

## MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education  
March 5, 2007

### Call to Order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 5, 2007, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairman Barry Breen called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and asked Mr. Spiegl to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, following a moment of silence.

### Roll call:

Present were Barry Breen, Susan Greer, Jackie Kemp, Dianne Proffitt, Chris Spiegl, and Rickey Thomas. The law requires a majority of the membership of the Board for passage; therefore, four votes are required to pass any question before the Board.

### Approval of agenda:

Chairman Breen asked if any Board Member wished to make a change to the agenda. Director Seifert asked the Board to correct a typo on 8-E-2, the date should be Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, not the 24<sup>th</sup>. Hearing no other change, Breen entertained a motion. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the noted date change.

### Public forum:

Breen specified that anyone wishing to address the Board must complete the Public Forum form prior to speaking. He asked if anyone wished to speak. No one responded.

### Reports:

- A) Transportation Committee Chairman Proffitt stated a meeting was held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and the Board was provided a copy of the minutes in their packet. The next meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.
- B) Drug Free Schools Committee Chairman Proffitt distributed minutes of the February meeting. She stated the committee was working toward developing action plans and making recommendations for the Board. The next meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- C) Director Seifert reported a standing meeting at CCCHS each Wednesday with architects, construction management, school personnel, and engineers to discuss the work and make recommendations. She noted the Board and the Commission's Budget, Education, and Capitol Improvement committees will have a joint meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the CCCHS project and finalize a recommendation for the Commission. The County Commission will meet March 19<sup>th</sup>. Breen stated a majority of the Board would attend the joint meeting; therefore, following tonight's meeting, the Board will go into an adjourned session. The Board will reconvene following the joint meeting to consider any action that could be required following that meeting, thus preventing any delay in the project.

D) Director Seifert reported that dirt was being moved and footings poured at the WCES project.

E) Director Seifert said demolition of the old HMS bleachers was in process. She stated bids were out this week for painting of the gym – she felt with the height of the painting, etc. that it would be a strain on the maintenance department. Once the bids are in, it must be determined if there is enough money in the budget for the job. Seifert felt the painting would only enhance the appearance of the new bleachers. Spiegl reported he was at HMS just prior to the Board meeting, and the sound of the old bleachers being tossed in the dumpsters was drowning out the softball game. He said it was a bustle of activity.

Hearing of delegations: None

Consent agenda:

Items are placed on the consent agenda that are routine and do not require discussion. Chairman Breen asked if there was an item on the Consent Agenda that any Board Member wished to pull for separate consideration. Proffitt asked that item 8-E, Field Trips, be pulled. Breen said if there were no other changes, he would entertain a motion. Greer made a motion, seconded by Kemp, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda with item 8-E pulled for separate consideration.

A) Approval of minutes: February 5, 2007 and February 15, 2007

B) Approval for tenure: None

C) Disposal of Equipment:

- 1) SMS Principal Bell, granted permission to discard the following outdated and irreparable items: 152 books, 10 computers, 6 monitors, 5 printers, and 1 TV
- 2) KSE Principal Dorris granted permission to discard the following outdated and irreparable items: 1 sp ed computer, 1 sp ed monitor, 1 sp ed keyboard, 8 keyboards, 2 printers, 10 student desks, 2 student chairs, 1 filing cabinet, approximately 100 books of mixed subjects, approximately 20 teacher manuals, partial and complete sets of encyclopedias

D) School fees: None

E) Field trips: pulled for separate consideration

F) School/Principal request: None

G) Early graduation request: None

H) Committee: None

E) Field trips:

Proffitt asked if the students on the trips would be responsible for making up the work missed in their other academic classes. CCCHS Principal Leavitt and Vocational

Director Lockert assured her all work would be completed. Lockert stated the FFA State Convention was a competitive/educational field trip. He stated the sixteen CCCHS students are applicants, officers, or award winners (State FFA or Proficiency). Greer stated the Board should revisit the policy governing field trips, because it states only one consecutive school day may be missed and this is a convention that we want our students to attend, although it is against our current policy.

Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Thomas, and carried unanimously to approve both fields.

- 1) CCCHS Principal Leavitt granted permission for an educational field trip for the physics class on Friday, May 11, 2007, to Kentucky Kingdom in Louisville, Kentucky. Eighteen students and three adults will leave at 7:00 a.m. and return after 2:00 p.m. One teacher and two parents will drive.
- 2) Vocational Supervisor Lockert granted permission for an educational field trip to Gatlinburg for the annual FFA State Convention. Sixteen students and three adults will depart CCCHS on Sunday, March 25th, at 12:30 p.m. and return to CCCHS on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m.

#### Budget and finance:

A) Greer made a motion, seconded by Proffitt, and passed unanimously to approve the budget amendments that are within a major category. These amendments require only Board approval.

#### Old Business:

- A) Thomas made a motion, seconded by Kemp, and passed unanimously to approve, on second reading, the revision of Board Policy 3.400, Student Transportation Management.
- B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to approve, on second reading, the revision of Board Policy 4.408, Movies and Videos.

#### New Business:

A) Thomas made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to approve the revision of the Board's Belief and Mission Statement. The following will be added to the current statement:

*We believe programs and academic decisions should be standards-aligned materials, including intervention and accelerated intervention materials.*

*We believe that desired student outcomes can best be achieved through a high degree of supportive interaction among stakeholders. Only through communication in planning and implementing Scientific Based Research and inclusive educational opportunities can this become a reality.*

*The Cheatham County School System District Plan will endeavor to align policies and procedures to bring into being lifelong learners and successful adults in an ever-changing society.*

B) Greer made a motion, seconded by Kemp to approve the 2007-2008 Coordinated School Health grant. When questioned, Mr. Jones stated the Board received only one-half the grant for 2006-2007, but will receive the full grant for 2007-2008. Breen thanked those responsible for writing the application for the grant. That motion passed unanimously.

C) Director Seifert thanked Dr. Rose for outlining the three plans for the 2007-2008 school calendar, giving both the advantages and disadvantages. She stated all three plans move graduation from Memorial Day weekend. Seifert reviewed all three plans. Breen said, without any objections, he would suspend the rules to allow for discussion. Plan B would move the spring break (to coincide with Easter) to one week after the high school quarter classes begin. In the past, the spring break has been at the end of the nine weeks, which allowed the break between the quarter classes (twenty-one quarter classes at the three high schools). Plan B also allows for one week less instructional time between the break and the TCAP testing for elementary and middle school. Some Board Members questioned how that would affect the students. Dr. Rose's outline revealed that research shows students do not perform as well on tests if they are taken on Mondays and Fridays.

Following much discussion, Breen entertained a motion. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Kemp to adopt Plan B for the 2007-2008 school calendar. School would begin August 6<sup>th</sup>, first semester would end December 20<sup>th</sup>, spring semester would begin January 8<sup>th</sup>, and the last day of school would be May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The second quarter of the spring semester would begin one week prior to the spring break. Some discussion followed. Thomas stated he did not wish to jeopardize the student's grades. Greer questioned how that one week may affect TCAP scores. Spiegel expressed concern about the break in the second quarter classes of the spring semester. Breen asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Greer, Kemp, Proffitt, and Breen. Voting no was Thomas, and Spiegel abstained. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed. Thomas stated he would like to see some comparison data as to how this calendar affects the students' grades. Director Seifert reported work would soon begin on a two-year calendar, allowing more time for parents to plan for vacations, etc. Breen expressed his appreciation to the calendar committee for their time spent serving on the committee, and thanked the parents for their input.

D) Breen stated the 2007-2008 budget has been a work in progress since November, with Mrs. Seifert meeting at each school for input, and the Board had two long work sessions. He noted this budget does not have an income side. Breen observed the Board used a "bottoms up" approach instead of using last year's numbers and working to see what was needed. He said the Board looked at the programs being provided for students, looked at the student's needs, looked at what programs will meet those needs, and formulated the solutions to meet those needs. Breen yielded the floor to Mrs. Seifert, saying this preliminary budget is a work in process.

Director Seifert spoke and used a power point presentation to reveal the \$43,563,550.00 budget request for 2007-2008. She thanked Jo Jones and Jordan Tupper for their valuable assistance in putting together the presentation. Seifert noted the budget is a substantial increase to meet the reasonable needs of our students, including: new teaching positions to

meet the need at the elementary level, some new positions for middle and high school, replace some high school positions that were cut, replace a computer lab at HHS, a new science lab for HMS, begin an out-of-school suspension program at the Academy, a Health Science position for CHS and HHS, a criminal justice position for vocational, a nurse at each elementary school - with middle and high schools to share a nurse, a new guidance position for each high school, a central office position for student management, an assistant principal for both ACE & PVE, behavior modification classes for each elementary, a 3% raise for all employees, capitol improvements, additional bus routes, and a new service truck for transportation (the last one was purchased in 1982). Seifert spoke about the lack of additional funds the Board has received in recent years. The budget presentation will be given at six public hearing, two within each cluster, with dates and times to be announced.

Breen noted their must be a collaborative effort between the School Board, the Commissioners, our staff, the parents, and constituents. He thanked Ms .Seifert for her presentation, and entertained a motion. Greer made a motion, seconded by Spiegl to approve the 2007-2008 preliminary budget of \$43,563,550.00 as presented. Discussions and thoughts followed. Breen stated this preliminary budget results in a substantial increase to meet the reasonable need of students. Proffitt commented the Board had look at this budget line by line, considering the needs of the children, and said the county must move forward. Kemp noted that Ms. Seifert, along with some Board Members, had group meetings at each school to understand each individual school's needs. Greer related she was looking forward to the cluster meetings and hearing input from the parents. Spiegl replied that he was struck by the county's physical responsibility, what the educators do on a daily basis, saying a great product is turned out for this price – the ship is afloat even with all the patches, and is grateful for the quality of our employees –considering the competition with the surrounding counties global market.

Chairman Breen expressed public thanks to Finance Director Sheila Tillman for her time and energy used in preparing the budget document since being told the Board wished to consider the budget at the March Board meeting. Breen asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Spiegl, Thomas, Greer, Kemp, Proffitt, and Breen. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed unanimously. He said copies would be distributed to the Commissioners tomorrow and we must partnership with the community.

E) Director Seifert remarked that at one time all custodial work was “in house”, then the management was contracted out, and three years ago the Board voted to “out source” the supervision and the workers. She noted a committee looked at the custodial bids and narrowed the selection to one company, the current GCA Services. Seifert noted another committee worked to decide if all custodial work should be return to “in house” or continue to “out source”.

Kemp reported the consensus of her committee was to bring custodial back “in house”. She noted it was hard for her to decide because she is not in the school, but the principals constantly hear the custodian say “it's not in my contract”. Kemp said she did not feel she was comparing apples and apples - would have preferred to look at both contracted and in house services. Proffitt remarked her committee felt as though supervision was a “ghost”, the good custodians should be considered full-time employees, and when principal asked for a task to be performed they would hear “it's not my job”. She stated she would have preferred to question the company.

Chairman Breen stated that with no objections, he would suspend the rules to allow for discussion and to question the GCA personnel in attendance.

Board Members questioned David Helton, GCA's VP for the Educational Division of this region. Helton remarked GCA still employees fifteen of the original Board custodians and stated Cheatham is the only school system that Supervisor Andy Kuhn oversees. Board Members questioned Mr. Helton about numerous items. When questioned, Helton stated their bid price of \$1.5M, up from \$1.2M three years ago, was the cost difference to have twelve-month custodians. Greer noted the large turn-over of the custodial employees. Helton emphasized that GCA has given the employees the equipment and support they need to do a good job.

Chairman Breen asked if any principal wished to comment. Principals giving their evaluation of services provided by GCA were: Mr. Dyce of PVE, Ms. Schliwa of HMS, Ms. Jones of ACE, Ms. Bell of SMS, Ms. Young of ECE, Ms. Barrow of PES, and HMS assistant principal McCarthy. .

At 9:31 p.m. Chairman Breen explained that Board Policy states if the meeting is not completed by 9:30 p.m., the Board can vote to extend the meeting by thirty minutes. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Greer, and passed unanimously to extend the meeting, per Board Policy.

Breen explained that if the custodians are returned "in house", they would be under the supervision of Maintenance Director Don Dority. He asked Mr. Dority to address the Board. Dority stated that when the maintenance employees are in the schools, they are supervised by the principals, the same as they are supervised by him – "in house" custodians would allow the principals to have supervision. Some other gains for the county outlined by Dority were: the custodian would be assigned to a building, would be twelve-month employees – having benefits, no strangers performing one-time summer cleaning, when not busy the custodian could perform other duties as needed (ex. – paint, work in flower beds, etc.). Breen specified that "in house" custodians have been discussed since an October work session. Dority fielded questions from Board Members. The Board did not wish to over-extend maintenance, but Mr. Dority certainly had a good track record.

Greer made a motion, seconded by Thomas to bring the Board of Education's custodial services in-house on July 1, 2007. Discussion followed. It was felt the custodians should be a part of the school team. Kemp wondered if there had been a breakdown in communication with GCA. Spiegl believed the "in house" custodial services would be a savings over time. Breen asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Thomas, Greer, Spiegl, and Breen. Voting no were Kemp and Proffitt. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed.

#### Other business:

Breen announced the Transportation Committee would meet March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. and the Drug Free Schools Committee would meet March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

At 9:48 p.m., Chairman Breen announced the Board was in an adjourned session until March 6, 2007 at the Cheatham County Courthouse.

Submitted by  
Carol F. Cannon

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Barry E. Breen, Board Chairman

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Lynn E. Seifert, Director of Schools