

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008**

The Scott County School Board met in a regular meeting, on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, in the Scott County Career & Technical Center in Gate City with the following members present:

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

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; John R. Sigmond, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career & Technical Center Director/Principal; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Ms. Nancy Godsey, Citizen; John Hamilton, Citizen; Sherry Shreve, Mountain Empire Community College Career Coach; and Cathy McClanahan, Virginia Education Association.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Joe D. Meade, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and presided.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Sherry Shreve, Mountain Empire Community College "Career Coach," presented information about her work with the three county high schools secondary students in transitioning from high school to postsecondary education. She explained that the career coaches target the high-risk students, assist with developing career and educational choices, action plans, and that they have a variety of resources available to help students move in the direction of their career goals. She also explained that information is available to assist the students with a decision on whether to attend a college or a technical school or a welding or auto diesel school. She further explained that she also assists the students in pursuing financial resources or grants that are available. Ms. Shreve informed the Board of her plans to work with the GEAR-UP Program in the school division. She congratulated the board on the school system's graduation rate (91%) in comparison to the state wide average (80%) and stated the hopes of trying to get a 100% rate.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of Tuesday, October 7, 2008 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 totaling \$1,248,925.01 as shown by warrants #8088386-8088817 (voided: 8087982).

School Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll totaling \$170,999.19 as shown by warrants #1011288-1011393 (voided: 1011315).

Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$82,678.25 as shown by warrants #7358-7447 (voided: 7420).

**APPROVAL OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION REQUEST:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the board approved the religious exemption request 080901: students "A" & "B."

**APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST:** Superintendent Scott explained that at this time it is not known which parents will be able to attend the overnight field trip of Shoemaker

Elementary School next spring on May 27 & 28 but if board members wished he could provide the names at a later date if there are any questions. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the board approved the overnight field trip request for Shoemaker Elementary School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Wonderworks Museum in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on May 27 & 28, 2009.

**APPROVAL OF GIFTED PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** 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 Gifted Program Advisory Committee for the 2008-09 school year as follows:

Mrs. Brenda Byrd  
Mrs. Kim Dorton  
Mrs. Gina Fuller  
Mrs. Melissa Gillenwater  
Mrs. Renee' Light  
Mrs. Tina Lucas  
Mrs. Mary Beth Vaughn  
Mrs. Brigitte Hillman  
Mrs. Ruby Rogers  
Mr. Jim Scott

**APPROVAL OF HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS:** 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 Head Start Policy Council Members as follows: Karla Harris, Aimee Lawson, Tammy Thompson, and Linda Szadzewicz.

**APPROVAL OF EXTENDING THE CURRENT SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY PLAN THROUGH 2010:** Superintendent Scott explained that Mr. Mark Saunders, Virginia Department of Education, suggested that since the current *Scott County Schools Technology Plan* expires in 2009 and the Virginia Divisional Technology Plan will not be available until the spring of 2009 for the school division to align its plan to the state technology standards, it is necessary to extend the current plan through 2010 in order for the school division to plan for ERATE discounts for the 2009-10 school year. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Jessee, all members voting aye, the board approved extending the current Scott County Schools Technology Plan through 2010.

**CLOSED MEETING:** Mrs. McClelland made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 6:22 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Jessee, citing Section 2.2-3711A (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss teachers, personnel, and coaches; and to discuss possible acquisition and/or disposition of real estate, as provided in Section 2.2-3711A (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, all members voting aye.

**RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING:** All members returned from closed meeting at 7:48 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

**RESIGNATIONS:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Christy Gardner, Head Start Teacher, effective September 26, 2008.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board accepted the resignation request of Mr. Pat Davis as Gate City Junior Varsity Softball Coach effective October 8, 2008.

**SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT TO BE REVIEWED:** Chairman Meade announced that the Board will review Superintendent James B. Scott's employment contract at the next meeting in December.

**ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Vice Chairman Jessee commented about a letter he received last week, which he said was probably from someone in the county but the letter was not signed. He stated that he would be glad to meet with anyone in this county at any time that has any issue with any school employee but if someone doesn't have the "guts" to come to him in person or to call him—he doesn't want unsigned letters.

Chairman Meade commented that the Board has had some of this before and stated that it is hard to address something or to take it very seriously when there is no name signed. He stated that he also read the contents of the letter and expressed agreement with Mr. Jessee's statement.

Chairman Meade also expressed agreement with Vice Chairman Jessee's statement that if accusations are made against any personnel in our school system proof and documentation is needed.

Mrs. McClelland suggested that the school board recognize and honor Ms. Chelsea Gillenwater for her recent achievement as a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist. Superintendent Scott suggested, and the board agreed, for Ms. Gillenwater to be invited to attend the next school board meeting so that the board could have the opportunity to recognize her for this accomplishment.

Mrs. Blair reported that Gate City Cross Country Track are going to state competition this weekend and that the board needs to extend best wishes to them.

Superintendent Scott commended the Rye Cove and Gate City High Schools' volleyball teams for their outstanding season and reported that both are playing in the semi-final game tonight. He stated the only sad thing about these two great teams is that only one will have the opportunity to go to the final competition.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the board adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Joe D. Meade, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk