

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education
December 3, 2007

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 3, 2007, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairman Barry Breen called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

Moment of silence: led by Mr. Spiegl

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mr. Spiegl

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:

Following some discussion, Thomas made a motion, seconded by Spiegl to approve the agenda as submitted. That motion passed unanimously.

Public forum:

The public forum offers the public an opportunity to address the Board about various subjects. Breen specified that anyone wishing to address the Board must complete the Public Forum form prior to speaking.

Chairman Breen stated the only form he had received was from Santa Clause who wished to speak to those naughty and nice. Director Seifert was the first to hear the sleigh bells and invited Santa and his helper into the meeting. Santa read from his list that included principals, administrators, and board members, while his helper distributed gifts – for those naughty and nice. Santa wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Chairman Breen wanted him to have a safe trip back to the North Pole and hoped to see him again December 24th.

Presentations and awards:

A) SMS band director and Clarksville-Montgomery County Board Member Morris Stevens gave a power point presentation about Education in Ethiopia. Through his church, he had the privilege of visiting an orphanage, adopted by the City of Clarksville, which housed one hundred and forty-nine boys ages nine through fourteen. Stevens stated there are no discipline problems - the students are taught they must attend school and learn to be a success. He wondered what could be done for our schools to instill this trend in America.

B) HHS Principal Jenny Simpkins reported on her and faculty member Kyla Arrington's trip to Washington, D.C. to accept the Blue Ribbon School's award. All HHS faculty members interested in making the trip put their name in the hat and a student drew the lucky winner -

Arrington. Simpkins gave brief highlights of the break-out sessions they attended during the two-day celebration. HHS Student Board Representatives, Tara Villicana and Rebecca Shew, assisted Simpkins in displaying the flag and plaque awarded their Blue Ribbon School.

Reports:

Director Seifert stated most of the CCCHS report would be presented during the agenda item for the CCCHS alternates. She reported the bid process had been completed. The base bid plus alternate 1 and 2 would total \$9,721,000.00.

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 any Board Member wished to pull for separate consideration. Proffitt pulled item E-1. Hearing from no other member, he entertained a motion. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Kemp to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item E-1. That motion passed unanimously.

A) Approval of minutes: November 5, 2007

B) Approval for tenure: None

C) Disposal of surplus equipment/materials:

1) CMS Principal Norris granted permission to dispose of the following irreparable items: 43 damaged books, 88 calculators, 3 VCRs, 2 overhead projectors, 4 printers, 2 CPUs, 4 monitors

2) Daycare Director Burcham granted permission to dispose of the following irreparable items at the PVES Daycare: 1 Dell tower, 1 Dell modem, and 1 printer

3) KSE Principal Dorris granted permission to dispose of the following irreparable items: 18 student desks, 1 table, 2 bookshelves, 1 set of books, 1 overhead projector, and 3 monitors

4) SMS Principal Bell granted permission to dispose of the following irreparable or outdated items: 1 VCR, 1 cassette player, 5 monitors, 4 printers, 7 computers, 250 books

D) School fees:

1) KSE Principal Dorris granted approval of 07-08 fees:
\$3.50 1st and 2nd grade Christmas project

E) Field trips:

1) Pulled for separate consideration

2) SHS Principal Newton granted permission for students to travel to Italy, Switzerland, and France – June 9-20, 2008.

3) HMS Principal Schliwa granted permission for a seventh grade field trip to the Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center in Tishomingo, Mississippi. One hundred students and ten adults will depart HMS on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 6:00 a.m. and return to HMS on Thursday, April 24th, at 5:00 p.m. – traveling by charter bus.

F) School /Principal request:

1) CCCHS Principal Leavitt granted permission for an in-school baseball game on Friday, April 4, 2008, against HHS.

G) Early graduation request: None

H) Committees:

1) Negotiation committee appointments: Chris Spiegl, Jo Jones, and Sheila Tillman

E) Field Trips – pulled for separate consideration

1) Proffitt stated the request for the CCCHS band trip had four option dates, with one being very near TCAP testing, noting eight CMS band students would be making the trip. Leavitt stated the band earned a placement in the festival and the possible dates were listed, saying they would not accept a date that conflicted with TCAP.

Proffitt made a motion granting permission to CHS Principal Leavitt for the band to travel to Orlando, Florida, and participate in the Heritage Festival on the option dates of 1, 2, or 4, and denying permission to travel during option date 3 due to TCAP testing being the week prior. The exact date will be reported to the Board when verified. They will leave on Thursday evening by charter bus and return on Sunday night. Kemp seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Budget and finance:

A) Greer made a motion, seconded by Spiegl to approve the budget amendments for the School Federal Projects Fund that require Board approval only. Following a brief discussion for clarification, the motion passed unanimously.

B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Thomas to approve the General Purpose Schools Fund budget amendments that must be forwarded to the County Commission for approval. Finance Director Tillman fielded several questions. That motion passed unanimously.

Old business:

A) There was no motion to bring the following item from the table: Revise on second reading Board Policy 6.200, Attendance. Board Policy #1.600, Policy Development and Adoption, reads in part: The Board's approval of the proposal or return for study and/or

further revision shall constitute first reading. That was accomplished during the July 19th and July 24th work session. This revision was tabled on August 6, 2007. Chairman Breen stated the policy would remain on the table.

B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to revise on second reading Board Policy 5.600, Staff Rights & Responsibilities. This revision passed on first reading November 5, 2007. Proffitt question Seifert about defining the word offensive – wanting the same to be uniform for everyone. Seifert stated the dress code committee and she felt the building principals could define offensive. It was noted the teacher's attire must be aligned with the student dress code. The motion passed unanimously. Director Seifert noted this policy must now be forwarded to the negotiating committee to be incorporated into the teacher contract.

C) Thomas made a motion, seconded by Greer to revise on second reading Board Policy 2.806, Bids and Quotations. Current policy states that items over \$5,000 shall be based on competitive bids, but the revision would change that to \$10,000. This revision passed on first reading November 5, 2007. Discussion followed. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed with a 4 – 2 vote.

D) Thomas made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to adopt on second reading Board Policy 6.3071, Student Alcohol and Drug Testing. This policy was adopted by a unanimous vote with first reading on November 5, 2007. Greer complimented the committee and staff that drafted this policy and feels it is a safety net for the students. This policy adoption motion passed unanimously.

E) Greer made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and carried unanimously to bring from the table (tabled November 5, 2007) the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cheatham County Board of Education and the Cheatham County Youth Basketball Association.

Chairman Breen recapped that a motion was made by Greer and seconded by Breen to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cheatham County Board of Education and the Cheatham County Youth Basketball Association. This agreement must be executed each year, it is not perpetual or continuing unless re-executed each year.

Thomas made a motion to add an addendum to the MOU as item 2-k – for the 2007-2008 school year, each CCYBA's organization must supply the treasurer's name to CCBOE in December 2007, and the CCBOE financial training will be provided by January 15, 2008; the \$2,000 fee in item 1 will be effective for the 2008-2009 season. Greer seconded the motion. Breen clarified that item 2-j states that requirement would be in effect at the beginning of the program season in future years. The motion passed unanimously.

Proffitt made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Thomas to add *other visitors* and the last sentence of item 2-d would read: Practices must be with the whole team and during practice all parents, siblings, and other visitors are to be restricted to the gym. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Breen asked for a vote on the main motion with the addendum and amendment as specified. That motion passed unanimously.

New business:

A) Breen stated any decision on an appeal of the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority's decision must be based totally on the record presented to the SDHA. He stated the Board must decide whether to affirm the SDHA decision, reverse or modify the SDHA decision, or grant a hearing in a closed session.

Greer made a motion, seconded by Thomas to affirm the decision of the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority for a CCCHS student. Following some discussion, Proffitt felt she needed more information and Kemp stated she must recuse herself from the vote. Chairman Breen asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Thomas, Greer, Spiegl, and Breen. Proffitt voted no, with Kemp recused. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed to affirm the decision of the SDHA for the CCCHS student.

B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Greer to affirm the decision of the Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority for a SHS student. That motion passed unanimously.

C) Greer made a motion, seconded by Thomas granting HHS Band Director Dan McNally permission to enter a three-year lease/purchase agreement for equipment. Discussion followed. HHS Principal Simpkins stated this is a three-year lease and then the band would pay \$1.00 to purchase the equipment. That motion passed unanimously.

D) Thomas made a motion, seconded by Greer to table the request by Misty Glenn, with the Coordinated School Health Program, to conduct a Youth Risk Behavior Survey with the middle school students to allow for more discussion. Director Seifert stated this survey is required by the State and must be completed by the end of school. That motion passed unanimously.

E) A motion was made by Greer and seconded by Thomas to approve the service agreement with TSBA for a three-year subscription (effective December, 2007) to the Policy/Procedure Maintenance/On-line Service, including administrative procedures, for a total of \$11,250.00. That motion passed unanimously.

F) Breen stated as Chairman he wished to make a motion to adopt a resolution of support for the Education Committee's continued efforts to provide School Resource Officers for the three Cheatham County high schools. He read the resolution. Greer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Breen then thanked Education Committee Chairman John-Paul Wood and his committee for their support of SROs in the high schools.

G) Without any objections, Chairman Breen suspended the rules, allowing for discussion of the construction alternates for the Cheatham County Central High School project. Director Seifert reviewed the cost. She stated the building permit should be issued in a couple of weeks. If the Board approves Alternate 2, it would have to go before the Capitol Improvements Committee because it is out of scope. The fifteen month completion is guaranteed even if Alternates 1 and 2 are added. The total cost including these alternates is under the appropriated amount. Much discussion followed. Greer made a motion, seconded by Thomas to accept Alternate 1 at \$302,217.00 for paving the entire parking

area and Alternate 2 at \$772,695.00 for replacing the plumbing. Chairman Breen declared the motion passed with a 4 – 2 vote.

According to Board Policy, at 9:30 p.m. Spiegl made a motion, seconded by Proffitt, and carried unanimously to extend the Board meeting no more than thirty minutes.

H) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Kemp to approve the proposed calendar A for the 2008 – 2009 school year and proposed calendar B for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Proffitt noted this would allow school to begin as late as possible, dismiss before Memorial Day, and have high school exams before Christmas. Discussion followed. That motion passed unanimously. Breen thanked everyone for the hours spend on the proposed calendars. Seifert remarked that the Board will now continue to have a two-year calendar cycle. Seven Wednesdays each year the students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. and the teachers will remain for staff development as follows:

2008-2009 – Sept. 10th, Oct. 8th, Nov. 12th, Feb. 4th, Mar. 4th, Apr. 8th, and May 6th
2009-2010 – Sept. 9th, Oct. 7th, Nov. 18th, Feb. 3rd, Mar. 3rd, Apr. 7th, and May 5th

Brief comments from Board Members:

Spiegl expressed his appreciation for the two-year calendar. Kemp thanked the Board for another year of hard work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Thomas wanted to be sure the May high school graduation contracts are signed by January. Greer thanked everyone for recognizing the Board during American Education Week. Greer congratulated Mr. Breen for being named a School Board Member of the Year by the Tennessee School Boards Association, five were named statewide. Breen thanked everyone for their support.

Announcements and recognitions:

Congratulations were extended to Brenda Boyte, CCCHS faculty, on her retirement from full-time teaching December 20, 2007. She began her teaching career at CCCHS on August 27, 1962. Ms. Boyte will return to CCCHS in January on a half-time basis.

The Cheatham County Education Committee will meet Monday, December 10 2007, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Planner Caton will be attending the meeting to answer questions.

Work sessions for the Board are scheduled for January 17, 2008 and January 22, 2008. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2008.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, Chairman Breen adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Submitted by
Carol F. Cannon

Barry E. Breen, Board Chairman

Lynn E. Seifert, Director of Schools