

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2002

The Scott County School Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2002, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City with the following members present:

Glenn M. McMurray, Chairman

ABSENT: None

Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman

Gloria A. "Beth" Blair

W. Mack Gilliam

David T. Kindle

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board; Danny L. Dixon, Director of Instruction; Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor; Alison Taylor, Scott County Education Association Co-President; Jennifer Peters, Scott County Education Association Representative; Dennis George, Twin Springs High School Cadet Class Instructor; Alicia Gilreath and Emily Dockery, Twin Springs High School Cadet Class Students.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Glenn M. McMurray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and presided.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS (TWIN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER CADET CLASS): Chairman McMurray asked Mr. Dennis George, Twin Springs High School Cadet Class Instructor, if he would like to comment on his Teacher Cadet Class at Twin Springs High School.

Mr. George reported that the Teacher Cadet Class students are continuously working on various projects and invited board members to visit the school when they have an opportunity. He explained that the Teacher Cadet Class students are in attendance at tonight's meeting to observe a school board meeting. He stated the hopes that these students be able to apply for a teaching position in this school division in the future. He expressed thanks to the school board members. He reported that a total of thirteen students are in the class and, that two of them, Alicia Gilreath and Emily Dockery, are in attendance to observe tonight's meeting. He also reported that several other students in the class were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Superintendent Scott reported that, countywide, this is the second year of the teacher cadet classes. He reported that the classes seem to be getting more students to enter into the teaching field than had entered in past years.

Mr. George reported that he received a letter from the Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium informing the school division of the teacher cadet teacher training opportunity currently available. He reported that the creative and flexible classroom setting for the teacher cadet students is very different from other classroom settings. He explained that the students have built a model preschool. Mr. George reported that college credit is being given to teacher cadet students in some other locations.

Superintendent Scott reported that the school division is investigating getting the teacher cadet class approved as a college credit course. He reported that the goal of the cadet class is to get more students interested in education. He asked the teacher cadet students if they wished to provide any comments about their class.

Alicia reported that the teacher cadet class has helped her to be more organized. She stated that she has decided that she wishes to teach elementary school students rather than high school students.

Mr. George explained that the students are currently working with lower grade elementary school students and will soon be working with higher grades. He reported that the teacher cadet students are assigned to an elementary school teacher for a period of 17 or 18 days. He reported that these students are to be responsible for being there each day and are required to maintain a log in a notebook. He explained that these students organize and teach one class a day. He stated that he performs observations while the teacher cadet students are teaching in the classroom. He stated he hopes that this experience will provide the students with more respect for the teaching profession.

Mrs. Blair asked about other cadet classes in the area.

Superintendent Scott reported that Wise County and another school division were initially providing a teacher cadet class but that now five or six school divisions are currently providing these classes. He reported that he would like for Mr. Danny Dixon, Director of Instruction, to inquire of teachers within the county to see if there is an interest in training as a cadet instructor. He further reported that funding is available for this year from the Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium for training but that after that timeframe, it is uncertain. He stated that now would be a good time for those teachers interested to plan to attend the summer classes for the teacher cadet instructor training.

Mr. Dixon reported that the Virginia Department of Education is very interested in the teacher cadet program but that he has not received any recent information to know whether other divisions around the state are replicating the program.

Mr. George reported that the cadet program has been in North and South Carolina since the mid-eighties. He reported that although the program is new to this area, it is well established in other areas.

Superintendent Scott and school board members thanked Mr. Dennis George, Twin Springs High School Teacher Cadet Class Instructor, and Alicia Gilreath and Emily Dockery, Teacher Cadet Class Students, for their attendance and comments at the meeting.

No other members of the audience came forth to speak during this period.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Sampson, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of October 1, 2002, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the invoices and payrolls as follows:

School Fund invoices totaling \$640,802.80 and payroll totaling \$387,611.86 as shown by warrants

#8054223-8054764 (#8053881 voided).

Cafeteria Fund invoices totaling \$73,856.14 and payroll totaling \$35,481.75 as shown by warrants

#1004278-1004392.

Capital Improvement/School Construction Fund invoices totaling \$22,420.90 as shown by warrants

#1900256-1900261.

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices totaling \$43,624.48 and payroll totaling \$1,126.19 as shown by warrants #1443-1546.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STATUS: Superintendent Scott asked permission from school board members for Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor, and Mr. Danny L. Dixon, Director of Instruction, to present an update on school accreditation that was just received this afternoon.

Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor, reported that previously 10 of 13 schools were fully accredited. He reported that two additional schools are now fully accredited therefore, a total of 12 of 13 schools have met all criteria for being fully accredited. He also reported that the one school that is not yet fully accredited is provisionally accredited and does meet the state standards for accreditation.

Mr. Dixon reported that the three core areas that kept this one school from being fully accredited were very close to the fully accredited status.

Board members and Superintendent Scott stated that the teachers and students are to be commended for these outstanding results.

LOCAL EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN: Superintendent Scott stated that he would like to present a recommendation concerning the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. He stated that if, however, the board wishes to inquire about specific personnel, then a closed meeting would be necessary.

