

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, at the School Board Office in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor/Director of Testing; Brenda P. Robinette, Director of Special Education; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board; K. C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Ronnie Dorton, American Legion; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Renee Dishner, Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal; James "Bucky" Meade, Current Rye Cove High School Principal and Former Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal; Rye Cove Intermediate School Teachers and Staff Members; Amy Reed, Gate City High School Volleyball Team Coach; Emily Helms and Chelsea Spivey, Gate City High School Volleyball Team Members; and Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. David T. Kindle, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Kindle announced additions to the agenda as follows:
Switch: Item No. 6 & 7
Add: Item VII. Other – ERIP, Title III Resolution, Christmas Cards
Add: Meeting with Board of Supervisors

On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda with additions and changes as announced by Chairman Kindle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Ronnie Dorton, American Legion Member, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chairman Kindle in recognition of the renovations to the American Legion office area at the Gate City High School stadium. He expressed thanks to the school board members, James Scott, Superintendent; Danny Meade, Maintenance Supervisor; and commended the maintenance staff for the fine job that they did on this project.

Chairman Kindle presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Superintendent Scott for display in the Central Office. Superintendent Scott stated that the project turned out nice. He thanked the American Legion for their patience and understanding in the delay of the project while other projects were completed at the schools for the students.

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. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of November 2, 2005, 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 and payroll in the amount of \$_____ as shown by warrants # _____ - _____. School Improvement/Construction Fund invoices in the amount of \$_____ as shown by warrant # _____ - _____. Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices and payroll in the amount

of \$_____ as shown by warrants #_____-_____. Scott County Public School Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$_____ as shown by warrants #_____-_____.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF RYE COVE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 2005 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD: Superintendent Scott reported that only two persons from Rye Cove Intermediate School were allowed to attend the award ceremony held in Washington, D.C. He stated that he wished that the ceremony would have allowed all staff to attend since everyone is to be recognized for a job well done.

Chairman Kindle expressed congratulations and pride to the Rye Cove Intermediate School staff. He stated that it is a pleasure and honor for the school system and expressed appreciation for a job well done. Mrs. Loretta Q. Page, Clerk, read the following resolution in recognition of Rye Cove Intermediate School 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award:

***RYE COVE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
2005 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD***

WHEREAS, the County School Board of Scott, Virginia, is proud to hereby recognize and congratulate Rye Cove Intermediate School, recipient of the 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award, and

WHEREAS, this board hereby acknowledges that Rye Cove Intermediate School was one of seven Virginia public elementary schools selected to receive this award, and

WHEREAS, this board hereby acknowledges that Rye Cove Intermediate School received the federal Blue Ribbon School status for dramatically improving student achievement, and

WHEREAS, this board hereby acknowledges that Rye Cove Intermediate School is fully accredited under Virginia's accountability system and met the objectives for student achievement last year under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

WHEREAS, this board hereby acknowledges that Rye Cove Intermediate School provided effective instruction and opportunities for every child to learn and achieve, as is evident by the school's selection for this distinguished award, and

WHEREAS, this board hereby expresses appreciation to the staff of Rye Cove Intermediate School for their continued dedication to the students, and

WHEREAS, this board hereby wishes continued success for Rye Cove Intermediate School, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the staff of Rye Cove Intermediate School and a copy recorded among the permanent minutes of this Board.

David T. Kindle, Chairman (Signature)

Gloria E. "Beth Blair, Board Member(Signature)

Joe D. Meade, Board Member(Signature)

Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman (Signature)

Glenn M. McMurray, Board Member (Signature)

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Board Member (Signature)

ATTEST:

(Seal)

James B. Scott, Division Superintendent(Signature)

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk(Signature)

Ms. Renee Dishner, Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal, expressed pride to everyone including the great students. She stated that she thought everyone gave one hundred percent effort toward this achievement. She reported that Rye Cove Intermediate School was among 296 schools receiving the national award and that she considered it a great privilege to be among them. She further stated that the awards were proving that every child can learn. She spoke of the inspirational speeches she heard while attending the awards ceremony in Washington D.C.

Chairman Kindle expressed congratulations to everyone.

Mr. James "Bucky" Meade, current Rye Cove High School Principal and former Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal, expressed that the three years he spent at Rye Cove Intermediate School

were the highlight of his educational life. He also expressed pride and appreciation for the fine faculty and staff at the school and the opportunity to work with them.

APPROVAL OF GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM 2005 LONESOME PINE DISTRICT, REGION D, GROUP A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: Mr. Glenn McMurray read the Gate City High School Volleyball Team 2005 Lonesome Pine District, Regional D, Group A State Championship resolution as follows:

***GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM
2005 LONESOME PINE DISTRICT, REGION D, GROUP A STATE CHAMPION***

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

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team has achieved an outstanding regular volleyball season by winning 26 games and losing 2 overall,

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team won the Lonesome Pine District Championship with a record of 14 wins and 0 loss,

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team won the Region D Championship with a record of 23 wins and 2 losses,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board wishes to extend congratulations to the Gate City High School Volleyball Team for winning the Lonesome Pine District Championship, Region D Championship, and for winning the State Quarter-final, Semi-final, and Final Games,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board acknowledges the outstanding performance of the Gate City 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 Gate City 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 Gate City High School Volleyball Team.

David T. Kindle, Chairman (Signature)

Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Board Member (Signature)

Glenn M. McMurray, Board Member (Signature)

Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman (Signature)

Joe D. Meade, Board Member (Signature)

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Board Member (Signature)

ATTEST:

(Seal)

James B. Scott, Division Superintendent (Signature)

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk (Signature)

The Gate City High School Volleyball Team 2005 Lonesome Pine District, Region D, Group A State Championship resolution was presented to Coach Amy Reed. Coach Reed thanked everyone for the invitation to attend the meeting and the presentation of the resolution. She stated that the team has done a great job and has been in the state finals for the past five years. She reported that Emily Helms and Chelsea Spivey are at tonight's meeting; however, she explained that some of the team members were playing in a ballgame and were unable to attend the meeting. Emily Helms and Chelsea Spivey were commended for their efforts for the team. The board was informed of the many accomplishments of Emily Helms. The team members stated that it has been a great two years and they hope to continue.

APPROVAL OF HEAD START 2005-06 TIME LINE FOR PROGRAM PLANNING AND SELF ASSESSMENT INCLUDING POLICY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDAS: 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 2005-06 Time Line for Program Planning and Self Assessment Including Policy Council Meeting Agendas as presented. (See Appendix C)

APPROVAL OF TITLE III – LEP SUBGRANT 2005-06: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the Title III – LEP Subgrant 2005-06 Participating Consortium Member Grant in the

amount of \$3,500.00. Superintendent Scott explained that this grant is for the Southwestern Virginia Migrant Education Program services.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN: Superintendent Scott stated that for many employees it is difficult to retire early unless the employee has another job or has planned in advance for retirement. He also stated that many personnel say they want to retire but cannot afford the health insurance premium. He reported that approximately 80 employees are eligible to retire. He explained that these employees have at least 30 years of service and can retire with full benefits from the Virginia Retirement System. He also explained that if an employee having at least 30 years of service and is 55 years of age; the employee could get as much as 10 years of health benefits under the plan being proposed. He explained that employees are hired at the lower end of the pay scale; this would create a cost savings. He stated that during the second year, the employee would have to work 10 days for a one time period. He reported that this plan does meet the requirements of the state and federal government.

Superintendent Scott stated that the proposed Early Retirement Plan would be a one time offer since it would be almost impossible to do each year because of funds needed to provide salary increases. He explained that the proposed plan would provide a cost savings of \$36,000 for the employee over a ten year period. He also explained that if a couple worked in the school division, each employee would receive the benefit toward their health plan premium. He also stated that this employer benefit would be offered to each retiring couple; however, the school division would not pay more than the total cost of their premium plan. He explained that a points system would also be used to give employees the opportunity to retire that may not have in 30 years. He cited an example as an employee with 28 years of service and age 62.

Mr. Darryl Johnson, Director of Operations, explained that the points system is similar to one used by a local industry in the area.

Superintendent Scott asked the board to review the proposed plan and that the plan could be acted upon at the January 2006 meeting, if the board chooses to do so.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Superintendent Scott reported that each school board member should have one of each of the cards from this year's contest winners: K-3, 4-7, and 8-12. He informed board members that more cards are available for their use upon request.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING PACKETS: Superintendent Scott reported that several items for presentation at the school board meeting were received after the packets were processed for the December meeting. He stated that he felt it is unfair to ask board members to vote on something that they have not had the opportunity to read over and/or an opportunity to call and ask questions. He asked board members if they still agreed that items not in the school board meeting packet should not be brought up at the meeting. Board members indicated agreement. He reminded school board members that the packets are ready to distribute to them on the Thursday prior to a school board meeting scheduled on Tuesday.

Board members expressed appreciation to Superintendent Scott for discussing this matter with them and requested that matters not included in the packet not be brought up at the meeting.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Chairman Kindle reminded school board members that at the last school board meeting he asked them to think about and give consideration to having a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. Board members asked Chairman Kindle about the subject matter to be discussed at a meeting with the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Kindle informed board members that the matter of constructing a shell building at each of the high schools and maybe one elementary school has been brought up. He further informed board members that it has been discussed that it is hard to have ball practice sometimes with the many different ball games, practices etc. being held in the county.

Superintendent Scott reported that this could be a good opportunity to discuss funding matters, such as when the school division receives additional state funding then additional funds are necessary from the county to meet the required local effort. He explained that the 2005-06 School Budget was based on

3,680 students and that currently the membership is 3,756. He also explained that the local revenue requested from the county was based on the 3,680 students; therefore, the required local effort funding will be close. He explained to school board members that he has met with the county auditor and every possible way that the school system can legally help the county through cost accounting for salaries, etc. is being done. He informed board members that he has heard that there is a possibility that the state may provide additional funding to the schools for the 2005-06 school year. He reported that with the state tax increase a couple of years ago, the state is in better financial condition than they have ever been and that education and transportation are the big winners. He stated that a joint meeting could be a positive thing toward working together for a better understanding of these matters.

On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved having a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors, which would be scheduled at a later date.

VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM RATES: Superintendent Scott reported that rates have just been received for next year. He further reported that the rates have increased from 11.62% to 16.84%, which would increase the cost from \$790,000 to \$820,000; however, he stated that the rates could be changed by the General Assembly.

VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (VSBA) EXPENSES: Superintendent Scott reported that an area school division contacted the office with a concern regarding the \$500 increase for VSBA fees. He reported that the VSBA services costs probably \$10,000 or more per year and other than the policy manual services, he is not sure about the benefits of these services when compared to the cost.

ON-LINE TESTING: Superintendent Scott reported that the on-line testing has been going great. He reported that the band width has been increased and there are plans for additional band width, which will help even more. He reported that testing had to be stopped today and asked Mr. Jimmy L. Dishner, Secondary Supervisor/Director of Testing, to provide an explanation.

Mr. Dishner reported that the mid-term end-of-course testing was being held and at first it was thought the problem was internal. However, he explained that it was actually a problem with Harcourt Company's system in Pennsylvania, which provides the test for Virginia and other states. He was pleased to report that everyone was able to finish and passed their test. He stated that the test cannot be given again until the problems are worked out by the company.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST: 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 approved the overnight field trip request received from Hilton Elementary School 6th grade class to Pigeon Forge and Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 17-20, 2006.

APPROVAL OF LOCAL PLAN FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED: Superintendent Scott reported that the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted has been approved by Ruth Grillo, Department of Education's Gifted Education Access and Equity Specialist, and that the plan is in compliance with the necessary regulations. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the Local Plan for the Education of the Gifted as presented.

APPROVAL OF FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES (FPS): Superintendent Scott reported that he met with Debbie Keith, School Nurse Coordinator; Katrina Smith-Toole, School Psychologist; and Rodney McMurray, Family Preservation Services Representative; concerning services available through the Family Preservation Services for students that receive Medicaid services. The FPS personnel providing the services would be approved persons with a license and/or college degree. The school principal would be in charge of the FPS personnel. The FPS personnel would not be teaching instructional techniques or handling discipline problems. Superintendent Scott reported that other superintendents have stated that the FPS program has gone well in other school systems. He stated that this program is provided at no cost to the school system. Superintendent Scott reported that the state requirement is to have a guidance counselor for each 500 elementary school students but due to the

guidance personnel situations at this time, a guidance counselor is sometimes providing services for three schools.

In response to board member questions, Mr. Darryl Johnson, Director of Operations, stated that as long as the FPS personnel understand their job description and understand their role, he does not think there will be problems at the school. He reported that parents will be aware of the services since the FPS personnel will be going into the homes to get permission to serve the students. He explained that the services provided at the school would be the same as what is provided at home in order to magnify the results.

Superintendent Scott reported that he would like to start the services at one school, possibly Shoemaker Elementary School, due to the high number of special students enrolled, and then determine whether or not to put the program in other schools.

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 Family Preservation Services as presented.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation request of Sarah Victoria Grimes as Twin Springs High School Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach, effective November 3, 2005.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Conda Weddle as Twin Springs High School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2005-06 school year.

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 Troy Funkhouser as Gate City Middle School Girls 7th Grade Basketball Coach. It was reported that Steve Bishop was moved from the 7th to 8th Grade Gate City Middle School Girls Basketball Coach.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved volunteers for Gate City Middle School as follows: Justin Hensley, Girls 8th Grade Basketball; Kathy Funkhouser, Girls 7th Grade Basketball; and Sherri Carter, Girls 7th Grade Basketball.

RETIREMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the retirement request of Velena Wheatley, Rye Cove High School Teacher, effective December 1, 2005.

Board members were informed of the teacher temporarily filling this position.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Sampson, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation request of Karen Odle, Counselor, effective December 31, 2005.

Board members were informed that the opening for the counseling position would be advertised but that it may not be possible to find someone that has the same certifications and license. It was also explained that Karen Odle has accepted employment with Clinch River Health Services but should be available for the school system to contract with to provide the same type of services as prior to her resignation. It was requested that central office staff make the schools, parents, etc. aware of this situation.

REQUEST FOR EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members

voting aye, the board accepted the request for extended medical leave from Erica Maddux, Guidance Counselor, effective until February 2006.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Sampson asked about a time frame for a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. It was discussed that the Board of Supervisors would vote on a joint meeting and if they decided to proceed with a joint meeting; they would determine a date for the meeting and notify the school board.

Mr. Meade reported that it is good to see the students from various schools who have advanced in academic and athletic programs. He stated that many of the students in the county receive scholarships and that everyone should be encouraged since the students get a pretty good showing for the county and school.

Mrs. Blair asked about the Rye Cove window project. Superintendent Scott reported that this project may be completed during the Christmas break. He also reported that the front windows at Fort Blackmore Primary School will be the only window project at the schools left to be completed.

APPROVAL OF \$200 CHECK FROM PACIFIC LIFE TO REMAIN DEPOSITED IN THE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved a \$200.00 deposit, which was a check from Pacific Life, to remain in the School Employees Self-funded Health Insurance Fund.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Sampson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. motion was seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye. The next meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, in the School Board Office Conference Room.

David T. Kindle, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk