

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

David T. Kindle, Chairman
Joe D. Meade, Vice Chairman
Lowell S. Campbell
Nathan K. Catron
Katherine J. McClelland

ABSENT: Gloria E. "Beth" Blair

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association Representative; Dennis Templeton and James Kay Jessee, Newly-elected School Board Members; Jack Hamilton, Hilton Community Member; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Dr. Jeff Vaughn, Marcus McClung and Mike Edwards, Gate City High School Representatives for Prospect of Soccer at Gate City; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Milly Leighton and Christopher Mann, Shoemaker Elementary School Teachers/Masters Program Students; Suzanne Goins and Patricia Currier, Virginia Professional Educators Representatives; and Ashley Compton, Nickelsville and Gate City Area Reading Specialist; Patricia Deadrick, Gate City Middle/High and Scott County Career & Technical Center Reading Specialist; Amy Wettack, Shoemaker Elementary School Reading Specialist; Amy Goode, Rye Cove High/Intermediate Schools Reading Specialist; Angel Hughes, Dungannon Intermediate School/Fort Blackmore Primary School Reading Specialist; Patricia Harris, Duffield Primary School Reading Specialist; and Tracy Stallard, Hilton/Yuma/ Weber City Elementary Schools Reading Specialist.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Catron, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda as submitted.

PRESENTATION FROM READING SPECIALISTS: The reading specialists introduced themselves as follows: Ashley Compton, Nickelsville and Gate City Area Reading Specialist; Patricia Deadrick, Gate City Middle/High and Scott County Career & Technical Center Reading Specialist; Amy Wettack, Shoemaker Elementary School Reading Specialist; Amy Goode, Rye Cove High/Intermediate Schools Reading Specialist; Angel Hughes, Dungannon Intermediate School/Fort Blackmore Primary School Reading Specialist; Patricia Harris, Duffield Primary School Reading Specialist; and Tracy Stallard, Hilton/Yuma/ Weber City Elementary Schools Reading Specialist. The board was informed that Teresa Culbertson is the Reading Specialist for Twin Springs High School but could not be at tonight's meeting due to being out of town attending a conference.

Ms. Patricia Deaderick presented a description of the duties of the eight reading specialists for the school system. She explained the identification process for the students in the program and that there are approximately 358 students at this time. She explained how strategies and interventions are organized for the students and that the reading specialists also work with the parents and teachers. She reported that the reading specialists teach reading classes in the elementary schools. She also reported that all reading specialists perform small or individual group work with the students. She informed the board that the reading specialists attend a reading academy and provide this information to other teachers and administrators. She reported that the students' achievement does improve once an evaluation is done, strategies developed and used for those students. She reported that students are not taken out of their primary classes but worked with at other times and before and after school and on weekends if needed.

Superintendent Scott reported that not all students were able to be served last year since there were only three reading specialists for the school system. He also explained that the reading specialist position has been a priority for the governor and funding based on one teacher per 1,000 students may be received; although, this funding was cut out of the governor's budget last year. He commended the reading specialists for the job they have been able to do this year and especially since some of them are also attending school and taking classes full time.

Mrs. Ashley Compton presented graphs depicting various types of tests given and explained the academic gains that were obtained by using different strategies and intervention methods with the students. She explained how the test scores improved for the students and the pass rates for various core areas. She presented data that showed how students in the program have passed their SOL tests after not being successful the prior year; how the program has helped some students to increase a letter grade in one or more subjects; and, how the additional assistance to some students has helped them to graduate.

Each of the reading specialists shared a success story and one of them explained how a student she worked with has used the knowledge obtained to assist other students. They were proud of the hard work of the students in improving their reading skills which has helped them to obtain better grades in their classes.

Superintendent Scott and board members were impressed with the success stories the reading specialists shared and were pleased that the program is going well. Superintendent Scott stated that the reading specialists have a very time consuming job in developing and writing strategies but love what they do for the students.

Superintendent Scott and school board members expressed thanks to the Reading Specialists.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – PROSPECT OF SOCCER AT GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL: Dr. Jeff Vaughn, Midway Community Member, informed board members that he was present to ask their permission to pursue and promote the establishment of soccer at Gate City. He reported that several students have expressed an interest in playing on a soccer team as evidenced by the attendance at a brief optional meeting held at Gate City Middle/High Schools recently. Dr. Vaughn thanked board members for their time and consideration of his request.