CLOSED MEETING: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board entered into a closed meeting at 6:20 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711A(1) to discuss coaches. Mr. Campbell made a motion to amend the closed meeting motion to include teachers; Mrs. Blair seconded motion, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All board members returned from the closed meeting at 7:20 p.m. and considered 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 2.2-3711A(1) 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, Mack Gilliam, David Kindle, Glenn McMurray, Virgil Sampson

Nays: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN:

Superintendent Scott presented information to the board concerning a recommendation that the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) program be discontinued on March 1, 2003 due to the uncertainty of the economy. He recommended that between now and March 1, 2003, be the only window to participate in the ERIP program and funded at 100% of salary being offered and the income spread out over a period of 5 to 10 years. He stated that he would speak to all personnel in the school division. He also stated that the funding situation would be explained and an opportunity provided for school personnel to ask any questions that they might have concerning the recommendation. He stated that he would present the recommendation for the program to be discontinued at the school board meeting on January 7, 2003.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ON THE K-12 EDUCATION COMPONENTS OF THE STATE BUDGET: Superintendent Scott presented to the board a Resolution on the K-12 Education Components of the State Budget that the Virginia School Boards Association is encouraging to be approved by local school boards and to be forwarded to the Governor and General Assembly. He reported that the Virginia Board of Education has adopted the resolution.

Superintendent Scott also presented a copy to the school board members of a letter received from Professor Richard G. Salmon, Virginia Tech Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. He reported that in the letter Professor Salmon indicates that K-12 public schools funding will be protected as much as possible by Governor Warner and the General Assembly. He further reported that Professor Salmon feels that due to the massive revenue shortfall projected, it will be difficult for them to completely protect K-12 funds from budget cuts. Professor Salmon recommended that the flow of state sales taxes be scrutinized and that school divisions should plan for pro rata state aid reductions. He recommended that spending be prioritized and to anticipate a budget reduction of from 3 to 5 percent statewide.

Superintendent Scott stated that he hopes to know by December 20 of the cuts to be made by the Governor. He reported that very little has happened since the last school board meeting. He further stated that he still believes the cuts to K-12 education will be received.

Superintendent Scott made a recommendation to approve the Resolution on the K-12 Education Components of the State Budget and stated that he did not know how much it would help but it would be sent to the Governor and General Assembly. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the Resolution on the K-12 Education components of the State Budget as follows:

Scott County School Board

Resolution on the K-12 Education Components

Whereas, as it routinely does every year in the fall, the Scott County School Board (Board) wishes to communicate its spending priorities to the Governor and the General Assembly for their consideration as they make budget decisions,

Whereas, the Board acknowledges the serious revenue shortfall facing state government at this time, and also acknowledges that Virginia's budget must be balanced and that the current revenue shortfall means that cuts in previously appropriated funds must be made by the Governor and the General Assembly in order to balance the budget, and

Whereas, the Board does not minimize the difficulty of the challenge facing the Governor and the General Assembly in balancing the state's budget, and

Whereas, the Board believes nonetheless that public education is of the highest priority in the state budget, and that there are certain core education programs in the K-12 public education budget that should be of the highest priority for maintaining spending and, to the maximum extent possible, should not be the programs in the state budget chosen for reducing already appropriated amounts,

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Board urges the Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia to consider the following K-12 educational programs to be of the highest priority and urges that everything possible be done to avoid reductions in already appropriated funds in these core programs:

- a. Standards of Quality (SOQ) basic aid accounts, including funding for teacher and principal

Positions and salaries;

- b. Non-SOQ programs directly related to meeting the student achievement goals of the Standards of Learning and the federal No Child Left Behind Legislation.

And be it further resolved, that the Board's position contained herein shall be communicated

to the Governor and the General Assembly for their consideration.

Adopted this 6th day of November 2002.

Glenn M. McMurray, Chairman

(Signature)

RETIREMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl Johnson, Director of Operations/Elementary Supervisor, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation of Ms. Mary Kay Shores, Rye Cove Intermediate School Teacher, effective October 31, 2002.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations/ Elementary Supervisor, and on a motion by Mr. Gilliam, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Scott A. Vermillion as a substitute school bus driver.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations/ Elementary Supervisor, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Gilliam, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Ms. Heather Smith as Twin Springs High School Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations/ Elementary Supervisor, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Matt Bays as Rye Cove High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Campbell asked board members to consider changing the date of the next regular school board meeting, December 3, 2002, since he would be out of town on that date. After discussion, school board members agreed to change the date of the next regular meeting to December 10, 2002.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN MEETING DATE FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
On a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved changing the date of the next regular school board meeting to Tuesday, December 10, 2002.

PAYROLL PAYMENT DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2002:
Superintendent Scott informed the board that, according to the policy manual, school personnel are to be paid on the last working day of the month and therefore does not further approval by the board. He reported that payment of payrolls would be November 26 and December 20.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Kindle made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye. The next regular meeting is to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2002, in the School Board Office Conference Room.

Glenn M. McMurray, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk

