DRAFT

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013

The Scott County School Board met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, at the Scott County Career & Technical Center Auditorium in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

James Kay Jessee, Chairman
William "Bill" R. Quillen, Jr., Vice Chairman
Jeffrey "Jeff" A. Kegley
Gail L. McConnell
L. Stephen "Steve" Sallee, Jr.
Herman "Kelly" Spivey, Jr.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John I. Ferguson, Superintendent; Will Sturgill, School Board Attorney; Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk Of The Board/Budget Specialist/Head Start Payroll & Invoice Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk of the Board; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators Regional Director; Robert Sallee, Supervisor of Building Services; Ramona Russell, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant; Ashlie Baker, Gate City High School Librarian/Senior Class Sponsor; Chad Fore and Eva Pearson, Gate City High School Instructors/Class Advisors; Lawren Fansler, Logan Lawson, Madison Vaughn, Tucker Alley and Tanner Alley, Gate City High School Senior Class Students; Gary McMurray and Nancy Godsey, citizens; Lisa Taylor, Citizen/Parent; Stephen Taylor, Career & Technical Center Instructor/ Assistant Principal; and David Hartley, Heritage TV.

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*: Chairman Jessee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for their interest in the school system. The audience observed a moment of silence and Mr. Steve Sallee led in citing the *Pledge of Allegiance.*

ADDITION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Jessee requested the addition of *Resolution - Irrevocable Election Not to Participate in Virginia Local Disability Program* to be included under Superintendent's Report 9. D. and the remaining items are to follow. On a motion by Mr. Spivey, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda including the addition as requested.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Quillen, seconded by Mr. McConnell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Regular Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Superintendent Ferguson answered Mr. Steve Sallee's inquiry regarding the Beeson, Lusk & Street expenditure on the October 1, 2013 list. On a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of $ as shown by warrants # electronic payroll direct deposit in the amount of $ & electronic payroll tax deposits in the amount of $. Cafeteria Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of $ as shown by warrants # and electronic payroll direct deposit in the amount of $ & electronic payroll tax deposit in the amount of $. Head Start invoices & payroll totaling $ as shown by warrants #

PRESENTATION – GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.: The Gate City High School senior class advisors and students presented a brief summary of the fundraising and itinerary planned for an overnight field trip of the senior class to visit the nation's capital in Washington D.C. on March 28-31, 2014; and, requested board approval. On a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved the trip as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Lisa Taylor, Citizen/Parent of Scott County Public Schools Student, presented comments concerning her child and classroom, in and out-of-state tuition fees, school visitor sign-in sheets, support of cameras or two-way mirrors in certain classrooms and employee drug tests.

APPROVAL OF NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2013-14: On the recommendation of Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Quillen, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Nursing Advisory Committee for 2013-14 as follows:

Lori Bush	Guidance Counselor	Rye Cove High School
Lori Flanary	Guidance Counselor	Twin Springs High School
Rebecca Baker	Guidance Counselor	Gate City High School
Amber Goode	Nurse Supervisor	Scott County Schools
Patsy Brooks	Director of Nursing	Ridgecrest Health Group LLC
Lena Whisenhunt	Director of Nursing	Mountain Empire Comm. College
Rachel Burke	Instructor	Scott Co. Career & Tech. Center
Ralph Quesinberry	Principal	Scott Co. Career & Tech. Center

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/504 ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2013-14: On the recommendation of Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. McConnell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Special Education Advisory Committee for 2013-14 as follows:

Lisa Dean	Brenda Robinette	Phyllis Compton	Chad Robinette
Eileen Deckard	Stacy Wood	Allison Kimbler	Sandra Craft
Renee' Light	Judy Flanary	Sandra Craft	Pam Bellamy

DRAFT

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION CONCERNING HIGH STAKES, STANDARDIZED TESTING OF VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS: Superintendent Ferguson provided background information on the Resolution Concerning High Stakes, Standardized Testing of Virginia Public School Students. On the recommendation of Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING HIGH STAKES, STANDARDIZED TESTING OF VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF SCOTT

