DRAFT
SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014

The Scott County School Board met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at the Scott County Career & Technical Center in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John I. Ferguson, Superintendent; K.C. Linkous, Clerk Of The Board/Human Resource Manager; Beverly Stidham, Deputy Clerk/Purchasing Agent; Will Sturgill, School Board Attorney; Robert Sallee, Supervisor of Building Services; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators Representative; Patricia Whitley, Teacher/Virginia Education Association Representative; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career & Technical Principal; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Dennis McFarland, Comfort Systems USA.

CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE*: Chairman Quillen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The audience observed a moment of silence and Mr. Jessee led in citing the *Pledge of Allegiance.* Chairman Quillen welcomed everyone to the December 2, 2014 meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA: Superintendent Ferguson presented two items to add to the agenda (D) Discussion/Approval of Resolution Concerning the Funding of Public Education in Virginia and (E) Superintendent's Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On a motion by Mr. Kegley, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda with the additions presented by Superintendent Ferguson.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Thursday, November 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Kegley, 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 # & 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 #

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

REPORT ON HOLIDAY AND PAYROLL SCHEDUDLE: Superintendent Ferguson presented the following Holiday and Payroll Schedule for the Board's information:

12 Month Employees Holidays:
Christmas – Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25
New Year's – Wednesday, December 31 & Thursday, January 1
Payroll for December : Wednesday, December 31, 2014
Winter Break:
Friday, December 19 – Students dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
Monday, January 5, 2015 – Teacher Workday/Schools Closed
Tuesday, January 6, 2015 – Second Semester Begins (Students return to school)

APPROVAL OF HEAD START 2014-2015 READINESS GOALS AND ACTION PLANS: Superintendent Ferguson presented the Head Start 2014-2015 Readiness Goals and Action Plans for approval. On a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Spivey all members voting aye, the Board approved the 2014-2015 Head Start Readiness Goals and Action Plans (Appendix C)

BUILDING SERVICES/PERFORMANCE CONTRACT UPDATE: Mr. Robert Sallee, Supervisor of Building Services, presented an update on the current maintenance projects for the month of November. Mr. Steve Sallee asked if the roof at Gate City High School was repaired where it was reported leaking. Mr. Robert Sallee explained that it had been fixed and so far no problems have been detected.

Dennis McFarland, Comfort Systems USA, gave an update on the Performance Contract work. Mr. McFarland explained that they found some overheating issues at Shoemaker Elementary and Gate City Middle School that was not caused by the heating system, but some other sources were causing these rooms to overheat. Mr. McFarland stated that all work should be completed by December and that overall "tweaking" of the controls should be completed as well. He also stated that all control systems are cutting off and not running all weekend. Mr. Robert Sallee explained that the control systems are not technically "cutting off", they are running "unoccupied" set at 60 degrees. Mr. Robert Sallee also stated that there are several positive things happening with the performance contract.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION CONCERNING FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA: Superintendent Ferguson presented a funding resolution from VSBA and VASS asking school boards to join in the effort to amplify concerns to the General Assembly about our need for them to invest appropriately in public education. On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye the Board approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

WHEREAS, the General Assembly shall provide for a system of free public elementary and secondary schools for all children of school age throughout the Commonwealth, and shall seek to ensure that an educational program of high quality is established and continually maintained (Virginia Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1); and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. (Virginia Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2); and

WEREAS, the General Assembly shall provide for the support of public education as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia which states that the General Assembly and the Board of Education find that the quality of education is dependent upon the provision of (i) the appropriate working environment, benefits, and salaries necessary to ensure the availability of high-quality instructional personnel; (ii) the appropriate learning environment designed to promote student achievement; (iii) quality instruction that enables each student to become a productive and educated citizen of Virginia and the United States of America; and (iv) the adequate commitment of other resources. In keeping with this goal, the (Standards of Quality, 22.1-253.13:1, Standard 1); and

WHEREAS, increased funding for public education is needed to ensure that the state meets its responsibility to provide public education as a core function of state government and to promote economic development in Virginia (VASS Blueprint for Public Education); and

WHEREAS, Virginia public schools in challenging environments are almost entirely located in high poverty areas with unemployment that far exceeds the state average and low per-capita family incomes. (VSBA Task Force on Schools in Challenging Environments); and

WHEREAS, Virginia's state aid to public education has been declining since the 2009 recession with State direct aid K-12 appropriations currently at $6.8 billion (all funds)/$5.2 billion (GF) compared to $7.1 billion (all funds)/$5.6 billion (GF) in FY2009.

WHEREAS, State K-12 funding reductions have reduced K-12 funding from 35 percent of the general fund in FY 2009 to below 30 percent in FY 2014 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Virginia continues to provide for special interest tax preferences and loopholes, while reducing its financial obligation to public education; and

WHEREAS, the state's reduction in funding for K-12 has occurred through policy changes since FY 2009, such as reduced state funds for school "support" personnel and administrative and employee benefits; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Virginia in 1987 approved the establishment of a state-operated Lottery for the purpose of providing funding for public education and further approved a constitutional amendment in 2000 which required Lottery proceeds to be distributed to localities to spend for public education purposes. Instead of additional resources for public education, 100% of Lottery proceeds now supplant general fund revenues to support public education; and

WHEREAS, localities have paid for the increased costs of education required by state mandates to improve public school performance with localities currently paying 56 percent of the state v. local share of public education rather than the 45 percent they should be paying as defined by the Standards of Quality; and

WHEREAS, localities budgeted $3.55 billion in FY2013 above their state required local effort (RLE) to maintain the actual costs of public education (Annual Superintendents Report to the Department of Education); and

WHEREAS, real estate values in Virginia and, therefore, local government revenues continue to be depressed in Virginia - increasing only 2 percent in fiscal year 2013 -- with little prospect for even average growth rates in future years without significant local tax rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the number of at-risk students in Virginia schools has significantly increased to the point where more than one-third of K-12 students are now free lunch-eligible and seven percent reduced-price lunch eligible, thereby increasing the need for more personnel and material resources to help them; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD and its division superintendent, in conjunction with the Virginia School Boards Association and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, call upon the Virginia General Assembly to immediately increase the state's share of funding for public education to the level of quality that is prescribed by them in the Standards of Quality and expected by all of the Commonwealth's citizens.

Adopted this 2nd day of December, 2014.

John I. Ferguson, Division Superintendent *K.C. Linkous, Clerk of the Board*

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Sallee made a motion to enter into closed meeting at 7:03 p.m. to discuss teachers, coaches, nurses, bus drivers and central office staff as provided in Section 2.2-3711 A (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended; motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee , all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 8:09 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Jessee, 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 Kay Jessee, Jeff Kegley, Gail McConnell, Bill Quillen, Steve Sallee, Kelly Spivey

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

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel, presented by Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved Elizabeth McClellan, Michelle Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, Leisa Dougherty, Gerald Miller, Travis Russell and Rachel Allen as substitute teachers.

RESIGNATIONS: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel, presented by Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Mr. Kegley, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Cheyenne Osborne, Head Football Coach, Rye Cove High School, effective November 17, 2014.

VOLUNTEER COACHES: On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel, presented by Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Sallee, seconded by Mr. Spivey, all members voting aye, the Board approved the recommendation of Ms. Hannah Kilgore as a volunteer girls basketball coach for Gate City High School, effective 2014-15 season.

On the recommendation of Mr. Jason Smith, Supervisor of Personnel, presented by Superintendent Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Spivey, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board approved the recommendation of Ms. Lindsey Redwine as a volunteer Cheerleading Coach at Rye Cove High School, effective the 2014-2015 season.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: All the Board members wished everyone with the school system a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Sallee, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

William "Bill" R. Quillen, Jr., Chairman

K.C. Linkous, Clerk