

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

The Scott County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, September 1, 2009, in the School Board Office Conference Room in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present: James Kay Jessee, Chairman **ABSENT:** None

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

**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; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; Nancy Godsey, Gate City Community Member; John Hamilton, Hilton Community Member; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; Frances Perry, Town of Gate City; Billy R. Nash, Maintenance Employee; John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent; Travis Nickels, Central Office Supervisor; Pat Carroll, DAR Carter's Fort; and Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times-News Reporter.

**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. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda with additions as follows: VII. Items by Superintendent (L.) Flu Vaccine Contracts (M.) Letter to Parents, and (N.) 67904 Grant.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Nancy Godsey spoke during the public comments period stressing that school board members need to uphold their oath of office and presented comments in reference to a previous school board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the August 4, 2009 Regular 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 \$1,440,427.10 as shown by warrants #8092186-8092584 (voided #8092315, 8092360, 8092557 & 8092579 and stopped payment #8083574 & 8083107) and \$1,074,845.98 electronic payroll direct deposit and \$520,324.20 electronic payroll tax deposit. Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$112,465.19 as shown by warrants #1012201-1012268 and \$11,419.61 electronic payroll tax deposit. Scott County Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$45,520.82 as shown by warrants #8178-8256.

**PROCLAMATION: CONSTITUTION WEEK 2009:** Mrs. McClelland introduced Ms. Pat Carroll, Carter's Fort National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Chairperson. Ms. Carroll thanked the superintendent and school board for their support. She reported that last year Scott County came in first in Virginia and the eastern shore area for celebration activities held in Scott County during Constitution Week. She also reported

that Scott County had the best report for the eastern shore area. She stated that all governing bodies are being asked to approve and sign a proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week 2009 (September 17-23). She further reported that a disk, which includes several activities for all grade levels, is distributed to the schools. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the proclamation as follows:

**PROCLAMATION  
CONSTITUTION WEEK 2009**

*Whereas, September 17, 2009 marks the two hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and*

*Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and the anniversary of its creation; and*

*Whereas, public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as constitution week;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, James Kay Jessee, Chairman of the Scott County School Board of Virginia, do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23, 2009 to be**

**CONSTITUTION WEEK**

*And ask our students and school staffs to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.*

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*James Kay Jessee, Chairman  
Scott County School Board  
Gate City, Virginia*

*September 1, 2009*

**VACHIP INITIATIVE:** Mr. Joe Meade stated that at a previous school board meeting Mr. Mark Mills, Postmaster at Nickelsville, presented information on VACHIP, a child identification initiative. He stated that this matter has not been resolved and asked for a vote of confidence or support of the program. After discussion by Superintendent Scott and board members, it was decided that the item would be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Templeton made a motion to table the item until the next meeting and more information is available, motion was seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye.

**REPORT ON SUMMER PROGRAMS:** Superintendent Scott presented a 2009 Remedial Summer School Report and comments on programs as follows:

***Elementary Participants (K-7): 534***

***Secondary Participants (8-12): 25***

***TOTAL: 559***

2009 Program	Number of Participants
Science in the Summer	60
English EOC	6
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Duffield	162
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Shoemaker	144
Lego Robotics	19
EOC SOL Remediation/Testing	19
Remediation WCES	31

Library Nights: Yuma Elementary	32
Library Nights: Rye Cove Intermediate	4
Library Nights: Shoemaker Elementary	7
Library Nights: Nickelsville Elementary	15
Library Nights: Hilton Elementary	21
Library Nights: Weber City Elementary	39

He reported that numbers are down from the previous year and explained that this is contributed to changes in the criteria for counting students and the number of hours.

#### **REPORT ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT & PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO:**

Superintendent Scott stated that student enrollment is 3,822 but if you take off the Pre-K students there are 3,757. He reported that the school division should be okay with enrollment since this year's school budget was based on 3,728 students. He presented pupil/teacher ratios at various schools. He explained that the elementary schools must maintain a certain pupil-teacher ratio in order for K-3 Initiative funding to be received. He further explained that the ratio varies by school and is based on the number of free and reduced lunch students at the elementary schools. Superintendent Scott reported that school divisions were encouraged to have a program for four year olds and explained that this school division was about the only one in the area that did not have a program and that stimulus funds were available for a program although now cuts are being discussed by the governor.