WHEREAS, *the over reliance on standardized, high stakes testing as the only assessment of learning that really matters in the state and federal accountability systems, is strangling our public schools and undermining any chance that educators have to transform a traditional system of schooling into a broad range of learning experiences that better prepares our students to live successfully and be competitive on a global stage; and*

WHEREAS, *there is little research upon which to base the state's assumption that by taking and passing thirty-four criterion-referenced tests between grades three and eleven, Virginia's students will be better prepared to succeed in their careers and college; and*

WHEREAS, *we believe our state's future prosperity relies on a high-quality education system that prepares students for college and careers, and without such a system Virginia's economic competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter; and*

WHEREAS, *there is little research verifying Virginia's method of applying criterion-referenced test results as valid and reliable measurements of authentic growth in student achievement; and*

WHEREAS, *there is little research verifying Virginia's method of measuring student growth as a valid and reliable indicator of teacher, principal and superintendent performance; and*

WHEREAS, *the system that Virginia employs for high-stakes education accountability at both the state and federal level is based on the state's method of configuring criterion-referenced standardized tests, growth measures, and performance indicators, all of which lack any solid research foundation; and*

WHEREAS, *the real work of designing more engaging student learning experiences requires changes in the culture and structure of the systems in which teachers and students work; and*

WHEREAS, *what occurs in our classrooms every day should be student-centered and result in students learning at a deep and meaningful level, as opposed to the superficial level of learning that results from the current over-emphasis on that which can be easily tested by standardized tests; and*

WHEREAS, *We believe that a balanced system of assessments that provide a more comprehensive analysis of student learning and growth is far better in defining achievement than using snapshots of student performance on criterion-referenced tests (see VASS Blueprint, October 2011); and*

WHEREAS, *our vision is for all students to be engaged in more meaningful learning activities that cultivate their unique individual talents, to provide options for students that are designed to respect how they learn best, and to embrace the concept that students can be both consumers and creators of knowledge; and*

WHEREAS, *only by developing new capacities and conditions in divisions and schools, and the communities in which they are embedded, will we ensure that all learning spaces foster and celebrate innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication and critical thinking; and*

WHEREAS, *these are the very skills that business leaders desire in a rising workforce and the very attitudes that are essential to the survival of our democracy; and*

WHEREAS, *imposing relentless test preparation and boring memorization of facts to enhance test performance is doing little more than stealing the love of learning from our students and assuring that we fall short of our goals; and*

WHEREAS, *we do not oppose accountability in public schools and point with pride to the stellar performance of our students, but believe that the system of the past will not prepare our students to lead in the future and neither will the standardized tests that so dominate their instructional time and block our ability to make progress toward a world-class education system of student-centered schools and future-ready students.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Scott County School Board calls on the Virginia General Assembly to re-examine Virginia public school assessments and the system of accountability for which they form the basis and to improve the current accountability system so that it encompasses balanced assessments, reflects greater validity, uses more cost efficient sampling techniques and other external evaluation arrangements, allows for expedited test retakes, and more accurately reflects what students know, appreciate and can do in terms of the rigorous standards essential to their success, enhances the role of teachers as designers, guides to instruction and leaders, and nurtures the sense of inquiry and love of learning in all students.*

PASSED AND APPROVED *on this 1st day of October, 2013.*

DRAFT

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VSBA AND NORFOLK CITY SCHOOL BOARD TO DECLARE THE OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION LEGISLATION UNCONSTITUTIONAL: Superintendent Ferguson and School Board Attorney, Mr. Will Sturgill, provided background information and a summary of the General Assembly enacted legislation pertaining to the creation of the Opportunity Education Institution (OEI) and OEI Board. Mr. Sturgill stated that based on his review of the suit and case law, he believes it has merit and is obviously going through the court system. On the recommendation of Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Quillen, seconded by Mr. McConnell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, *in its 2013 session, the General Assembly enacted legislation, which was subsequently approved by the Governor, creating the Opportunity Educational Institution (OEI) and the Opportunity Educational Institution Board; and*

