

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education

March 2, 2009

Call to order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 2, 2009, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairman Chris Spiegl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of silence: led by Ms. Proffitt

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Ms. Proffitt

Roll call:

Present were Michele Collins, Tim Williamson, Gregory Horton, Dianne Proffitt, Chris Spiegl, and Tammie Lavender. 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 Spiegl asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Director Seifert requested the Maintenance of Plant budget amendment be pulled, as she e-mailed earlier, to allow for further discussion at the March 17th work session. Spiegl asked if there was a motion to pull the Maintenance of Plant budget amendment from item 11 A. Hearing no motion, Chairman Spiegl declared the item would remain on the agenda.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to pull item 13-G, 5-year plan, from the agenda. Horton remarked it had been reported the Board was deadlocked on the five-year plan. He noted that every Board Member has a plan; it is just not the same plan. The chairman declared the motion passed, with Horton voting against and Spiegl abstaining.

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Horton to approve the agenda, with item 13-G pulled. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum:

The public forum offers the public an opportunity to address the Board about various issues. Spiegl specified that anyone wishing to address the Board must complete the Public Forum form prior to speaking. CCEA President Melanie Buchanan reported May 5th is the day to "bring a school board member to school day" in conjunction with National Teacher Day. There will be a reception after school in the ACE library. She gave details that would allow each board member to shadow a teacher, thus get a better understanding of teacher duties and responsibilities.

Presentations and Awards:

A) SHS teacher McCarver and students displayed fourteen student written and produced commercials for Tennessee Department of Transportation. McCarver explained the State competition for these TV commercials are designed to slow teenagers through construction zones. He encouraged everyone to support the students and vote for their favorite commercial at www.beweenthebarels.com.

B) Chairman Spiegl explained a student was omitted last month from the highest scores for the EXPLORE. The EXPLORE is the first part of a testing that continues and includes the PLAN in the tenth grade and ACT during the junior or senior year. All three test in the areas of English, math, reading, and science. The composite score range for EXPLORE test is 1 to 25. Chairman Spiegl and Vice Chairman Proffitt presented a certificate to:

Madison Anger, CMS – scored 22

C) Sycamore High School teacher Brad Causey revealed that SHS recently won the Economic Challenge State Championship – this is the third year in a row. Each winning team member received a trophy, a \$200.00 savings bond, and a T-shirt. Causey beamed this group had twice the aggregate score as the former State champions. This academic team will compete in Atlanta in the Regional Tournament and, if victorious, will be invited to the National Championship in New York. Chairman Spiegl and Vice Chairman Proffitt presented certificates to all the SHS participants and sponsors:

First place team members:

Matt Thompson
Evan Cunningham
Trevor Binkley
Tricia Lebkuecher

Other students participating in State tournament:

Rebecca Lampley
Stephen Ferraro
Rhyan Sledge – absent
Caitlin Jennings – absent
Andrew Sheler – absent

Teacher/sponsors:

Brad Causey
Doug Worsley - absent
Geoff Combs - absent

Reports:

A) ACE Principal Steen introduced Everett Guthrie, manager of the Lowe's Charlotte Avenue location, and stated teacher Dorothy Davis had received their \$5,000.00 Tool Box Grant that will be used toward a student in-door exercise room. Dr. Steen introduced Bill Harris, manager of the Ashland City Wal-Mart, and advised ACE had received three grants from Wal-Mart totaling \$2,300.00. She expressed her thanks to both companies and Ms. Davis.

B) The Sycamore High School Cheerleaders placed fourth in the National High School Cheerleading Competition in Orlando, Florida. The cheerleaders used slides and reflected on the team, the competition, and their accomplishments. Their competition will be aired on ESPN March 8, 2009 and repeated on March 20, 2009.

Hearing of delegations: None

Consent agenda:

Items are placed on the consent agenda that are routine and do not require discussion. Chairman Spiegel asked if there was an item any Board Member wished to pull for separate consideration. Hearing none, he entertained a motion. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Williamson, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A) Minutes approved: January 29, 2009

B) Approval for tenure: None

C) Disposal of surplus equipment/materials:

1) HHS Principal Simpkins granted permission to dispose of the following Items: 3 podiums, 1 cubicle, 12 old computers, 12 old monitors, 1 stove, 1 desk, 1 TV, 1 TV stand, 1 table, 1 typewriter, 7 computer towers, 1 table stand

2) HHS Asst. Principal Collins granted permission to dispose of 35 monitors, 35 keyboards, and 35 computers from a library storage room

3) KSE granted permission to dispose of one computer

4) Director Seifert granted permission to dispose of a 1989 GMC pick up truck (valued over \$250) and a 1990 GMS ¾ ton truck (valued over \$250)

D) School fees: None

E) Field trips:

1) Vocational Director Lockert granted permission for fifteen students and three adults from SHS to attend the State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg, TN. – March 29, 2009 – April 1, 2009

2) Vocational Director Lockert granted permission for eight students and two adults from CCCHS to attend the State FFA Convention in Gatlinburg, TN. – March 29, 2009 – April 1, 2009

3) SHS Principal Ray granted permission for seven students and one adult to attend the Leadership – Student Council & National Honor Society Conference in Chattanooga, TN. - March 27 - 29, 2009

4) SHS Principal Ray granted permission for the Economic Challenge team (State Champions) to attend the Regional Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia – Saturday, April 25th – Monday, April 27th. Five students and three adults will attend.

F) School/Principal request: None

G) Early Graduation Request: None

H) Committees: None

Budget and finance:

A) Horton made a motion, seconded by Collins to approve the budget amendments with the exception of Maintenance of Plant. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion passed with Lavender voting no.

The Maintenance of Plant budget amendments were to transfer funds for salaries, due to their hours being increased to forty hours per week (from thirty-five) in October 2008. Intense discussion followed regarding the \$5,479.00 budget amendment for the maintenance director's salary increase. Horton conveyed that Maintenance Director Dority is a salaried employee, and the Board agreed to increase the hourly employee's time to forty hours. Proffitt verified with Finance Director Tillman that the maintenance employees complete a time sheet, but the fifty-one thousand dollars plus that Mr. Dority receives is divided by twelve month – making him a salaried employee. Proffitt commented that the Board had been unable to give other employees an increase and now just gives one person a raise. Lavender questioned Mr. Dority's absence from the Board meeting. Horton expressed concern that money has already been paid without the Board's approval. When questioned, Ms. Seifert said maintenance has three assistant plant managers, eleven hourly employees, and Mr. Dority. Ms. Seifert asked the Board to look at the positions, not who holds those positions. Horton questioned Seifert about policy regarding the thirty-five hour work week for office personnel. Seifert acknowledged that was the hours when she joined the central office twelve years ago.

Horton made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to withdraw the proposed budget amendment for Maintenance of Plant. The motion passed unanimously.

B) Collins made a motion, seconded by Horton to approve budget amendments and forward the resolution to the County Commission for approval. That motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

A) Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender, and passed unanimously to table the revision on second reading of Board Policy 3.400, Student Transportation Management. This policy passed on first reading January 29, 2009.

The *Transportation Committee* section shall be deleted.

The first paragraph for *Bus Drivers* section shall read as follows:

The bus drivers' handbook shall be reviewed each year by the Director of School, Director of Transportation, and six bus drivers (two per cluster) elected by a vote of current bus driver at fall in-service.

Add the following as the last paragraph:

MULTIPLE ROUTES, FIELD TRIPS, AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION

Drivers and bus aides shall be assigned by cluster seniority. Seniority is defined within the cluster in which they currently are assigned, based on the most recent date of hire for transporting students.

Every driver shall be given the opportunity to drive field trips and extra-curricular transportation, including but not limited to, band trips, ball games, and etc. Drivers shall be assigned by seniority within cluster after signing up for the opportunity.

The complete list by cluster shall be exhausted before driving opportunity is offered to the next seniority person in line for multiple routes, field trips, and extra-curricular activity regardless of cluster. If no driver within the cluster can be found, a driver from outside the cluster may have the opportunity by order of seniority.

Every driver shall have one route. Every driver shall have the opportunity to receive a second route before third routes are offered.

Any exceptions to this policy must have board approval.

B) Proffitt made a motion seconded by Collins, and carried unanimously to revise on second reading Board Policy 5.114, Personnel Records, as proposed by TSBA.

Changes to "The Following guidelines shall be followed" shall read:

6. Members of the public may not obtain the home telephone number, personal cell phone number, bank account information, social security number, residential street address, or driver license information (except where driving or operating a vehicle is considered to be a part of the employee's duties), of an employee or of the immediate family members or household members of an employee, unless release of this information is expressly authorized by the employee.

7. A record of the person inspecting and the date of inspection shall be recorded. The employee shall be notified that a request has been made and approved to inspect their personnel record and the viewer identified.

New business:

A) Policy removed from agenda, during work session, for further study

B) Chairman Spiegl said the decision of the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority for case 2008-2009#91 has been appealed. Board Policy 6.317 states the Board shall review the record and: 1) affirm the decision of the SDHA; or 2) modify the decision to a lesser penalty; or 3) grant a hearing before the Board. Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender to affirm the decision of the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority as submitted. Proffitt questioned the paperwork sent from the school as not being completed. Discussion followed,

including students with poor attendance being allowed parking permits. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion passed with Proffitt voting no.

C) Horton made a motion, seconded by Proffitt granting Director Seifert permission to seek funding from the County Commission for replacement of the gym bleachers at Sycamore Middle School. Seifert noted the cost to replace the gym bleachers in 2007 at Harpeth Middle School (the same design as SMS) was \$114,390.00. Discussion followed. That motion passed unanimously.

Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Lavender granting Director Seifert permission to approach the County Commission to seek funding to repair or replace the Cheatham County Central High School football bleaches. Horton implied it was the Board's position to seek bids to present to the County Commission with a total for the project. Discussion followed. Spiegl declared the motion passed with Horton voting no.

D) Williamson made a motion, seconded by Lavender granting permission for Dr. David Cole, Vanderbilt University, to survey students regarding bullying. Spiegl stated Dr. Cole gave a presentation at the Board's last work session. That motion passed unanimously.

E) Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender to remove the merit pay portion of the Director's contract for the current year, as requested by Ms. Seifert. Proffitt commented she appreciated Ms. Seifert's movement to save money, but was concerned with changing the contract in midstream. Unable to determine the voice vote, Mr. Spiegl asked for a roll call vote. Voting to remove the merit pay portion from this year's contract were Collins, Lavender, and Spiegl. Voting against were Williamson, Horton, and Proffitt. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion failed.

F) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Williamson granting permission for Coordinated School Health Coordinator Campbell to conduct the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* at Harpeth High School as requested by the State Department of Education. Collins remarked she was disturbed by the findings on substance abuse and wondered if those children could be identified and conduct a follow-up to assist them.

G) 5-year plan – pulled from the agenda

H) Horton made a motion, seconded by Lavender to approve a resolution to support TSBA's stand on appointed superintendents. Spiegl review the resolution. Horton encouraged the Education Committee to support such a resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Brief comments from Board Members:

Lavender read a prepared statement concerning comments she made at a recent work session. She commented the Board wants what is best, saying each has a five-year plan – but not the same plan.

Horton stated the audit findings were addressed at the work session.

Announcements and recognitions:

Judy Morris, BOE accounts payable clerk, was congratulated on her retirement March 31st, following twenty-nine years of service.

Fay Haines, Harpeth High School librarian, was congratulated on her May 29th retirement, following thirty-six years of service – all in Cheatham County.

The Board will have work sessions March 17th and March 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building.

Adjourn:

Chairman Spiegl adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by:
Carol F. Cannon

Chris Spiegl, Board Chairman

Lynn E. Seifert, Director of Schools