris reported that Ms. Graham was selected as Principal of the Year of the Middle Tennessee Grand Division. In the State of Tennessee, only three principals were picked for this award, with Ms. VanWinkle being one of those. This is a very prestigious award and Ms. Graham was commended and applauded for the great job she does.

B. Dan Schlafer, President-elect of the TSBA: Chairman Parris reported that Mr. Schlafer has been elected as President of the Tennessee School Boards Association; his term will begin on January 1st, 2009. To be elected to this position is a show of great confidence in his abilities, and he was also praised and applauded for the wonderful job he does for the board, the school system and Cumberland County.

Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2008: Houston made and Smith seconded a motion to approve the October 23, 2008 minutes as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Houston (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.

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

MOTION: Carried unanimously

Community Comments: (None)

Item 1 - School Board Reports

A. TLN Report

1. Title VI and Title IX: (See Exhibit #2)

Schlafer presented board members with a folder explaining regulations regarding the above-titled programs. He feels that all board members should be as knowledgeable as they possibly can on these issues.

B. TSBA Delegate Assembly: (See Exhibit #3) Schlafer reported that this group met one week ago today, and on that historical occasion, all eighteen (18) of the resolutions that were presented were passed. He presented the media with a packet of all that information.

1. Resolution regarding County Commission:

Schlafer stated that the resolution he was most interested in (and it was passed) was the one which holds the County Commission responsible for their actions regarding their funding for the school system. (Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the delegates supported this resolution.)

2. Campaign for Fiscal Independence: Schlafer stated that this resolution was passed for the first time in history. The feeling of the Assembly at this time is to give local control of education to the school boards. Much more will be heard regarding this issue in the future.

C. TSBA Legislative Alert: (See Exhibit #4) Schlafer reported on the fact that the Republicans have taken control of the political situation in the State of Tennessee. The biggest issue relating to the present legislature will be the election of school superintendents versus board-appointed directors. At this time, there are only three states in the U.S. that have elected superintendents; he thinks this would be a big step backwards if we revert to that procedure.

D. NSBA Attendance: Chairman Parris announced that Schlafer will be representing the board in Washington at the National School Boards Association Conference with no cost to the school board. Schlafer stated that the TSBA will be funding this trip. He has emailed an imaginary discussion about K-12 education that he would have with the President of the United States if he had an opportunity to talk with him.

Item 2 - Legal Report

A. Approval of Resolution to Fund School Nurses: (See Exhibit #5) Ms. VanWinkle would like to send this resolution to the State of Tennessee, supporting the funding of nurses in all of our schools. The City Commission has sent a similar resolution last month. This will be the third year in a row that the Board has sent this resolution. Schlafer made and Smith seconded a motion to approve the sending of the resolution as per Exhibit #4.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Item 3 - Director of Schools Report

A. Completion of Retreat Agenda

1. GCA Service Group: (See Exhibit #6) Mrs. VanWinkle stated that the power point presentation that is being presented by this group is to get the board to think about the possibility of out-sourcing the custodial services for our school system. Attending representatives of GCA are Craig Colquitt, Senior Sales Director; Andy Kuhns, Regional Manager of Middle Tennessee; Kip Puryear, former superintendent of Wilson County Schools and presently a consultant with GCA.

In discussion after the power point presentation, Ms. VanWinkle reported that because of the budget issues and the fact that Operation and Maintenance is a very large part of the budget, the portion of money that is allotted to us by the BEP formula comes nowhere near meeting the needs of the school system. (This is true regarding all counties in the state because of the way the formula is set up.) She stated that our present employees will retain their jobs if this concept is adopted; they will just be working for GCA instead of Cumberland County. Their wages will remain the same, as well as their benefit packages that they already have. This program would help us by the fact that equipment and supplies are bought in bulk; therefore, they would be passed on to us at a cheaper price. Other directors and principals have told Ms. VanWinkle that this is a much cheaper way of operating. This is a very competitive business, and it will have to be bid out.

After further discussion with the GCA reps, Schlafer made and Scarbrough seconded a motion to allow Mrs. VanWinkle to pursue this option - for budgetary purposes - by drawing up specs, comparing costs and the amount that could be saved by the out-sourcing. In discussion, Smith wanted assurance that our present employees will be considered first for the jobs – with the same wages and benefits as they presently have. In answer to Scarbrough’s question about the length of the contract, Mr. Colquitt answered that it is typically for one year, with an option to renew for four more years, with a sixty-day cancellation clause if they are not performing satisfactorily. In answer to Blalock’s question about determining how many people would be used, Mr. Colquitt answered that it is according to the population of the school. Further discussion was had.

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

B. FYI: (See Exhibit #7)

Item 4 - School Board Committees

A. Committee Reports: (None)

B. Committee Appointments/Review

1. Approval of Personnel Hearing Authority

Committee: (See Exhibit #8) Randolph made and Smith seconded a motion to approve the hearing authority committee as per Exhibit #8, (John Saylor, Chairman; Janet Graham, Kay Stanley, Lane McAnally, Tim Claflin, Sharron Barrett and Kathy Hamby).

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

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

Item 5 - Business Manager Report

A. Monthly Financial Report: (See Exhibit #9) Ms. Randol stated that BEP monies were posted this morning, which brings the Fund Balance to \$1,399,812. Expenditures are at 34.5%; Revenues are at 33.6%. She stated that we are staying within the budget by holding spending down and using the revenues that are available. Discussion was had.

Item 6 - Approval of Grant Proposals: (See Exhibit #10)

- A. SpEd Inclusion Grant Proposal**
- B. Homestead Elementary Goody's Grant Application**
- C. Stone Elementary**

Item 7 - Approval of Career & Technical Education Proposals: (See Exhibit #11)

- A. Sale of T & I House**
- B. Specs for Greenhouse and Storage Building**

Item 8 - Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Volunteers:** (See Exhibit #12)
 - 1. CCHS**
 - 2. North Cumberland**
 - 3. Pine View**
 - 4. South Cumberland**
 - 5. SMHS**
- B. Approval of School Trips:** (See Exhibit #13)
 - 1. CCHS Marching Band**
 - 2. CCHS Interact Club**
 - 3. SMHS Lady Basketball Team (two trips)**
 - 4. SMHS Volleyball Team**

C. North Cumberland Elementary Fundraiser: (See Exhibit #14)

D. Approval of 1st Reading on Policies: (See Exhibit #15)

- 1. (1.100) School District-School Board Legal Status and Authority**
- 2. (1.808) Registered Sex Offenders**

Schlafer made and Randolph seconded a motion to approve Item #6 (Approval of Grant Proposals); Item #7 (Approval of Career & Technical Education Proposals); and Item #8 (Consent Agenda), as per Exhibits 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15. In discussion, Mrs. VanWinkle stated that the money for the greenhouse and storage building at SMHS will be paid out of Capital Projects; it was budgeted in Capital Outlay at the time the budget was set. It must be bid out and it will take at least two months to get the bid approved. By then, property taxes will be coming in and the money will be there. Regarding the storage building, Mrs. VanWinkle stated that it will be used to store items that are used in the greenhouse and also for setting plants before they get to the greenhouse stage. The CTE class will be building the storage building and the greenhouse. Further discussion was had.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Schlafer (mover-yes)

Randolph (seconder-yes)

Houston (yes), Janeway (yes)

Hyder (yes), Scarbrough (yes)

Smith (yes), Blalock (yes)

Chairman Parris (yes)

MOTION: Carried unanimously

In regard to the above vote on the greenhouse and storage building, Mrs. VanWinkle clarified that the action taken was for approving the bidding out of this project; after the bids come in, the board will act on those bids, either approving or disapproving them.

Item 9 - Set Date for December Board Meeting: Since the regular December board meeting would normally fall on Christmas Day, it was re-set for Thursday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

Item 10 - Other Old Business

A. Demolition of Crab Orchard House: Mrs. VanWinkle stated that the house has been stripped by removing everything that did not need to be torn down.

B. CCHS Projects: The soffets are done; the sign is not done. Mrs. VanWinkle has been tasked by the board to get these projects taken care of.

C. JROTC: The County Commission has approved \$15,000 toward the JROTC program, which falls short of what it will take to fund the program for the next semester. Colonel Philpot has left the program, but even if that position is not filled, the amount will still be short, because the money for that position will not come in from the Army.

Also, revenues will not be coming in. Mrs. VanWinkle has a meeting with Mr. Smith (who has replaced Mr. Philip) at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. She has specific questions to ask him about not filling some of those positions. Mr. Philip had told Mrs. VanWinkle that we had to have all the positions filled before continuing the program (in reference to the position at SMHS which they had said had to be filled by the end of this semester or the program would be pulled). In further discussion, Mrs. VanWinkle, in explaining the position we are in with the JROTC program, stated that it is not in the BEP formula. All that is available in Revenues for the program is the \$12,000 that the County Commission allotted the Board above the BEP formula; therefore, Basic Education monies have been used to fund the program even for the first semester. County Mayor Hill has made it very clear that this program has to be funded by Local Revenues in order to operate. Our state is 50th in the nation in funding for education according to the new ranking that came out last month, and Cumberland County is close to the bottom of the list in Tennessee. Cumberland County must find ways to generate monies for education if our students are going to have anything above the Basic Education Program (BEP) monies. In order to fund the JROTC program with BEP funds, the money would have to be taken out of something else, which has been done in the past. But due to the ever-increasing amount needed for Operation and Maintenance, especially with SMHS (which the county does not give one penny for funding and which costs the Board over \$4.0 Million dollars a year to operate), money is being pulled from everything that can be found just for the operation of our facilities at the very basic level. Mrs. Randol reported that the expenditures for JROTC at the end of this semester were \$63,399.92, with \$25,396.47 received from the Army, which means the total local amount spent on the program was \$38,003.45 through October. She estimates that \$4,476.00 will be received from the Army for November for the two officers that we now have. She also estimates that the costs will go up another \$7,000, which means at the end of November, there will be \$40,540 needed for the program, with only 29 or \$30,000 coming from the Army. Regarding salaries for this program, Schlafer brought out the fact that the State has a minimum that the Army sets for their retired personnel, which means the Board has no control over the amount of those salaries. Further discussion was had.

D. New Positions: In answer to Scarbrough's question regarding the filling of teacher positions that were budgeted, Mrs. VanWinkle stated that some of those positions have had to be filled due to teachers being on medical leave, with more taking medical leave next semester. Two positions have been filled due to over-crowdedness.

Questions from Media: (None)

(One (1) tape dated 11/24/08 is marked as Exhibit #16)

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

VOICE VOTE: All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at the approximate hour of 7:10 p.m.)

(Continued on Page 7)
Minutes of 11/24/08 continued from Page 6)

Mrs. 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 December 1st, 2009.

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

(My Commission expires 6/6/11)