WHEREAS, *the legislation mandates that the OEI Board take over the supervision and operation of any local public schools that have been denied accreditation and authorizes the OEI Board to take over any local public school that has been accredited with warning for three consecutive years; and*

WHEREAS, *it is the firm conviction of the School Board that this legislation violates the Constitution of Virginia in that it usurps the role of local school boards in supervising and managing the public schools of the Commonwealth; now therefore;*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Scott County School Board hereby supports the lawsuit brought forth by the Virginia School Boards Association and Norfolk City School Board to declare the OEI legislation unconstitutional and to enjoin the OEI Board from taking any action to implement the legislation.*

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION – IRREVOCABLE ELECTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRGINIA DISABILITY PROGRAM: Superintendent Ferguson explained the establishment of the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) for short-term and long-term disability benefits for certain participants in the hybrid retirement program which he reported will be effective January 1, 2014.

Mrs. K.C. Linkous, Human Resource Manager/Deputy Clerk of the Board, explained that all new employees hired on or after January 1, 2014 will go under the hybrid plan plus this new disability plan beginning January 1, 2014. Current employees on the plan will remain with the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) or they have the option to join the hybrid plan and the disability plan. She reported that approximately 50 entities have voted to opt out; and 425, including us, have sent in options for an extension to opt out. She presented rates for the VRS plan and a standard plan through VACO. She explained that with VACO this is a guaranteed rate of .37% for three years for all employees; whereas, with the VLDP (VRS) rates are .39% for teachers and .91% for all others. She also reported that VRS rates are expected to increase. She further reported that for 2015 the retirement and life insurance rates will increase with VRS. She pointed out that the VRS rates quoted are only good for six months, January through June, and then will probably go up as well.

Mrs. Linkous stated that should the school system not be happy with the Standard Plan through VACO then the school system could go with someone else but explained that if you enter into the VRS Plan you are not going to be able to get out. She reported that the resolution tonight is for opting out and it isn't that the school system is actually choosing something else right now. She stated that it is just opting out of the plan through the Virginia Retirement System.

DRAFT

Mrs. Linkous reported that she spoke with Mrs. Kathie Noe, County Administrator, and was informed that the county is opting out and that another company, the Virginia Municipal League (VML) is going to prepare a proposal but she didn't have any details on that yet. She explained that the school system has until December to choose another plan.

Mr. Quillen commented that the Board doesn't want to do something that they are locked into. Chairman Jessee asked if board members wanted to table this until later on. Mrs. Linkous stated that the resolution being presented has to be passed by November 1. She stated that the Board can opt in or opt out at this time and explained that, if opting in, it is locked in; but, if opting out, the Board can opt in at a later date. She explained that the school division will review proposals and needs to have a plan in place January 1, 2014.

Superintendent Ferguson recommended approval of the resolution and Mr. Quillen made a motion to approve the resolution with motion being seconded by Mr. Kegley. Mr. McConnell questioned whether board members need to look at this item further.

Mrs. Linkous stated that it is just to opt out and it is not selecting a plan. Superintendent Ferguson stated that the school system can shop around and try to get a better rate than through the Virginia Retirement System. He explained that, with the approval of the Board, this would allow opting out but the school system could come back to it; but, at this time, his recommendation is to opt out.

Chairman Jessee stated that there is a motion and a second. He asked if there was any further discussion; and, there being none presented, he called for a vote, all members voted aye, to approve the Resolution – Irrevocable Election Not To Participate in the Virginia Disability Program as submitted.

BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE: Mr. Robert Sallee, Supervisor of Building Services, presented a Building Services Update and reported on certain work orders. He also reported that the maintenance department inspected all fire extinguishers for the Head Start Program buildings. He further reported that the maintenance personnel have been re-locating outlets in classrooms with drop ceilings at Duffield Primary School. He explained that smart boards are located at schools throughout the county; and, for all those classrooms with the drop ceilings in the school system, it is being required by the fire marshall to re-locate outlets and stated that this will be quite a chore. He reported that, during the past month, door access controls have been installed at a couple of the schools.

Mr. Quillen mentioned to Mr. Robert Sallee, Supervisor of Building Services, that there is a water fountain leak at Gate City which is next to an outlet and that this is in need of immediate repair. He also asked about the awning to be installed at Weber City Elementary School.

Mr. Robert Sallee reported that the awning installation has been scheduled with the company. Mr. Steve Sallee asked how long the installation will take to which Mr. Robert Sallee replied it should take three or four days.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACT UPDATE: Superintendent Ferguson stated that he has been working with Mrs. Mitzi Owens, Treasurer, who is working with some of the financial institutions in regard to financing for the Performance Contract. He reported that he inquired about an update today but has not received a reply back. He stated that he will continue to do so and stated that hopefully the school system will have some news within the next week or two.

Mr. Sallee, board member, asked how long the financing request has been out. Superintendent Ferguson explained that it would be a month tomorrow since the meeting with the Board of Supervisors and stated it has been about three weeks. Mr. Sallee expressed that it was hoped to get started by November but commented they would have trouble doing that now. Superintendent Ferguson also explained that there is a lot of paperwork to go in between now and then as well.

DRAFT

Mr. Kegley commented that it is his understanding that Comfort Systems is going to have everything done as far as the contract goes and when funding is received, contracts can be reviewed, changes made, if necessary, sign contracts and then immediately proceed with the work. Superintendent Ferguson stated that is correct.

Mr. Will Sturgill, school board attorney, questioned whether preliminary contracts are available yet. Superintendent Ferguson indicated that none have been received. Superintendent Ferguson further commented that, at this time, it is contingent upon securing the loan; and, pointed out that, with interest rates and the amount to be financed, a half-percent would make a difference.

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Sallee made a motion to enter into closed meeting at 7:05 p.m. to discuss head start personnel, teachers, teaching assistants, coaches, principals, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, and maintenance personnel as provided in Section 2.2-3711A(1) Code of Virginia, as amended; motion was seconded by Mr. Quillen, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 8:42 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Quillen, the Board returned to regular session and Mr. Sallee cited the following 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: James K. Jessee, Jeff Kegley, Gail McConnell, Bill Quillen, Steve Sallee, Kelly Spivey

Nays: None ABSENT DURING VOTE: None ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from Gate City, Rye Cove, Twin Springs & SCCTC FCCLA students (Gate City - 8 students & 2 sponsors, Rye Cove – 6 students &

1 sponsor, Twin Springs – 6 students & 1 sponsor and Scott County Career & Technical Center – 5 students & 1 sponsor) to participate in Youth Leadership Training & Skills Demonstration Competitions in Charlotte, NC, on November 21-25, 2013 (Thursday – Tuesday).

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from Dungannon Intermediate School Honor Club students (number of students unknown at this time, 6 chaperones) to Ripley's Aquarium Sleep With The Sharks, Pigeon Forge, TN, on May 2-3, 2014 (Friday – Saturday).

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation request of Mrs. Amy Mann, teacher, effective September 26, 2013.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ms. Connie Dockery as a bus driver, effective October 1, 2013.

DRAFT

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Stephen Lane as a maintenance employee, effective October 14, 2013.

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Oakley Hartsock as a part-time custodian, effective October 14, 2013.

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Grover Dooley as a bus driver, effective October 1, 2013.

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Jeffery Sloan as a bus aide, effective September 9, 2013.

RETIREMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the retirement request of Mrs. Debbie Gillenwater, secretary, effective October 1, 2013.

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel & Student Services, and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board approved the retirement request of Ms. Patsy Coley, custodian, effective September 6, 2013.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Kegley recommended that, as an addition to the agenda for the next meeting, the Board discuss forming a committee and discuss some drug tests for athletes and extra-curricular activities. He commented that the Board could discuss forming a committee to look into that possibility and discuss and debate the issue and maybe get a committee formed to look into that issue.

Chairman Jessee asked the clerk to note that the item is to be included on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk