

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

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, in the School Board Office Conference Room 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  
Joe D. Meade  
David T. Kindle  
Glenn M. McMurray

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; C. Dean Foster, Jr., County Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Delores Collier, Sue Arnold, and David Gwinn, Salary, Fringe Benefits, and School Calendar Committee Representatives; and Cathy Barefoot, University of Virginia Student.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Sampson requested an addition to the agenda as follows: Item VIII. C. School Facilities Update, and D. Insurance Premiums. On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President, presented each school board member a set of bookmarks commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamestown. He explained that it was intended for them to receive the bookmarks for School Board Appreciation Month in February; however, he stated that they had not been received at that time. School board members expressed thanks to Mr. Trent. Chairman Sampson stated that he made good use of the Dr. Suess hat presented to him from Mr. Trent by wearing it while reading to the elementary school students ("Read Across America") and while serving them green eggs and ham.

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. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of the February 6, 2007 Regular Meeting and February 13, 2007 Joint Work Session Meeting, as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** On a motion by Mr. Meade, 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 \$1,770,417.25 as shown by warrants #8079876-8080437 (#8080078 voided).

Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$177,281.85 as shown by warrants #1009448-1009548.

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$81,434.64 as shown by warrants #5882-5976.

**APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP REQUEST:** Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations recommended that the field trip request received from the Gate City High School Band/Wind Ensemble students to travel to Florida on May 19-23 be approved tentatively since these dates are right before exams. He explained that the testing dates could possibly change due to school closings and he recommended that the trip not conflict with the exams. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. McMurray, all members voting aye, the board approved the field trip request received from the Gate City High School Band/Wind Ensemble students to Orlando, Florida, on May 19-23, 2007 according to the recommendations of Mr. Johnson. Mrs. Blair stated that she would prefer that the full names of chaperones be listed on the field trip requests instead of a last name being listed on the request. Chairman Sampson requested that Mr. Johnson relay this message to the schools. Mr. Johnson indicated that he would do so.

**SALARYFRINGE BENEFITS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL:** Ms. Sue Arnold, Salary/Fringe Benefits Committee Representative, reported that in the Regional Salary Comparisons for 2006-07, Scott County ranked #1 for minimum salary (\$33,365) and #5 for maximum salary (\$49,825). The Regional Salary Comparisons included

the school divisions of Bristol, Dickenson, Lee, Norton, Russell, Scott, and Wise (ranking of 1-7). Ms. Arnold stated that board members are to be applauded for what they have done for teachers. Ms. Arnold pointed out that there is a \$1,525 difference between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> steps and \$1,150 between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> step, which is a \$375 difference. She asked if the board would consider adding \$375 to the 25<sup>th</sup> step so that the amount of increase would equal the amount given from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> step, which would also increase their retirement benefit. Also discussed was no way has been found to credit the \$3,000 retirement incentive for classified employees and the \$1,500 retirement incentive for non-classified employees to the Virginia Retirement System benefits.

Salary/Fringe Benefits Committee Proposal for the 2007-08 School Year was presented as follows:

1. The committee recommends a 5% salary increase based on actual salary for all full-time employees.
2. The committee recommends funding the step increase for the 2007-08 school year.
3. The committee recommends that the School Board consider adding additional money for teachers at the 25<sup>th</sup> step.
4. The committee recommends continuing the funding for the \$3,000 retirement incentive for classified and \$1,500 for non-classified employees during the 30<sup>th</sup> year of employment.
5. The committee recommends continuing (a) to maintain health insurance premiums for employees at the 2006-07 rates without a reduction in benefits, (b) to offer the sick leave bank to employees, (c) to provide duty free lunch for elementary teachers, and (d) to issue employee contracts as early as possible before the end of the 2006-07 school year.

Chairman Sampson expressed appreciation to the committee for their work and recommendations and stated that the board will take everything into consideration and do the best they can for the employees.

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR:** Mr. David Gwinn, School Calendar Committee Representative, presented the Proposed School Calendar for the 2007-08 School Year. Mr. Gwinn reported that there are 87 days scheduled for the first semester and 93 in the second semester. He also reported that the high schools had requested consideration be given to the exams being administered prior to the winter break. Mr. Gwinn stated that the dates for the spring break were a majority vote of the committee. He pointed out some of the dates as follows: August 10, 13, 14 – Preservice (10<sup>th</sup>) 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> – Report to Schools; August 15 - School Begins for Students; September 3 – Labor Day, Schools Closed; October 16 – First Nine Weeks Ends; November 6 – Election Day, Schools Closed; November 21-23 – Fall Break; December 20 First Semester Begins; December 21-January 2 – Winter Break; January 3 – Teacher Workday/Schools Closed; January 4 – Second Semester Begins; March 7 – Third Nine Weeks Ends, Workday 3:30-6:30 p.m.; March 21 – Good Friday/Schools Closed; March 24-28 – Spring Break; May 21 – Second Semester Ends; May 22-23 – Teacher Workdays. Mr. Gwinn stated that the make-up days were also listed on the proposed calendar.

Superintendent Scott stated that he did not have a problem with the calendar as presented with the exception that he felt each year the school system is giving up more instructional days during the school year. He presented a word of caution that the school system cannot give up an instructional day each year. He stated that instructional time has been guarded with the goal of as much time possible to be spent on classroom instruction prior to testing.

Mr. Kindle made a motion to approve the Proposed 2007-08 School Calendar as presented and to take into consideration the items discussed for the coming year's school calendar (2008-09 School Calendar).

Superintendent Scott explained that the plans for preservice have not been set and requested that employees be at the Scott County Career & Technical Center for whatever timeframe is necessary on August 10<sup>th</sup> and then report to the schools when necessary as set by the future preservice agenda. Board members discussed that the calendar is a tentative calendar since changes will be necessary due to inclement weather. Some of the board members stated that they have a problem with students returning to school on a Friday after the winter break and thought it was "useless." In response to board member questions, Superintendent Scott expressed that attendance might be better if the students come back on Thursday after winter break instead of on Friday. Superintendent Scott reported that in prior years, the spring break has been during the week of Good Friday, thus not losing an extra instructional day. He reported that the students could gain a day if they return to school on January 3.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Kindle, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the 2007-08 School Calendar with the stipulation that the students will begin on January 3 for the second semester and that preservice plans for the August 10 date will be left to the discretion of central office administrators:

JULY 2007						
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AUGUST 2007						
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SEPTEMBER 2007						
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OCTOBER 2007						
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NOVEMBER 2007						
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DECEMBER 2007						
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## 2007-08 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 10,13,14 - PRESERVICE-

SCCTC 8:30 A.M. (10<sup>th</sup>)

13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> - REPORT TO SCHOOLS

AUGUST 15 - SCHOOL BEGINS FOR STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 3 - LABOR DAY-SCHOOLS CLOSED

OCTOBER 16 - 1ST NINE WEEKS ENDS

NOVEMBER 6 - ELECTION DAY-SCHOOLS CLOSED

NOVEMBER 21-23 - FALL BREAK

DECEMBER 20 - FIRST SEMESTER ENDS

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1 - WINTER BREAK

JANUARY 2 - TEACHER WORKDAY - SCHOOLS CLOSED

JANUARY 3 - SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS

MARCH 7 - THIRD NINE WEEKS ENDS

WORKDAY 3:30-6:30 P.M.

March 21 - GOOD FRIDAY - SCHOOLS CLOSED

March 24-28 - SPRING BREAK

MAY 20 - SECOND SEMESTER ENDS

MAY 21,22 - TEACHER WORKDAYS

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### MAKE-UP DAYS

# DAYS	MAKE-UP DAY	# DAYS	MAKE-UP DAY
1	May 21	10	June 3
2	May 22	11	June 4
3	May 23	12	June 5
4	May 26	13	June 6
5	May 27	14	March 28
6	May 28	15	March 27
7	May 29	16	March 26
8	May 30	17	March 25
9	June 2	18	March 24

### SYMBOL

X

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### EXPLANATION

SCHOOL CLOSED

SEMESTER BEGINS

SEMESTER ENDS

END OF NINE WEEKS

TEACHER WORKDAY

### MONTH

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

### DAYS

13

19

23

18

14

21

21

15

22

14

JANUARY 2008						
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FEBRUARY 2008						
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MARCH 2008						
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	X	X	X	X	X	
30	31					

APRIL 2008						
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MAY 2008						
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JUNE 2008						
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Chairman Sampson expressed thanks to the School Calendar Committee.

**APPROVAL OF MEAL PRICES FOR 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR:** Superintendent Scott reported that the meal prices were increased five cents for the cost of the full price breakfast and lunch for elementary, high school, and adults last school year. Therefore, he recommended that meal prices remain the same for the 2007-08 school year. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the meal prices remain the same as for the 2006-07 school year, which is as follows:

	<u>2007-08</u>
Full Price Student Breakfast	\$.80
Reduced Price Student Breakfast	.30
Full Price Student Lunch Elementary	1.40
Full Price Student Lunch High School	1.65
Reduced Price Student Lunch	.40
Adult Breakfast	1.30
Adult Lunch	2.30
Extra Milk or Juice	.30

**SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE:** Superintendent Scott reported that according to the projected enrollment for 2007-08 school year, the school division should receive \$20,000-\$30,000 additional revenue with the governor's budget, which was the best proposal for the school division when compared to both the Senate and House of Representatives' proposed budgets. He reported that the average daily membership for 2007-08 is projected at 3,880 students with revenue to be received from the state in the amount of \$27,306,827. He reported that he expects the enrollment to be approximately 45 more students than the 2006-07 school year. He informed board members that the governor's approved budget was good news for the school system and that he would be glad to answer any questions that they might have concerning school budget. Superintendent Scott reported that he plans to request school board approval of the 2007-08 School Budget at the school board meeting to be held on March 27. He also reported that after board approval of the budget, he and Chairman Sampson will be presenting the school budget to the county board of supervisors on the following Wednesday, April 4. He invited other members to attend the meeting if they wished to do so.

**SCHOOL FACILITIES UPDATE:** Superintendent Scott stated that as enrollment increases so does spacing needs. He reported that Yuma Elementary School has reached a point that the numbers cannot meet the K-3 standards requirement; therefore, an additional two classrooms is being recommended to be added to the end of the school building. He explained that the rooms would be on one floor and the projected cost would be approximately \$250,000. He informed the board that the architect has reviewed the school site at Yuma Elementary School and the additional space for two classrooms is just not there. He did report that only one small space could be found for use as a small classroom. He informed the board that it would only cost an additional \$20,000 to build two classrooms and there is always the possibility of more spacing needs as the enrollment increases.

Superintendent Scott also reported that the Rye Cove High School field house would, hopefully, be in place by the beginning of football season. He also reported that bids would be received in early or mid-April for the Twin Springs High School gym and, with work being done during the summer, it may be pretty well finished by the time sports begin in late fall or early winter. He informed board members that the maintenance crew will be completing more drop ceilings projects in the classrooms next year along with a few other needed projects. He reported that the roofing project at Duffield Primary School should begin around the first of April and that the re-roofing will cover approximately one-third of the roof. Superintendent Scott provided board members with an opportunity to ask any questions regarding facilities. He asked board members to inform him of maintenance projects they deem necessary and he would review them and try to find the funding needed.

Chairman Sampson mentioned that there was a letter to the editor of a local newspaper that spoke favorably of our school system's facilities.

Mr. Meade asked Superintendent Scott to address the lighting at Gate City High School when resources become available. Superintendent Scott reported that an architect and two engineers have reviewed and measured the lighting and don't have an answer. He explained that changing bulbs has not made a difference. Mr. Meade

stated that either more lighting or a different lighting might solve the problem. Superintendent Scott stated that he will have the lighting reviewed again.

Superintendent Scott informed the board that a training session was conducted on March 5 for the principals. He reported that the sessions went real well and were at no cost to the school system since it was conducted through the school system's consortium partnership with the College of William and Mary.

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE RATES FOR 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR:**

Superintendent Scott presented school board members with a copy of the minutes of the School Employees Self-funded Health Insurance Committee meeting held on February 13. He reported that the same amount of increase in health insurance premiums is recommended for each plan by both the employee and employer (\$10 Employee Only, Employee+Children, Employee+Spouse and \$20 for Family). He also reported that the cost of the health insurance premium increases over the past couple of years have been paid by the school board. He informed the board that due to the increase in claims and medical costs, an increase is necessary to try to try to keep the fund where it needs to be. He also presented information to the board received from the school system's health insurance consultant that there is currently no plan in place for those drugs that cost \$1,000 plus for a prescription and it is expected that there will be more of these type of prescriptions since drug companies are pushing them. He explained that according to the current prescription plan, the "Tier 3" drugs currently have a \$35 co-pay and he also explained that these prescriptions are the most costly to the plan; therefore, a \$45 co-pay is recommended for this tier. He informed the board that the dental plan needs to make it on its own; therefore, a one dollar increase to both the employee and employer share for each plan is recommended.

On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the health and dental insurance rates for the 2007-08 school year as follows:

**HEALTH INSURANCE RATES**

	<u>EMPLOYEE PREMIUM</u>	<u>EMPLOYER PREMIUM</u>
EMPLOYEE ONLY	\$90.00	\$315.00
EMPLOYEE + CHILDREN	\$150.00	\$315.00
EMPLOYEE + SPOUSE	\$245.00	\$315.00
EMPLOYEE + FAMILY	\$335.00	\$365.00

**DENTAL INSURANCE RATES**

	<u>EMPLOYEE PREMIUM</u>	<u>EMPLOYER PREMIUM</u>
EMPLOYEE ONLY	\$13.00	\$16.00
EMPLOYEE + ONE	\$26.00	\$16.00
EMPLOYEE + 2 OR MORE	\$46.00	\$16.00

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

**RETIREMENT:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the Early Retirement Incentive Benefit Plan request of Ms. Charlotte Hays, Gate City Middle School Teacher, effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

**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 approved the resignation requests of Mr. Reagan Mullins, Rye Cove High School (RCHS) Boys Basketball Coach and Mr. Matthew Bays, RCHS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, effective at the end of the 2006-07 season.

**EMPLOYMENT:** 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 employment of Mr. Tim Benton as a regular school bus driver.

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 employment of Ms. Delonda Spivey as a Gate City Middle School Assistant Junior Varsity Girls Tennis Volunteer Coach only. It was discussed that there has not been a paid position of Assistant Junior Varsity Girls Tennis Coach at Gate City Middle School in the past. Therefore, this position would be approved as a volunteer position only. It was discussed that a determination is to be made of whether this position was being requested as a paid or volunteer position.

**ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS – DISTRICT 2 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION:**

Mr. McMurray informed board members that he is resigning from his District 2 position as school board member. He stated that the reason being is that he plans to be a candidate for the office of sheriff. Mr. McMurray stated that he wanted to thank all employees for the dedication they have for our school system. He stated that it has been a great honor to be a small part of this for the last seven plus years. Mr. McMurray spoke of his experience with the school system as first, being a student, second, being a parent, and third, being a school board member. He stated that he would be taking much more with him than he left behind.

Board members expressed deep regrets for the resignation of their fellow member and informed Mr. McMurray that it has been a pleasure serving on the board with him.

Superintendent Scott expressed that Mr. McMurray has always made the right decisions for the students and expressed great pride for the manner in which he has served the school system.

Mr. Kindle made a motion, reluctantly, to accept the resignation request of Mr. Glenn M. McMurray, District 2 School Board Member, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

Mr. Kindle expressed congratulations to the Skills USA students at the Scott County Career and Technical Center for performing so well at the district competitions held recently. He reported that there were several winners and he wishes them well at the state level competitions.

Chairman Sampson informed board members that a thank you was received from the Hilton Elementary School PTA for the playground equipment. Also, that Mrs. Ruby Rogers, Gifted Education Program Instructor, thanked the board for their support of the County Spelling Bee, which was held recently.

Chairman Sampson expressed that it has been a pleasure to serve on the board with Mr. McMurray, that he demonstrated great integrity, conducted himself well, and would be missed.

**SCHOOL BUDGET WORK SESSION 2007-08 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET:** Superintendent Scott reported that there really have been no changes since he presented figures and hand outs on the proposed school budget at the joint meeting with the board of supervisors held on February 13. He provided board members with the opportunity to ask questions with regard to the school budget. He informed them that he plans to present salary scales and personnel for approval at the school board meeting to be held on March 27.

**ADJOURN:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Kindle, all members voting aye, the board adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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E. Virgil Sampson, Jr.

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Loretta Q. Page, Clerk