

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 9, 2003, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City with the following members present:

Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair, Chairman

**ABSENT:** David T. Kindle

Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman

W. Mack Gilliam

Genn M. McMurray

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor/Director of Testing; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Alison Taylor and Bob Moorehouse, Scott County Education Association Co-Presidents; Susan Greene, Scott County Career & Technical Center Principal; Brent Treash, WCYB-TV; and Joe Meade, District 3 Newly Elected School Board Member.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda including two additional claims presented for approval by Superintendent Scott.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No members of the audience came forth to speak during this period.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Mr. Sampson, seconded by Mr. Gilliam, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of November 6, 2003, Regular Meeting, as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** On a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved payroll and claims as follows:

School Operating Fund invoices in the amount of \$561,839.75 and payroll in the amount of \$355,273.82 as shown by warrants #8060618-8061130 (#8060277 stop payment).

Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices in the amount of \$80,190.29 and payroll totaling \$35,357.74 as shown by warrants #1005668-1005777.

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices totaling \$46,510.27 and payroll totaling \$1,976.27 as shown by warrants #2709-2800.

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**APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:** Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, requested conditional approval of the overnight field trip request received from the Hilton Elementary School sixth grade class. Mr. Johnson explained that according to the request, the trip would be changed to a later date if school is missed due to inclement weather and SOL testing dates are changed. He also explained that the trip would be taken after SOL testing is completed so that any of last year's fifth graders that need to retake SOL tests can do so. On the recommendation of Mr. Johnson and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from the Hilton Elementary School sixth grade class to Chattanooga, Tennessee, on May 13-15, 2004 (Thursday-Saturday).

On the recommendation of Mr. Johnson, and on a motion by Mr. Gilliam, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from the Rye Cove High School band students to Atlanta, Georgia, April 29-May 2, 2004 (Thursday-Sunday).

**ACCREDITATION REPORT & UPDATE ON TESTING:** Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor/Director of Testing, presented an Accreditation Report for 2003-04, which is based on last year's test results. He reported that all schools are "fully accredited" with the exception of Duffield Primary School. He explained that Duffield Primary School is "provisionally accredited/meets state standards" and that this status is due to only one core area, History, being below the standard. He stated that scores for all schools were extremely good as shown by the following report:

**2003-2004 VIRGINIA SCHOOL ACCREDITATION**

**SCOTT COUNTY**

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>ACCREDITATION STATUS</b>
DUFFIELD PRIMARY	78	92	61	-	PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED/ MEETS STATE STANDARDS
DUNGANNON INTERMEDIATE	100	100	88	80	FULLY ACCREDITED
FT BLACKMORE PRIMARY	84	88	-	-	FULLY ACCREDITED
GATE CITY HIGH	99	85	96	100	FULLY ACCREDITED
GATE CITY MIDDLE	78	75	86	85	FULLY ACCREDITED
HILTON ELEMENTARY	94	97	91	100	FULLY ACCREDITED
NICKELSVILLE ELEMENTARY	88	90	88	93	FULLY ACCREDITED
RYE COVE HIGH	86	89	91	86	FULLY ACCREDITED
RYE COVE INTERMEDIATE	100	100	100	92	FULLY ACCREDITED
SHOEMAKER ELEMENTARY	88	91	82	89	FULLY ACCREDITED
TWIN SPRINGS HIGH	85	83	98	91	FULLY ACCREDITED
WEBER CITY ELEMENTARY	89	91	94	92	FULLY ACCREDITED
YUMA ELEMENTARY	90	95	88	81	FULLY ACCREDITED

Mr. Dishner reported that for the first time in the school division's history, students are completing On-Line Testing for the Standards of Learning this semester. He reported that this process has gone well and that immediate feedback is available making retake testing much quicker. He reported that Scott County was one of the last school divisions to complete the On-Line Testing; however, he reported that the school division wanted a timeframe for the "bugs" to be worked out so that this testing did not "hurt" the students in any way.

Mr. Dishner reported that a lot of preparation went into getting ready for the On-Line Testing. He expressed thanks and asked other to do so, to the Computer Technicians and the Guidance Counselors. He stated that these personnel have done a "great job". He also reported that this process has eliminated much testing paperwork that was being submitted to him for processing.

Mr. Dishner reported that the state has not yet completed the development of the On-Line Testing necessary for the eighth graders. He further reported that this technology should be available within the next couple of years. He also reported that probably sometime within the next four years the elementary testing should be available on-line and that eventually all SOL testing will be completed on-line.

Mr. Dishner submitted a report on School Accreditation Ratings (2002-03 SOL Data) with the Virginia schools' data shown as follows: 78% fully accredited, 4% accredited/meets state standards, 16% provisionally accredited/needs improvement, and 3% accredited with warning. The report also showed a 92% pass rate for Scott County's twelve "fully accredited" schools of the thirteen schools. Also included in the report submitted was a Regional School Accreditation Results comparison of area schools. The reports were based on 2007 accreditation standards/target dates.

Mr. Dishner presented a report on SOL Scores 2003-04 for Gate City, Rye Cove & Twin Springs High School in the core areas of English, Math, Social Studies, and Science. The report also showed a comparison of other high schools in the state of Virginia. He stated that he was pleased that test scores for all areas were in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or above and that some areas were in the 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> percentile. Mr. Dishner expressed that the teachers and students have done extremely well with regard to the SOL testing.

**APPROVAL OF SIX-YEAR PLAN:** On behalf of Mr. Danny L. Dixon, Director of Instruction, who was unable to be present for the meeting, Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor/Director of Testing, presented the Scott County Public Schools Divisional 6-Year Plan 2003-2009. The plan included a Members List serving on the planning council for 2003, the Educational Philosophy, and Mission. He presented the Data Analysis & Needs Assessment (as of November 2003) as follows:

State Accreditation: 12 of 13 schools are Fully Accredited (92%) (by 2007 standards).

Duffield Primary failed to meet the target in History.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): All schools except 1 met AYP Targets (some were small N).

Gate City Middle and the Division did not meet AYP  
in the

Students With Disabilities Sub-Category

Some other small schools would not have met the target but  
their small numbers resulted in their data not counting  
against

their individual school, but affecting the divisional average.

Achievement: Scott County students (overall) achieved at rates above the State and  
National

Averages in all subject and grade levels.

Preparation for Higher Education & the Workforce: 33% of Scott County students  
graduate with

Coursework that exceeds the standard

Diploma requirements established by VA.

47% of Scott County students ?complete?

vocational preparatory courses prior to

graduating.

Attendance & Dropouts: Divisional Attendance is above 95% with many schools above  
96%

The trend is stable.

Dropout rates are low, with a declining trend.

Recent years show our best rates in both categories.

Student Behavior: Incidence of misbehavior, serious enough to warrant out of school

Suspension, are few and infrequent.

Trends are positive.

Community Involvement & Support: Parental and community involvement and support  
for the

in school system, individual schools, and education

general?is consistently good.

Several meaningful partnerships are in existence and other  
opportunities exist to create more.

education of Parental support and direct involvement in the

be done. their children are an area where even more can

Mr. Dishner presented the Visions of the plan as follows:

Vision #1: All students are achieving successfully to their potential on basic skills and  
higher-

order thinking tasks.

Vision #2: All students are prepared to successfully continue their education or enter the work

force upon graduation.

Vision #3: Scott County and its schools will meet accreditation standards and AYP benchmarks

(in overall and sub-populations).

Vision #4: Scott County School personnel, parents, and community volunteers will work hand-

in-hand to enhance educational opportunities and support services available to our

students.

Vision #5: All Scott County educational personnel are actively involved in continuously

Improving their knowledge and teaching skills.

Vision #6: All teachers are provided the instructional material and technological resources

to effectively teach all their students.

Vision #7: Scott County Schools provide students and staff a safe, orderly, and drug-free

environment in which to learn and work.

Mr. Dishner stated that the plan includes a Strategic Plan for Scott County Schools, which explains the goals of the plan visions. The plan also includes a detailed report on the many Innovative Programs that Scott County Schools are involved in, which are designed to enrich the educational experience of the students. Also, included is a detailed report on the various Partnerships and Associations with local and regional businesses and other school systems that provide considerable benefits and opportunities to the schools and students. Various graphs depicted in the plan include: Enrollment Figures & Projections (1991-2009), Divisional Dropouts, Divisional Attendance (1988-2002), Suspensions & Expulsions (1995-96 through 2001-2002), and Suspensions & Expulsions ? New Categories.

On behalf of Mr. Danny L. Dixon, Director of Instruction/Divisional 6-Year Plan Planning Council Chairman, Mr. Dishner recommended approval of the Scott County Schools Divisional 6-Year Plan 2003-2009 as submitted. On a motion by Mr. Gilliam, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the Six-Year Plan (2003-2009) as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF HEAD START TRAINING BUDGET:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the Head Start Training Budget as submitted in the amount of \$17,377.00 and non-federal in-kind in the amount of \$4,344.00 for a total FY2004 Training and Technical Assistance Budget amount of \$21,721.00.

**APPROVAL OF HEAD START POLICY AND PROCEDURE:** Superintendent Scott explained the Head Start Program's revisions, which includes a grievance policy revision to be in line with policy set forth by the school board. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the policy and procedure revisions as submitted and to include the following policy:

*No Scott County Public School Head Start employee with responsibilities and duties for Child and Adult Care Food Program shall have other employment that interferes with the Completion of those CACFP responsibilities and duties. In addition, any other Employment may constitute a real or apparent conflict of interest with CACFP.*

*Any employee having or considering outside employment will seek approval from the Director.*

*Helen Henderson*

*Director*

*10-24-03*

*(Signature)*

*(Title)*

*(Date)*



**APPROVAL OF HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBER:** Superintendent Scott reported that there were three vacancies on the Head Start Policy Council to be filled and three applications were received for filling these positions. He reported that after a review of the applications, Ms. Marci Gore is the only applicant being recommended for approval since she is the only applicant residing in Scott County. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Sampson, seconded by Mr. Gilliam, all members voting aye, the board approved Ms. Marci Gore as a Head Start Policy Council Member.

**APPROVAL OF RYE COVE HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM,  
CUMBERLAND DISTRICT, REGION D, GROUP A STATE CHAMPION**

**RESOLUTION:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the following Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team, Cumberland District, Region D, Group A State Champion as follows:

*RESOLUTION*

***RYE COVE HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM***

***CUMBERLAND DISTRICT, REGION D, GROUP A STATE CHAMPION***

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

***WHEREAS,*** the Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team of 2003-2004 has achieved an outstanding volleyball season by winning 24 games and losing 2 overall,

***WHEREAS,*** the Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team won the Cumberland District Championship with a record of 8 wins and 0 losses,

***WHEREAS,*** the Scott County School Board wishes to extend congratulations to the Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team of 2003-2004 for winning the Cumberland District Championship, Region D Championship, and Group A State Championship,

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

***WHEREAS,*** the Scott County School Board wishes continued success for the Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team and coaches,

***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 Rye Cove High School Volleyball Team.

*Gloria A. ?Beth? Blair, Chairman*

*(Signature)*

*W. Mack Gilliam, Board Member*

*(Signature)*

*Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman*

*(Signature)*

*David T. Kindle, Board Member*

*(Signature)*

*Glenn M. McMurray, Board Member*

*(Signature)*

*E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Board Member*

*(Signature)*

***ATTEST:***

*Loretta Q. Page, Clerk*

*(Signature)*

*James B. Scott, Division Superintendent*

*(Signature)*

Superintendent Scott stated that due to the fact that the Gate City High School Football Team has not completed state playoffs, a resolution in recognition of the team will be presented at the January 2004 school board meeting.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING CHANGING DATE OF JANUARY 6, 2004 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:** Superintendent Scott reported that the Region VII Superintendents are planning a Legislative Dinner on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. in which all senators and delegates of the Southwest Virginia area, Region VII Superintendents and school board members within the region are invited to attend. Superintendent Scott reported that due to the busy schedule of the superintendents, senators, delegates, the upcoming long session of the General Assembly beginning on Monday, January 12, and the sub-committee meetings to be scheduled, it is uncertain how many persons would be able to be in attendance for the legislative dinner.

scheduled on January 6. He reported that Governor Warner's budget is expected to be released on December 20. He encouraged board members to try to attend the upcoming legislative conference to be held in February.

It was decided that the next regular school board meeting scheduled on January 6 could be changed at a later date if necessary.

**CLOSED MEETING:** There was no request to enter into a closed meeting.

**DICUSSION CONCERNING PERSONNEL VACANCIES:** Superintendent Scott reported that personnel were needed to fill vacancies in the maintenance department. He reminded board members that one of the maintenance employees that retired in September has not been replaced. Also, he reported on the upcoming retirement of two additional employees in December and March/April. He explained that three, or possibly four, personnel would be needed for the maintenance department. He stated that at least one or two maintenance employees are needed that have certification in air conditioning, etc. He reported that an advertisement was placed for candidates with certification and that five applications were received. He further reported that of the five candidates that applied, four showed up for an interview and testing. He reported that one candidate has the necessary certifications and is being recommended for approval at this time. He explained a need to move forward with the approval since this employee is needed to begin work as soon as possible and would need to provide his employer with a two-week notice. He stated that another advertisement would be sent out for applicants to fill the remaining positions.

Superintendent Scott reported that a guidance counselor with certain certifications is needed to work with students that the judges and court system require counseling services beyond what is provided by the current guidance staff. He reported that currently 12 students are in need of these services. He explained that this counselor would prepare specific plans for the particular students' needs and he estimated that to contract this service would cost between \$50 to \$100 per hour and that for the number of students currently needing these services and the future needs, this would be quite costly. He stated that he has talked with various people about possibly transferring a current employee that has the necessary certifications, into the position, which would result in a need to fill an open position in the guidance department. He informed the board that an advertisement for a guidance counselor was placed with a deadline of December 15. He reported that one application has been received as of this date.

**EMPLOYMENT:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Sampson, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Andrew Tate as a maintenance employee. Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Tate has both mechanical and electrical certifications.

After discussion, it was decided that a recommendation for filling the position for guidance counselor would be presented for approval at a later date.

**RESIGNATION:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Gilliam, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation of Mrs. June Rollins Cassell, Rye Cove High School Cafeteria Employee effective November 28, 2003.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Sampson, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation of Ms. Annette Sawyer, Shoemaker Elementary School Cafeteria Employee effective January 5, 2004.

**ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS:** Mrs. Blair expressed thanks to Ms. Susan Greene, Scott County Career & Technical Center Principal, for the hospitality and use of the school facility. Mrs. Blair also expressed thanks to Ms. Judy Hensley, Food Occupations Instructor, for the delicious meal served prior to the meeting.

Mr. McMurray stated that he would like to recognize Superintendent Scott as being selected by his Region VII superintendent peers as Superintendent of the Year.

Board members expressed thanks to Mr. Mack Gilliam, District 3 school board member whose term expires on December 31, for his friendship, amusement, guidance, wit, and wisdom while serving as a school board member. Mr. McMurray presented a gift to Mr. Gilliam in recognition of his tenure on the board and the unique design of the gift was representative of Mr. Gilliam, fellow board members, Superintendent Scott, and County Attorney Foster.

Mr. Gilliam expressed that he has certainly enjoyed his eight years of tenure and that he would miss fellow board members and service on the board.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to discuss, Mr. McMurray made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye. The next regular meeting is to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2004, in the School Board Office Conference Room.

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Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair, Chairman

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Loretta Q. Page, Clerk

