

MINUTES

Cheatham County Board of Education

October 5, 2009

Call to order:

The Cheatham County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2009, in the Board Room of the Educational Annex Building. Chairperson Dianne Proffitt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Moment of silence: led by Ms. Lavender

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Ms. Lavender

Roll call:

Present were Michele Collins, Tim Williamson, Dianne Proffitt, Chris Spiegl, and Tammie Lavender. Absent was Gregory Horton. 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 asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, she entertained a motion. Collins made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, 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. Proffitt specified that anyone wishing to address the Board must complete the Public Forum form prior to speaking. Lucille Woodroof presented information on head lice and spoke of the current Board Policy on head lice. Cheatham County Mayor Bill Orange and Kingston Springs Mayor John McLeroy spoke regarding a new EMS station at Kingston Springs. SHS teacher Geoff Combs distributed copies and asked the Board to consider adding to the agenda the approval of an overnight math competition field trip to Knoxville. All agenda items are to be received at the Board office seven days prior to the Board meeting.

Lavender made a motion, seconded by Collins to add the overnight math competition field trip as item 10-E-5, under field trips of the consent agenda. That motion passed with Proffitt voting no and Horton absent.

Presentations and awards:

- A) Due to illness, the presentation to Community Bank & Trust was postponed until the November Board meeting

B) Collins read a statement regarding CCCHS Athletic Director Jack Morton's exemplary leadership in spearheading the programs surrounding the SHS/CHS football game on September 11th honoring the Cheatham County first responders. Mr. Morton was presented a certificate by Chairperson Proffitt and Vice Chairman Williamson.

C) Collins read a statement regarding the Cheatham County School Nutrition Program as one of the best in the state and receiving two commendations for excellence following the State initiated Comprehensive Review. School Nutrition Supervisor Melanie Hamilton was presented a certificate by Chairperson Proffitt and Vice Chairman Williamson.

Reports: None

Hearing of Delegations: None

Consent agenda:

Items are placed on the consent agenda that are routine and do not require discussion. Chairperson Proffitt asked if there was an item on the consent agenda any Board Member wished to pull for separate consideration. Proffitt asked that item H, Committees, be pulled for separate consideration. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Collins, and carried unanimously by those present to approve the consent agenda, with item H pulled for separate consideration.

A) Minutes approved: September 1, 2009 and September 22, 2009

B) Approved for tenure: None

C) Disposal of surplus equipment/materials:

- 1) CHS Principal Newton granted permission to dispose of the following obsolete/broken items: 5 student chairs, 5 student desks, 8 computer tables, 1 computer station, 1 metal cabinet, 2 tripod tables, and 1 cooling tower
- 2) Title 1 Director Simpkins granted permission to dispose of one Apple computer monitor
- 3) School nutrition Supervisor Hamilton granted permission to dispose of two irreparable refrigerators.
- 4) SMS Principal Bell granted permission to dispose of one old cabinet
- 5) HHS Principal Emery granted permission to dispose of the following broken and irreparable items: cubicle dividers, laser disc player, two printers, three monitors, four keyboards, mice and computer cords

D) School fees:

- 1) SHS Principal Ray, CHS Principal Newton, and HHS Principal Emery granted approval of a \$50.00 graduation fee to cover the following items and expenses: diploma covers, custom diplomas, honor cords, Val & Sal medallions, security, flowers & decorations, programs, cap & gown

E) Field trips:

- 1) SHS Principal Ray and CHS Principal Newton granted permission for 4 students and 2 adults to attend the JTG Leadership National Conference in Washington D.C. November 18 – 22, 2009.
- 2) SHS Principal Ray granted permission for sixteen players and two coaches to participate in a girls' basketball tournament in Greenville, Tennessee. Parents will transport – departing Sunday, December 27, 2009, and returning Thursday, December 31, 2009.
- 3) SHS Principal Ray granted permission for nineteen players and four coaches to participate in a boys' varsity tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. Parents will transport – departing on Sunday, December 27, 2009, and returning Thursday, December 31, 2009.
- 4) SHS Principal Ray granted permission for thirty members of the girls/boys' basketball teams and five coaches to participate in games in Oxford, Alabama and Jacksonville, Alabama. They will depart by charter bus from SHS at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 and return 11:00 p.m. on November 25, 2009. Schools are closed November 25th.
- 5) SHS AP Daniel granted permission for eleven students and four adults to participate in a math competition at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville. They will travel in private vehicles, leaving at 3:30 p.m. On Monday, October 26, 2009, and returning Tuesday, October 27, 2009 approximately 6:30 p.m.

F) School/Principal request: None

G) Early Graduation Request: None

H) Committees/Appointments: pulled

Chairperson Proffitt read from Board Policy 5.902, Board Negotiating Agent, and stated she would like the Board to designate Tammie Lavender and Tim Williamson as the management team on the committee for negotiations.

Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender to designate Tammie Lavender and Tim Williamson as the negotiations committee for the Board. Discussion followed.

Lavender made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Collins that the motion will be only for the CCEA negotiation committee. The amendment passed with Spiegl voting no and Horton absent.

Chairperson Proffitt asked for a vote on the amended motion for Tammie Lavender and Tim Williamson to serve on the CCEA negotiation committee for the Board. That motion carried unanimously by those present.

Some Board Members had wished to discuss the SHS overnight field trip that was added to the agenda, but due to some confusion it was not pulled for separate consideration. Following much discussion and advice from honorary parliamentary Mike Lockert,

Williamson made a motion, seconded by Proffitt to reconsider the consent agenda. The motion carried with Lavender voting no and Horton absent.

Chairperson Proffitt asked if there was an item on the consent agenda that anyone wished to pull for separate consideration. Williamson made a motion, seconded by Collins to approve the consent agenda with item 10-E-5 pulled for discussion. That motion passed with Lavender voting no and Horton absent.

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9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 and return 11:00 p.m. on November 25, 2009. Schools are closed November 25th.

5) pulled for separate consideration

F) School/Principal request: None

G) Early Graduation Request: None

H) Committees/Appointments: None

E) Field trips:

5) Spiegl made a motion, seconded by Lavender to approve the SHS field trip to the University of Tennessee – Knoxville to participate in a math competition as requested by SHS AP Daniel. They will leave in private vehicles at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009, and return Tuesday, October 27, 2009 approximately 6:30 p.m. Discussion followed. Lavender clarified the students should attend the math competition, but policy must be followed and requests submitted in a timely manner. When questioned, Williams stated she was contacted about the trip late today and advised Mr. Combs to present his case during the public forum – she only received the paper work tonight with the Board. Combs reported UT was providing most of the lodging. Collins noted the event schedule was good, but she would like for the students to have a feel of the campus experience. That motion carried unanimously by those members present.

Budget and finance: None

Old business:

Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender to revise on second reading Board Policy 4.302, Field Trips/ Excursions/Competitions. This policy passed first reading on September 1, 2009. Discussion followed.

Collins made a motion to amend the motion, seconded by Lavender that the wording *unless written authorization by parent or guardian is provided* be removed from 9-C-2 and placed at the end of 9-A. Proffitt said this wording should apply to all field trips (9-A) not just overnight trips (9-C-2). The amendment passed unanimously by those members present.

Chairperson Proffitt asked for a vote on the amended motion. The amended motion carried unanimously by those members present. Changes to this policy include the following:

Page 1, first sentence shall read:

The guidelines from this policy will apply to ALL Field Trips, Excursions, and Competitions.

Page 1, first sentence of the second paragraph shall read:

With the exception of district athletic events and play offs, all trips up to 300 miles round trip from the school will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per mile; for any trip over 150 miles from the school, the Board will not provide buses.

Page 2, article 5 shall read:

Overnight trips and chaperones shall be approved by the principal, the supervisor, director of transportation, and the director of schools. The request must be approved by the Board at the regular scheduled Board meeting prior to any financial arrangements being made. These groups shall be accompanied by at least one certified staff member, who shall be responsible for student conduct while on the trip, There must be at lease one male and one female chaperone if the trip is for students of both genders.

Page 2, article 6 – the last sentence shall read:

Students will make up any missed work.

Page 2, article 7 shall be deleted and remaining articles renumbered.

Page 2, article 8 (formerly article 9) shall read:

No field trips for grades 9-12 shall be scheduled during the last two weeks of a school semester or course cumulative exams. No field trip for grades 3 – 8 shall be scheduled two weeks before any state mandated or standardized test.

Add the following as article 9:

Students who choose to take part in a school sponsored or affiliated field trip, excursion or athletic event/competition, held outside the grounds of that student's designated school, shall do the following:

A. travel to and from the event, activity or competition on authorized school transportation or in accordance with TSSAA rules for the transportation of students to and from sporting events (unless written authorization by parent or guardian is provided); and

B. eat all meals with the other participating students from his/her school under the supervision of a coach and/or certified staff member; and

C. if overnight accommodations are necessary, all students will:

1) adhere to a strict curfew set and enforced by the certified staff member and/or coach; and

2) remain with the group with whom the student is on the field trip, excursion, or athletic event/competition at all times; and

3) use accommodations reserved by the school, or its designated representative staying in a designated area with other students under the control and supervision of the certified staff member and/or coach.

D. Failure by any student to agree to the rules set out in this policy will result in non-participation in the field trip, excursion or athletic event or competition.

E. Failure by any student to abide by this policy, in whole or in part, will result in the student being immediately withdrawn from the field trip, excursion or athletic event/competition and subsequent disciplinary action as determined by the school principal.

F. Failure by any certified staff member, coach, or individual otherwise employed by or affiliated with the Cheatham County School District or Board of Education, to abide by or strictly enforce this policy shall immediately result in a report being submitted to the school principal and Director of Schools for disciplinary action.

Page 3, article 10, first sentence shall read:

All accidents that occur on a school-sponsored trip shall be reported by the certified employee or coach to the principal immediately.

Add this paragraph to follow article 10, page 3:

The guidelines from this policy shall also apply to summer Field Trips, Excursions, and Competitions.

B) Williamson made a motion, seconded by Lavender to revise on second reading Board Policy 4.600, Grading System. The motion passed unanimously by those members present. This policy passed first reading September 1, 2009. Changes to this policy include the following:

Page 1, the first paragraph under Weighting for Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses shall read:

Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment course shall take the end of course test. Students who attempt the test and do not pass will have three (3) points added to their semester average in the individual courses. Students who attempt and pass the test will have a total of five (5) points added to their semester average in the individual courses.

Page 2, Grades 9 – 12, add the following as the third paragraph:

Students entering the 9th grade on and after the fall of 2009 will take End-of-Course tests when they take the following courses: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, U.S. History, English 1, English 2, and English 3. The formula for these courses the first 2 years will be: (course grades X .7) + (End-of-Course test X .2) + (teacher-made final exam X .1). The formula thereafter will be (course grades X .7) + (End-of-Course test X .25) + (teacher-made final exam X .05).

Page 2, Grades 9 – 12, the last sentence shall read:

If the incomplete is not removed by the end of the semester, then that grade shall become an "F".

C) Chairman Proffitt asked if there was a motion to revise on second reading Board Policy 4.603, Promotion and Retention. Hearing none, she asked the will of the Board. Lavender made a motion, seconded by Collins to pull Board Policy 4.603, Promotion and Retention. The motion carried unanimously by those present. Chairperson Proffitt advised the Board wished further review on the course work.

New business:

A) Collins made a motion, seconded by Lavender, and carried unanimously by those present granting permission for Textbook Coordinator Simpkins to dispose of out-of-adoption textbooks. Any funds collected will be deposited into the textbook fund to help defray the purchase of new books.

B) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Collins, and passed unanimously by those present, to approve the 2009-2010 Extended Contract for the Cheatham County Schools.

C) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Collins, and passed unanimously by those present, to approve the Mass Care Shelter Agreement with the Nashville Area Chapter,

American Red Cross. This agreement would allow the Red Cross to use the Board's buildings, grounds, and equipment for mass care shelters required to conduct Red Cross Disaster Services activities. All shelter agreements are renewed yearly – expiring July 31st.

D) Williamson made a motion, seconded by Spiegl, and passed unanimously by those present, to approve the Cheatham County School System Compliance Report for the 2009-2010 school year.

E) Chairperson Proffitt stated the lease agreement with EMS at Harpeth Middle School has been amended with the following, pending Board approval: *and is hereby subject to the following terms and conditions as well: that in the event the leasehold premises cease to be used exclusively for the purposes of the public firefighting service, then in such event the Cheatham County School Board will and does hereby have the right to prohibit any new, other, or different use of the leased premises.*

The now described leasehold premises in Exhibit "A" shall be subject to all of the same terms and conditions as set forth in the original lease by and between the parties and is hereby subject to the following terms and conditions as well: that in the event that the leasehold premises cease to be used exclusively for the purpose of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within two years from the date hereof then the lease agreement is void and the leasehold premises will, in such event, automatically revert to the Cheatham County School Board. In the event that the leasehold premises cease to be used exclusively for the purposes of the public Emergency Medical Services (EMS), then in such event, the Cheatham County School Board will and does hereby have the right to prohibit any new, other, or different use of the leased premises.

Collins made a motion, seconded by Spiegl to approve the revised lease agreement for the EMS Ambulance Station on the Harpeth Middle School campus in Kingston Springs. That motion passed unanimously by those members present.

F) Supervisor Jo Jones gave a thumbnail sketch of the proposed changes to the 2009-2010 teacher contract: vacancies, transfers, promotions, and recalls; district advocacy committee; fringe benefits – 1-J; fringe benefits, leave of absence – E-9.

Spiegl made a motion, seconded by Lavender, and carried unanimously by those present to ratify the 2009-2010 contract between the Cheatham County Board of Education and the Cheatham County Education Association, including the changes outlined by Ms. Jones. Spiegl thanked Ms. Lavender, Mr. Williamson, and others that worked on the negotiating team.

G) Lavender made a motion, seconded by Williamson to revise on first reading Board Policy 2.401, Gifts and Bequests. Discussion followed.

Collins made a motion to amend the motion, seconded by Lavender, and passed unanimously by those present to include the following sentence in item 2: *No improvement to real property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Board of Education, shall be made without prior knowledge and consent of the Board of Education.*

Discussion followed. Lavender remarked that the Board can not change the past, but in the future all students must have accessibility to all buildings and grounds. Chairperson Proffitt

asked for a vote on the amended motion to revise Board Policy 2.401, Gifts and Bequests. That motion carried unanimously by those present.

Changes include the following:

The first sentence of the first paragraph shall read as follows:

The director of schools is authorized to accept gifts to the school system for particular schools in behalf of the Board.

Add the following as the last sentence of paragraph two:

All gifts and/or modifications to or upon school property and buildings must be Americans with Disabilities compliant.

Add the following to the end of item 2:

In no event shall anyone repair, renovate, improve, or construct any structure, whether temporary or permanent, or fixture on property owned, leased, or controlled by the Board without the consent of the Board and at the recommendation of the Director. No improvement to real property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Board of Education, shall be made without prior knowledge and consent of the Board of Education. In no event should this be interpreted to prohibit routine maintenance of school facilities.

Comments from Board Members:

Collins conveyed the school year seems to have had a great start and following Saturdays interviews the Board has two very good candidates for the Director of Schools.

Lavender expressed appreciation to those who attended the interviews and encouraged attendance at the next interviews and town hall meeting.

Announcements and recognitions:

Interim Director Williams recognized and thanked Coordinated School Health Coordinator Beth Campbell, CMS Principal Robin Norris, and community volunteers for the successful Health Fair at CMS.

Williams recognized and congratulated Dianne Proffitt for her TSBA professional growth participation and receiving the Level III pin awarded by TSBA at the Fall District meeting.

Proffitt announced the following:

October 15th work session has been cancelled

October 29th work session at 6:00 p.m.

November 2nd Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

November 13th – Director’s candidates will visit some schools

November 14th - Scheduled town hall meeting with candidates (may be changed)

Proffitt proclaimed the Board interviewed the four candidates on Saturday, scored each candidate, and narrowed the field to two: Dr. Timothy K. Webb from Spring Hill, Tennessee, and Dr. James P. Best from Jonesboro, Arkansas. Proffitt expressed appreciation to the Board Members for the interview process and thanked the media for attending. She invited everyone to the town hall meeting with the candidates.

Adjourn:

There being no other business, Chairperson Proffitt adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by
Carol F. Cannon

Dianne B. Proffitt, Board Chairperson

Dianne Williams, Interim Director of Schools