Chairman Kindle requested that Dr. Vaughn schedule a meeting with the administrators and Superintendent Scott to discuss the matter further prior to the school board addressing the matter.

Superintendent Scott stated that there are several questions that would need to be addressed and stated that he would check with Rye Cove and Twin Springs to determine the interest in soccer at those schools.

Mr. Marcus McClung, Gate City Community Member and parent, expressed support of Dr. Vaughn's request to the board. Mr. Mike Edwards, Weber City Community Member and parent, expressed that he feels there are a lot of potential soccer players and that it would be a good opportunity to provide an additional sport for the students.

Chairman Kindle and Superintendent Scott thanked Dr. Vaughn and his supporters for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of November 7, 2007, Regular Meeting, as submitted.

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

School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,179,172.42 as shown by warrants #8083832-8084270. Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$157,092.16 as shown by

warrants #1010259-1010360. Scott County Public School Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$67,843.30 as shown by warrants #6563-6639.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Johnson reported that the list of chaperones for the Weber City Elementary School 5th & 6th grade honor society trip to Washington D. C. on May 16-18, 2008 is a follow up to the field trip information presented at last month's board meeting.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from Duffield Primary School 4th grade honor society students to Richmond, Virginia, on May 16-18, 2008.

Mr. Johnson reported that the field trip request received from Yuma Elementary School was a resubmission from last month due to the first request received being denied since it was scheduled during the testing window. On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Catron, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from Yuma Elementary School 6th grade students to Chattanooga, Tennessee, on May 15-17, 2008.

Mr. Johnson explained that Rye Cove High School requested approval of the band students to attend a Creative Arts Competition at Cleveland, Ohio, on May 8-11, 2008; however, Mr. Johnson called and informed them that May 8 & 9 is in the testing window and requested that they pick another date. Mr. Johnson presented a letter to school board members from Ms. Sheila King, Rye Cove Band Instructor, appealing to Mr. Johnson and the school board to approve the dates as submitted.

Upon Mr. Johnson's presentation of the letter from Rye Cove High School, Superintendent Scott reported to the board that more often items to be presented to the board are being received later and sometimes on the day of the meeting. He stated that he understands that it is unfair to request the board to act on an item that was only received the night of the meeting and members had no prior opportunity to review.

Mr. Johnson explained that the letter received was from Ms. Sheila King, Rye Cove High School Band Instructor, and she was appealing for the board to approve their request to attend the band competition during the testing window as requested on May 8 and 9. Ms. King's letter stated that Mr. Meade had reviewed the band student class schedules and believed that the test schedule could be adapted to have all band students tested prior to the trip departure.

Chairman Kindle reported that he spoke with personnel at the school and was informed that the proposed trip is not a pleasure trip but a competition and the last competition available during the school year.

Mr. Johnson stated that policy is, and the schools have been told, not to schedule field trips during the testing window. He cited examples of other schools that have had trips denied that were scheduled during the testing window. Also, if the Rye Cove trip were approved it would not be fair to the other schools that were denied. Also, it would be setting a precedent and going against the policy established for the students' best interest in that they have as much instructional time possible prior to tests.

Chairman Kindle requested that Mr. Johnson check with Rye Cove High School to see if a band competition trip is available during an earlier timeframe and to schedule at a time other than during the testing window.

Mr. Joe Meade questioned the 42 chaperones listed for Weber City Elementary School's field trip to Washington D.C. Mr. Johnson explained that it was his understanding that only the number of chaperones needed for the number of students attending the field trip is included in the cost of the trip. Mr. Campbell asked who pays for the background checks for the chaperones. Mr. Johnson reported that the

school system pays for only the chaperones that the school sends on the trip and payment for the remaining others, parents etc. are the individual's responsibility.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN: Superintendent Scott reported that Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, is presenting the financial information for the eligible retirees. Mr. Johnson presented a report that included the number of professional and support staff eligible for retirement, the premium cost, which was pointed out will vary depending on future premium amounts; the total cost for these personnel if all should take the plan, and the timeframes that the board would be obligated to for these payments.

Superintendent Scott reported that due to enrollment changes that were different than in the past few years, the school system could afford to lose 8-12 teachers in K-6 and they would not have to be replaced. He pointed out that should there be teachers who retiree that teach specific areas, for example, high school math, they would need to be replaced. He reported that for the salary and fringe benefits of not having to replace an employee, the school system would realize a cost savings of approximately \$70,000 for each person. He explained that should you not have enough retirees leaving the system, this creates a concern of whether you keep the additional personnel or terminate employment for some employees, which is something that he has not known of the school system doing.

Superintendent Scott recommended approval of a Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan and Mr. Campbell made a motion for approval of the plan as submitted; motion was seconded by Mr. Meade. Mrs. McClelland stated that she felt the board should take into account that it is a setting board, that Mrs. Blair is not in attendance, and that the public spoke on November 6 with the election of new members; therefore, she stated that she could not vote for the plan in good faith. She suggested that the board consider the motion in January and she stated that she would like for the school employees to know that she is not against the plan but would like for the plan to be considered at a later date.

Mr. Meade stated that he had no problem if the decision concerning the plan should include the new board members.

VOTE

Ayes: Lowell Campbell, David Kindle, Nathan Catron

Nays: Kathy McClelland

Abstain: Joe Meade

The Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan Agreement approved is as follows:

HEALTH INSURANCE RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN AGREEMENT

*This **AGREEMENT** made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2008, by and between _____ ("Employee"), and Scott County School Board, 261 East Jackson Street, Gate City, Virginia 24251, ("Employer"):*

WITNESSETH:

That for and in consideration of the mutual benefits to accrue to each, Employee and Employer do agree as follows:

- 1. The Employee being a full-time professional employee of Employer and reaching 30 years of service, or an accumulated 82 points (determined by adding age and service), and voluntarily retires as an employee of said Employer;*
- 2. The Employer will contribute for and on behalf of Employee a health insurance retirement plan, _____ (initials) _____ (date)*
- 3. The insurance premium payment will begin as follows:*
 - 10 month employee – October 2008*
 - 11 month employee – September 2008*
 - 12 month employee – August 2008*

BENEFITS:

Current age less than Medicare eligible age: Employer will pay the full cost of an employer and employee's share of the current individual insurance premium in the Employer's UnitedHealthCare (or Employer's Successor Plan) until the employee reaches Medicare eligible age as stated above for full-time professional employees. Upon reaching Medicare eligible age the employee benefit is terminated.

STIPULATIONS:

Any employee wishing to participate in the Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan Agreement must notify Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, no later than Friday, February 20, 2008. This incentive plan will not be available for any employee after February 20, 2008.

If two people are full-time employees of the Employer, the premium payment by the employer will not exceed the total cost of the health insurance premium.

The Employee can transfer to the Employer's health benefits plan or enroll, but only during the June 2008 enrollment period if he/she is not presently enrolled.

UnitedHealthCare or Successor Health Plan

Begin Date _____ End Date _____

(Employee Signature)

EMPLOYER: SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

BY: _____

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

RESIGNATIONS: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Catron, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation request of Ms. Lisa McLain, Rye Cove High School head Softball Coach, effective November 14, 2007.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation request of Mrs. Deborah Taylor, school bus driver, effective December 4, 2007 (remain a substitute driver).

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Ms. Ashley Hall as Rye Cove High School Head Softball 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 the employment of Mr. Larry Lawson, Rye Cove High School Junior Varsity Softball Coach pending receipt of a letter to Superintendent Scott stating that there were no school employees interested in the position.

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 Ms. Ashley Hood, Rye Cove High School Girls Track Coach pending receipt of a letter to Superintendent Scott stating that there were no school employees interested in the position.

ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. McClelland commended and extended best wishes to the Gate City High School Volleyball and Football Teams for their success in the state competitions. Chairman Kindle stated that he wished the Gate City High School teams the best.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m., motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye. The next meeting will be Organizational Meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, in the School Board Office Conference Room.

David T. Kindle, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk