

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

James K. Jessee, Chairman
Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman
Katherine "Kathy" J. McClelland
Joe D. Meade
Dennis C. Templeton

ABSENT: Gloria E. "Beth" Blair

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; John Sigmond, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; Karen C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Tammy Quillen, Director of Testing/Elementary Supervisor; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association Representative; Suzanne Goins, VPE; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Area Citizen; John Hamilton, Hilton Area Citizen; Jason McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star Representative; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times-News; Helen Henderson, Head Start Director; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; M.A. Lunsford, Imagination Library of Scott County Volunteer Coordinator; Lori Bush, Rye Cove Intermediate School Teacher; Frances Perry, Gate City Citizen; Dale Byrd, Weber City Citizen; Chris Mann, Shoemaker Elementary School Teacher/Gate City Soccer Coach; Steven Shockley, Gate City High School Teacher/Gate City High School Boys Tennis Team Coach; Robbie Perry, Gate City Teacher/Baseball Coach and members of the Gate City High School Tennis and Soccer Teams.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. James K. Jessee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Superintendent Scott recommended additions to the agenda as follows: K. Approval of Superintendent Designee to Attend School Board Meetings and L. Discussion of Imagination Library of Scott County. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda with additions as submitted by Superintendent Scott.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no comments during this period.

PRESENTATION – RESOLUTIONS FOR GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM: The Gate City High School Tennis Team Coach Steven Shockley, Baseball Team Coach Robbie Perry, Soccer Team Coach Chris Mann, and the tennis and soccer team members were commended by both Superintendent Scott and the school board for their participation at the state level, as well as their dedication and hard work. Resolutions were presented to the coaches for distribution to each team member in recognition of this honor. Coaches Steven Shockley, Robbie Perry, Chris Mann and team members present were provided an opportunity to speak at the meeting.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved resolutions for presentation to the Gate City High School Sports Program as follows: Baseball Team 2009 Clinch Mountain District Champion, Region D Champion, and Group A State Runner-Up; Boys Tennis Team 2009 Clinch Mountain District, Region D, Group A State Champion; Boys Tennis Singles 2009 Clinch Mountain District, Region D, Group A State Runner-Up (Chad Sheppard); Boys Tennis Doubles Team 2009 Clinch

Mountain District, Region D, Group A State Runner-Up (Dalton Moore & J.T. McConnell); Girls Tennis Team 2009 Clinch Mountain District, Region D, Group A State Runner-Up; Girls Tennis Doubles Team 2009 Clinch Mountain District, Region D, Group A State Runner-Up (Tori Bowen & Morgan Taylor); and Girls Soccer Team 2009 Clinch Mountain District Runner-Up, Region D, State Quarter Final Participant.

PRESENTATION FROM HEAD START DIRECTOR: Ms. Helen Henderson, Head Start Director, expressed appreciation to the school board for the opportunity to present information on the Head Start Program. She explained that a tri-annual federal review is to be conducted sometime after November 1. She expressed appreciation to Mrs. Kathy McClelland, school board member, and Mr. Travis Nickels, school system head start liaison, for their assistance and attendance at the recent risk management meeting. Mrs. Henderson provided a *Scott County Public School Head Start Annual Report 2007* to school board members which included a Program Introduction, Funding Sources, Budget Revenue/Expenditures Breakdown, Audited Statement of Activities, Federal Review Compliance, Program Governance, Staff and Sites, Children and Families Served, Benefits to Children and Families, Health and Disability Services, Family and Community Services, Transition, Child Outcomes, Literacy Activities, and I'm Moving I'm Learning Activities.

Mrs. Henderson also provided a *Scott County Public School Head Start Outcomes 2008-2009 Report* which included a mission statement, PALS – PreK Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening, Comprehensive Services, Diagnosed Medical Conditions, Disabilities Services, Transaction Activities, Assessing School Readiness, and Governance (school board members list). Mrs. Henderson reported that head start currently has 173 students but if the Early Head Start Grant application is approved then there would be an additional 24 students being served. Mrs. Henderson expressed appreciation to the Board for the employment of Mr. Travis Nickels as the school system's head start liaison and reported that he attended the risk management meeting, assisted with interviews and attended a called meeting of the policy council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the June 2, 2009, Regular Meeting as submitted.

On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the June 29, 2009 School Budget Close-out Meeting, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,234,841.91 as shown by warrants #8091666-8091930 and \$1,156,222.97 electronic payroll direct deposit and \$594,823.20 electronic payroll tax deposit. School Construction Fund payment to School Operating Fund in the amount of \$.24 (twenty four cents – June Interest) as shown by warrant #1900550. Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$65,086.71 as shown by warrants #1012097-1012147 and \$10,911.14 electronic payroll tax deposit. Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$42,528.53 as shown by warrants #8070-8125.

PRELIMINARY 2008-09 TEST RESULTS: Mrs. Tammy Quillen, Director of Testing, presented preliminary county-wide test results (as of June 23, 2009) for the 2008-09 school year. Mrs. Quillen's report compared the 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07 school years. Subject areas and schools that needed to be focused on for the 2009-10 school year were discussed.

Scott County Schools YEARLY COMPARISON Preliminary 6/23/09	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007
Gr 3 History	98	97	97
Gr 3 Mathematics	98	98	97
Gr 3 Reading	95	94	85
Gr 3 Science	98	97	96
Gr 4 Mathematics	93	93	90
Gr 4 Reading	92	94	93
Virginia Studies	96	90	89
Gr 5 Mathematics	96	95	96
Gr 5 Reading	95	96	88
Gr 5 Science	97	96	93
US History to 1877	86	84	77
Gr 6 Mathematics	87	79	75
Gr 6 Reading	97	89	91
US History 1877 to Present	99	97	91
Gr 7 Mathematics	85	79	79
Gr 7 Reading	92	90	88
Civics	91	90	89
Gr 8 Mathematics	89	91	83
Gr 8 Reading	93	83	85
Gr 8 Science	94	92	93
Virginia & US History	95	99	98
World Geography	79	86	93
Algebra I	92	93	92
Algebra II	88	87	89
Biology	92	91	96
Chemistry	99	97	96
Earth Science	91	79	89
English: Reading	90	89	98
Geometry	92	95	95
World History I	90	86	93

Mrs. Quillen commended the schools for their efforts in improving test scores as shown by the increase in percentages for various test scores. She reported that school division staff review scores and make a determination regarding any necessary changes. Mrs. Quillen reported that while test results received are preliminary they could only improve once results are final. She reported that the school division has made great strides and that these results may very well be the highest yet. She asked for support from the Board regarding attendance, explaining that one school did not make the 95% attendance rate and expressed that this is an important factor with state accreditation.

SELECTION OF VSBA DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE TO REPRESENT SCHOOL BOARD AT VSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AND REGIONAL MEETING OF THE 2009 VSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION, NOVEMBER 18-20:

Mr. Templeton nominated Chairman Jessee, as the delegate to represent the school board at the VSBA Delegate Assembly and Regional Meeting of the 2009 VSBA Annual Convention (November 18-20), nomination was seconded by Mr. Campbell. Chairman Jessee stated that with his work schedule it would be difficult to commit to this position not knowing for sure whether he would be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Templeton withdrew the motion. Mr. Meade nominated Vice Chairman Campbell, as delegate, nomination was seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye.

Mr. Templeton nominated Mrs. McClelland as the alternate delegate to attend the VSBA Annual Convention, nomination was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

POLICY MANUAL & STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT: Board members and Superintendent Scott discussed revisions and approval of the Policy Manual & Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct. On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Policy Manual as submitted. Since the copy of the policy manual received by the school board members did not indicate a list of the changes, Mrs. McClelland asked about getting a list of those changes. Superintendent Scott stated that he could provide a list of changes. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Student/Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct as submitted.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS FOR 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR:

Superintendent Scott presented a list of school allocations and explained that a change from the prior year is that, due to the cash flow situation, the schools would receive these funds in three allocations. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved school allocation payments for the 2009-10 school year as follows:

2009-2010		7/15/09	10/15/09	1/15/10
ALLOCATIONS		1ST	2ND	3RD
	TOTAL	ALLOCATION	ALLOCATION	ALLOCATION
DUFFIELD	\$27,985.00	\$6,995.00	\$6,995.00	\$13,995.00
DUNGANNON	\$12,605.00	\$3,155.00	\$3,155.00	\$6,295.00

FORT BLACKMORE	\$12,445.00	\$3,115.00	\$3,115.00	\$6,215.00
GATE CITY HIGH	\$71,390.00	\$17,850.00	\$17,850.00	\$35,690.00
GATE CITY MIDDLE	\$60,170.00	\$15,045.00	\$15,045.00	\$30,080.00
HILTON	\$21,440.00	\$5,360.00	\$5,360.00	\$10,720.00
NICKELSVILLE	\$29,740.00	\$7,435.00	\$7,435.00	\$14,870.00
RYE COVE HIGH	\$47,865.00	\$11,970.00	\$11,970.00	\$23,925.00
RYE COVE INT.	\$21,120.00	\$5,280.00	\$5,280.00	\$10,560.00
SHOEMAKER	\$48,515.00	\$12,130.00	\$12,130.00	\$24,255.00
TWIN SPRINGS	\$46,725.00	\$11,685.00	\$11,685.00	\$23,355.00
WEBER CITY	\$42,460.00	\$10,615.00	\$10,615.00	\$21,230.00
YUMA	\$20,405.00	\$5,105.00	\$5,105.00	\$10,195.00
SCVS	\$140,200.00	\$35,050.00	\$35,050.00	\$70,100.00
TOTAL	\$603,065.00	\$150,790.00	\$150,790.00	\$301,485.00

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF EARLY INVOICES: 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 resolution for payment of early invoices as follows:

***WHEREAS,** the Scott County School Board desires to practice financial accountability, and*

***WHEREAS,** certain invoices are of the nature that add interest charges and additional late charges for the registration fees after a prescribed number of days, and*

***WHEREAS,** certain invoices have a discount applied if paid within a prescribed number of days, and*

***WHEREAS,** these interest, late, and additional charges are viewed as unnecessary expense,*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Scott County School Board authorizes the Purchasing Clerk to forward upon approval of the Superintendent invoices for payment as follows: Alltel, AT&T, American Electric Power Company, Bristol Virginia Utilities Board, Chevron, Division of Motor Vehicles, Dungannon Water Department, Exxon Company, Gate City Water Department, MBNA America (Mastercard) Platinum Plus for Business, MountaiNet, Nickelsville Water Department, Office Depot, Office Max, Phillips 66 Company, Powell Valley Electric Company, Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Scott County Public Service Authority, Scott Telecom & Electronics, Embarq, Virginia State Police, Board approved and/or bidden contracted maintenance/construction invoices, architect and engineering invoices, insurance and Board invoices, registration fees, invoices stating discounts, and invoices involving grants that are to be used for reimbursement purposes.*

***THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of these prepaid invoices be presented to the School Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.*

Legal Reference: Code of Virginia 22.1-122

James Kay Jessee, Chairman (Signature)
Date

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk (Signature)
Date

APPROVAL OF SCOTT COUNTY COLLEGE FUND 501 C3 CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Superintendent Scott explained that school board members each appointed a member to serve on the Scott County College Fund 501 C3 Corporation Board of Directors and that this would have members in place if, or when, the funding materializes. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the initial Scott County College Fund 501 C3 Corporation Board of Directors as follows: Rev. Steve J. Collins, Ronald Edwards, Wally Ford, Thomas Hillman, Phillip R. Owens and Mitzi Wilson.

REPORT ON GATE CITY ATHLETIC FIELD DEVELOPMENT: Superintendent Scott reported that the development of the Gate City Athletic Field is going well. He explained that specifications for the grading project is being worked on and reported things are going better than it was thought that it would be at this point.

AARA EQUIPMENT GRANT: Superintendent Scott reported that with the short timeframe for spending the AARA Equipment Grant and sending in a reimbursement request, it will push things to get the project completed but he doesn't see any problems with getting the equipment installed in the cafeterias at the schools. He informed board members that he could mail them an equipment list being purchased for the schools if they wanted. He explained that bid prices were obtained quickly for the grant application and prices submitted ended up being higher than actual cost. He reported that since the grant does not allow switches to be made and actual cost is used for reimbursement, the school system will have to send back the amount not spent.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FOUNDATION (VTSF) GRANT AWARD

NOTIFICATION: Superintendent Scott explained that Mrs. Teresa P. Culbertson will continue to be the Project Director of the 21st Century Grant. He reported that Mrs. Culbertson applied for a grant through the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation and the school system was awarded a total of \$118,700. He explained that this funding is to be received over a three year period and reported on expenditures for the project. He reported that Mr. Travis Nickels, Central Office Supervisor, will be working with grants for the school system.

Superintendent Scott expressed thanks for the efforts of Mrs. Teresa Culbertson, Grants Coordinator, on behalf of Scott County Public Schools. He reported that Mrs. Culbertson has obtained over 2 million dollars in funding for the school system over the past two and half to three years she has worked in the position. He stated he would write her a letter of thanks.

APPROVAL OF FY 2009 HEAD START PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT FUNDS:

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 FY 2009 Head Start One-Time Program Improvement Funds as submitted in the amount of \$318,469.00.

APPROVAL OF EARLY HEAD START GRANT APPLICATION: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Early Head Start Application as submitted in the amount of \$616,494.00.

APPROVAL OF HEAD START EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ms. Sarah Ann Mullins-

Spears and Ms. Teresa A. Bishop for the head start program, which were approved on July 6, 2009 by the Scott County Head Start Policy Council.

APPROVAL OF DESIGNEE TO ATTEND SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS IN ABSENCE OF SUPERINTENDENT: Superintendent Scott informed board members that Mr. Darryl E. Johnson was previously approved as designee according to the Code of Virginia (as amended) Section 22.1-69, to attend school board meetings in his absence or inability and that Mr. Johnson has since retired and another designee has not been approved to serve in this capacity. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, to serve as designee to attend school board meetings according to the Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-69, in the absence or inability of the superintendent.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF SCOTT COUNTY: Superintendent Scott reported that he has been informed that the Imagination Library of Scott County currently needs a one year agreement signed for an overseer of the program. He explained that this agreement creates an obligation for the payment of monthly billings. He expressed a concern that should the school board sign an agreement it creates a long term financial obligation for the school system. He reminded board members of his concern regarding funding for the school system beginning the year after next when he anticipates when the school system no longer received stimulus funding the school division will lose over 1.3 million and needs to be prepared. He explained that even if the school board and the board of supervisors continue to provide funds for the program additional funding would be needed. He expressed concern regarding the funding due to the uncertain financial situation with the current economy. Mr. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator, Imagination Library of Scott County, reported that he would collect the funding that was pledged for the balance owed. It was suggested that the school board and board of supervisors could meet to discuss the program. Superintendent Scott stated that he understands that the Board of Supervisors wants to continue the program. He explained that he proposed to Mrs. Helen Henderson, Scott County Head Start Director, that she review the situation and personnel she has on staff and determine whether Head Start would be able to enter into an agreement to be a program overseer. He also informed board members that he had been concerned about continuing participation with the AMERICORP program due to funding; however, he reported that federal stimulus funding was obtained to pay for Scott and surrounding counties.

It was discussed that this would be an item to continue at a future meeting. He stated if the school board informs him that they want to sign an agreement for the program then he would need to request that Mr. Hood ask about a commitment from the Board of Supervisors. He reported that Mrs. Henderson is to provide a decision to him by Friday and he would get a report back to the Board.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING TWIN SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM: Superintendent Scott and Board members discussed whether to continue with the band program at Twin Springs High School as it currently is since the program has struggled with numbers for the past several years. He asked how long to give the marching band program, do we spend more time on recruitment, or should we look at some other type of band until those numbers are up, such as jazz, pep, or maybe have a choral class. He explained that he needs some idea or suggestion from the Board. He also mentioned the expense of the salary of a band instructor and having only a small number of students for the program. He explained that it is probably not going to be easy to find a band instructor and especially so if he doesn't know exactly what is wanted. He stated that he could meet with school people to find out their opinion. He said he felt it is almost doing children a disservice to put them on the field with only 7-9

students. He mentioned that Rye Cove High School had a similar situation in the past and has come a long way now. He reported that school system personnel have been reviewed and that there is no employee on staff that has an endorsement for moving into the position. He suggested that maybe another type band could be provided with the understanding that if the numbers get to where the school is able to have a marching band then it could be considered at that time. One member expressed hating to see the marching band program go down and asked about sending out a survey and doing some recruitment to get students interested. It was discussed that with recruitment you need to start really early at the elementary level and really work with it. Superintendent Scott said he could try to find out what choices are available and added that it may take a little time.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Mariah "Beth" Justice, Twin Springs High School Band Instructor, effective two weeks after July 7, 2009.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation request of Mrs. Alison Cantrell Fleenor, Duffield Primary School Teacher, effective June 17, 2009.

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 resignation request of Mr. Jamie Burke, custodian, effective June 29, 2009.

EMPLOYMENT: 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 employment of Ms. Aracelis Vazquez as a teacher for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mrs. Deborah Stock as a teacher for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the full time employment of Ms. Carolyn Howington and Ms. Cathy Gillenwater as teaching assistants for the 2009-2010 school year. Superintendent Scott explained that these employees worked last school year and therefore would not be extra employees since they were already in place.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Chad Hood as Twin Springs High School Assistant Football Coach to replace Mr. Everett Shepard.

ITEMS BY BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. McClelland suggested that prices be requested again for the asphalt that needs replacing at Gate City High School. She stated that maybe with the current economy a better price may be obtained.

Superintendent Scott stated that he would check on this project and awning for Gate City Middle School.

Chairman Jessee provided an update of bids for the school security system.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk