

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education
December 1, 2008

Call to order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2008, 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 Mr. Horton

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mr. Horton

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 Williamson, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

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. No one spoke.

Presentations and Awards: None

Reports: None

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. Hearing none, he entertained a motion. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Lavender, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A) Minutes: November 3, 2008

B) Approval for tenure: None

C) Disposal of surplus equipment/materials:

- 1) SHS Principal Ray granted permission to dispose of the following irreparable/obsolete items: 60 computer monitors, 25 CPUs, 15 printers, 4 scanners, 10 VCRs, 1 Laser disc player, 2 chairs, parts from book shelves, 1 laptop computer, 1 TV
- 2) PES Principal Barrow granted permission to dispose of the irreparable or outdated items: teacher chair, globe, computer desk, 2 red rolling chairs, 1 leather armchair, 1 rolling chair, 2 book racks, map holder, out of date maps, 1 TV
- 3) KSE Principal Bramble granted permission to dispose of 1996-1998 SACS documents/records
- 4) CHS Principal Leavitt granted permission to dispose of the following broken/irreparable items: 5 teacher desks, 4 bookshelves, 40 student desks, 8 storage containers, 7 chairs, 2 computer stations

D) School fees: None

E) Field trips: None

F) School/Principal request: None

G) Early Graduation Request: None

H) Committees: None

Budget and Finance: None

Old business:

A) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Collins, and carried unanimously to pass on second reading Board Policy 2.400, Revenues.

B) Horton made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to revise on second reading Board Policy 3.500, Food Service Management. Horton stated a grammatical correction should be made to reflect a "Type A lunch and/or breakfast may be charged by students." That motion carried unanimously. The section under *Charges* shall read as follows:

Students are encouraged to prepay for meals by the week or month. In case of an emergency, as determined by the cafeteria manager or principal, a Type A school lunch and/or breakfast may be charged by students. A student is allowed to have no more than three lunch and/or breakfast charges at a time. The charges must be paid off before a student will be allowed to charge again. Visitors or School Board Employees are not allowed to charge meals or ala carte items. It is the cafeteria manager's responsibility to bill the appropriate individual(s) and to reconcile all charges. All debts from charges and any losses arising from uncollectible accounts and/or other claims (cost of processing bad checks, etc.) are not allowed and must be covered from funds other than Child Nutrition Program funds.

ALA CARTE – charges are not allowed

New Business:

- A) Horton made a motion, seconded by Proffitt, and passed unanimously to revise on first reading Board Policy 1.1021, Student Board Representatives. This policy will be presented for second reading February 2, 2009.
- B) Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender, and carried unanimously to revise Board Policy 1.104, Memberships. This policy will be presented for second reading on February 2, 2009.
- C) Horton made a motion, seconded by Collins to revise on first reading Board Policy 6.205, Student Assignment. Lengthy discussion followed. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion passed with Proffitt and Williamson voting no. Page two, item 7 shall read:
- 7. All other out-of-zone situations require the parent(s) to complete a request/appeal for the child(ren) to attend out-of-zone, which must be submitted to the Director of Schools. The appeal will be considered by an appeal committee which will consist of: 1) a chairperson; 2) a health services representative; 3) a special education personnel; and 4) a representative from each school involved. The committee will meet each month as necessary. If the decision of the committee is not agreeable for the parent(s), a written request to appeal the decision of the committee can be submitted to the Director of Schools within ten (10) business days. If the decision of the Director of Schools is not agreeable, the parent or guardian can appeal in writing to the Board of Education within ten (10) business days. Any out-of-zone request/appeal approved by the committee, the Director of Schools, or the Board of Education shall only be effective through the current school year.*
- D) Proffitt made a motion, seconded by Williamson granting permission for Transportation Director Wilson to reduce the rate per mile for field trips to \$1.00 per mile, effective December 2, 2008. The fee was increased from \$1.00 per mile to \$1.50 per mile prior to the beginning of this school year due to the increase in diesel fuel. Much discussion followed, with the Board questioning Wilson. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion passed with Proffitt and Horton voting no.
- E) Chairman Spiegl stated the next item of business was approval of Phase 1 of the 5-year plan. Director Seifert said, as discussed in the work session, the Board must give a directive of their intent to solve the overcrowding problem at Sycamore. She reviewed the 5-year plan of the former Board. There was discussion regarding the purchased land adjacent to Sycamore, available land on Highway 41-A, the number of cart teachers at SHS, vocational classrooms at Harpeth, growth rate, and the state of the economy. The Board recognizes that the Cheatham County Commission is the funding body for any Board decision relating to the 5-year Plan. Discussion ensued. Collins read a prepared statement and other members gave varied views of their interpretation of Phase 1 of the 5-year plan. Horton noted the renovation at Cheatham High was code generated and has done nothing to improve their educational opportunities.

Horton made a motion to move forward and negotiate purchasing land in the northern cluster to accommodate a 1200 capacity high school, keeping within the five-year plan. Lavender seconded the motion. Spiegl asked for a roll call vote. Voting yes were Lavender, Horton,

and Spiegl. Voting no were Proffitt, Collins, and Williamson. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion failed. Spiegl expressed hope the Board could move forward with additional wording agreeable to the County Commissioners. He noted that at the earliest, the Board could vote in February. Spiegl felt the intent of voting tonight was to save those two months, and the message to those teachers on carts is “not yet”.

F) Director Seifert commented there was no supporting documentation in the Board packet pertaining to the in-house suspension as all information was given at work sessions. She, Mr. Jones, and the assistant principals in charge of middle and high school discipline met and asked that the Board support a budget amendment for the teacher assistant’s salary (based on in-school suspension pay scale) for January through May. This will provide the staff an opportunity to see if the plan they have in place works or will be beneficial. The plan has been finalized for the discipline infractions to be sure they are uniform for all middle and high schools. Seifert said she hopes to meet with the group in May to review the plan for its effectiveness and determine if it is worthy to budget the program for a full year.

A motion was made by Horton, seconded by Collins to approve the in-house suspension center, for a maximum cost of one-half year salary for a teacher assistant. Much discussion followed. When questioned, Seifert said the student would be suspended from school, but instead of being sent home, would be required to attend in-house suspension in the Educational Annex Building with supervised out-of-school suspension. Lavender expressed hope the supervised in-house suspension would curtail any criminal activity by a student. Chairman Spiegl declared the motion carried, with Williamson voting no.

Brief comments from Board Members:

Horton encouraged Board Members to talk to their constituents and the county commissioners and move forward with the 5-year plan.

Proffitt asked for the budget to be on the agenda for the next work session.

Announcements and recognitions:

Spiegl announced a work session scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building.

Adjourn:

Chairman Spiegl adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:
Carol F. Cannon

Chris Spiegl, Board Chairman

Lynn E. Seifert, Director of Schools