

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 6, 2009**

The Scott County School Board met in a regular meeting, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City with the following members present:

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

ABSENT: Kathy J. McClelland

Lowell S. Campbell, Vice-Chairman

Gloria E. "Beth" Blair

Joe D. Meade

Dennis C. Templeton

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; John R. Sigmond, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; Ms. Nancy Godsey, Citizen; Jack Hamilton, Citizen; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times-News; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Frances Perry, Town of Gate City; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association; Billy Nash and Tim Edwards, Maintenance Employees.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. James Kay Jessee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided. Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone in attendance.

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'S COMMENT: Chairman Jessee recognized that the Board is missing one member tonight, Mrs. McClelland, who is undergoing medical treatment and expressed that the Board's thoughts are certainly with her.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield, stated that he has been attending the meetings of the school board for the past three or four years. He commended the Board for the progress of the school system and contributed this success to the current and past Board, Superintendent Scott and support staff. He urged the Board to keep doing what they should be doing for the kids because that is what they were elected to do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of Tuesday, September 1, 2009 Regular Meeting, as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved payroll and claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices and payroll totaling \$1,395,564.57 shown by warrants #8092585-8093003 (#8092324 and 8092641 voided) and \$1,104,783.95 electronic payroll direct deposit and \$525,932.46 electronic payroll tax deposit. Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll totaling \$446,061.59 as shown by warrants #1012269-1012360 and \$10,996.16 electronic payroll tax deposit. Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll totaling \$46,001.62 shown by warrants #8257-8328.

ITEM BY BOARD MEMBER (VACHIP): Superintendent Scott reported that Mr. Mark Mills is still interested in doing the child identification program (VACHIP Initiative) for the school system. He explained that Mr. Mills has made an effort to try to obtain funding but has not been successful. Superintendent Scott further reported on the cost of the two units that is recommended: \$3,900 each unit (\$7,800/total) or, if school system uses their own laptops for the program, then the cost would be \$2,600 each unit (\$5,200 total), depending on the Board's decision. Mr. Joe Meade expressed that he feels strongly about the program, which was recommended by Mr. Mills at a previous meeting (August 5, 2008). Mr. Meade stated he felt the program would be worthwhile for every family and child in this county and even the surrounding counties. Superintendent Scott recommended waiting to see what happens with state

funding for this year. He stated that a decision on the matter would be easier if he had an idea of what will happen with state funding. Mr. Campbell suggested shelving the issue for a couple of months and Superintendent Scott agreed that is his recommendation. Chairman Jessee commented that it would be good if a group, such as the Lion's Club, Rotary Club, etc. could partner with the school system. Superintendent Scott stated that he understands that the (Freemason) Grand Master is changing soon and also that there may be a greater chance of this person obtaining funding toward the program. Mr. Meade requested that Superintendent Scott report back to Mr. Mills regarding this matter. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board tabled a decision on the VACHIP Initiative until the January 2010 school board meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS : 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 Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

David Gray	Parent
Pam Bellamy	Health Department
Phyllis Compton	Parent
Randy Compton	Parent
Sandra Craft	Parent/Retired Teacher
Eileen Deckard	Parent
Joseph Deckard	Parent
April Griffin	Parent
Chad Griffin	Parent
Brenda Robinette	Director of Special Education
Lowell Campbell	School Board Member
Chad Robinette	Assistant Principal
Judy Flanary	Special Education Teacher
Allison Kimbler	Special Education Teacher
Renee' Light	Classroom Teacher
Lisa Dean	Parent/Teacher
Stacy Wood	Assistant Principal Preschool

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL HEALTH /SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the School Health/Safety Advisory Board for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Mrs. Kathy J. McClelland	School Board Member
Mrs. Amber Goode	School Nurse Coordinator
Mr. Travis Nickels	Central Office Representative
Mrs. Katrina Smith Toole	School Psychologist
Mr. Andy Jones	Scott County Sheriff's Office
Mrs. Amy Lawson	Scott County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Kelvin Kimbler	Scott County Sheriff's Office
Ms. Lana Mullins	Scott County Department of Social Services
Mr. Jason Dishner	Scott County Juvenile Probation Officer
Ms. Hope Gardner	Scott County Health Department/Parent
Dr. Todd Cassel	Medical Doctor/Parent
Mr. Jason Smith	Weber City Elementary School Principal
Ms. Theresa Newton	Head Start Representative/Parent
Mrs. Jane Carter	Rye Cove High School Guidance Counselor
Ms. Rebecca Baker	Gate City High School Guidance Counselor
Ms. Brenda Byrd	Yuma Elementary School P.E. Teacher
Mrs. Kathy Funkhouser	Weber City Elementary School Parent
Ms. Connie Adkins	Community Member
Patrick Arwood	Rye Cove High School Student
Joshua Wilson	Gate City High School Student
Carter Kenny	Twin Springs High School Student

APPROVAL OF CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERS: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Career and Technical Center Advisory Council Members for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Tony Anderson	Teacher
Robert Sallee	Teacher
Brent Roberts	Special Needs
Greg Smith	Parent
Brian Smith	Student
Mark Blanton	Business & Industry
Bill Franklin	Business & Industry
Sis Dickenson	Business & Industry
John Kilgore	Business & Industry
Rex McCarty	Business & Industry
Lou Britt	Family & Consumer Science
Desiree Clark	VA Dept of Rehabilitation
Connie Rhoton	Mt. Empire Community College
Tommy Clements	Mt. Empire Community College

APPROVAL OF NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: 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 Nursing Advisory Committee for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Jane Carter	Guidance Counselor	Rye Cove High School
Elaine Scott	Guidance Counselor	Twin Springs High School
Rebecca Baker	Guidance Counselor	Gate City High School
Amber Goode	Nurse Supervisor	Scott County Schools
Jody Hilton	Director of Nursing	Ridgecrest Health Group LLC
Bridgett Casteel	Director of Nursing	Mountain Empire Community College
Margie Aistrop	Instructor	Scott County Career & Tech. Center
Ralph Quesinberry	Principal	Scott County Career & Tech. Center

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2009:

Superintendent Scott made recommendations and reported on maintenance projects scheduled for October and November 2009 as follows:

Drop ceilings: Approx. \$2,000.00 per room
(cannot do all classrooms at same time – recommended GCHS office be done as soon as possible)

GCH	9 classrooms, 1 office
RCH	12 classrooms
Duffield	4 classrooms
WECS	5 classrooms
Shoemaker	18 classrooms, 4 offices
Yuma	9 classrooms

Bathroom stall doors GCMS – doors have been ordered

Front doors RCHS - Locks – a priority for safety reasons

Window locks RCI – have been order should be in this week

Canopies GCMS – safety factor with snow & ice – Jeff Kegley has sprayed sidewalk with substance that will help and obtaining a price on canopies and report back to the Board

Hilton's project – three heating units ordered and will replace all units gradually and with the school system doing project it will be less costly – asked Board members to go by and see Hilton project when they get a chance – several calls received from classroom teachers reporting that changes with the classroom situation has been a lot better since there is less noise

Athletic complex – drawing presented at school board meeting shows that there was enough space to include soccer, baseball and softball fields

Fire alarm systems needed for WCES, Ft. Blackmore, RCHS – currently ringing bell by hand and an automatic system is needed

Hot water in student bathroom sinks: WCES, Duffield, RCHS, Ft. Blackmore, Dungannon,

Nickelsville, GCHS, Shoemaker – not all restrooms have hot water & 2 or 3 clinics need hot water
Waste water lines: RCHS – sewage line stopped up and a solution is needed
Door replacement inside & out: Various schools – working on door replacement with what can be done and keep up with the day to day maintenance needs

Superintendent Scott stated that he could provide a project update to school board members each month. Mr. Meade stated that he appreciates the principals in the school but explained that it is a problem when principals are moved and have different ideas on changing the looks of things etc. at the school with it ending up costing the school system. He stated that, in his opinion, principals need to get maintenance type changes approved for their school through the superintendent and/or maintenance supervisor. Superintendent Scott stated that he would take care of the situation.

UPDATE ON STATE FUNDING: Superintendent Scott provided a state superintendent's memo containing figures based on Governor Kaine's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Reduction Plan. Superintendent Scott explained that the figures received are an example of how funding can be given to you on the one hand and taken away on the other. He reported that sales tax revenue will be less. He explained that according to the governor's reduction plan part of next year's stimulus funding will be taken to balance this year's budget for the state's share of Basic Aid and more of the stimulus funding next year would be taken to balance next year's budget. He explained that since stimulus funds had already been set aside for K-12 education this would affect the school system.

Superintendent Scott also explained to the Board that the plan has a premium holiday with monthly contribution payments being suspended for the 4th quarter (April – June) for the Virginia Retirement System Health Credit and Group Life Insurance. He pointed out that this will help the school system for the fourth quarter of this year but will only cost the school system additional funds next year since the percentage will be increased to make up the difference (13.81 current year and projected 17 percent next year). He also pointed out a comparison that the school system is projected to receive \$1,098,703 for this year's VRS retirement funding and only \$816,119 for next year. He reported that the reduction plan will be quite a bit of difference in revenue for the school system.

Superintendent Scott stated that he feels nothing has changed with his thoughts that the school system will be fine this year especially since the enrollment is a few more students than projected for this year's budget. He stated that, pending what happens with funding, next year and the following one will have to be looked at closely. He informed the Board that the federal stimulus funding is sent directly to the state and can be used by the governor to balance the state budget for any department.

In response to a Board member question concerning an approximate revenue loss figure, Superintendent Scott explained that it is hard to determine an amount since there are different "pots" of stimulus funding and the wording used is either "all" or "certain" parts of stimulus funds. He stated that the school system needs to continue to pay as many early bills as possible and do whatever possible to get ready for whatever might happen in the future.

REPORT ON BIDS FOR PHASE 1 OF SPORTS COMPLEX: Superintendent Scott reported on bids received today for Phase I (Site Grading Package for New Softball, Baseball Field & Soccer Complex) as follows:

Baker Excavating	\$1,248,289
C & S Incorporated	No Bid
Estes Brothers	\$1,344,000
Stallard Construction	No Bid
Summers Taylor	\$893,850
Thomas Construction	\$1,739,000

Superintendent Scott reported that the estimated completion date for Phase I is April 2010 and pending when funding is available, the specifications will be completed for Phase II. He explained that Phase III will be parking, fencing and lighting for the complex. He suggested that the school system go public with a request for assistance toward funding for the project. He reported that the school system has an option of working with the Board of Supervisors and was pleased to report that an interest rate for

borrowing funds at this time is 2.8%. He estimated that the total project cost to be less than \$2 million and that Phase II and III together will cost about as much as Phase I.

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 low bid received on October 6, 2009 from Summers Taylor for the Site Grading Package for New Softball, Baseball Field & Soccer Complex in the base bid amount of \$893,850.00 (unit price for mass rock cu./yd. \$25, unit price for excavation & replacement of poor soils cu./yd. \$20, and time of completion 180 days).

REPORT ON H1N1: Superintendent Scott reported that there were several absences during September due to the flu but that he and Dr. Eleanor Cantrell of the Scott County Health Department worked closely on the matter. He reported that sick students were sent home quickly by the principal and school nurse. He explained that, in considering school closing and scheduling make up work, it is difficult to decide how to make up days. He explained that if you think a lot of students are absent from school for flu reasons more would be absent if school was held on a Saturday.

Superintendent Scott informed the Board that flu vaccines have been completed in some of the schools and will be finished as soon as the remainder needed is received. He reported that more of the regular flu vaccine may be received in November and the H1N1 vaccine in the middle of this month. He explained that the vaccine is given to the school nurses first and then to students. He expressed that he feels things have gone about as good as it could have since the school system has worked closely with at-risk students and teachers on an individual basis as necessary.

CLOSED MEETING: Mr. Campbell made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 7:04 p.m., citing Section 2.2-3711A(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss bus drivers, coaches, school board legal services and teachers, motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 7:43 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, Joe Meade, Dennis Templeton Nays: None
ABSENT DURING VOTE: None ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation request of Ms. Amy Bledsoe as Gate City High School Head Softball Coach, effective September 3, 2009.

EMPLOYMENT: 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 employment of Ms. Sarah Bellamy as Gate City High School Head Varsity Softball Coach, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ms. Cara Hamilton as Gate City High School Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Gail McConnell as Twin Springs High School Junior Varsity Boys Basketball coach, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

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. Kevin Warner as Twin Springs High School 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, effective 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 employment of Ms. Britney Salyer as Twin Springs High School Girls Head Softball Coach, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ms. Linda Cantrell as school bus driver, effective October 7, 2009.

SCHOOL BOARD LEGAL SERVICES: Superintendent Scott reported that the Board advertised for school board legal services and two bids were received: (1) \$120 per hour/12 hours of work per month/\$17,280 per year or \$1,440 per month and (2) flat rate of \$15,000 per year with full access whatever time. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Board approved Mr. Greg Baker to provide school board legal services at a flat rate of \$15,000 per year (24 hours a day - 7 day a week access).

VOTE

Ayes: Gloria E. "Beth" Blair, Lowell S. Campbell, James Kay Jessee, Joe D. Meade

Nay: Dennis C. Templeton

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Meade asked about the sewer problem at Rye Cove that has been brought to his attention. Superintendent Scott reported that this problem is being worked on and hopes the current procedure being done will take care of the problem but, if not, the school system is looking at a bigger project since walls would have to be torn down.

Chairman Jessee commented that during Constitution Week students at Gate City High School constructively used their Bill of Rights in exercising their rights and are to be commended in doing it the right way.

Chairman Jessee and fellow members extended appreciation to Mr. John R. Sigmond for legal services provided and expressed that it has been a pleasure working with him.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Mrs. Loretta Q. Page, Clerk