#### **APPROVAL OF SALARY, FRINGE BENEFITS AND SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**COMMITTEE:** 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 following Salary, Fringe Benefits and School Calendar Committee for the 2009-10 school year and gave Superintendent Scott the authority to fill positions for the principal and support staff representatives:

Teresa McKinney	Duffield Primary School
Leslie Elam	Dungannon Intermediate School
Amy Porter	Fort Blackmore Primary School
Debbie Kilgore	Gate City High School
Pat Whitley	Gate City Middle School
Leslie Crawford	Hilton Elementary School
David Gwinn	Nickelsville Elementary School
Barry Wolfe	Rye Cove High School
Patricia Currier	Rye Cove Intermediate School
Robert Sallee	Scott County Career & Technical Center
Dawn Williams	Shoemaker Elementary School
Melanie McMurray	Twin Springs High School
Kim Wilson	Weber City Elementary School
Amy Sallee	Yuma Elementary School
John Ferguson	Central Office Representative
<b>(to be selected)</b>	Principal Representative
<b>(to be selected)</b>	Support Staff Representative
Justin Forrester/Designee	SCEA Representative

**APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

**COMMITTEE:** Mr. Campbell made a motion that Mrs. Beth Blair continue serving on the Communications/School Improvement Committee, motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye. 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 following Communications/School Improvement Committee for the 2009-10 school year and gave Superintendent Scott the authority to fill the position for principal representative:

Ashley Garrett	Duffield Primary School
Lindsey Quillen	Dungannon Intermediate School
Autumn McConnell	Fort Blackmore Primary School
Travis Gilmer	Gate City High School
Betsy Humphreys	Gate City Middle School
Bridgett Rose-Barnett	Hilton Elementary School
Kellie Blackwell	Nickelsville Elementary School
Ashley Hall/Matt Bays	Rye Cove High School
Whitney Parker	Rye Cove Intermediate School
Lowell Fowler	Scott County Career & Technical Center
Seth McConnell	Shoemaker Elementary School
Joey Shipley	Twin Springs High School
Darlene Quillen	Weber City Elementary School
Brenda Byrd	Yuma Elementary School
Jim Scott	Superintendent
Beth Blair	School Board Member
<b>(to be selected)</b>	Principal Representative
Vickie Lane	Support Staff Representative
Justin Forrester/Designee	SCEA Representative

**APPROVAL OF CHARACTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** 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 Character Education Committee for the 2009-10 school year as follows and to include Mr. Joe Meade, school board member, to continue serving on the committee:

Central Office Representative	Travis Nickels
School Board Member	Joe Meade
Principal	Greg Ervin
Community Member	Judy Calton
Parent	Dennis Fritz
Student	Seth Clark
Student	Chynna Roberts
Community Member	Otis Rhoton
Parent/Community Member	Angela White

**APPROVAL OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR FEDERAL**

**PROGRAMS:** 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 Parent Advisory Council for Federal Programs for the 2009-10 school year as follows:

Travis Nickels	Central Office Representative
Haskel Bledsoe	Duffield Primary School
Kristi Farmer	Dungannon Intermediate School
Sandy McMurray	Fort Blackmore Primary School
Mistie Edwards	Hilton Elementary School
Kathy Gilmer	Nickelsville Elementary School
Jennifer Rhoton	Rye Cove Intermediate School

Joanna Spicer  
Regina Kinsler  
Patricia Cunningham

Shoemaker Elementary School  
Weber City Elementary School  
Yuma Elementary School

**APPROVAL OF REMEDIATION PROGRAM STANDARDS COMMITTEE:** 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 Remediation Program Standards Committee for the 2009-10 school year as follows and to include Mrs. Kathy McClelland, school board member, to continue serving on the committee:

Central Office Representative	John Ferguson
Remediation Coordinator	Tammy Quillen
Central Office Supervisor	Travis Nickels
School Board Member	Kathy McClelland
Virginia Cooperative Extension	Patty Collier
Teacher	Joy Davidson
Teacher	Rhonda Dorton
Parent	Kim Davidson
Parent	Kim Gray

**APPROVAL OF SELF-FUNDED SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Self-funded School Health Insurance Fund Committee for 2009-11 (two years) as follows and including Mr. Lowell Campbell, school board member, to continue serving on the committee and Mrs. Angie Vermillion and Mrs. K.C. Linkous to serve as clerical staff:

Lowell Campbell	School Board Member
Jim Scott	Central Office Representative
Kellie Johnson	Principal/Supervisor
Tracy Garrett	Secondary Teacher
Ruby Rogers	Elementary Teacher
Andrea Jessee	Elementary Teacher
Norma Casteel	Support Staff
Susan Greear	Retiree
K.C. Linkous/Angie Vermillion	Central Office Clerical Staff

Note: Committee members must be a participating member of the health insurance fund.

**APPROVAL OF FY 2010 HEAD START ON-GOING AND TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET:** On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the FY 2010 Head Start On-Going and Training and Technical Assistance Budget as submitted in the grant amount of \$1,211,673.00 and Non-federal In-kind in the amount of \$303,918.25 for a total amount of \$1,514,591.25.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Superintendent Scott reported on maintenance items as follows:

- teachers and others are happy with the Hilton Elementary School Project
- restroom doors will be replaced at schools
- drop ceilings will be finished at schools
- architect waiting on sports complex rendering but will go ahead & begin the 3 phases
- air conditioning and heat pumps being worked on at schools
- safety issue concerning windows at Rye Cove Intermediate School
- several little things at the schools need to be worked on
- sidewalk repairs needed for safety purposes at Gate City Middle School

- explained the delay on the installation of the keycard security system at Weber City
- explained the need to wait on some projects until the school division knows what is planned by the governor with regard to funding

It was discussed that facility changes and repairs at schools need to be approved by the superintendent and maintenance supervisor and not the principal of the school.

Mrs. McClelland stated that, with no large projects being planned at this time, minor repair projects could be completed at the schools in a priority order and not so much by schools.

Superintendent Scott stated that a Maintenance Priorities Report would be completed and presented at the next board meeting.

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUT:** Superintendent Scott reported that according to the latest information he received the governor is expected to make a report on proposed budget cuts this Friday. He reported that should the school division receive a 15% cut it would mean approximately \$3,700,000 less funding. He stated that school divisions were encouraged to work fast in hiring personnel for use of stimulus funds available but now are facing a shortfall of state funds from budget cuts.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN-SCHOOL INFLUENZA VACCINE PROGRAM USING SCHOOL NURSES AS VACCINATORS AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN-SCHOOL INFLUENZA VACCINE PROGRAM USING HEALTH DEPARTMENT NURSES:** Superintendent Scott provided detailed information to the school board on flu vaccination plans for the school division and stated that according to what is being planned he thought things would go well. He presented two memorandums of agreement with regard to flu vaccinations. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board gave Superintendent Scott the authority to enter into contracts as presented and discussed.

**LETTER TO PARENTS (INFLUENZA):** Superintendent Scott provided board members with a copy of a letter being sent to parents or guardians which contains information that is helpful to them concerning influenza.

**VARIOUS TITLE 1 SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING:** Superintendent Scott reported that Duffield-Pattonsville Primary, Fort Blackmore Primary, Hilton Elementary, Nickelsville Elementary, Rye Cove Intermediate, Shoemaker Elementary, Weber City Elementary and Yuma Elementary Schools earned the distinction of Title I Distinguished School for the 2008-09 school year and that \$8,488 will be awarded for each eligible school to purchase materials and supplies for professional development activities. He stated that the funds (\$67,904.00 total) are to be spent by September 30, 2010.

**CLOSED MEETING:** There was no motion to enter into a closed meeting.

**RESIGNATION:** On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board accepted the resignation requests of Mrs. Deborah Taylor, school bus driver, effective August 17, 2009 (to remain on substitute school bus driver list); Mrs. Tierstan Bright, Head Start Teacher, effective August 10, 2009; Mr. Larry Joe Hill, custodian,

effective August 24, 2009; Mr. Terry Fields from the position of Rye Cove High School Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach, effective September 1, 2009; and Mr. Luke Vermillion, school bus driver/custodian, effective August 31, 2009.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Assistant Superintendent John I. Ferguson explained that four teaching assistants being recommended for employment will assist teachers of the program for four year olds. On the recommendation of 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 Ms. Audra Hartsock, teaching assistant, effective August 14, 2009; Ms. Cheryl Peters, teaching assistant, effective August 14, 2009; Ms. Christie Billips, teaching assistant, effective August 18, 2009; and Ms. Reba Kindle, teaching assistant, effective August 20, 2009.

On the recommendation of 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 Mrs. Tierstan Bright, elementary teacher, effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Mr. Gary Moore, custodian, effective August 26, 2009 and Mr. Tyler Trail, custodian, effective September 1, 2009.

On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Ms. Pheobe Pape, school bus driver, effective September 1, 2009.

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 employment of Ms. Brittany Starnes, teaching assistant, effective August 18, 2009.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (STUDENT ACTIVITIES PASS CARDS):** Mr. Templeton asked Superintendent Scott about student activities (athletics) pass cards for the schools. Superintendent Scott stated that the schools are willing to try to help families during these economic times by providing a pass card for students. He also stated that there are several ways in which the card could be provided. He recommended that the school division give student passes a try this year and look at family passes for next year. He stated that an amount needs to be reached that is fair to the participants, school system and sports program. He explained that principals are aware that this may cost some gate receipts but hope that it can be made up in other ways. Mrs. McClelland presented activities card information for Dobyns-Bennett High School as an example. Superintendent Scott stated that principals had mentioned a figure of \$75 or \$80 to include all sports programs. It was decided that the passes would be made available for all elementary and high school students as soon as possible and Superintendent Scott explained that he could meet with the principals tomorrow. It was discussed that a pass would include all sporting events at the school except the playoff or tournament games. Board members gave Superintendent Scott the authority to handle this matter with the high school principals in working out details and setting an amount to be charged for the card.

Mr. Meade presented comments regarding controversy a few months ago with a challenge being placed and no calls being received.

Mrs. McClelland expressed thanks to fellow members, personnel and the community for their support during her recent illness.

Chairman Jessee thanked fellow members for all their hard work.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk