

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education

September 22, 2009

Call to order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in a called session on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairperson Dianne Proffitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Moment of silence: led by Mr. Williamson

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mr. Williamson

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:

Chairperson Proffitt entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Collins made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Business:

Chairperson Proffitt explained that Kingston Springs Elementary School's student/teacher ratio is currently over the percentage required by the State. This necessitates adding a teacher.

Horton made a motion, seconded by Collins to approve a new teaching position at KSE. Lavender expressed concern that this additional position required Board approval – she does not wish to micro-manage the Interim Director. Discussion followed. Chairperson Proffitt declared the motion passed with Lavender voting no.

Horton made a motion, seconded by Lavender to go back to the original budget from the last workshop and take the amount required to balance the budget out of Fund Balance. Horton offered a thumbnail sketch of how the Board has made cuts, given no salary increases, cut AP curriculum coaches while under the gun to meet AYP, yet the County Commission refuses to give the school system a penny when they have money available. Horton expressed frustration at the County Commission's unwillingness to work with the School Board, saying he feels the Board is making essential cuts, down to the nitty-gritty. Proffitt said the Board's obligation is to provide the best possible service to the students and

show the Commission we spend our money wisely. Much deliberation followed. Finance Director Tillman fielded questions and explained the cuts. Horton proclaimed that he now has a better understanding and wished to withdraw his motion. Lavender withdrew her second, saying she seconded the motion to allow for discussion.

Collins made a motion, seconded by Williamson to approve the 2009-2010 General Purpose School Fund budget as outlined by Finance Director Tillman earlier in the evening at the work session. Some discussion followed. A roll call vote was requested. Voting to approve the budget was Collins, Williamson, Spiegl, and Horton. Voting no were Horton and Lavender. Chairperson Proffitt declared the motion passed.

Comments from Board Members:

Lavender remarked that the Board is given the minimum money possible by the commission to run the schools, but the schools certainly aren't run at the minimum educational requirements. She is very proud of the schools, but acknowledged that at some point the Board is going to have to make a stand that minimum is not good enough.

Horton believes the Cheatham County students match up with the surrounding counties educational wise and for scholarships, but the school system deserves funding to enable improvements.

Adjourn:

Chairperson Proffitt adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by
Carol F. Cannon

Dianne B. Proffitt, Board Chairperson

Dianne C. Williams, Interim Director of Schools
(absent from meeting)