

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 8, 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; Cathy McClanahan, Virginia Education Association Representative; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; Jack and Nancy Hamilton, Hilton Community Members; Rex McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; James Howard Addington, John Barger and Olinthus Quillen, Gate City Community Members.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Joe D. Meade, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

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

**APPROVAL OF TITLE I, PART C. GRANT APPLICATION:** 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 Title I, Part C. Grant Application and membership in the Southwest Virginia Title IC Migrant Consortium with Carroll County Public Schools being the fiscal agent for the consortium and an allocation of funding to be determined upon notification to Carroll County Public Schools of Scott County Public Schools' intent to participate.

**UPDATE ON SCHOOL RESOURCE INCENTIVE GRANTS FUND:** Superintendent Scott informed the Board that notification has been received that the School Resource Incentive Grants Fund Application was approved in the amount of \$34,979.00 with a Local Cash Match in the amount of \$8,114.00. He explained that the grant funds will be available beginning this school year and that the school system can request a second year or eighteen months (9/30/08 – 12/31/09). He reported that the grant was very competitive as many organizations applied for it. He was pleased that the school system received the grant which will be a savings to the school system.

**CLOSED MEETING:** Mr. Templeton made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Jessee, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A(3)\* of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss teachers, secretaries, coaches, and school resource officers, all members voting aye. **\*Note: August 5, 2008 Correction Section 2.2-3711A(1)**

Mr. Templeton 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. Jessee, all members voting aye.

**RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING:** All members returned from closed meeting at 8:06 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 SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY TO PURCHASE**

**PROPERTY:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board gave the school board attorney the authority to purchase a certain 19 acre parcel of land located in the Gate City area pending satisfactory negotiations with the owner.

**LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved the leave-of-absence request of Ms. Elizabeth Mykytka, Shoemaker Elementary Teacher, effective for the 2008-09 school year.

**DRAFT POLICY MANUAL & STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF**

**CONDUCT:** Board members and Superintendent Scott discussed the revised policies being presented and the proposed Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct for 2008-09 school year. Policies discussed were adding and dropping classes, student fees, field trips, fundraising, honor rolls, awards, class rank, and payment for accumulated sick leave days prior to retirement.

Superintendent Scott explained that currently there is no policy for adding or dropping classes. He presented a proposed policy and explained that all three high schools need to follow the same policy. He handed out information from the state concerning fees for students and explained that the school system does not charge student fees. He presented a proposed policy Payment of Accumulated Sick Leave Days Prior to Retirement with payment being made prior to the end of school year as is currently done. He explained that this payment amount would not be counted toward

the Virginia Retirement System benefits. He stated that this payment might be of benefit to an employee if paid at the beginning of the school year, since it would be in another tax year instead of being paid on the final payroll. In response to board member discussion whether the policy would be of any benefit to the employees, Superintendent Scott stated that if members felt this policy would not be beneficial it could be removed from the draft Policy Manual.

Mr. Templeton questioned whether one employee was the only employee that received payment for accumulated sick leave prior to retirement with this payment being reported to the Virginia Retirement System for the 2007-08 school year, why the benefit was not offered to all employees, and whether Superintendent Scott thought this was legal to do so.

Superintendent Scott responded that only one employee was paid in this manner and explained that this employee came to him during the school year with the request of which he stated was approved by the school board and also explained that he was not aware that this was not a legal transaction.

Superintendent Scott discussed honor rolls and grade requirements and that there seems to be some confusion regarding the National Honor Society. He explained that the National Honor Society allows membership for middle school or high school students if they have a "90" average but for elementary school honor roll, students must have a "95" average. Also, he pointed out that the "National" Honor Society provides membership for middle and high school students only, not elementary school students. He reported that adding and dropping classes has usually been done during the first five days of school but explained that this is probably not enough time and recommended ten days as being more appropriate.

Superintendent Scott and board members discussed the need to make changes with class and athletic field trips due to the increased cost of fuel and the economy situation. He and board members discussed fundraising and that according to the law and policy there should be no elementary school students conducting door-to-door fundraising. It was suggested that it be reiterated to the principals and PTA's or PTO's that they need to be aware that there is a policy.

Superintendent Scott informed board members that a high school principal contacted him concerning a school field trip that is to be taken this month. He stated that the principal reported that funds have already been paid toward this trip but that the group has a \$13,000 deficit and the principal is asking what to do. Superintendent Scott stated that funds should be in place for the trip when it is taken and he further reported that he understands that one more fundraiser will take place and it is estimated that \$3,000 may be raised leaving a deficit balance of \$10,000. He reported that some of the students planning to take this trip are seniors and he stated these students might not want to come back to do fundraising after the trip. He stated that fundraising to cover the cost of a field trip after it is already taken is not good practice.

In response to Superintendent Scott's report that changes need to take place with the number of busses traveling on athletic trips and more consideration given to approval of class field trips, Board members suggested Superintendent Scott handle this matter with the principals and that athletic directors need to assist with regard to consideration toward scheduling.

Superintendent Scott reported that the principals could be made aware of the fact that changes need to take place for athletic and class field trips or that the schools may have to pay more than the 60 cents per mile since the actual cost is over \$3 per

mile. He reported that he would meet with the principals and athletic directors and get a proposed plan in place then report back to the Board.

Chairman Meade stated that Superintendent Scott needs to take appropriate action at the schools and board members can provide assistance if necessary.

With regard to the proposed policy on Payment for Accumulated Sick Leave days Prior to Retirement (GCBC-R), Mr. Templeton made a motion that the proposed policy be removed from the draft Policy Manual, motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye.

Superintendent Scott reported that various fundraisers were held at the schools last school year, with some schools having one or two and others having as many as sixteen. He reported that some fundraisers were held that did not bring in much funds. He reported that Shoemaker and Weber City Schools had class trips to Washington D.C. and that many positive comments were received about the trip. He reported that for some students that went on these trips, may never be able to see those things and may not be able to travel like that again. However, he reported that for trips costing a student \$500 and the school has difficulty raising enough funds, consideration needs to be given whether the “plus” outweighs the “minus.” He stated that he knows the Board does not want any student excluded from a class trip because a student does not have the funds to participate in the trip. He also reported that most schools do not go on three or four day trips. Superintendent Scott reported that it has also been discussed that it is not fair to use grades as a basis for a student being allowed to go on a trip since there are students that work very hard but do not have the ability to make the grade another student does. He stated that the principals need to use their best judgment when considering approval of field trips.

Superintendent Scott also stated that principals need to review the fundraising requests to see if they are really worthwhile and give consideration to school functions after school where both the parents and students can participate. He stated that he has received more complaints on fundraisers where the students are selling overpriced items and especially when the school may only be receiving a small amount of funding from the sale.

Superintendent Scott stated that he would discuss these items at the Principals Institute to be held during the first week of August. He stated that principals need to be more aware of the fundraisers at their schools. He reported that the school field event held next to the school board office seems to be a great success. He reported that everyone seems to really enjoy the event.

Some comments from board members were that principals need to consider the situation with the economy when making decisions and be responsible based on the guidelines presented by Superintendent Scott, give consideration to local trips, and that the field trip policy needs to be reviewed.

After discussion, it was decided to go ahead and approve the *Parent/Student Handbook & Code of Conduct* since it would need to be printed and available for the beginning of school. Chairman Meade requested that members review the draft Policy Manual between this meeting and the next meeting scheduled on August 5 so it can be presented for approval.

**APPROVAL OF PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK & CODE OF CONDUCT:** Mr. Jessee made a motion that the Parent/Student Handbook & Code of Conduct be

approved with the addition of the Add/Drop Class Policy, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

**PAVING:** Mr. Templeton reported that paving needs to be done at Gate City High. Superintendent Scott reported that he has been waiting until July 1 for new fiscal year funding to be available and that quotes are being obtained for paving at several schools including Gate City.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Joe D. Meade, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk