DRAFT

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2011

The Scott County School Board met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

James Kay Jessee, Chairman
Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair
Katherine J. "Kathy" McClelland
Joe D. Meade
Dennis C. Templeton

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Baker, School Board Attorney/Superintendent; Dr. Kellie C. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Student Achievement; John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs & Operations; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk Of The Board/Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs and Operations; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk Of The Board/Human Resources Manager; Steve Shortt, Virginia Professional Educators; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association; Billy Nash, Maintenance Employee; Nancy and Ronnie Godsey, Citizens; Ramona Russell, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Paul Fields, Scott County Board of Supervisors Member; Gate City Middle/High School Parents; Gate City Middle/High School Students/Football Team Members; Pat Whitley, Gate City Middle School Teacher/Weber City Elementary School Kids, Inc.; William "Bill" Houseright, William R. Quillen, Rick Shoemaker, Brent Roberts, Jonas Houseright, Gate City Football Team Coaches; Pat Loggans, Gate City Football Team Trainer; Jason Smith, Gate City Middle School Principal; Greg Ervin, Gate City High School Principal; and Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News.

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*/CHAIR RELINQUISHED TO PRO TEM CHAIR: Chairman Jessee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He asked the audience for a moment of silence for personal reflection and then requested Superintendent Baker to lead the audience in citing the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone and stated that it is good to see this number at the meeting.

This being the Board's Organizational Meeting for the 2011 calendar year, Chairman Jessee relinquished the Chair to Superintendent Baker for serving as Chairman Pro Tem for the election of Chairperson.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON: Superintendent Baker, serving as Chairman Pro Tem, stated that since this is the first meeting of the year it is the time to elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to serve for the period of time for the calendar year of 2011 and to appoint a Clerk and Deputy Clerk for such duties as are assigned by Virginia law, the superintendent and the Board. Pro Tem Chairman Superintendent Baker asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Templeton nominated Mr. James Kay Jessee; motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell. There being no further nominations, Pro Tem Chairman Superintendent Baker asked for a motion that nominations cease, motion was made by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, Mr. James Kay Jessee was elected by acclamation to serve as Chairman for the 2011 calendar year.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON: Superintendent Baker relinquished the Chair to newly elected Chairman, Mr. James Kay Jessee. Chairman Jessee thanked fellow members for their confidence in electing him once again to serve as Chairman. Chairman Jessee asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mrs. Blair nominated Mr. Lowell Campbell; motion was seconded by Mr. Meade. Chairman Jessee asked for a motion that nominations cease and Mr. Campbell be elected by acclamation, motion was made by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye. Mr. Lowell Campbell was elected by acclamation to serve as Vice Chairman for the 2011 calendar year.

CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs. McClelland nominated Mrs. Loretta Q. Page to serve as Clerk of the Board and Mrs. K.C. (Karen) Linkous to serve as Deputy Clerk of the Board for the 2011 calendar year, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell. There being no other nominations for Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Mrs. Blair made a motion that nominations cease and they be appointed by acclamation, all members voting aye.

ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA: Mr. Campbell requested items to be added to the February meeting agenda as follows: (1) Health Insurance and (2) Sports Complex. He requested that Superintendent Baker review the health insurance to determine whether rates can be lowered and to familiarize himself with the Sports Complex Project so that the school system can obtain the most professional job for the project that they can afford.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda as submitted.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2010 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Tuesday, December 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the following payroll and claims: School Operating Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of $ as shown by warrants # & electronic payroll direct deposit in the amount of $ & electronic payroll tax deposit $. Cafeteria Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of $ as shown by warrants # electronic payroll tax deposit $. Scott County Head Start invoices & payroll in the amount of $ as shown by warrants # .

PRESENTATION OF SPORTS RESOLUTIONS: On behalf of the school board, Mr. Templeton presented a resolution to Mr. William "Bill" Houseright, Gate City High School Football Team Coach as follows:

GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM
2010 CLINCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CHAMPION
REGION D CHAMPION
GROUP A DIVISION 2 STATE CHAMPION

***BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County School Board of Scott County, Virginia, as follows:*

***WHEREAS**, the Gate City High School Football Team has achieved an outstanding regular football season by winning 8 games and losing 2 overall, and*

***WHEREAS**, the Gate City High School Football Team won the Region D Championship with a record of 10 wins and 2 losses, and*

***WHEREAS**, the Scott County School Board wishes to extend congratulations to the Gate City High School Football Team for winning the Clinch Mountain District, Region D and Group A Division 2 State Championships; with a record of 12 wins and 2 losses, and,*

***WHEREAS**, the Scott County School Board acknowledges the outstanding performance of the Gate City High School Football Team and is proud of the fine manner in which the team has represented Scott County, and*

***WHEREAS**, the Scott County School Board wishes continued success for the Gate City High School Football Team and coaches, and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Scott County School Board wishes a copy of this resolution to be presented to each player and the coaches of the Gate City High School Football Team.*

James Kay Jessee, Chairman (Signature)
Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman (Signature)
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Board Member (Signature)
Kathy J. McClelland, Board Member (Signature)
Joe D. Meade, Board Member (Signature)
Dennis C. Templeton, Board Member (Signature)

ATTEST:
Greg Baker, Division Superintendent (Signature)
Date

Mr. Houseright commended the football team members and the coaching staff that have worked with them through the years. He introduced team members in the audience along with mentioning names of other members that were not present.

Superintendent Baker commended the Gate City High School Football Team/students, coaches and school staff and expressed pride for the following message the school division received from Neal Riemenschneider, Commissioner of the Winchester Football Officials Association in Winchester, Virginia: "*On behalf of the crew who worked your football game this past Saturday, I want to compliment your players and coaching staff for their excellent sportsmanship during the game. I know I speak for all of the crew when I say that it was a distinct pleasure for us to work a game with such a fine group of young people and a fine group of coaches. Please express my appreciation to all those involved and you can be proud that all of them represented Gate City High School in a very positive manner."*

DONATION TO WEBER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/KIDS INC.: Mrs. Pat Whitley, Gate City Middle School Teacher/Weber City Elementary School Kids Inc., presented a check in the amount of $4,286.00 to Superintendent Baker for Weber City Elementary School. Superintendent Baker expressed appreciation to Mrs. Whitley for the fine work she and her colleagues have done in this endeavor (Weber City Elementary After School Program - Kids Inc.) and stated that these funds would be used to continue with the mission she started.

PRESENTATION OF "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARDS: Superintendent Baker stated that tonight the school board and central office wishes to start a new tradition, being the *"Making a Difference"* recognition awards, for staff and faculty in the school system. He expressed that it is absolutely impossible to honor all of the faculty and staff, in this sort of way. He further expressed that what the school board and central office wants those present and everyone to understand is that the people that are being honored have been chosen from the schools themselves and exemplify the great job that they do and their colleagues as well. He further stated that these people are going to accept the awards, obviously, on behalf of themselves and their good work; but, also on behalf of the good work and dedication of the entire faculty and staff of the schools being honored. He explained that the school board meetings are being moved around to the various schools and that the first meeting tonight being at the Gate City Middle/High School Complex there will be two awards for the middle school and two awards for the high school. He presented a brief biographical summary for each recipient along with awards as follows:

Gate City Middle School – Eddie Hammonds, Custodian
Christy Miller, Teacher

Gate City High School – Randy Laney, Custodian
Debbie Kilgore, Teacher

Each recipient received a round of applause from the audience.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH PROGRAM & RECOGNITION OF GATE CITY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STAFF & STUDENTS: Mr. Jason Smith, Gate City Middle School Principal, expressed thanks to the board and administrators and welcomed everyone. He asked that the Gate City Middle/High School staff stand in order to be recognized and commended them for the wonderful job that they do. He reported that the Gate City Middle School has a new and very successful Student of the Month Program that was started this school year at Gate City Middle School and explained that Food Lion is a partner with the program and expressed thanks for them helping to ensure the success of the program. He reported that Food Lion has provided gift certificates and is planning a breakfast for the program's recipients at the end of the year. He introduced Ms. Whitney Berry, Gate City Middle School teacher, who is working with the program. Ms. Berry explained that the Student of the Month Program was created to identify, recognize and encourage those students who "stand above the crowd." Ms. Berry further explained that these students are selected by their teachers and awards are presented each month to a student in each grade (7, 8, & 9). Ms. Berry provided details on the criteria and student selection process for the award and the names of the recipients for the months of October, November & December as follows:

October:	November:	December:
7th – Morgan Campbell	7th – Brianna Noe	7th – Emily Estepp
8th – Amber Sallee	8th – Kyra Jessee	8th – Jon Spears
9th – Ricky Raymond	9th – Bailie Light	9th – Logan Lawson

Superintendent Baker and board members expressed congratulations to award recipients.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Baker commented that his first days as superintendent have gone well. He reported that he has worked on the structure and organization of the central office supervisors and staff, which he explained has been articulated and described to the office personnel. He also reported that beginning tomorrow Dr. Johnson, Mr. Ferguson and himself will be conducting faculty meetings that have been scheduled at all schools. He explained that they will be meeting with faculty and administrators to hear what they think is working well and what they think might need to be looked at. He stated that he is looking for 30 ideas in 30 days from faculty. He commented that the faculty is the key cog in education and stressed the importance of hearing and understanding their needs and a realization of their goals and objectives. He reported that the meetings will begin tomorrow and they will move forward as quickly as they can to all schools. He reported that he plans to hold three forums (Duffield area, Nickelsville area & Gate City/Weber City area) during January & February in which the secretaries, teaching assistants, custodians, cafeteria employees and maintenance employees can come (to their choice of attendance area) so that they can discuss their views with regard to the different positions they work in and what might be able to be done to help them. He reported that he also plans to meet with school bus drivers at a different time due to the timeframe of their bus runs. He further reported that he plans to meet with principals on Thursday of this week and assistant principals soon thereafter, probably week after next.

Superintendent Baker expressed that now is a good time to think about establishing a Steering Committee to look at the overall mission and goals for the school system going forward. He stated that a change in leadership is a good time to assess some things overall. He further stated that he doesn't mean that the current vision and mission is not good because he does feel it is and worthy and noble. He expressed the

thought that it is the time to take a fresh look at the mission and vision for the short term and long term. He proposed that he would like to name a Steering Committee in the next couple of weeks and that they be tasked with looking at both short term and long term goals by bringing together in that committee all relevant stakeholders. He defined stakeholders as including parents, board members, teachers, staff, administrators, etc. to look at where the school system is headed. He explained that he would like to be able to give this committee that charge and have them report back to him in a relatively short, but reasonable time period, on the short term (1-3 year period) at least and continue on the long term (3-5 years). He expressed that he would like for the board to give its blessing on him doing this because he thinks it is a good time to assess the mission and vision overall and maybe it can be refined as the school system moves into this already second decade of the 21st century. He commented on how much education has changed in the past 10 years—not to mention how much it has changed in the last 30. He expressed that he felt this would be a worthy endeavor and the efforts would pay off for the school system in the long run.

APPROVAL OF STEERING COMMITTEE: On the recommendation of Superintendent Baker and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the establishment of a Steering Committee as discussed by Superintendent Baker.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST: On the recommendation of Mr. John Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs and Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from Twin Springs High School band students to attend a Virginia Tech Honor band event in Blacksburg, Virginia on January 21-23, 2011.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Pam Sivert as a custodian to replace a retiree.

On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Gary McDavid as a maintenance/custodian employee. Dr. Johnson explained that when custodians are absent and a long term substitute is needed for their duties the school system did not have an employee to serve in this capacity and further explained that this employee would work in the maintenance department when not performing custodian duties.

On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Amanda Mullins as a teaching assistant due to the retirement of two teachers at the end of the first semester.

On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ginger Parks as a cafeteria employee due to the retirement of a cafeteria employee at the end of the first semester.

CLOSED MEETING: There was no closed meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Campbell asked if a determination has been made on the possibility of direct deposit for the school cafeteria employees. Mrs. Linkous reported that personnel were to get back to her with numbers but had not done so. She stated that she would request the information once again. It was discussed that direct deposit could be made mandatory for new hires.

Superintendent Baker stated that the direct deposit matter will be reviewed (fees charges, numbers feasible, etc.) and Mrs. Linkous will take care of obtaining the information needed and report on this at the next meeting. He explained that at next meeting it could be determined if the Board wants to participate in the direct deposit and then decide if they want to make it a part of the policy for new hires.

Board members commended the new administration on the new superintendent's organizational efforts and vision for moving forward.

Chairman Jessee thanked the audience once again for their interest in attending the meeting. He also reminded them that the school board meetings are listed on the web and the hopes of seeing them at future meetings.

Superintendent Baker and board members apologized for the audio of the meeting and informed the audience that this would be taken into consideration and worked on for future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman Loretta Q. Page, Clerk