

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, in the Scott County School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations; Brenda P. Robinette, Director of Special Education; Debra Keith, School Nurse Coordinator; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen "K.C." Quillen Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Johnny Trent, Scott County Education Association President; Clifford Jeffrey, Kingsport Times-News; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star, Gerald Miller, Duffield Mayor; Catherine Crooke, Scott County Citizen; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; Jack Hamilton, Hilton Community Member; Kathie Noe, Assistant County Administrator; Rufus Hood, County Administrator; Milly Leighton, Shoemaker Elementary School Teacher; John Ferguson, Gate City Middle School Principal; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators Representative; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association; and Shoemaker Elementary School parents/grandparents.

CALL TO ORDER: James B. Scott, Superintendent, serving as temporary Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Superintendent Scott welcomed everyone in attendance and specifically the newly elected school board members. He asked that item II. Approval of Agenda be presented after item III. Election and Appointment of Officers. There was no objection to this change.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Superintendent Scott, serving as temporary Chairman, asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Dennis Templeton nominated Mr. Joe Meade to serve as Chairman. There being no other nominations, Mr. Kay Jessee made a motion that nominations cease, all members voting aye, Mr. Joe Meade was elected by acclamation to serve as Chairman.

Mr. Meade thanked fellow members for their election of him to serve as Chairman.

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

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN: Chairman Meade asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Templeton nominated Mrs. Katherine McClelland. Mr. Campbell nominated Mr. Kay Jessee. There being no other nominations, Mr. Campbell made a motion that nominations cease, seconded by Mr. Templeton. Chairman Meade asked for a show of hands vote and stated that the vote would be in reverse order of nominations. On the motion for Mr. Kay Jessee as Vice Chairman, vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Blair, Mr. Meade
Nays: Mrs. McClelland, Mr. Jessee, Mr. Templeton

Chairman Meade asked for a vote on the motion for Mrs. Katherine McClelland as Vice Chairman, vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. McClelland, Mr. Jessee, Mr. Templeton
Nays: Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Blair, Mr. Meade

Chairman Meade declared a tie vote for the election of Vice Chairman position.

VICE CHAIRMAN POSITION TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING: Mr. Templeton made a motion to table the election for the position of Vice Chairman until the next meeting, motion was seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye.

ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK: Superintendent Scott recommended Mrs. Loretta Q. Page to serve a Clerk of the Board and Mrs. Karen "K.C." Linkous to serve a Deputy Clerk of the Board. Mrs. McClelland made a motion to accept the recommendations for clerk and deputy clerk as presented, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK: On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board appointed Mrs. Loretta Q. Page as Clerk of the Board and Mrs. Karen "K.C." Quillen Linkous as Deputy Clerk of the Board.

RULES OF ORDER: Mrs. McClelland made a motion that the school board vote to use the *Roberts Rules of Order* for meetings. Motion lost due to a lack of second vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Parents and grandparents of Shoemaker Elementary School students voiced concerns regarding the transfer of a Kindergarten classroom teacher to another assignment within the school and for the transfer taking place during the middle of the school year.

Superintendent Scott explained that a school principal has the authority to make transfers within a school. He stated that he would check on the matter and share information with the public if he could do so. He indicated that he would check on this by Friday and if anyone present wished to contact him regarding the situation, they could do so at that time.

Chairman Meade stated that Superintendent Scott will check on the matter and present information back to the board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 as submitted.

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

School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,312,990.72 as shown by warrants #8084271-8084715 (#8082825, 8084689, 8084690, 8084691 & 8084692 voided).

Cafeteria Auxiliary Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$165,653.12 as shown by warrants #1010361-1010466 (#1010054, 1010395 & 1010378 voided).

Scott County Public School Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$44,772.48 as shown by warrants #6640-6714.

REPORT FROM SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs. Debra Keith, Chairperson, expressed thanks for the opportunity to present information to the board on behalf of the School Health and Safety Advisory Board. Mrs. Keith reported that she serves as the School Nurse Coordinator for the school system and was the only nurse on staff when she began in 1991. She stated that since that time the needs have increased and additional staff has been hired to cover all schools, which includes six registered nurses, five licensed practical nurses, and two health assistants.

Mrs. Keith reported that the School Health and Safety Advisory Board met on November 19, 2007 and recommended the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) for the schools. She explained that the AED's are recommended for places where large numbers of people congregate, such as during school activities and assemblies. She stated that in the future it may be expected that the schools

have AED's. She reported that units are now more affordable with the cost being less than \$2,000 per unit. She agreed to obtain bids if it was agreed to purchase the units. She also reported that these units are being mandated in some states.

Superintendent Scott agreed to work with Mrs. Keith, along with direction from the board, and to be proactive in acquiring and phasing the units into schools as funding is available. He and board members thanked Mrs. Keith for her presentation.

REQUEST AND APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYMENT OF A BEHAVIORAL ANALYST:

Mrs. Brenda P. Robinette, Director of Special Education, explained the need for employment of a board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) to assist with the development of behavior assessments and intervention plans for those children with behavioral and/or emotional problems and to work directly with autistic children and their families. Mrs. Robinette explained that since beginning in 1990, many needs and regulations have changed and the school system is in need of these services. She explained that the number of autistic children has increased. She also reported that the school system has been contracting for these services from different sources but has learned of a person that will be available to apply for this position after January 31, should it meet with approval. She also explained that funding is available from a grant and the special education budget. She further explained that there are not many persons serving in this position in this area and it is difficult to find someone certified in this field.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the Board Certified Behavioral Analyst person that Mrs. Robinette informed the board would be available after that particular person's employment contract ends elsewhere on January 31, 2008, motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

After discussion it was decided that authority be given to employ for the particular "position" instead of particular "person" that would be available. Mr. Campbell made a motion to rescind his previous motion and to make a motion giving authority for the employment for the position of Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, motion was seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:

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 overnight field trip request received from Rye Cove High School FCCLA students to attend the State Leadership and Recognition Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 3-6, 2008.

On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request received from Rye Cove High School band students to Creative Arts Invitational Band Competition in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 15-18, 2008.

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 overnight field trip request received from Rye Cove High School band students to All-District Band Event at Bristol, Virginia, on January 25-26, 2008 and the overnight field trip request received from Twin Springs High School band students to Virginia Tech Honors Band Event in Blacksburg, Virginia, January 18-20, 2008.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING SCHEDULING BOARD MEETING DATES INCLUDING JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Board members discussed meeting dates and decided to meet on the dates, locations, and times submitted. Also, the board decided to meet on February 21, 2008 for a Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Rufus Hood, County Administrator, and Mrs. Kathie Noe, Assistant County Administrator, were in the audience and Mr. Hood stated that they would inform the Board of Supervisors members of this date and inform Superintendent Scott if this date was not feasible for their board.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved school board meeting dates as follows: **Date**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 5, 2008 (Tues.)	Scott Co. Career & Technical Center (Public Hearing: 2008-09 Proposed School Budget) (Regular Meeting)	5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
February 21, 2008	Scott Co. Career & Technical Center Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors	6:00 p.m.
March 4, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office (Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session To Follow)	6:00 p.m.
April 1, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office (Final Budget Work Session & Approval of Proposed 2008-09 School Budget)	6:00 p.m.
May 6, 2008 (Tues.)	Scott Co. Career & Technical Center	6:00 p.m.
June 3, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
June 26, 2008 (Thurs.)	School Board Office (2007-08 School Budget Close-Out Meeting)	6:00 p.m.
July 1, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
August 5, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
September 2, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
October 7, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
November 5, 2008 (Wed.)	Scott Co. Career & Technical Center	6:00 p.m.
December 2, 2008 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.
January 6, 2009 (Tues.)	School Board Office	6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Scott informed school board members that in recognition of February being School Board Appreciation Month, the central office staff wishes to provide a dinner to be held at 4:35 p.m. prior to the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting at the Scott County Career & Technical Center on February 5. He also informed board members that a dinner will be held around 5 p.m. on February 21 prior to the Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors and that details will be provided at a later date.

APPROVAL OF WAIVER OF PRE-LABOR DAY OPENING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR: Superintendent Scott explained that Scott County Schools meets the Virginia Department Of Education's criteria set forth for the waiver of Pre-Labor Day opening requirements because of the number of instructional days missed in the past ten years due to inclement weather. The following information was presented to school board members (0 days missed during the 2007-08 school year as of this date):

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Days Missed</u>
2006-2007	4
2005-2006	6
2004-2005	4
2003-2004	8
2002-2003	14
2001-2002	8
2000-2001	7
1999-2000	11
1998-1999	5

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the Waiver of Pre-Labor Day Opening Requirements for the 2008-09 school year.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS IN RECOGNITION OF GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM 2008 CLINCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT, REGION D CHAMPION, AND GROUP A STATE RUNNER-UP AND GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM 2008 REGION D CHAMPION, AND GROUP A STATE RUNNER-UP:

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board approved the resolutions in recognition of Gate City High School Volleyball Team 2008 Clinch Mountain District, Region D Champion, and Group A State Runner-up and Gate City High School Football Team 2008 Region D Champion, and Group A State Runner-up as follows:

**GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM
2008 CLINCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT, REGION D, GROUP A STATE RUNNER-UP**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County School Board of Scott County, Virginia, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team has achieved an outstanding regular volleyball season by winning 24 games and losing 2 overall,

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team won the Clinch Mountain District Championship with a record of 8 wins and 0 losses,

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Volleyball Team won the Region D Championship with a record of 22 wins and 1 loss,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board wishes to extend congratulations to the Gate City High School Volleyball Team for winning the Clinch Mountain District Championship, Region D Championship, and for winning the State Quarter-final, Semi-final, and for being the State Runner-Up,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board acknowledges the outstanding performance of the Gate City High School Volleyball Team and is proud of the fine manner in which the team has represented Scott County,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board wishes continued success for the Gate City High School Volleyball Team and coaches,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Scott County School Board wishes a copy of this resolution to be presented to each player and the coaches of the Gate City High School Volleyball Team.

Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Board Member (Signature)
James Kay Jesse, Board Member (Signature)
Kathy J. McClelland, Board Member (Signature)

Lowell S. Campbell, Board Member (Signature)
Joe D. Meade, Board Member (Signature)
Dennis C. Templeton, Board Member (Signature)

ATTEST

James B. Scott, Division Superintendent (Signature)

**GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM
2007 REGION D, GROUP A STATE RUNNER-UP**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County School Board of Scott County, Virginia, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Football Team has achieved an outstanding regular football season by winning 10 games and losing 4 overall,

WHEREAS, the Gate City High School Football Team won the Region D Championship with a record of 9 wins and 3 losses,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board wishes to extend congratulations to the Gate City High School Football Team for winning the Region D Championship, and for winning the State Quarter-final, Semi-final, and for being the State Runner-Up,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board acknowledges the outstanding performance of the Gate City High School Football Team and is proud of the fine manner in which the team has represented Scott County,

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board wishes continued success for the Gate City High School Football Team and coaches,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Scott County School Board wishes a copy of this resolution to be presented to each player and the coaches of the Gate City High School Football Team.

Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Board Member (Signature)
James Kay Jesse, Board Member (Signature)
Kathy J. McClelland, Board Member (Signature)

Lowell S. Campbell, Board Member (Signature)
Joe D. Meade, Board Member (Signature)
Dennis C. Templeton, Board Member (Signature)

ATTEST

James B. Scott, Division Superintendent (Signature)

REQUEST FROM IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF SCOTT COUNTY: Superintendent Scott reported that Mr. M.A. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator for the Imagination Library of Scott County, sent a request asking that the board consider increasing the annual contribution from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year. Superintendent Scott stated that a request of this nature would be best received prior to the school budget being approved in order to allow consideration of their request to be allocated in the school budget. Board members expressed a desire to receive a report on the results of their contribution. Also, members stated that, with regard to funding being sent by the school board to the Imagination Library of Scott County, any needs within the school system's K-12 and Head Start Programs should be reviewed and considered.

VSBA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: Superintendent Scott requested that board members notify Mrs. Page at this meeting whether or not they plan to attend the Legislative Conference to be held on February 7-8, in order for registrations and reservations to be completed.

REPORT ON SCHOOL EMPLOYEES SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND: Superintendent Scott reported that there is approximately \$250,000 currently in the School Employees Self-Funded Health Insurance Fund. He also reported that the fund has experienced high claims in recent months and changes will likely need to take place.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY: Superintendent Scott provided an update on the search for a school board attorney and board members stated a desire to have an attorney contracted with as soon as possible. Superintendent Scott agreed to continue working on this matter with the board.

END-OF-COURSE TESTING: Superintendent Scott stated that end-of-course testing has been completed and a report will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE PROJECTS: Upon request, Superintendent Scott provided an update on maintenance projects at the schools. He reported that the Twin Springs High School Gymnasium Project has not gone as well as the Duffield Primary School Gymnasium Project. He explained that the project has had additional expenses for site preparation and is behind schedule. The Rye Cove Field House Project is coming along well and the drop ceiling projects at the schools are continuing. He explained that the Hilton Elementary School Proposed Project will be a more costly project than expected. He further explained that the heat ventilation and air conditioning system will have to be taken out, the fire alarm system removed throughout the school and the project is expected to take two summers to complete. He stated that this is a problem because if you cannot start school there is a question of what would you do. He further stated that additional information will be provided at a later date. He reported that there are doors at the schools which need replacing. He also reported that the roof at Dungannon Intermediate School is in need of repair and an estimate for repair is projected to cost between \$150,000 to \$160,000. He explained that maintenance personnel have been working on the large projects and have gotten behind and need to catch up on the day to day items. He reported that the public response has been very positive concerning the locks purchased county-wide for the classrooms in the schools.

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

RESIGNATION: 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 resignation request of Mr. Jody Wolfe as the Twin Springs High School Head Football Coach effective December 4, 2007.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Mr. Darryl E. Johnson, Director of Operations, and on a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment Mr. Pat Davis as Gate City High School Junior Varsity Softball Coach.

Mr. Johnson reported that the school system needs to hire a part-time maintenance employee for the remainder of this school year. He explained that two maintenance employees are currently teaching a

class at the Scott County Career & Technical Center and one maintenance employee resigned this past fall and the position has not been filled. Superintendent Scott reported that an additional employee is needed to finish some of the ceiling, door, and small item projects at the schools. He explained that this would be a temporary position for as long as needed. On a motion by Mr. Jessee, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved the employment of a part-time maintenance employee as requested.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. McClelland stated that she would like a final report on the safety drill. Mr. Johnson explained that numerous meetings and coordination of agencies took place and it was felt that everything for a safety drill had been covered well. However, when the drill actually took place at a time when they felt was the busiest time, 3:15 p.m.; it was found that more planning and resolving of issues needs to take place. He further explained that it was a good drill and will aid in a safer place for the students.

Mr. Jessee stated he would like for the school system to follow up on the purchase of AED's as recommended by the School Health Safety Advisory Board; especially, since they could be mandated in the future. Superintendent Scott reported that funding could be allocated in the budget for this expenditure.

Mr. Templeton asked Superintendent Scott about whether the drug abuse and violence has been reduced in the schools. Superintendent Scott reported that, as of this morning, Mr. Johnson stated that one case of drug abuse has been reported this year. Superintendent Scott stated that this has been the best one-half of the school year the school system has had and progress is certainly being made.

Mr. Meade expressed appreciation once again to fellow members for their confidence in electing him to serve as Chairman. He welcomed their cooperation in working together.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Templeton made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye. The Public Hearing for the 2008-09 Proposed School Budget is scheduled to be held at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, in the Scott County Career & Technical Center Auditorium. The next regular school board meeting is to be held at 6 p.m. on the same date and following the public hearing.

Joe D. Meade, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk