DRAFT

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2011

The Scott County School Board met for a public hearing on the Proposed 2011-12 School Budget and regular meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, at Hilton Elementary School in Hiltons, 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 and Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; Patricia Currier, Rye Cove Intermediate School/Fort Blackmore Primary School Libraria & VPE; Justin Forrester, Gate City Middle School Teacher/Scott County Education Association Representative; Billy Nash and Tim Edwards, Maintenance Employees; Ramona Russell, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News; Joe Horton, County Board of Supervisors Member; Tim Spicer, Hilton Elementary School Principal; Tracy Stallard, Hilton Elementary School Assistant Principal; Ruby Rogers, Gifted Program Instructor; Valerie Rhoton, Fort Blackmore Primary School Principal; Renee Dishner, Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career & Technical Center Principal; Lee Sanders, School Bus Driver; Leslie Elam, Rye Cove Intermediate School Teacher; Dawn Williams, Gate City Middle School Teacher; Amanda Green, Rye Cove Intermediate School Teacher; Otis Bowen, Duffield Community; Nancy Godsey, Ronnie Godsey, John Hamilton, David Templeton, William Quillen, Amanda Rhoton, Sandy Jenkins, Dale Owens, Pandy Elkins, Citizens; and Hilton Elementary School Faculty and Staff Members.

CALL TO ORDER/PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2011-2012 SCHOOL BUDGET: Chairman Jessee called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. for a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget and the audience was given an opportunity for public comments on the Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget.

After a brief period and there being no comments from citizens concerning the Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget, Chairman Jessee adjourned the Public Hearing.

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*: Chairman Jessee called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He asked the audience for a moment of silence for personal reflection and lead the audience in citing the *Pledge of Allegiance.* Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone in attendance and expressed thanks for their interest in the school system.

ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA: None.

DISPLAYS FOR SCOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS: Mr. Dennis Templeton, school board member, recommended the installation of a display for each high school to recognize the Scott County high schools athletic programs for earning several Virginia State Championship Titles in the past 50 years. He stated that it is time to recognize all the hard work, dedication and achievements of these athletes and coaches. He proposed that the displays be installed as funds are available to support this project. He suggested that for the Gate City site, a review be conducted for placing the display on the incline bank between Gate City High School and the northwest corner of the bridge.

Superintendent Baker commented on this being a worthy project and suggested that Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs & Operations, review cost for this project and check to see if contributions toward funding the project may be available from the high schools, individuals and boosters; and, report back at the next meeting. Chairman Jessee commented that the cost and interest from the public could be reviewed.

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

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 4, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Tuesday, January 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Superintendent Baker stated that an additional list of expenditures is being requested for approval of payment ($3,631.15). On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved payroll and claims including the additional list submitted by Superintendent Baker: 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 # .

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH – FEBRUARY 2011 – RECOGNITIONS: GREG BAKER, SUPERINTENDENT: On behalf of the Central Office Staff, Scott County Public Schools and the Virginia School Boards Association, Superintendent Baker presented a certificate in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month to each school board member. He expressed thanks and appreciation for board members' time, dedication and efforts.

VIRGINIA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS GRANT AWARDS TO SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS – AMANDA GREEN & DAWN WILLIAMS: Mrs. Suzanne Goins and Mr. Steve Shortt, Virginia Professional Educators Representatives, recognized grant awardees as follows:

Amanda Green – Award $500 (Scholarship: further education in administration)
(Rye Cove Intermediate School Teacher)
Dawn Williams – Award $500 (Equipment: photosynthesis & DNA)
(Gate City Middle School Teacher)

PRESENTATION OF "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARDS: Superintendent Baker reported that last month a tradition was begun in recognizing a faculty and staff member at each school. He took the opportunity to thank everyone in the audience for coming to the meeting. He stated that the purpose of the "Making a Difference" Awards is to not only recognize the recipients but exemplifies the great job that they do and

their colleagues as well. He presented a brief biographical summary for each recipient along with awards as follows:

Robin Hall – Hilton Elementary School Secretary
Leslie Crawford – Hilton Elementary School Faculty Member

Each recipient received congratulations from board members and administrative staff, as well as, a round of applause from the audience.

TIMOTHY SPICER, HILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mr. Timothy Spicer, Hilton Elementary School Principal, welcomed everyone in attendance and expressed appreciation for their interest. He also expressed appreciation that the meetings are currently being held in the schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

2011 VIRGINIA INDEX OF PERFORMANCE AWARDS: GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, BOARD OF EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS, BOARD OF EDUCATION COMPETENCE TO EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND BOARD OF EDUCATION RISING STARS AWARDS: Superintendent Baker reported that once again the school system and schools are being recognized by the Governor and the Virginia Board of Education. He further reported that once these official awards are received they will be presented and recognized at a future meeting. He pointed out that there were only eight school divisions, Scott County being one, earning the Board of Education Excellence Award. He commended the students, parents, etc. in regard to these achievements. He explained that the incentive program was created by the Board of Education in recognition of schools and divisions that achieve excellence goals and far exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE PARTNERSHIP: Superintendent Baker reported that due to the Virginia Department of Transportation closing of their office at the Moccasin Gap location in Weber City, the state police no longer had an office space available. He reported that an office space has been made available to them at the Gate City High/Middle School and that they will be assisting with the driver's education program and policing services since they will be at the school. He reported that the school system has also offered them satellite offices at both Twin Springs and Rye Cove High Schools. He reported that the state police officers will be available in the schools to work with the School Resource Officers, school safety access to the buildings, assist in putting together a crisis plan and run a mock disaster crisis. He expressed that he is very pleased to have their services available to the school system.

2011-2012 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET: Superintendent Baker reported that not much is known at this point in regard to figures for the 2011-2012 Proposed School Budget. He explained that the General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on February 26. He further reported that a budget work session will be held following the March regular school board meeting. He also reported that not all revenue from the Federal Education Jobs Fund will be spent this year and part of the funding will be carried over for next year's budget to help save jobs once again. He reported that he plans to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Superintendent Baker reported that health insurance information is being collected, an independent consultant is reviewing items, including the health insurance contract with Anthem, an assessment is being done on who pays what and who is not; and, that more information is expected to be received during this month. He explained the need to continue to work on this issue and hopefully have an answer and recommendation at the March meeting.

A school bus driver asked about health insurance being made available to the school bus drivers.

Superintendent Baker spoke on the budget situation and a need to keep jobs for the current employees, maintaining the buildings, provide what is needed for the instructional program and updating the textbooks but stated he would ask that the matter be reviewed. He commented that he would like to have known this was done for the school bus drivers prior to the current budget situation.

SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE: Superintendent Baker reported that he is uncertain about the use of the Sports Complex for spring due to the winter weather. He further reported that, if spring comes early, work can proceed; but, he explained that with the weather as it has been, the concession stand project is currently on hold. Superintendent Baker was asked to provide another update at the March meeting.

SCHOOL VISION AND STEERING COMMITTEE: Superintendent Baker reported that he has appointed 25 people to serve on the Vision and Steering Committee and among this group are former and current board members. He stated that a current board member serving on the committee is Mrs. McClelland. He further reported that Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and Amy Sallee, Weber City Elementary School Assistant Principal/Grant Writing and Strategic Planning, will be co-chairing this committee and will hold their first meeting on February 7th. He commented he is looking forward to their work, the results it will yield and their recommendations.

SCHOOL CALENDAR – INCLEMENT WEATHER: Superintendent Baker reported that one question he has received in emails and everywhere he goes is about the makeup days missed for the inclement weather. He commented that although this school division has missed 14 days so far, it is ahead of some of the neighboring counties. He further reported that, due to the uncertainty of the number of days the school division may still miss for inclement weather, a plan now would be premature and have to be changed again. He explained that there are several built in days that can be used for snow days and that the law requires schools to attend for 180 days or 990 instructional hours. He explained that if you look at the number of instructional hours that the school system puts in each day at the schools then there are several built in snow days that are available to use for inclement weather.

Superintendent Baker reported that according to the Code of Virginia 22.1-98 statue with regard to make up days, the first five days must be made up; and, after that, you can do two for one. He reported that the statute has been on the books for several years now and explained that because what was happening was that many school divisions in the southwest were going to the state board and asking, every year or, every other year, for a waiver since they were missing so many days. So he explained that the legislature's response to that was to pass a law that when you miss more than five days you can start doing the two for one or 990 instructional hours. He stated that he feels somewhat confident in saying that the school division will be using the 990 instructional hours to count time for this school year so that the schools, students, community and faculty won't be going to school all summer. He further stated that he has to be reasonable with what he recommends to the Board with all the stakeholders, being our students, faculty, community, parents and also within our educational mission. He stated that we don't want to cut it short and we won't cut it short but we have to be reasonable in using some of this time that we have because we have missed a significant number of days.

Superintendent Baker reported that the other question he has received is about spring break. He reported that according to the calendar being operated on that was approved by the Board for this year, with the 14 days missed, the spring break is over and cancelled. However, he commented that he didn't want to say that it is the final word. He also commented that it is highly unlikely that there would be a week of spring break. He explained that depending on how many days are missed in February, he will be able to come back to the Board in March with a more definite plan of how to make up days, when school ends and whether or not there would be any spring break at all. He commented that he wants folks to understand the end result is not as bad as it seems because there are some built in days and hours already in the calendar.

Mrs. McClelland explained a need to maybe go ahead and consider setting high school graduation dates. Superintendent Baker will review the matter with administrative staff and check on having dates for the next meeting.

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 Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from Rye Cove High School band students to the All-State Auditions at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on February 25-26, 2011.

On the recommendation of Mr. John Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs and Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from Gate City Middle School, Rye Cove High School & Twin Springs High School band students to the All-District Band Clinic at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Bristol, Virginia, on February 4 & 5, 2011.

MAINTENANCE WORK SCHEDULE UPDATE: Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs & Operations, recognized Mr. Robert Sallee, Director of Building Services, in the audience and reported that he and Mr. Sallee met and reviewed specific needs for the school division. Mr. Ferguson presented a work schedule update to the school board members detailing building services needs. He informed board members that work orders are available on a day to day basis and that he would continue to provide updates at future meetings.

Superintendent Baker and Chairman Jessee expressed appreciation for the work efforts of Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Sallee and the maintenance department.

APPROVAL OF LETTERS CONCERNING NON-RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS FOR NON-TENURED TEACHERS & NON-CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: 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. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved letters to be sent out concerning non-renewal of contracts for non-tenured teachers and non-classified employees.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the resignation request of Chad E. Hood, teacher, effective December 31, 2010; Ginger Parks, Gate City Middle School Cafeteria Employee, effective January 10, 2011; and Gary Joe Chaffin, teaching assistant, effective February 9, 2011.

EMPLOYMENT: 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. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Margaret Jessee, Gate City Middle School Cafeteria Employee, effective February 2, 2011 (replaces employee who resigned).

On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Laura Dorton, Twin Springs High School Cafeteria Employee, effective February 2, 2011 (replaces retiree).

On the recommendation of Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, and on a motion by Mrs. McCelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Pandy Elkins, Human Resources Generalist, for the school board office, effective February 16, 2011. Dr. Johnson explained that Annette Parker, school board office employee who already has experience working in the schools and has worked with Cindy Dorton in the past, will be extending her services at Shoemaker Elementary School due to a family situation at the school.

REPORT ON HIGHLY QUALIFIED: Dr. Kellie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Student Achievement, reported that according to the state report the number of highly qualified teachers in the school system has increased and is moving toward 100% with the number currently being at 98%. She further reported that the number of teachers that are not highly qualified do not teach in core areas.

REPORT ON DIRECT DEPOSIT: Mrs. K.C. Linkous, Human Resources Manager, reported that the majority of school system employees have direct deposit. She provided board members with a quote for the software for emailing direct deposit and a yearly maintenance fee. She also provided them with a current breakdown of employees on payroll, number on direct deposit and the average number of employees receiving checks. She also reported on the annual cost for the letterhead for printing paystub statements, letterhead envelopes, address labels, cost of checks, postage to mail retiree (ERIP) direct deposits. She stated that she would discuss with the Accounting Clerk at the County Offices and Mrs. Kathie Noe, Acting County Administrator, whether the county may be interested in making this a county wide project and assisting in the purchase of the software needed for emailing direct deposit.

Mrs. Linkous reported that there are 39 full time cafeteria employees. She informed the Board that she has checked with the school board's financial institution and has been assured that the cafeteria fund can be housed there and falls under the same category as the county's finances, which waives all fees for state and government entities. She further reported that the cafeteria fund is being analyzed by the head of a government team in Richmond and expects a report back by the middle of February; therefore, she should have information to provide an update at the March meeting.

Superintendent Baker expressed thanks to Mrs. Linkous for the hard work and beneficial information. Mrs. Linkous expressed thanks to Mrs. Phyllis Hunley, Accounting Clerk, for her assistance with this matter.

CLOSED MEETING: Mrs. McClelland made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 7:02 p.m., to discuss teachers and nurses according to Section 2.2-3711A(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended; motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 7:35 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board returned to regular session and Mrs. McClelland cited the certification of the closed meeting:

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires certification by this Scott County School Board that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scott County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Scott County School Board in the closed meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Beth Blair, Lowell Campbell, Kay Jessee, Kathy McClelland, Joe Meade, Dennis Templeton
Nays: None
ABSENT DURING VOTE: None ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Chairman Jessee stated that there is no action to be taken.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Board members expressed appreciation for those in attendance, their interest in the school system and that parent and community involvement is very important.

Mr. Templeton expressed appreciation that with the Hilton Elementary School renovation project almost completed, the students, faculty and staff, have much more protection and security.

Chairman Jessee expressed appreciation for the fantastic job and outstanding work of the maintenance department.

MARCH 1 REGULAR MEETING DATE CHANGE: Chairman Jessee reported that the next meeting will be on March 8 instead of March 1. Superintendent Baker reminded everyone that the meeting will be at Nickelsville Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman Loretta Q. Page, Clerk