

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, in the Scott County Career & Technical Center Auditorium in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

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

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Brenda P. Robinette, Special Education Supervisor; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President; Clifford Jeffery, Kingsport Times News; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star, Gerald Miller, Duffield Mayor; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; Jack Hamilton, Hilton Community Member; Greg Ervin, Gate City High School Principal; Paul Fields, Board of Supervisors Member; Sherry L. Wilson, Attorney; John Ferguson, Gate City Middle School Principal, Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; and Gate City High School Parents/Students.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Joe D. Meade, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and presided.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Superintendent Scott requested additions to the agenda as follows: Items By Superintendent (D.) Gear Up Grant and (E.) Beginning Date for 2008-09 School Year. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the agenda as submitted and including the additions as requested by Superintendent Scott.

**SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION:** Superintendent Scott presented tokens of appreciation to school board members from various schools. He also presented certificates received from the Virginia School Boards Association in recognition of February being School Board Appreciation Month. He and school principals expressed thanks to the school board members for their efforts on behalf of the students and staff. Mr. Johnny Trent, SCEA President/VEA Member, expressed thanks to school board members for a job well done and presented Certificates of Appreciation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President, put on his Dr. Suess hat and presented a hat to Chairman Meade. Mr. Trent stated that this year will be the 11<sup>th</sup> "Read Across America." He informed board members that March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the official birthday of Dr. Suess but on, or around March 3<sup>rd</sup>, various school and community events will begin to be held in recognition of Dr. Suess. He reported that "Read Across America" will be held during the week of March 3-7, 2008 in recognition of Dr. Suess' birthday. He invited school board members to attend local events, select a book recommended by a teacher or, select a book that they themselves liked as a child, and show their support with visits to the classrooms and by reading to the students.

Dr. Jeff Vaughn presented a proposal for varsity soccer at Gate City High School for spring 2008. The proposal was as follows:

1. *Sign up and register boys' and girls' teams before 2/25 (start of practice season)*
2. *Hire coaches. Consider separate team coaches or one head coach with separate assistants. Both in-house and outside parties have expressed interest.*
3. *Schedule games. Hopefully at least 6 district games consisting of home-and-home games with Va. High, Lebanon, and John Battle. Consider routine of scheduling girls' and boys' games same day, 5:30 and 7:00. If rain causes conflict with track, would reschedule the soccer games for Saturday if necessary.*

4. *Arrange practice schedule. Consider some practices on Kane Field (footwork and agility).*
5. *Purchase 2 game goals for use at the football field. Plan to play home games on the football field (which other schools do). Purchase practice goal (highly portable) for use at Kane.*
6. *Pursue package discount with sporting equipment retailer (e.g., Dick's Sporting Goods or similar) for player equipment (shoes, shin guards, balls, bags). Purchase home/away jerseys, shorts, and socks.*

Dr. Vaughn expressed thanks to the school board members for consideration of the proposal. He stated that despite the challenges of the proposal, he feels this sport should be approved, particularly for the seniors at Gate City, since they have indicated a desire to play for the high school. He stated that the newly-forming Boosters of Gate City High School Soccer will do all they can to help the administration in their efforts to get it going. Also, that they would continue to explore the possibilities of a separate soccer field in the Gate City area for the teams.

Mr. Paul Fields, Scott County Board of Supervisors Member, expressed support of soccer at Gate City High School, as well as various parents in the audience. Mr. Greg Ervin, Gate City High School Principal, expressed that he wanted everyone to know that he is not against soccer. He expressed a desire to be a good steward of the high school; therefore, he has several concerns and asked the board to think carefully about the new sport being included within the "fabric" of the current athletic program. He voiced concerns such as, the school being Single "A," limited resources and facilities available, feasibility limits of six varsity team spring sports, inclusion of the accompanying sports teams of the middle school, the school's struggle to fill teams, the number of required players (15 to 20), how many sports can be done in the program at an appropriate level, and what kind of impact will this sport have on other sports programs at the school.

Dr. Vaughn acknowledged the lateness of the soccer proposal and expressed a desire to continue working together and pursuing the matter.

Board members expressed a concern regarding the timeframe for the sport to begin on February 25 (although students in the audience were disappointed) and the lack of a definite proposal and recommendation from the principal. Chairman Meade stated a need for further board and administration review and that he was uncertain of the timeframe concerning a decision.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved payroll and claims as follows:

School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,187,123.23 as shown by warrants #8084716-8085148 (#8084216-8084454 voided).

