

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at the Scott County Career and Technical Center Auditorium in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman **ABSENT:** None
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Vice Chairman
Lowell S. Campbell
David T. Kindle
Glenn M. McMurray
Joe D. Meade

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen "K.C." Quillen Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star, Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career and Technical Center Director/Principal; and Valerie Rhoton, Weber City Elementary School Teacher/Assistant Principal.

CALL TO ORDER: E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2007-08 SCHOOL BUDGET: A public hearing was held for comments and input on the 2007-08 Proposed School Budget. There being no comments or expressions from the public during this period, the public hearing period was declared closed and the board held their regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Superintendent Scott presented additions to the Items By Superintendent as follows: Mentoring Teachers, Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan, School Sponsored Activities, Dual Credit, and Summer School. On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda as submitted and including the additions announced by Superintendent Scott.

PRESENTATIONS TO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, SCHOOL BOARD CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK: Superintendent Scott presented Virginia School Boards Association Certificates of Recognition to school board members in recognition of February being School Board Appreciation Month. He expressed appreciation to board members for their efforts and also thanked them for the decisions that they make for the school system.

Ms. Valerie Rhoton, Teacher/Weber City Assistant Principal, expressed appreciation to school board members and thanked them for the tremendous facilities and staff.

Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association (SCEA) President, presented certificates of appreciation to school board members from the SCEA and expressed appreciation and thanks to them.

Chairman Sampson presented Virginia School Boards Association School Board Clerk Certificates of Recognition to Mrs. Loretta Q. Page, School Board Clerk, and Karen "K.C." Quillen Linkous, Deputy Clerk.

Chairman Sampson expressed thanks to staff for the job they do and the decisions made by them which helps to keep board members from having to make other decisions. He also expressed appreciation for the dedication of the school personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association representative, put on his Dr. Suess hat and presented a hat to Chairman Sampson. Mr. Trent informed board members

that March 3 is the birthday of Dr. Suess. He reported that “Read Ins” and numerous other events will be held at the schools in celebration of Dr. Suess’ birthday. He invited school board members to visit the classrooms in the schools and read to the students in recognition of Dr. Suess’ birthday. He explained that “Read Across America” will be held during the week of February 28-March 2, 2007 in recognition of Dr. Suess’ birthday.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2007 as submitted.

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

School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,122,904.60 as shown by warrants #8079404-8079875.

Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$129,475.15 as shown by warrants #1009344-1009447.

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$79,055.07 as shown by warrants #5808-5881.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST: On a motion by Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request from Rye Cove High School FCCLA to state competitions in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 26-29, 2007.

DICUSSION CONCERNING FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Superintendent Scott stated that the school board may need to review the field trip requests closer and maybe return to the policy a few years ago. He explained that extended field trips have been a concern due to the loss of instructional classroom time. He reported that some schools are requesting four and five day trips. He also reported that only certain students are going on some of the field trips and the others are left at the school. He also reported that the cost of some of the trips is exorbitant and has led to a lot of fund-raising. He stated that some of the students that don’t get to go might not otherwise ever have the opportunity to see some of the things the other students see. He further reported that there is also a concern about the number of chaperones going on some of the trips, especially if this forces the school to get another bus at an added expense.

Chairman Sampson suggested that a committee of board members assist Superintendent Scott in working out a policy on field trips. Mrs. Blair and Mr. Meade agreed to work with Superintendent Scott. Superintendent Scott stated that the field trip policy does not have to be done this school year; however, he would like to have a policy in place for next school year.

APPROVAL OF BEGINNING DATE FOR 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR: Superintendent Scott stated that the beginning date for the next school year needs to be established at this time for scheduling purposes. He reported that a recommendation has been received from the Salary, Fringe Benefits, and School Calendar Committee for the beginning date of the 2007-08 school year and asked Mr. Johnson, who serves on the committee, to present the recommendation. On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved August 15, 2007 as the beginning date for the 2007-08 school year.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING COURSE OFFERINGS FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND SPANISH FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAMS: Superintendent Scott presented the Dual Enrollment Proposed Tentative Schedule for Math/Science MECC Service Area High Schools for Fall 2007. The schedule listed the Biology (4 credit hour) Pre-Calculus (3 credit hour), and Calculus (4 credit hour) courses scheduled for Block 1 (8:30-10:00), Block 2 (10:05-11:35), Block 3 (12:10-1:40) and Block

4 (1:45-3:15). Superintendent Scott also discussed a plan to begin offering Spanish in the county's elementary schools. He stated he hopes that this would help students to take foreign language in high school and then go on to college. He explained that current personnel could be used; therefore, this program would not cost any additional funds for the school system. It was discussed that Superintendent Scott has the authority to approve any courses that are added.

REPORT ON STATE FUNDING: Superintendent Scott reported that the March 31, 2007 average daily membership (ADM) for student enrollment is 3,843 students and the total projected state and local revenue for this enrollment would be \$26,252,247. He also reported that the projected enrollment next year is 3,880 students and the total state and local revenue would be \$27,280,615. He explained that the Governor's Introduced Budget includes an increase in funding next year for Algebra Readiness (\$80,751) and Early Reading Intervention (\$75,043). However, he explained that the Senate and House introduced budgets differ slightly and that this is just a wait and see decision. He also explained that the school division must get enough funds from the locality to meet the local effort and that this will be addressed further at the joint meeting to be held on February 13. He informed board members that the 3% salary compensation supplement is not really a true figure since it begins in December; therefore, it is only about 1.75%. He reported that the Virginia Retirement System rates have increased from 11.62% to 15.30%, which will take an additional several thousand dollars for the school board to fund.

Superintendent Scott provided the opportunity for school board members to ask questions pertaining to budget and revenue.

FACILITIES UPDATE: Superintendent Scott reported that the four classrooms at Shoemaker have been completed and are in use. He reported that the gym at Duffield should be completed by late spring or early summer. He also reported that plans are being drawn for the gym at Twin Springs and depending on the weather, maybe the project can begin in March. He further reported that funding will have to be reviewed and a determination made on what can be completed this year and what is to be done next year. He reported that the maintenance personnel will be going from school-to-school trying to catch up on projects that have gotten behind while they were working on the classroom projects. He reported that the total gym project for Twin Springs will be contracted out.

Mr. Kindle asked Superintendent Scott to check on computers for Duffield Primary School.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING MENTORING PROGRAM: Superintendent Scott reported that over forty new teachers were hired this past school year. He stated that often school divisions lose teachers during their first, second, or third year if the school system doesn't have a teacher mentor that can assist these personnel with classroom problems, etc. He reported that the mentoring program discussed at an earlier meeting is currently underway, has gone well, and that additional training sessions will be held. He explained that more sessions will need to be held in order for personnel to be well trained and to help provide those personnel with the training necessary to do a good job. He also stated that as discussed at a previous meeting, a decision needs to be made regarding offering a stipend for these teachers, over a one, two, or three year period, as a "thank you" for what they do. He further reported that the training for principals is taking place and the principals have been doing classroom observations with teachers. He stated he hopes this training will help make good changes in the school system. He suggested that that an amount of stipend should be decided upon for the first year mentoring, another amount for the second year mentoring, and another amount for the third year mentoring.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN: Superintendent Scott presented a Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan to be offered until March 16, 2007. He explained that the plan would provide health insurance benefit in the amount of the full premium for an "employee only" plan and would be paid until the retiree is Medicare eligible age for up to 13 years. He explained that an employee with a spouse or family plan would be responsible for paying the difference for the additional premium amount for those particular plans. He reported that there are approximately 55 employees eligible for the health insurance retirement benefit plan.

Mr. Meade asked whether this would be financially feasible for the board.

Superintendent Scott reported that the health insurance retirement benefit plan would save funding in the long term.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the Health Insurance Retirement Benefit Plan as follows:

HEALTH INSURANCE RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN AGREEMENT

This **AGREEMENT** made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2007, 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 2007
 11 month employee – September 2007
 12 month employee – August 2007

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. 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, March 16, 2007. This incentive plan will not be available for any employee after March 16, 2007.

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 2007 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: _____

DISCUSSION CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR SCHOOL SPONSORED

ACTIVITIES: Superintendent Scott explained some scenarios surrounding the importance of establishing a policy for school sponsored activities. He stated that, due to the large number of activities at the schools, this is an important item to be reviewed, discussed, and decided upon, so that a policy can be forwarded to the schools and coaches. He stated that hopefully a policy can be established this summer.

21ST CENTURY GRANT – SHOEMAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND DUFFIELD

PRIMARY SCHOOL: Superintendent Scott reported that funds will be available from the 21st Century Grant for transportation of students for summer school and that currently plans are underway for summer school programs. He reported that he has received many positive comments about the after-school programs at Shoemaker and Duffield started this semester. He reported that the school division hopes to receive additional 21st Century funding next year so that the program would be available for more students.

Superintendent Scott provided the opportunity to explain items in further detail to school board members if needed.

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Campbell made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 6:55 p.m.; motion was seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board entered into closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.1-3711(A) 1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss coaches and teachers.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 7:40 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mr. McMurray, the board returned to regular session 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 2.2-3712 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, David Kindle, Glenn McMurray, Joe Meade, Virgil Sampson

Nays: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Chairman Sampson stated that no action is to be taken on the items discussed in closed meeting.

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 Tammy Hensley as a special education teacher for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

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 employment of Jessica McMurray as an elementary teacher for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

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 Angela McAmis as Twin Springs High School Assistant Junior Varsity Softball Coach.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board accepted the

resignation request of Mr. Garry Bogan, Gate City Middle School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. McMurray, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Jenett P. "Tommie" Huss as a teaching assistant, effective January 15, 2007.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Board members expressed appreciation for the meal provided by central office staff in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. Members also expressed appreciation to the students and staff for their thoughtfulness in providing posters, cards, banners, gifts etc. from the schools in recognition of school board appreciation.

Chairman Sampson recognized teachers by reading a poem, "*What Teachers Make.*"

Superintendent Scott expressed thanks to the school board members and recognized them for the good job that they do and stated that they set the tone for the entire school system. He expressed that he wouldn't trade them for any other board in the state of Virginia.

Chairman Sampson reminded everyone of the Retired Teachers Dinner to be held at Noon on March 14th and asked that if anyone plans to attend to let him know.

ADJOURNED MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2007: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and until 7:00 p.m. next Tuesday, February 13, 2007, for a joint meeting with the Scott County Board of Supervisors, motion was seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye.

E. Virgil Sampson, Jr., Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk