

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

Joe D. Meade, Chairman  
James Kay Jessee, Vice Chairman  
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair  
Lowell S. Campbell  
Katherine "Kathy" J. McClelland  
Dennis C. Templeton

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; John Sigmond, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association Representative; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; Jack & Nancy Hamilton, Hilton Community Members; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; M.A. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator, Imagination Library of Scott County; Mildred Hall, Duffield Community Member; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Mark Mills, Nickelsville Postmaster; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators Representative; Paul McMurray, Weber City Community Member; John Barger and Olinthus Quillen, Gate City Community Members; and Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times-News Reporter.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Joe D. Meade, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Superintendent Scott requested the addition of agenda items (VII. Items by Superintendent) as follows: G. Outdoor Science Classroom Project, H. School Activity Fund Audit, and I. Dual Credit Issue. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda including the additional items as requested by Superintendent Scott.

**PRESENTATION - VACHIP:** Mr. Mark Mills, Nickelsville Postmaster and 49<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Member, presented information on a child identification program called VACHIP, which he explained is a part of MASONICHIP, an initiative of North American Freemason's Grand Lodges that generates "completed packs" of various identifying items of children for parents or guardians and MASONICHIP is recognized by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). He reported that the Child ID Program would include contact information, digital fingerprinting, digital photograph, CHILD ID report with two ID cards and a CD-ROM containing photos, digital fingerprint images and video.

Mr. Mills also presented data on child abduction statistics, family abductions, non-family abductions, runaways, throwaways, lost, injured or otherwise missing. He explained the items that are included in the EZ Child ID System unit and that the cost is \$3,999 per unit or a current per unit price of \$3,799 for 2 units. He reported that the state of Virginia only has 4 computer systems and that a 6 to 8 week notice must be given to request their use. He further reported that he is hoping to obtain enough funding for two of these units for Scott County. He stated that the units could be run year round and the data put on the CD-ROM is given to parents at no cost. He further reported that he has been in contact with Delegate Terry Kilgore in regard to applying

for a grant with LENOWISCO. He reported that the sheriff's office stated that they did not have any funds available but would be willing to provide assistance.

Chairman Meade expressed appreciation to Mr. Mills and stated that the board would discuss the matter further.

Mr. Mills thanked school board members for their time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. M.A. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator, Imagination Library of Scott County, expressed a concern of ensuring that the program has enough funding to remain ongoing. He expressed that the program is worthy of their support since it helps to prepare children to enter kindergarten. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Board for their time and for what they have done and continue to do for the program.

Ms. Mildred Hall, resident of West Hunters Valley, spoke on a transportation matter. She questioned the bus route by her home which she stated takes approximately 55 minutes to arrive at Dungannon Intermediate School and stated that she lives approximately 10 to 15 minutes from Rye Cove Intermediate School. She reported that the bus pick up time at her house is 7:05 a.m. and the return is 5 p.m.

Chairman Meade requested that Superintendent Scott look into this situation and see what can be done.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Templeton made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008, Regular Meeting, and the July 8, 2008, Adjourned Meeting with corrections as follows: July 1, 2008 Regular Meeting, page 103, Closed Meeting, second paragraph, Section 2.2-3711A(3) be corrected to (1) and July 8, 2008 Adjourned Meeting, page 106, Closed Meeting, first paragraph, Section 2.2-3711A(3) be corrected to (1), motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,578,108.92 as shown by warrants #8087190-8087524. School Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$63,618.75 shown by warrants #1011029-1011096. School Construction Fund invoices in the amount of \$48,373.73 as shown by warrant #1900509-1900516. Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$34,129.84 as shown by warrants #7147-7194.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS: AFFIRMATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO PICK-UP THE EMPLOYEE'S CONTRIBUTION TO VRS FOR SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, 40184 UNDER SECTION 414(h) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the Resolutions: Affirmation of Authorization to Pick-Up the Employee's Contribution to VRS for Scott County Schools Board, 40184 Under Section 414(h) of the Internal Revenue Code (Appendix D).

**APPROVAL OF REVISED POLICY MANUAL:** Chairman Meade stated that policies could be changed or revisited during the year if needed. Chairman Meade and Superintendent Scott answered board member questions concerning policy on the evaluation of school board procedures, local license for teacher, and bomb threat procedures. Superintendent Scott reported that the schools should have open line with device available for use in bomb threat situations but would check to ensure that this

remains true. He reported that there had been a problem with the telephone company providing this service at some of the schools. He reported that if after a review of the schools there is a need for any new lines, they could be added.

On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the revised Policy Manual as submitted.

**REPORT ON SURPLUS SALE:** Superintendent Scott reported that the Surplus Sale held on July 12, 2008 had sales in the amount of \$6,182.00. He presented a Surplus Sale Report showing the amount of the sales from 1991 to present.

**TESTING WINDOW – 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:** Superintendent Scott reported that the testing window for the 2008-09 school year will be during the “second window” which will begin on May 4, 2009. He reported that this will allow more time in the classroom prior to testing and work real well since it will be closer to the end of the school year. He stated that he would present a testing schedule at a later date.

**DISCUSSION OF WATER AND SEWER RATES AND APPROVAL OF ALLOCATION TO HIGH SCHOOLS:** Superintendent Scott explained that due to the huge increase in water usage at Rye Cove High School for watering the athletic fields there is a need to recommend a measure to control water usage and expense. He also explained that a field maintenance project was done at Rye Cove High School recently which increased the need for additional water but was a costly project that the school paid for without any expense to the school board. He also reported that although Gate City High School has been paying for their own water usage at the football field and the school system has been paying for the softball field, there is a need to be consistent for all high schools. He suggested that if the Board would provide all high schools a flat amount, such as \$10,000 or an amount decided upon by the board, then the schools would probably be more likely to control usage.

After discussion by board members and Superintendent Scott, it was decided to give the schools \$10,000.00 with water usage being the priority and then any remaining funds could be used for maintenance and upgrade of athletic fields.

On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, this board hereby approves an amount of \$10,000.00 to be appropriated to each of the three high schools: Gate City High School, Rye Cove High School, and Twin Springs High School, with expenditure for water usage being the first priority and the understanding that any remaining funds be used for maintenance and upgrade of the sports fields.

**MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UPDATE:** Superintendent Scott provided a maintenance projects update as follows: the Rye Cove High School Field House Project is basically complete, the proposal received for the paving project at Gate City High School was over \$60,000 for a small area and therefore the school system will patch the area and then see what can be done there and at other schools later on, paving at Scott County Career & Technical Center that had to be completed was a great job but costly, the Twin Springs High School Gym Project is basically finished, the Gate City High School/Middle School metal awning should be here by first of September, the Hilton Elementary School Project has three issues he needs Board assistance with, the Scott County Career & Technical Center Classrooms Project is going well but will not be ready for the beginning of school but the same classrooms will be used until the others are ready, the Nickelsville Elementary School roof is in need of repair, the Dungannon Intermediate School Roofing Project has about \$5,000.00 remaining to be paid, the Rye Cove Intermediate School office area is in need of two or three air conditioning units,

and he also explained that maintenance personnel usually spend the first few days of school working on air conditioning units throughout the school system.

**COAL FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:** Superintendent Scott reported that for year two of the school system's three year coal proposal, Red River Coal Company has agreed to continue to allow the school system to purchase coal although a part or all other coal is being shipped overseas at a higher price per ton and Ricky Begley has agreed to continue to haul coal to various schools. He reported that although the gas has increased since the initial proposal of \$35 per ton for hauling, the price quoted for next year in the amount of \$45 per ton he felt was an honest and fair price. He stated that on a positive note is that in recent years it has been a good winter and that heat pumps and coal usage was half as much as the previous year.

On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved Ricky Begley to haul coal at a price of \$45 per ton for delivery to various schools for the 2008-09 school year.

**OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLASSROOM PROJECT:** Superintendent Scott reported that the Outdoor Science Classroom Project at Grogan Park will be available for students at the schools in this area and that the other areas already have this available. He reported that the school system was requested to provide \$5,000.00 toward the project. He reported that \$1,000 may be available through a grant at Lowes. He recommended that the school system provide \$4,000.00 and should the grant not be received then he could review the request with the board.

On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, this board hereby approves an amount of \$4,000.00 for payment to the Town of Gate City toward the \$5,000.00 they ask for toward expenditures on the construction of the building and cost of materials for the Outdoor Science Classroom Project.

**REPORT ON SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND AUDIT:** Superintendent Scott reported that the auditor of the school activity fund was pleased to inform him that the audit has gotten better each year. He informed board members where they could locate the recommendations in the audit report that was provided to them earlier. He stated that the auditor would be glad to come to the next school board meeting if needed. He asked board members to review the audit and if any member should wish for him to notify the auditor to be present at the next meeting to please let him know prior to the next meeting. He reported that there are a couple of situations to work on such as the school's fund that is still in the hole for the club trip expenses for rooms, food etc. He reported that the auditor is aware of the situation and this account will be reviewed during the school year.

**DUAL CREDIT ISSUE:** Superintendent Scott reported that current tuition costs for dual enrollment courses are as follows: the school system pays 10%, the student pays 10%, and Mountain Empire Community College pays 80%. He explained that it is possible for students to graduate with 30 to 40 credits. He also explained various classes available, credential requirements for teachers and that a school system teacher is going back to school this fall to get a Masters and would be available to teach the dual enrollment math course next year but for now he recommended that the board allow the teacher teaching the math courses at another high school to also travel to Gate City High School to teach the 41 students; therefore, offering them the same dual enrollment course opportunity as the other schools. He explained that since this teacher would be giving up the planning period it would be necessary to pay extra and he recommended an amount of one-fourth of the yearly salary.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, this board hereby approved to pay a school system employee one fourth of their salary for teaching dual enrollment courses at Gate City High School.

**VOTE ON REQUEST TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF SCOTT COUNTY:** Mr. Templeton made a motion that since the funds from the surplus sale was not earmarked for anything that an additional \$1,000.00 be provided for the Imagination Library of Scott County. In response to Mr. Templeton's motion, Mrs. Blair read previous board minutes stating that the Board had decided at an earlier meeting that additional funds would be considered after the first of the year. Chairman Meade agreed that he thought the board would re-consider this matter in January. In regard to the previous minutes, Mr. Jessee stated he originally made the motion that the Board consider additional funds but without stating a specific date. Mr. Campbell expressed a concern of providing additional funds at this time due to the price of coal, gas, and heating. In response to Mr. Campbell, Mr. Templeton stated that funds are already budgeted for those items. Mr. Jessee seconded Mr. Templeton's motion and voice vote was as follows: Ayes—Mr. Templeton, Mr. Jessee, Mrs. McClelland  
Nays – Mr. Meade, Mrs. Blair, Mr. Campbell

Chairman Meade stated that this matter would be revisited after the first of the year and would be tabled at this time. He also stated the vote might be in conflict with the vote taken previously.

**CLOSED MEETING:** Mr. Templeton made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 7:26 p.m. motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee, citing Section 2.2-3711A(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss teachers, school nurses, secretaries, and central office staff, all members voting aye.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to also enter into closed meeting to consider possible acquisition and/or disposition of real estate as provided in Section 2.2-3711A(3) of the Code of Virginia as amended, motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

**RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING:** All members returned from closed meeting at 8:28 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, 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 2.2-3711 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, Kay Jessee, Kathy McClelland, Joe Meade, Dennis Templeton  
Nays: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

**AUTHORITY GIVEN TO SUPERINTENDENT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell,

seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, this board hereby gives Superintendent Scott the authority to purchase property on behalf of the Scott County School Board.

**RETIREMENT:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Inez Denise Howington, Head Start Employee, effective August 1, 2008.

**RESIGNATION:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation requests Ms. Sheila Mays (effective July 21, 2008), Travis W. Powell (effective July 11, 2008), Cynthia M. Gill (effective July 30, 2008), and Karen L. Boehm, (effective August 1, 2008).

**EMPLOYMENT:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Billy Flanary as a school bus driver for the 2008-09 school year.

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 employment of Mrs. Tina Anderson as a Transportation Secretary for the 2008-09 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Ms. Amber D. Goode as a school nurse for the 2008-09 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Tommy Musick as a Graphic Imaging Technology Instructor for the 2008-09 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Ms. Krystal Duncan as an elementary teacher for the 2008-09 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Ms. Kristie Love Carter as an elementary special education teacher for the 2008-09 school year.

**VSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION:** Superintendent Scott requested that board members notify Mrs. Loretta Page, Clerk, whether or not they are planning to attend the VSBA Annual Convention in order for rooms and registrations to be completed.

**INTRODUCTION OF KINGSFORT TIMES-NEWS REPORTER:** Chairman Meade introduced and welcomed Mr. Wes Bunch, reporter for Kingsport Times-News.

**ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS:** Mr. Jessee expressed thanks to the previous board for the Rye Cove Field House Project. He stated that the field house looks great and has been long needed and expressed that as a community member and parent he is glad to see it there and extended an invitation for others to look at the project.

Chairman Meade stated that the Board has been fortunate to have been able to do what they have done.

Superintendent Scott explained that the Board has been able to complete projects without borrowing funds.

Mr. Templeton read a statement as follows: "Mr. Scott, in essence to our last school board meeting on July 8, 2008, the next day someone insinuated that I should ask certain questions of you in your office. If I think the question is relevant to the issue on the table, then across the table is where you will get the question. If I ask all of my questions in your office, in my opinion, that would give a bad reflection on the integrity of the Scott County School Board. I would not allow any other superintendent to manipulate or to dictate my questions in your office or in a board meeting, nor will I allow you to manipulate them. Individual board members of governmental boards derive their right to speak and ask questions from the will of the people who elected them."

Mr. Templeton reported that Mr. McCoy gave a \$500.00 scholarship to a Gate City High School student.\*

**\*Correction 9/2/08:** "Mr. Templeton reported that Mr. McCoy pledged a \$500.00 scholarship to a Gate City High School co-op. student for next spring."

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Joe D. Meade, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk