

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2004

The Scott County School Board met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2004, in the Scott County School Board Office Conference Room with the following members present:

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman	David T. Kindle
Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman	Glenn M. McMurray
Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair	Joe D. Meade

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board; K.C. Q. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association Representative; Ms. Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Dianna Dishner, Michael Hood, Courtney Stidham, Jennifer Bennett, Brooke McNew, Rye Cove High School FCCLA Students; Carolyn Dishner, Teacher/Rye Cove High School FCCLA Sponsor; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career & Technical Center Director; Susan Greene, Scott County Career & Technical Center Principal; Holly Darnell, Mark Estepp, Jack Newland, Dustin Peak, Candance Jennings, Curtis Bellamy, Judy Hensley, Lennie Dunlap, Kayla Kilgore, Kandra McDavid, Annie Fritz, Beverly Falin, Desiree Vickrey, Randy Bledsoe, Robin Kern, Derek Kern, Robert Q. Barker, Gary Cleek, Scott Cleek, Olinthus Quillen, Chris Bates, Meagen Gilliam, Wayne McClelland, and Mark Blanton.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sampson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Campbell requested an addition to Items By Superintendent (E.) Naming of School Facilities. Mr. Kindle made a motion to approve the

agenda including the addition of Items By Superintendent (E.) Naming of School Facilities, motion was seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gate City, Rye Cove & Twin Springs High Schools Family, Career and Community Leaders (FCCLA) & Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) students appeared before the board and received recognition for their participation in STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition). These students reported on the awards they received at the state level and explained that they participated in competitive events in which members were recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and occupational preparation. Also, that their individual or team performance was measured by an established set of criteria and that the events were designed to help them to develop specific lifetime skills.

Those FCCLA & VICA members in attendance at the meeting were as follows: Courtney Stidham, Brooke McNew, Dianna Dishner, Megan Gilliam, Michael Hood, Holly Darnell, Chris Bates, Mark Estep, Heather McDavid, Annie Fritz, Kelly Kilgore, Derek Kern, Curtis Bellamy and Candace Jennings. These students reported on the events that they participated in and the awards they received at the state level. Derek Kern will be competing in the national events in Kansas City.

Chairman Sampson expressed pride for these students' accomplishments and commended them on how well that they have represented Scott County.

Mrs. Lou Britt, Gate City FCCLA Instructor/Sponsor, thanked board members for their recognition.

A former elementary school teacher in Scott County Schools, appeared before the Board requesting payment in the amount of \$4,400.00 for 110 accumulated sick leave days, which was accumulated for 26 years of teaching experience with Scott County Schools at the time of the employee's leave-of-absence request in 1996. The former elementary school teacher presented an order of events that have taken place with regard to his request for payment of accumulated sick leave days. The former teacher requested payment at the rate of pay upon retirement in 2001 that was included in the policy, which the former teacher quoted to the board members.

Board members presented questions and asked for clarification with regard to the request presented by the former elementary school teacher. Superintendent Scott inquired of the former teacher whether the rate of pay for accumulated sick leave that was according to policy at the time of taking a leave-of-absence from the school system would be acceptable. The former teacher informed Superintendent Scott that this amount would not be acceptable. The former teacher was asked if a decision of the board would be acceptable. The former teacher stated that, as a group, the board's decision would be acceptable. The former teacher was informed that the board would try to make a decision at tonight's meeting.

Citizens appeared before the board to express support of honoring and recognizing the dedication and contributions of former Gate City High School football coach, Mr. Harry Fry, by re-naming the Legion Field/Stadium at Gate City High School. Another citizen expressed that there are many other deserving individuals in the county that could also be honored and requested that the school board uphold the unwritten tradition of not naming buildings after people.

Another citizen appeared before the board asking whether the re-naming of Legion Field/Stadium was discussed at the last meeting and whether board members had discussed it informally. The citizen also stated a non-understanding of the last school board meeting minutes, whether a vote was taken and if not, whether naming of school facilities being added to the agenda meant that the board would be taking a vote at tonight's meeting, whether school board members had talked to community members, what were the extenuating circumstances and unwritten policies about not naming buildings in recognition of an individual, who made this decision and when.

Chairman Sampson stated that he has been involved in county politics since 1972 and stated that no facility has been named after any individual during this timeframe. He explained that in the past if a facility was named after an individual it took place at construction and that certain property in the county was named in recognition of certain individuals that were donors of the property. He stated that the policy of not naming facilities after individuals had evolved over the years and that there is no legal written policy.

Chairman Sampson allowed the opportunity for members of the audience to speak with regard to the naming of school facilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 4, 2004, as submitted.

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

School Operating Fund invoices in the amount of \$989,953.02 and payroll in the amount of \$344,477.89 as shown by warrants #8063724-8064334.

School Construction Fund invoices in the amount of \$8,908.89 as shown by warrants #1900331-1900332.

Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices in the amount of \$75,757.78 and payroll totaling \$32,015.33 as shown by warrants #1006274-1006391(#1006370 voided).

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices totaling \$102,434.28 and payroll totaling \$2,933.29 as shown by warrants #3333-3419 (#3356 voided).

APPROVAL OF CAFETERIA BIDS FOR 2004-05 SCHOOL YEAR:

Superintendent Scott reported that the Southern Appalachian Mountains Food Co-op, which Scott County Public Schools is one of the school divisions participating in the co-op, received a bid from Industrial Jobbers for food supplies for the period of August 1, 2004 through July 31, 2005. He also reported that the total bids received for milk and juice were as follows: Valley Rich Dairy \$131,453.20; Pet/Land-O-Sun \$143,220.62; and Mayfield Dairy \$145,896.00. He further reported that the total bids received for bread and buns were as follows: Merita Bakery \$11,303.00 and Sara Lee/Earthgrains \$16,908.00. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the cafeteria bids for the 2004-05 school year as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
Industrial Jobbers (Food Supplies)	\$3,279,334.35
Valley Rich Dairy (Milk & Juice)	\$ 131,453.20
Merita Bakery (Bread & Buns)	\$ 11,303.00

APPROVAL OF HEAD START BUDGET ITEMS: Superintendent Scott explained the problems that exist with housing the head start students (three-year olds) at the Joshua

House. He reported that the best option was to re-locate the program to a facility within the school division. He informed board members that sites were reviewed division-wide and the shop area at the Scott County Career & Technical Center was selected. He also explained that the \$75,090.00 is one-time funding for making the necessary facility changes. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the Scott County Head Start FY 2004 Cost of Living Budget (COLA) and One-Time Funds (Father Involvement) as follows:

REVENUE

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)	\$17,936.00
Father Involvement (One-Time Funds)	2,000.00
Proposed ?Competitive? One-Time Funds	<u>75,090.00</u>
TOTAL	\$95,026.00

EXPENSES

Payroll Expense	\$15,017.00
Fringe	2,919.00
Training	2,000.00
Equipment	<u>75,090.00</u>
TOTAL	\$95,026.00

Non-federal In-Kind

Total Non-federal In-kind	\$23,756.50
-TOTAL FY2004 FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL - \$118,782.50	

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION TO 2003-04 SCHOOL

BUDGET: Superintendent Scott explained that an additional appropriation to the 2003-04 School Budget is being requested since the school division received additional funding for the Medicaid Program, Title VI-B Grant, and Miscellaneous Local Revenue. On the

recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, this board hereby approves an additional appropriation to the 2003-04 School Budget in the amount of \$277,790.00 and to be appropriated for budget expenditures as follows:

\$ 80,000.00	62220-1130-009-000-000 Physical/Occupational Therapy Salaries
\$126,395.00	61100-1121-002-200-496 Teacher Salaries VIB Grant
\$ 70,522.00	61300-1125-003-300-000 Salaries-Vocational
\$ 873.00	61100-2100-003-300-000 FICA Vocational

Voting aye: Gloria A. ?Beth? Blair, Lowell S. Campbell, David T. Kindle,

Joe D. Meade, Glenn M. McMurray, E. Virgil Sampson, Jr.

Voting nay: None

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE: Superintendent Scott reported that the Close-out Meeting for the 2003-04 School Budget is to be held on Monday, June 28. He informed board members that the school division has received notification that the remaining balances in SOL Remediation, SOL Algebra Readiness, School Construction Grants Program, Lottery funding and Cafeteria Fund can be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

BOARD DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES: Board members discussed the naming of school facilities and that many individuals within the county have made various contributions that could be recognized. Superintendent Scott agreed and recommended that school facilities not be named after any particular individual but that he be given permission to set up a committee of people to assist in establishing some guidelines to have in place to recognize individuals so that the naming of school facilities would not have to be continuously addressed.

Chairman Sampson read the vote and stipulations from the May 13, 1965 Minutes of School Board Meeting, which was apparently a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and School Board Members. Chairman Sampson read the following: *?Mr. H.Y. Shanks, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, asked for a motion to endorse the stipulations and on a motion by Mr. Melvin Benton, seconded by Mr. A.B. Smith, the Board of Supervisors voted that the recommendation be adopted.? The minutes also stated, ?On a motion by Mr. E.M. Craft,*

seconded by Mr. George Francisco, the Board voted that the proposed athletic field project be endorsed by the school board. Those voting yes, Mr. E. M. Craft, Mr. George Francisco, Mr. J.A. Hackney, Mr. Glenn P. Osborne and Mrs. Troy Pendleton. Absent - Mr. C.G. Bledsoe. The stipulations from these minutes were as follows:

Stipulation No. 1: Provided the Scott County R.A.D.A. can obtain a Federal Grant as proposed and presented by Mr. James Kendrick to construct an athletic field at Gate City High School, and

Stipulation No. 2: Provided this field be named Legion Field? and that an appropriate monument or plaque be placed near the entrance as a memorial for the living and dead members of the Armed Forces of the United States from Scott County. And,

Stipulation No. 3: Provided adequate space is made available for the Scott County American Legion Post No. 65 to use as an official meeting place, and,

Stipulation No. 4: That the American Legion Post No. 65 go on record as favoring the construction of an athletic field at Gate City High School and that they contribute of Legion Funds the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to defray a portion of the total cost of the construction of the Gate City High School stadium.?

A chronological order of events that have taken place at the America Legion Post meetings over the past few months with regard to the re-naming of Legion Field/Stadium was presented to the school board members.

Chairman Sampson provided another opportunity for anyone wishing to do so to speak concerning the school facility re-naming matter.

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM TO REFRAIN FROM NAMING ANY SCHOOL FACILITY AFTER ANY INDIVIDUAL: Mrs. Blair made a motion that the Scott County School System refrain from naming any school facility after any individual and that Superintendent Scott review other options to honor individuals currently and in the future, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye. Mrs. Blair stated that she wanted it understood that this action is nothing personal toward any individual. Other board members agreed with Mrs. Blair's statement. Board members were complementary of former Coach Harry Fry's accomplishments and agreed that others need to be recognized as well.

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

DISCUSSION & ACTION CONCERNING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE DAYS OF FORMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TEACHER: Board members discussed various matters concerning the request for payment of accumulated sick leave that was received from a former elementary school teacher. Various matters discussed were the leave-of-absence, non-employment time-frame, retirement date, acceptance of other employment, non-return to work for the 1997-98 school year and no notification received concerning a continued leave-of-absence, eligibility of retirement benefit for full-time employees, concern about setting a precedence for others leaving the system and then return with a similar request. After discussion, Superintendent Scott stated that since there is enough in question with this particular request and in order to put the matter to rest, he recommended that the former teacher be paid in the amount of \$1,750.00 for accumulated sick leave at the rate of pay at which time the former teacher left employment with the school division, 1998-99 Policy GCBE-R, Page 5. He stated that this is the amount that he agreed to pay in the past but that the amount was not acceptable and that the former teacher wanted to be paid at the rate of pay upon the date of retirement.

Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, handed out information to the school board members and explained to them that the board has no obligation to pay the former teacher because the former teacher was no longer an employee of the school division at the time of application for retirement. Mr. Johnson informed board members that two different lawyers contacted the school division on two occasions, and upon hearing all the information about the matter, the lawyers were not heard from again.

Mr. C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney, explained that the school board is not legally obligated to pay the former teacher anything. He explained that the former teacher was granted an unpaid leave-of-absence in 1996 and at the end of that leave did not return to work nor notify the school division to request further leave. He also explained that the former teacher did not return to work at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year. He further explained that the former teacher was not a full-time employee at the time of choosing to begin withdrawing a monthly benefit from the Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Foster informed board members that the former teacher did not return to work as a teacher in the Scott County School System but took employment with a local company. Mr. Foster reported that according to the Scott County School Board policy and the Virginia Department of Education regulations, an employee is presumed to have left public school employment if he or she accepts employment other than in the public school system of Virginia as was the situation when the former teacher failed to return to work at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year.

**BOARD ACTION CONCERNING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF
ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE FROM FORMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

TEACHER: Superintendent Scott recommended payment to the former elementary school teacher in the amount of \$1,750.00 according to the 1998-99 Policy GCBD-R (Page 5) for 110 accumulated sick leave days. Mr. McMurray made a motion to approve Superintendent Scott's recommendation; Mr. Campbell seconded motion. The vote was as follows: Aye: Lowell S. Campbell, Glenn M. McMurray, E. Virgil Sampson, Jr.

Nay: Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair, David T. Kindle, Joe D. Meade

Mr. Campbell, board member, stated that he wanted to make certain that each board member knew how they voted. Mr. Meade stated that he thought he could bring up this matter again at the next meeting. County Attorney Foster was asked to review whether this matter could be brought up again at a future meeting.

School board members asked that policy language be reviewed and retirement defined.

RETIREMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the retirement requests of Mrs. Deborah G. Pendleton and Mr. Paul E. Pendleton, effective July 1, 2004.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Candace L. Clay, Rye Cove High School teacher, effective at the end of the 2003-04 school year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Kathy Pridemore, Weber City Elementary School Teacher, effective May 25, 2004. Mr. Johnson explained that Ms. Pridemore had been on a leave-of-absence.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mrs. Vilas Bowen, Ms. Gaye Sanders, and Mr. Anthony Ratliff, as custodians for the 2004-05 school year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Kindle, the board approved the employment of new teachers for the 2004-05 school year as follows: Ms. Sara A. Bellamy, Ms. Gincy A. Brewster, Ms. Kelly D. Burks, Mr. James D. Carter, Ms. Pamela L. Evans, Ms. Autumn L. Gillenwater, Ms. Jessica A. Gillenwater, Ms. Kristin D. Hall, Ms. Sarah E. Puckett, and Ms. Elizabeth BreeAnn Roberts.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of an additional six to eight teachers as requested by Superintendent Scott that will be necessary for the 2004-05 school year once retirement letters are received from current employees. He explained that these personnel would be requested for approval at the next school board meeting.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the football, boys and girls basketball, volleyball, and golf head coaches, assistant coaches and school employees listed with coaching duties for the Gate City High, Gate City Middle, Rye Cove High and Twin Springs High Schools as submitted with the exception of Mr. Aaron Hillman.
(Appendix O)

SELECTION OF DELEGATE & ALTERNATE FOR 2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION: Mr. Kindle nominated Mr. Lowell S. Campbell to serve a delegate for the 2004 VSBA/VASS Annual Convention to be held November 17-19, 2004, nomination was seconded by Mrs. Blair all members voting aye. Mr. McMurray nominated Mrs. Gloria E. ?Beth? Blair to serve as the alternate for the 2004 VSBA/VASS Annual Convention, nomination was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Board members commended the graduates of Gate City, Rye Cove and Twin Springs High Schools for their good behavior and for being so well disciplined during the graduation ceremonies held at their schools. School Board members also

commented that they were glad that all school board members were able to be in attendance at all three high school graduation ceremonies.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT ON TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

PROJECTS: Superintendent Scott reported that according to the scores of the end-of-course testing and on-line testing at the high schools; the countywide scores are the highest results the school division has had yet. He expressed that he is anxious for the school board members to see the test results.

Superintendent Scott and Mr. Danny Meade, Maintenance/Transportation Supervisor, presented an update to board members on the maintenance projects currently being done at the schools and the school projects scheduled to be completed in the near future. Superintendent Scott asked board members to inform them of any maintenance projects that need to be done within their school district.

Board members expressed appreciation for the tremendous amount of work accomplished by the number of maintenance department personnel on staff.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to address, Mr. Kindle made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m., motion was seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye. The next regular meeting is to be held at 6: 00 p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2004 in the School Board Office Conference Room.

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk

