

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

James Kay Jessee, Chairman
 Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman
 Gloria E. "Beth" Blair
 Katherine "Kathy" J. McClelland
 Joe D. Meade
 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; Travis Nickels, Central Office Supervisor (effective July 1, 2009); John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent (effective July 1, 2009); Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; John and Nancy Hamilton, Hilton Community Members; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News; M.A. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator, Imagination Library of Scott County; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; Joy Davidson and Annie Ford, Rye Cove High School; Sherry Robinson, Courtney Wallen, Reda Porvey, Twin Springs High School; Sherry Shreve, MECC Career Coach; and Alice Funk, Gear-Up Grant State Coordinator, Southwestern Region.

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

Chairman Jessee announced that since Ms. Alice Funk, Gear Up State Coordinator, Southwestern Region, was not yet present, her presentation would be moved to later during the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF SCOTT COUNTY - M.A.

LUNSFORD, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Mr. M.A. Lunsford, Volunteer Coordinator for the Imagination Library of Scott County, expressed thanks to Chairman Jessee, Superintendent Scott and School Board Members for their time in allowing him to come to them for the past several years and share information. He presented an up to date report on what has been done in past years, explained that the program is a little over \$5,000 behind in payments with a couple of more bills coming in and, that he currently has close to 40 applications that have not been processed due to a lack of funding. He informed the Board that he would be presenting this information at the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow also. He suggested that the two Board's get together and see what the future of this program is going to be and hopefully the Board's will come up with a solution to continue the program and recognize its importance to our children in Scott County. Mr. Lunsford stated that he would answer any questions and is willing to help in any way.

Mrs. McClelland asked how many children get a book, not how many books. Mr. Lunsford stated that we have 564 children that were paid for last year and estimated that there are probably at least 700 to 800 eligible.

Mr. Meade asked a question about the Dollywood as sponsor. Mr. Lunsford explained that Dollywood has never been a sponsor but that the Dollywood Foundation, in 1996, set up the foundation that allows the Imagination Library of Scott County and other entities to purchase the books, valued from \$12-14 for \$2.27 each. Mr. Lunsford explained that the foundation is a catalyst for distributing books to children from birth to five years old and every locality throughout the United States, Canada and England has to pay \$27 per child per year for participating in the program.

There were no other public comments presented during this period.

APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2009, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the May 5, 2009, Regular Meeting as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved claims as follows:

School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,298,953.06 as shown by warrants #8091187-8091570 (#8091251, 8091322-8091330 (voided). School Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$162,142.86 shown by warrants #1011982-1012079. Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$74,428.33 as shown by warrants #7958-8069.

ITEM BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER: SCHOOL SAFETY - KEY CARD ENTRY:

Chairman Jessee stated that at the last meeting he brought up a school safety item and has since done additional study on a key card entry system. He presented a handout with estimates for a key card entry system and explained how the system would work. He also reported that an additional security measure available is a two-way video intercom system that would allow office staff to see the visitors.

Chairman Jessee and fellow members discussed and expressed a concern that there are some schools such as Duffield, Weber City and Gate City High that have offices located a distance from the main entrance. Chairman Jessee reported that the idea came about when, during the winter, local authorities were looking for and arrested a woman who allegedly was looking to abduct a child. He also expressed a concern for the safety of the younger children since he felt they are at a greater risk.

Chairman Jessee provided a proposed "rough" estimate of \$9,556 for one door and \$2,800 for additional and explained that when using the same start up system it would not cost as much (\$6,459 for each additional school). He recommended that if the Board chooses to go with this system, before we seek bids, a school be chosen as a pilot program to see how it works.

Mrs. McClelland recommended that anyone not familiar with the system go to Dobyns Bennett to see how the system works. She expressed that for an elementary school it is really great but also would like to see the system at high schools as well.

Chairman Jessee asked Mrs. McClelland if she wanted to make a motion. Mrs. McClelland stated that she would like to have the system at the elementary schools if funds are available and stated Superintendent Scott would have to address that issue.

APPROVAL OF KEYLESS ENTRY SYSTEM FOR DUFFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WEBER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Mr. Templeton made a motion that, if funds are available, Superintendent Scott be given the authority to seek quotes for the purchase of a Keyless Entry System for Duffield Primary School and Weber City Elementary School, motion

was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye. Superintendent Scott clarified, and Board members agreed, that they would like the system in place in the fall when school starts and that the cost of system would be taken out of funds available after July 1.

Board members discussed that a resource officer is available at each of the high schools and that this action is not changing their status for next school year.

ITEM BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER: COURSE OFFERINGS PRESENTED BY

REVEREND STEVE COLLINS AT FEBRUARY 3, 2009 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Mr. Joe Meade reminded the Board of the presentation at the February 3, 2009 School Board Meeting from Reverend Steve Collins regarding a resolution toward course offerings. He asked Superintendent Scott if he would provide details from what had been previously presented.

Superintendent Scott reminded Board members that this matter was put on hold since he wanted to check with the state to see what courses could count toward re-certification in order to notify teachers. He also explained that a syllabus of each class that would be taught was to be obtained in order for them to be approved but stated he saw no problem with it being counted toward their certification as they can take other courses by satellite or on-line.

Mrs. McClelland asked if they have been sent. Superintendent Scott reported that Reverend Collins is in the process of getting them together and has previously informed them of a couple of classes. Mrs. McClelland asked if the college he is with is accredited or do we know that. Superintendent Scott replied that he does not know if the college is accredited. Mrs. McClelland stated that she felt that is important. She expressed that if teachers are spending their money it needs to be from an accredited college. Superintendent Scott agreed.

Mr. Meade asked if it was University of Virginia at Wise and stated he knows he is teaching some classes there. Superintendent Scott reported that, at the time, Reverend Collins was going to get with UVA at Wise concerning the classes. Superintendent Scott expressed that he would just have to get with him.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REVEREND COLLINS' EFFORTS FOR COURSE OFFERINGS: Mr. Meade stated that in light of what Superintendent Scott has said, all he (Reverend Collins) was wanting at this time is a resolution from this Board in support of his efforts and stated he is making a motion to that effect, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell.

VOTE

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

Nays: Kathy McClelland

Abstain: None

Mrs. McClelland voted "nay" due to a lack of information on the specific college, accreditation status and course offerings.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST FROM RYE COVE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING: Superintendent Scott expressed a concern that the overnight field trip request from Rye Cove Intermediate School for accelerated reader students to Natural Tunnel on August 25-26, 2009 would be between 1 ½ - 2 weeks after school starts back. He reminded the Board of a concern in taking students away from school until testing is completed. He expressed that he didn't see any reason why this particular trip could not be taken prior to the start of school. He reported he has been in touch with the school and recommended that this trip be put on hold until the next school board meeting and suggested that the school change the trip to an earlier date.

Mr. Templeton made a motion to table the overnight field trip request received from Rye Cove Intermediate School for accelerated reader students to Natural Tunnel on August 25-26, 2009 until the next school board meeting as recommended by Superintendent Scott, motion was seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye.

APPROVAL OF \$500 STIPEND FOR MENTOR TEACHERS FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR:

YEAR: Superintendent Scott reported that last year (2007-08) there were a lot more mentor teachers that worked with teachers in their first, second, or third year of teaching. He explained that it was agreed that teachers that qualified for this would receive a \$500 stipend. He explained that this year (2008-09) there were 17 teachers to receive a \$500 stipend for a total of \$8,500. He reported that the amount is small in comparison to what it has been in the last two or three years. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the board approved a \$500 payment for stipends to mentor teachers as follows - 17 Teachers x \$500 = \$8,500:

<u>School</u>	<u>Trained Mentors</u>
Dungannon	Angel Hughes & Karen Hartsock
Fort Blackmore	Bonnie Henry
Gate City Middle	Regina Lockhart
Hilton	Misty Edwards
Nickelsville	Tina Gilmer & Jennifer Collins
Rye Cove High	Todd Baker & Rhea McConnell
Shoemaker	Lori Cox, Lori Collins & Amy Wettack
Twin Springs High	Jordan Mullins & Tracy Garrett
Weber City	Alice Fritz & Laura Pyne
Yuma	Amy Addington

AUTHORIZATION OF SIGNATURES IN ABSENCE OF SUPERINTENDENT: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board authorizes the persons listed below to sign Virginia Department of Education reports, documents, requisitions, and other official correspondence in the absence of the Division Superintendent:

John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent
 Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board/Data Administration Manager/SSWS-Back-up Manager
 Debra Brickey, Coordinator/Student Records Collection

APPROVAL OF VPSA TECHNOLOGY RESOLUTION: 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 VPSA Technology Resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF SCOTT COUNTY DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FROM THE PROCEEDS OF ONE OR MORE GRANTS MADE BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES MADE AND/OR TO BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, Scott County School Board (the "Division") is a political subdivision organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Division has paid, beginning no earlier than July 1, 2009, and will pay, on and after the date hereof, certain expenditures (the "Expenditures") in connection with the capital project (the "Project"), as more fully described in Appendix A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board of the Division (the "Board") has determined that the money [previously advanced no more than 60 days prior to the date hereof and] to be advanced on and after the date hereof to pay the Expenditures are available only for a temporary period and it is necessary to reimburse the Division for the Expenditures from the proceeds of one or more grants to be made by the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Grants") from the proceeds of its tax exempt equipment notes (the "Notes").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board hereby declares the Division's intent to reimburse the Division with the proceeds of the Grants for the Expenditures with respect to the Project made on and after July 1, 2009, which date is no more than 60 days prior to the date hereof. The Division reasonably expects on the date hereof that it will reimburse the Expenditures with the proceeds of the Grants.

Section 2. Each Expenditure [was and] will be of a type properly chargeable to capital account under general federal income tax principles (determined in each case as of the date of the Expenditure).

Section 3. The maximum cost of the Project is expected to be \$414,000.00 (Scott 084) and \$26,000.00 (Renaissance 429 – Scott County).

Section 4. The Division will make a reimbursement allocation, which is a written allocation by the Division that evidences the Division's use of proceeds of the Grants to reimburse an Expenditure, no later than 18 months after the later of the date on which the Expenditure is paid or the Project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three years after the date on which the Expenditure is paid. The Division recognizes that exceptions are available for certain "preliminary expenditures," costs of issuance, certain de minimis amounts, expenditures by "small issuers" (based on the year of issuance and not the year of expenditure) and expenditures for construction projects of at least 5 years.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Second day of June, 2009

James K. Jessee, Chairman (Signature)

Attested to: Loretta Q. Page, Clerk of the Board (Signature)

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Check the Applicable Box(es):

(1) **Classroom Multimedia Network Computers** - requests in this category include only the cost of the new computer system itself (e.g., monitor, CPU, keyboard, mouse, operating system software). Additional software or peripherals such as printers or modems should not be included in this category.

(2) **Internet-Ready Local Area Network (LAN) Capability** – requests in this category include costs related to networking, retrofitting, upgrading of school buildings, and operating software related to Internet-ready local area network capability (e.g., wiring, servers, power upgrade, etc.).

(3) **Assure adequate high-speed, high-bandwidth capability** – requests in this category include costs related to networking, retrofitting, upgrading of school buildings, and operating software related to access the Internet (e.g., wiring, servers, power upgrade, etc.).

(4) **Instructional Software** - requests in this category shall not exceed 1/13th of the amount spent on Classroom Multimedia Network Computers (see A1). Software purchased must have a useful life of at least one year and be included in the division's approved technology plan.

GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE: Superintendent Scott informed Board members that Mr. Tony Street, Architect, is to present drawings for the soccer, track and baseball fields for the sports complex property at the school board office at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8.

REALITY STORE/GEAR UP PROGRAM: Since Ms. Sherry Shreve, Mountain Empire Community College Career Coach, worked with the Gear Up Program and the Reality Store event, Superintendent Scott asked her if she wanted to present information to the Board. Ms. Shreve informed the Board that a Reality Store was held at Gate City High School for the 9th and 11th grade students from Gate City, Rye Cove and Twin Springs High Schools. She reported that Mrs. McClelland, school board member, was one of the volunteers for the event who worked very hard all day. She stated that she explained to the students that her goal for them was to make them realize that if they want a better life that would come from a better job and a better education. She explained that the 9th grade was taken because it was the Gear Up students. She stated that she felt this made the students realize how important education is for them. She reported that there were 80 volunteers from the community and explained that items received for the event were received from several donors. She explained that Ms. Alice

Funk, GEAR UP State Coordinator for the Southwestern Region was the one who initiated the event. Ms. Shreve explained that the Gear Up students are moving to the 10th grade next year and reported that there is so much opportunity for them. She stated that Rye Cove students went to ETSU to see the college and that it was entertaining and they had a very good time.

Mrs. Joy Davidson reported that it was very successful trip. She explained that the students toured the campus and had been given a little preview of ETSU before hand. She stated that the students went from one end of the campus to the other, got to go to the book store and ate lunch before coming back to Rye Cove. She reported that the kids really enjoyed it and the reality event as well. She stated that they were dreading it but once they got there, they loved it and were still talking about it today.

Mrs. McClelland provided details on her experience with the Reality Store and various comments made by the students. Mrs. McClelland commended Ms. Shreve for her hard work and expressed that she did a wonderful job. She expressed that she felt the best part was the community people being there seeing those students being absolutely perfect with their behavior.

Mrs. Shreve reported that it was the whole community working together that helped to make the event such a success and she hopes the event can be held again next year.

Superintendent Scott reported that the GEAR UP Program started three years ago in Scott County when these 9th graders were in the 7th grade. He explained that the program follows the student all the way through high school. He reported that someone said that it is really sad that you don't have more than just that one grade. He reported that the program has gone so well in Scott County that extra funds have been awarded. He also explained that when these students graduate they receive financial aid equal to their Pell grant.

Ms. Shreve reported that Ms. Funk asked her to be at the meeting tonight and explained that they (GEAR UP) have a contract with Mountain Empire Community College and the Career Coach has to spend a certain amount of time with these students. She explained that she usually works with juniors and seniors but that this year that changed and she worked with freshman and seniors. She explained that the contract with the GEAR UP Program was a win win situation due to the cuts that the Virginia community college system took and helps to keep the career coaches in place.

PRESENTATION – GEAR UP GRANT: ALICE FUNK, STATE COORDINATOR, SOUTHWESTERN REGION: Ms. Alice Funk, State Coordinator, Southwestern Region, informed Board members that GEAR UP is a division-wide career awareness and college readiness program. She read a letter written to Dr. Gary Krapf, GEAR UP Director, from a student in another county which underscored the success and difference the GEAR UP program can make in the lives of the students. She stated that this can be any student that is now a part of GEAR UP in Scott County high schools.

She reported that the GEAR UP program is now providing services for 284 students with career awareness and college readiness at Rye Cove High School, Twin Springs High School and Gate City Middle School. She also reported that 5,237 GEAR UP services have been provided for students. She explained that these services provided opportunities to help students find a career that serves their interest and the economic status that they desire, opportunity to be ready for college, dual enrollment classes, academic readiness and other college preparedness activities. She further reported that 455 hours of tutoring has taken place to increase academic performance of the students and 955 opportunities to explore career awareness and readiness through Ms. Sherry Shreve, VCC System/MECC partnership. She reported that there were 1,005 opportunities to visit colleges or meet with college representatives and 120 students and their families participated in events to engage parents

and students in creating a college born culture in Scott County. She also reported that according to the census there are about 8% of adults over the age of 25 that hold a bachelor's degree in Scott County and stated what an impact 284 students can make in the number of citizens on the economic and social capital.

Ms. Funk expressed that this is an exciting project. She reported that with the number of services provided there is a great deal of planning, reporting and opportunities to communicate with students and parents that takes place.

Ms. Funk stated that the program has been a team effort including the principal, guidance counselor, program coordinator, data coordinator, central office administrators, and faculty and staff. Also, Ms. Funk expressed that she truly appreciated the efforts of Superintendent Scott in often attending the meetings held and providing guidance with the program. The following school system personnel were recognized by Ms. Funk for their efforts with the GEAR UP program:

Teresa P. Culbertson, Scott County Schools GEAR UP Program Grant Writer/Director
 Elaine C. Scott, Program Coordinator/Guidance Counselor, Twin Springs High School
 Sherry Shreve, GEAR UP Partnership/MECC Career Coach
 Ashley Compton, Data Coordinator/Twin Springs High School
 Annie Ford, Data Coordinator/Guidance Counselor, Rye Cove High School
 Susan Wolfe, Program Coordinator/Guidance Counselor, Gate City Middle School
 Joy Davidson, Program Coordinator/Rye Cove High School

Mrs. Funk also had certificates of recognition for presentation to the school faculty and staff at each of the three schools for working collaboratively with the program and serving as chaperones for trips. She also recognized and expressed thanks for the efforts of Mr. John Ferguson, Gate City Middle School Principal; Mr. Reagan Mullins, Rye Cove High School Principal; and Mr. Mike Lane, Twin Springs High School Principal.

Superintendent Scott acknowledged Ms. Funk for her efforts on behalf of the school system and expressed thanks for the additional allocation of GEAR UP funding for the school system.

Ms. Funk reported that the school system has professional staff willing to take on projects for the students and meet deadlines ahead of schedule. She expressed thanks to the Board and stated she looks forward to serving them in the future.

PERSONNEL: Superintendent Scott asked that Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent (effective July 1), present the personnel items to the Board.

RETIREMENT: On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the retirement request of Mrs. Bobbie Jo Sanders, Cafeteria Employee, effective end of 2008-09 school year and Mrs. Diane Williams, Secretary, effective May 1, 2009, for medical reasons.

EMPLOYMENT: On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Jeff Casteel as Assistant Principal at Duffield Primary School effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board

approved the employment of Ms. Amber Goode as School Nurse Coordinator effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Chad Hood, Kyndall Wninger, Catherine Moretz, Barbara McDavid, Amy Mann and Sherry Kilgore as new teachers for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Jamie Burke as a custodian effective July 1, 2009.

GATE CITY HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER FOOTBALL COACH: On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved Mr. Gilbert Smith as a Gate City High School Football Volunteer Coach for the 2009-2010 school year.

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of upcoming Assistant Superintendent, John I. Ferguson, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the resignation request of Ms. Deborah Mueller, school bus driver, effective June 5, 2009.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mrs. Blair commended the first year soccer program students at Gate City High School for how well they have done and stated she felt the Board did the right thing.

Superintendent Scott reported that the SOL test scores are still being reviewed but that the preliminary results show outstanding success and that this may very well be the best year yet.

Mr. Meade expressed appreciation for the gentlemen (Mr. John Ferguson and Mr. Travis Nickels) moved to the school board office and that he felt it was the right thing.

ADJOURN UNTIL SCHOOL BUDGET CLOSE-OUT MEETING: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 7:08 p.m. until the school budget close-out meeting scheduled at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2009, at the school board office.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk