

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education

May 4, 2009

Call to order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 4, 2009, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairman Chris Spiegl called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He welcomed Boys Scout Troop 545, saying they are working on their citizenship and community merit badge.

Moment of silence: led by Russell Johnson of Boys Scout Troop 545

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Russell Johnson of Boys Scout Troop 545

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. Hearing none, he entertained a motion. Collins made a motion, seconded by Proffitt, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Public Forum:

The public form 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. Barbara Cartwright spoke regarding a zoning issue in the Thomasville Road, Gloria Drive, and Mosley Ferry Road area. Michelle Morris, a WCES parent, voiced concerns to the Board concerning the proposed revision of the Registered Sex Offenders policy. Darlene Wipert, a WCES parent, addressed the Board with concerns about the proposed revision to the Registered Sex Offenders policy. Chairman Spiegl granted Tammie Lavender permission to read a letter from HHS parent Chris Griffin regarding the wellness class canoe field trip on May 1st.

Presentations and Awards:

- A) The Cheatham County 5th grade Math contest winners were congratulated and recognized:
First place – Matthew Bolton, CMS
Second place – Amy Jacobs, HMS
Third place – Becca Shearron, SMS
- B) The Cheatham County 6th grade Math contest winners were congratulated and recognized:
First place – Julia Rowe, CMS - absent

Second place – Alec Perigo, HMS

Third place – Autumn Cole, SMS

C) The Sycamore Middle School students receiving State Recognition for their outstanding achievement on the Act 2009 Duke University Talent Identification Program for the 7th grade were congratulated and recognized:

Tyler Bean

Samuel Davis - absent

Ashley Harris

Christopher Herstek

Ryan Johnson *** **Grand** Recognition - absent

Jared Lemons

Kaylin Littlejohn

Seth Logue

Nathan Price

Jacob Pugh - absent

Brody Taylor

D) The Cheatham Middle School students receiving State Recognition for their outstanding achievement on the ACT 2009 Duke University Talent Identification Program for the 7th grade were congratulated and recognized:

Allana Anderson

Sara Burke - absent

Amanda Smith

E) Participants in the TSBA Student Congress on Policies in Education (SCOPE) assembled on March 13, 2009 were congratulated and recognized:

Jacob Allen King, SHS - absent

Wayne Darrow, Sponsor - CHS

F) SHS teacher Kelly Dodson was congratulated and recognized as being named a TEA Distinguished Teacher of the Year.

Reports:

A) HHS Band of Blue Director Dan McNally and student Arielle Nivens gave a thumbnail sketch of the Winter Drumline's competitions in Indianapolis, Indiana and Dayton, Ohio. McNally proudly spoke of their accomplishments: 2009 Tennessee State Champions, top in the Midwest Regionals in Nashville – 11 states participated, top in Southeast Regionals in Indianapolis – 7 states participated, and finished 12th in Dayton from over 11,000 participants from 40 states and 5 countries. Nivens spoke of the skills she has developed during her eight years in the band and thanked the Board for allowing them to share their music and compete. The Band of Blue received congratulations.

B) SHS Economic Challenge Team members Matt Thompson, Evan Cunningham, Trevor Binkley, Tricia Lebkuecher, and teacher/coach Brad Causey reported on their trip to the Regional Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia as State Champions. The team fielded questions from the Board about this extension of their classroom. They did not win the Regional Tournament, but challenged the Board with questions.

Hearing of delegations: None

Consent agenda:

Items are placed on the consent agenda that are routine and do not require discussion. Chairman Spiegl asked if there was an item any Board Member wished to pull for separate consideration. Proffitt asked that item 10-E, Field Trips, be pulled for discussion. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Williamson, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of Field Trips.

A) Minutes: April 6, 2009 and April 9, 2009

B) Approval for tenure: None

C) Disposal of surplus equipment/materials:

- 1) PVE Principal Dyce granted permission to discard the following items: 15 monitors, 18 printers, 3 overheads, 2 VCRs, 26 computers, and 1 tape recorder
- 2) CHS Principal Leavitt granted permission to discard the following items: 5 bookshelves, 15 student desks, 2 teacher desks, 3 file cabinets, 30 accounting books from the 80's, and 5 tables
- 3) Vocational Director Lockert granted permission to dispose of five broken Singer sewing machines
- 4) SMS Principal Bell granted permission to discard the following items: 3 monitors, 3 CPUs, 3 printers, 100 library books, 100 pieces of outdated Instructional Materials
- 5) Transportation Director Wilson granted permission to sell five 78-passenger 1994 buses. Each valued over \$250.00.

D) School fees:

\$100.00 1 - 8 Summer School fees

E) Field trips: pulled for separate consideration

F) School/Principal request:

- 1) PES Principal Barrow granted permission for teacher Melanie Edwards to use her classroom this summer to provide tutoring.
- 2) HHS Principal Simpkins granted permission for Jason Petty to attend the American Legion Boys' State – May 24-30, 2009.

G) Early Graduation Request: None

H) Committees: None

E) Field trips:

Proffitt expressed concerns the field trip does not have enough adults to chaperone fifty students to an entertainment park. Collins was troubled that administrators signed the field trip form that listed only two adults for the trip. Discussion followed. Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Horton, and passed unanimously to approve the CMS band trip with a minimum ratio of 1 adult for 10 students. This extracurricular trip will be Saturday, May 16, 2009, to Beech Bend Park in Bowling Green, KY., departing at 8:00 a.m. and returning at 8:00 p.m.

Budget and finance:

A) Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender to approve the budget amendments within major categories, requiring Board approval. Proffitt expressed concern that \$41,000 was being transferred in Maintenance of Plant. When questioned by Lavender, Tillman stated this amount had nothing to do with the sewer work at SHS, but maintenance was performing more in-house work and contracting less. Chairman Spiegl asked for a roll call vote, following a voice vote that sounded tied. Voting yes were Horton, Lavender, Collins, and Spiegl. Williamson and Proffitt voted no. Spiegl declared the motion passed.

B) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Horton to approve the budget amendments between major categories and forward to the County Commission for approval. Discussion followed. Horton noted the transfer for fee waivers was a result of the economy. Lavender asked the employees to take responsibility and be careful with their use of electricity, noting the Energy Education program saved money. Collins would like each building to have a plan to conserve electricity. The motion carried unanimously.

Old business:

A) Deleted revision of Board Policy 3.400, Student Transportation Management, prior to agenda approval.

B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Collins, and carried unanimously to revise on seconding reading Board Policy 6.502, Foreign Exchange Students. Page two, second paragraph shall read:

The sponsoring individual/organization shall provide evidence to the school that the student will receive adequate financial support for the duration of his/her stay. Schools shall not hold fund-raising events to pay expenses incurred by exchange students.

New Business

A) Collins made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to revise on first reading Board Policy 5.106, Application and Employment. This policy will be presented for second reading on June 1, 2009. Discussion followed. Williamson commented he would like to add

drug testing of all new employees to this policy or one of our policies. When questioned by Collins, Director Seifert said transportation has a drug testing policy and there is a "suspicion based" procedure for drug testing all employees. The motion passed unanimously. The first paragraph shall read as follows:

An individual desiring a position with the Board shall make application to the director of schools on forms approved by the Board. In a continuing effort to further ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff, the district shall require a record of criminal history and child protective services record checks and fingerprinting of all applicants. Fingerprinting must be done within five business days of hire date. Failure to meet this deadline can result in immediate termination of employment.

B) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Williamson, and passed unanimously to revise on first reading Board Policy 5.1051, Job Sharing. This policy will be presented for second reading on June 1, 2009. The current item twelve (12) shall be deleted, as follows:

While every attempt will be made to keep class assignments equitable, it should be noted that on occasion a shared position might receive larger numbers of students with behavior problems and/or learning difficulties. There are two adults available to deal with these types of problems in a shared position, rather than only one.

C) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Collins to revise on first reading Board Policy 1.808, Registered Sex Offenders, for the purpose of discussion. Seifert stated this revision was written by the insurance company attorney to bring our policy into compliance with the current State law. Much discussion followed. The Board expressed concerns the law would overburden personnel, causing them to be watchful of the offender for the safety of all students. The Board asked Seifert to invite Rep. Johnson and Senator Barnes to the next work session. The vote was unanimous against the revision. Chairman Spiegl stated the policy would be on the agenda for the next work session.

Brief comments from Board Members:

Chairman Spiegl announced the next work session was scheduled for May 14th at 6:00 p.m., but the Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled a meeting at that time in the Ashland City Elementary library to discuss the ACE air quality. The Board agreed to move the work session to 7:00 p.m.

Lavender thanked all those involved in rescuing the Harpeth High School wellness class from their canoe trip on May 1st. She was troubled and said we should have a safe learning environment for our students.

Collins expressed regret that she received one official phone call about the situation with the HHS canoe trip and the rest she had seen on the television news. She expressed regret over the handling of the trip and what happened on the trip. Seifert reported an investigation was underway and once completed a report would be compiled and distributed to Board Members.

Williamson asked for the outcome of the investigation to be made public.

Proffitt wishes to discuss the field trip policy at the next work session.

Horton made a motion for the Board to investigate the May 1st HHS canoe trip. That motion did not receive a second.

Lavender asked that a list of unresolved issues from the work sessions be maintained.

Announcements and recognitions:

Chairman Spiegl recognized the following personnel who are retiring at the end of the school year:

Fay Haines, HHS librarian – 36 years experience

Jack Norris, SHS faculty - 36 years experience, 28 in Cheatham County

Carol Petty, SHS faculty - 31 years experience, 26 in Cheatham County

Carolyn Lockert, SMS faculty – 36 years experience

Priscilla Enters, BOE Technology Director – 34 years, 27 in Cheatham County

Connie B. Dodson, KSE faculty, 17 years experience

Janice Pendergrass-Lawrence, KSE guidance, 28 years, 27 in Cheatham County

Adjourn:

Chairman Spiegl adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Submitted by
Carol F. Cannon

Chris Spiegl, Board Chairman

Lynn E. Seifert, Director of Schools