School Construction Fund invoices in the amount of \$3,705.00 as shown by warrants #1900442.

School Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$128,044.88 as shown by warrants #1010467-1010564.

Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$39,389.71 as shown by warrants #6715-6778 (#6734 voided).

**APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:** Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, informed board members that Gate City High School Band students qualifying through auditions held in December, traveled to Bristol, Virginia on January 25-26, 2008.

Mr. Johnson stated that he is not recommending approval of the Gate City High School Key Club overnight field trip request to the district convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on March 14-16, 2008, since recommending this trip for approval would be against the approved field trip policy that states

overnight field trips are to be scheduled after the Standards of Learning Tests have been administered. In response to a question, Mr. Johnson explained that if the field trip is not approved and the students attend, then the students are counted as being absent for the school day. He also explained that this trip is not an extension of the school instructional program and these students would be going with Sullivan County and City of Kingsport. He informed board members that they could either approve or disapprove the trip. On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the board disapproved the overnight field trip request received from the Gate City High School Key Club.

#### VOTE

Ayes: Beth Blair, Lowell Campbell, Kay Jessee, Joe Meade

Nays: Kathy McClelland, Dennis Templeton

On the recommendation of Mr. Johnson 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 Gate City High School & Gate City Middle School students to State FCCLA Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 3-6, 2008.

Mr. Johnson presented an overnight field trip request received from the Gate City High School & Gate City Middle School students to attend the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, on July 12-20, 2008. He explained that he and the school principal are not recommending this trip for approval. He reported that many concerns have been presented. He explained that concerns presented to him were that only approximately \$9,600 is currently in the fund at this time, the amount of cost per student last year was approximately \$1,200, the approximate number of students that may attend this year (30 last year), the total amount of funding that would be needed for that number of students would be approximately \$36,000, the short timeframe to raise the funding, that part of the current funding would be needed for state competitions prior to students attending the national competitions, and a concern regarding the fundraising and safeguarding of the funds.

He stated that it was his understanding that if you compete at the state level and don't win you can still go to the national competitions. He cautioned that should this trip be approved it sets a precedence and would make it more difficult to disapprove others; especially, should you have any other club that wishes to attend a national competition.

In response to a question regarding whether the FCCLA is requesting funding from the school board, Superintendent Scott reported that the school board has been asked to help provide funding for the past couple of years, approximately \$5,000 or a similar amount each year.

After discussion board members decided more information is needed; therefore, Mr. Templeton made a motion to table the overnight field trip request received from the Gate City High School & Gate City Middle School students to attend the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, on July 12-20, 2008 until the next meeting, motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from Twin Springs High School band students plan to travel to Washington, D.C. on June 5-8, 2008.

**APPROVAL OF MEAL PRICES FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:** Superintendent Scott reported that food costs are expected to increase and informed board members that there are two options available: (1) increase meal prices for next school year (2) supplement the cafeteria program. He reported that this school division is probably the only one in this area that does not supplement their cafeteria fund other than the school fund pays for repairs and higher priced items (not salary, fringe benefit, or food expenditures). He presented school nutrition program meal prices for Virginia schools in this area for the 2007-08 school year as follows:

School	Elementary		High School	
	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
Bristol City	.70	1.50	.75	1.75
Buchanan County	.80	1.35	.80	1.60
Dickenson County	.70	1.25	1.15	1.50
Lee County	.70	1.20	.90	1.50
Norton City	.90	1.40	1.00	1.60
Russell County	1.15	1.55	1.25	1.65
Scott County	.80	1.40	.80	1.65
Washington County	.85	1.65	.85	1.85
Wise County	.75	1.25	.75	1.60
AVERAGE PRICE	\$0.82	\$1.40	\$0.93	\$1.64

**PROPOSED 2008/2009 MEAL PRICES**

Scott County Schools	Elementary		High School		Adult	
	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
2007-2008	\$0.80	\$1.40	\$0.80	\$1.65	\$1.30	\$2.30
2008-2009	\$0.85	\$1.45	\$0.90	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$2.50

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved meal prices for the 2008-09 school year as follows:

Description	Cost
Breakfast:	
Full Price	\$0.85
Reduced Price	\$0.30
Adult	\$1.50
Lunch:	
Full Price Elementary	\$1.45
Full Price Lunch	\$1.75
Reduced Price	\$0.40
Adult	\$2.50
Extra Milk/Juice	\$0.30

The following was provided for informational purposes:

- Reduced Price Meals are mandated by Federal Regulations and is usually released in June/July.
- Price of Extra Milk/Juice may change depending on increased Milk cost and bid prices.

Recommended Adult Meal Price Formula: State Supervisor gave formula during Fall meeting 2007

Formula	Cost
Student Cost	\$1.75
State Reimbursement	+\$0.05
Federal Reimbursement	+\$0.23
USDA Commodities	+\$0.17
Adult Meal Price	\$2.65

Paid Students Served 2006-07: 253,628

Increased Meal Price: .10

Projected increase of income based on price increase: 25,362.80

**UPDATE ON 2007-08 SCHOOL BUDGET:** Superintendent Scott reported that the school budget for this school year was based on the revenue figures presented from the state last March. He

reported that it has not been a good year for state revenues and that these March figures will not hold true and that December figures may not as well. He reported that, according to the December state revenue figures, the school division is to receive \$132,340 less in Basic Aid revenue and \$117,608 less Sales Tax revenue and possibly as much as another \$100,000 in Sales Tax. He stated that the school system can try to make up the revenue shortage by spending less in other areas and monitor the situation for the remainder of the school year. He reported that the enrollment for this school year was also less than projected due to the smaller enrollment in the kindergarten classes; therefore, the school division receives less funding than projected

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING 2008-09 SCHOOL BUDGET:** Superintendent Scott reported that if the state revenue projected for the 2008-09 school year holds true, it will speak well for the school division. He reported that approximately \$25,091,000 is to be received from the state this year and \$29,750,000 is projected for next year. He explained that much of this additional funding is from the upgrade of the Standards of Quality and an increase in student enrollment. He also explained that the amount of revenue received this year will determine how well the situation will be next year. He reported that the composite index had dropped even lower and may be the second lowest in the state. He explained, therefore, that the school division will receive more state funding each time the composite index goes down. He pointed out that the additional state revenue projected for next year does have certain state requirements for expending the funds. He reported that it will be March 20 or later before the school division has any final revenue figures for next budget year since this is the long session of the general assembly. He expressed the need to monitor spending for the remainder of this school year.

Superintendent Scott informed board members that he is requesting their input for the Proposed 2008-09 School Budget. He asked board members to let him know what they want to try to do for school employee salaries for next year. He stated that he understands that there will be no funds from the state for salaries. He informed board members that a step increase and a three percent (3%) salary increase is the maximum amount he feels can be considered.

Chairman Meade asked about whether resources would be available for this type of salary increase. Superintendent Scott explained that some funding will be available due to the anticipated personnel changes with regard to retirees.

**SCHOOL BEGINNING DATE FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved August 15, 2008 as the starting date for the 2008-09 school year.

**GEAR-UP GRANT:** Superintendent Scott presented an informational handout on the Gear-Up Grant. He explained that this grant can be spent to assist students to stay in school and go to college. He also explained that this grant is for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and for following them through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. He asked board members to let him know if they have any suggestions.

**RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL BOARD CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK:** Chairman Meade stated that the Virginia School Board Association sent a resolution and certificates of recognition for the school board clerk and deputy clerk. He passed the documents to board members for their review.

**CLOSED MEETING :** Mr. Campbell made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 7:43 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board entered into closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) 1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss teachers and legal issues.

**RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING:** All members returned from closed meeting at 8:12 p.m. and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded 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 2.2-3712 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, Kay Jessee, Kathy McClelland, Joe Meade, Dennis Templeton

Nays: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

**LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the leave-of-absence request of Joanna Edens, Shoemaker Elementary School Teacher, effective for the 2008-09 school year.

**RETIREMENT:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the health benefit plan retirement request of Ms. Lana Sue Carter effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the health benefit plan retirement request of Ms. Wilma Gaye Salyer, Twin Springs High School Teaching Assistant, effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the health benefit plan retirement request of Mr. Steven Michael Starnes effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

**RESIGNATION:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the resignation request of Mrs. Brenda Kennedy, Head Start Teacher, effective January 16, 2008.

**EMPLOYMENT:** On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. Roy Repass as a school bus driver effective January 8, 2008.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Cynthia Fields as a Weber City Elementary School Teacher.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of Mr. John Sigmond as the school board attorney to perform duties as per the employment advertisement for the position and at a rate of \$135 per hour.

**ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS (ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN & APPROVAL OF POLICY TO SAFEGUARD SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS):** Mr. Jessee asked about bringing up old business that was tabled from the last meeting and other members agreed. On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved bringing up old business from the last meeting, election of vice chairman, which was tabled until this meeting.

Mr. Templeton made a motion to nominate Mrs. Kathy McClelland to serve as vice chairman. Mr. Campbell nominated Mr. Kay Jessee to serve as vice chairman. There being no other nominations, Mr. Campbell made a motion that nominations cease, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

Chairman Meade asked for a vote in reverse order as was done for the vice chairman election at the last meeting.

Chairman Meade asked for a show of hands vote for Mr. Kay Jessee as vice chairman and vote was as follows:

Ayes: Beth Blair, Lowell Campbell, Joe Meade

Nays: Kathy McClelland, Dennis Templeton

Abstain: Kay Jessee

Chairman Meade asked for a show of hands vote for Mrs. Kathy McClelland as vice chairman and vote was as follows:

Ayes: Kathy McClelland, Dennis Templeton

Nays: Beth Blair, Lowell Campbell, Joe Meade

Abstain: Kay Jessee

Mr. James Kay Jessee was elected to serve as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Templeton presented the following Policy to Safeguard School Activity Funds and asked board members for their consideration and vote on the policy:

#### *POLICY TO SAFEGUARD SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS*

*To insure procedural safeguards for funds received from extra curricular school activities, such as entertainment, athletic contests, etc., keep two creditable people with the money until the money has been locked safely into a locked cash box. There should be documentation or batch receipts supporting the underlying collection. An itemized listing of collections and individual receipts should accompany each remittance to the school office. This documentation should be attached to the office copy of the school receipt. All receipt books need to be accounted for and turned into the bookkeeper at the end of the year. The school office should also issue a receipt to the person remitting the money. The school finance officer shall be bonded and the local school board shall prescribe rules governing such bonds for employees who are responsible for the school activity funds.*

*The duties to be performed in providing proper management and security of the funds may be delegated to a degree by the principal but the responsibility for the safeguarding, accounting, and managing of the school activity funds rests solely with the principal.*

Superintendent Scott explained that the policy is very close to or similar to the guidelines already in place by the auditors and he expressed no disagreement with the policy being presented for approval.

On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the Policy to Safeguard School Activity Funds as submitted by Mr. Templeton and asked that it be made a part of the Scott County Public Schools Policy Manual and distributed to the operating officers of the schools immediately.

Mrs. McClelland asked Superintendent Scott to consider replacing the mats in the gymnasium at Shoemaker Elementary School and expressed a concern that there is no backboard protection in the gym. She asked Superintendent Scott if he would try to purchase these items next year and that the backboards were the greatest concern. Superintendent Scott stated that he would try to purchase these items next school year and if funds were to be available by April of this year he would purchase try to purchase them at that time.

Chairman Meade stated that he understands that sometimes Superintendent Scott “takes a beating” when it comes to the school budget. He expressed that Superintendent Scott understands the budget process well, does a good job running the school system, and expressed that he is very pleased with the school system’s recognition and standing in the state.

Superintendent Scott expressed appreciation to Chairman Meade and stated that the recognition that the school system receives is from the efforts of the classroom teachers. He reported that these efforts are shown by the recognition that the school division recently received for their Tier I (Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence), Tier II (VIP Excellence Award) and Tier III (VIP Competence to Excellence Award) awards by the state. He reported that four schools (Hilton, Weber City, Rye Cove Intermediate, and Nickelsville) were in Tier I and will be traveling to Richmond on February 18 for an award presentation from the governor. He reported that 12 of the remaining 13 schools in the school division were in either Tier II or Tier III. He stated that no other school division in the state has this recognition. Once again, he gave credit for these accomplishments to the hard work of the teachers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Blair made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye. The next meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors to be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2008, in the Scott County Career & Technical Center Auditorium. The next regular school board meeting is to be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, in the School Board Office Conference Room.

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Joe D. Meade, Chairman

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Loretta Q. Page, Clerk