

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

The Scott County School Board met for a public hearing on the Proposed 2010-2011 School Budget and regular meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, in the Scott County Career & Technical Center Auditorium in Gate City, Virginia, with the following members present:

James Kay Jessee, Chairman	<u>ABSENT:</u> None
Lowell S. Campbell, Vice Chairman	
Gloria E. "Beth" Blair	
Joe D. Meade	
Katherine J. "Kathy" McClelland	
Dennis C. Templeton	

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Division Superintendent; John Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent; Greg Baker, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association President; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News; Ralph Quesinberry, Scott County Career & Technical Center Director/Principal; Travis Nickels, Central Office Supervisor; Danny Meade, Maintenance Supervisor; Angie Vermillion, Anita Howell, Debby Brickey and Jean Quillen, Central Office Employees; Tim Edwards and Billy Nash, Maintenance Employees; Nancy Godsey, Jack Newland, Henry Clabaugh, John Barger and William Quillen, Citizens; Gerald Miller, Town of Duffield Mayor; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Kellie Johnson, Weber City Elementary School Principal; Christy Miller, Gate City Middle School Teacher; Jason Smith, Gate City Middle School Principal; Amber Smith, Weber City Elementary School, Assistant Principal/Teacher; Laura Pyne, Weber City Elementary School Teacher; Matt and Vicki Kimbler, Citizens.

CALL TO ORDER - PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Jessee called the Public Hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Jessee stated that the purpose of the meeting is for a public hearing on the Proposed 2010-2011 School Budget.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA: On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda as submitted.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2010-2011 SCHOOL BUDGET/ ADJOURNMENT: The audience was given an opportunity for

public comments on the Proposed 2010-2011 School Budget for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

After a brief period and there being no comments from citizens concerning the Proposed 2010-2011 School Budget, Chairman Jessee asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned the public hearing at 5:46 p.m. Chairman Jessee informed the public that the regular meeting would begin at 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER- REGULAR MEETING: Chairman Jessee called the Regular Meeting of the Scott County School Board to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for their interest in the school system.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA: Superintendent Scott requested additions to the revised agenda as follows: Items By Superintendent (H.) Approval of Three Month Line of Credit Extension, (I.) Snow & Schedule Changes (J.) Legislative Conference in Richmond – February 18 & 19. On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the revised agenda with additions as submitted by Superintendent Scott.

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION: Superintendent Scott stated that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Robert F. McDonnell) sent a Certificate of Recognition for School Board Appreciation Month. He expressed thanks to the Board for their time and effort on behalf of the students. He presented certificates received from the Virginia School Boards Association honoring the school board members for their service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Vicki Grimes Kimbler, citizen, presented comments to the Board in regard to her former employment with the school system, various years of percentages of highly qualified teachers in elementary schools and future employment.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 5, 2010 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the January 5, 2010 Regular Meeting.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the January 12, 2010 Special Meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Mr. Templeton asked Superintendent Scott about the balance on the account for the line of credit. Superintendent Scott presented information to the Board on the balance of the credit used, interest charged and reported that full payment has been made. On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved payroll and claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of \$1,184,185.08 as shown by warrants #8094168-8094491 & \$1,135,224.29 electronic payroll direct deposit & \$551,371.90 electronic payroll tax deposit. Cafeteria Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of \$123,325.29 as shown by warrants #1012628-1012740 (#1012645-1012687 voided) & \$11,013.19 electronic payroll tax deposit. Scott County Head Start invoices & payroll in the amount of \$56,976.76 as shown by warrants #8540-8608.

ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN/HEALTH INSURANCE: Mrs. McClelland reported that several employees have talked with her and other board members regarding the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. She explained that some of the employees do not have a clear understanding of this year's plan as it is different and does not include payment of the retiree's health insurance premium by the Board. She further explained that the retirees need to understand that if they choose to purchase the school system's health insurance, a full premium; which includes both the employee and employer's share, would be taken out of their ERIP incentive payment amount. The incentive amount of \$12,0000 for classified personnel or \$9,000 for non-classified personnel can be used toward the purchase of their health plan with the current cost being as follows: \$6,000 retiree only health plan; \$7,800 retiree/child health plan; \$9,360 retiree/spouse health plan and \$13,320 retiree/family health plan.

AWARDS: SCOTT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2010 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, 2010 BOARD OF EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARD; AND 2010 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMPETENCE TO EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Superintendent Scott presented information to the Board as follows: 2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence - Scott County schools were among the 153 Virginia public schools earning the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. He explained that this award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Board of Education in 2007 to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda promoting advanced learning and achievement. To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve applicable excellence goals for elementary reading,

enrollment in Algebra I by grade 8, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, attainment of advanced diplomas, increased attainment of career and industry certifications, and participation in the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Schools and school divisions also earn bonus points for other performance measures, including the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Scorecard. Scott County schools earning the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence are as follows: Duffield-Pattonsville Primary School, Fort Blackmore Primary School, Hilton Elementary School and Shoemaker Elementary School.

2010 Board of Education's Excellence Award - Scott County School Division and schools were among the fifteen school divisions and 288 schools earning the Board of Education Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program, have met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by Governor Kaine and the board. The *Scott County School Division* received the Board of Education Excellence Award and schools earning the Board of Education Excellence Awards are as follows: Nickelsville Elementary School, Rye Cove Intermediate School, Weber City Elementary School and Yuma Elementary School.

2010 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award - Scott County schools were among the 281 schools earning the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award for having met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board. Scott County schools receiving the awards are as follows: Dungannon Intermediate School, Gate City High School, Gate City Middle School, Rye Cove High School and Twin Springs High School.

Superintendent Scott expressed that he is proud of the teachers, schools and everyone that took part in this achievement.

Chairman Jessee commended everyone from the custodians to the superintendent for this success.

APPROVAL OF HEAD START PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS SUMMARY REPORT FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2008-2009:
Superintendent Scott presented the Head Start Program Self-Assessment Results Summary Report for Program Year 2008-2009 which was submitted and requested for approval by Head Start. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye,

the Board approved the Head Start Program Self-Assessment Results Summary Report for the Program year 2008-2009.

APPROVAL OF WAIVER OF PRE-LABOR DAY OPENING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR: Superintendent Scott explained that the school system meets the criteria set forth by the Virginia Department Of Education for the waiver of Pre-Labor Day opening requirements because of the number of days missed due to inclement weather and presented information as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Days Missed</u>	
2009-2010	7*	*As of 2/2/10
2008-2009	10	
2007-2008	5	
2006-2007	4	
2005-2006	6	
2004-2005	4	
2003-2004	8	
2002-2003	14	
2001-2002	8	
2000-2001	7	

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 Waiver of Pre-Labor Day Opening Requirements for the 2010-2011 school year.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING NON-RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS FOR NON-TENURED TEACHERS AND NON-CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: Superintendent Scott informed the Board that due to the budget funding situation, he plans to send out letters to non-tenured teachers as has been done in the past. He explained that the letter would state that he is planning to recommend to the Board, probably at the March 2 meeting, that their contract not be renewed for the 2010-2011 school year and notifying them of the timeframe that they may request a conference. He also recommended that due to the current budget funding situation, that non-renewal of contract letters be sent to the non-classified personnel as well. He reported that the school system has not sent letters to the non-classified personnel in prior years; however, he provided an opportunity for school board members to express their views and ask questions.

No board members expressed any objections regarding sending the letters. It was requested that attention be given to the wording. Superintendent Scott explained that School Board Attorney Greg Baker would be assisting with the proper notification letter to be sent to the non-classified personnel.

UPDATE ON 2009-2010 SCHOOL BUDGET & 2010-2011

PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET: Superintendent Scott explained that the schools system expects to receive less funding this school year according to the governor's December projections. He also reported that the Senate and House will be presenting their own proposals, which he expects will contain even higher funding cuts. He explained that everything is "still up in the air" due to this being the long session of the General Assembly. He reported that it will probably be sometime around March 17 or 18 before final figures are received. He further reported that with both this year and next year's funding cut, it could be as much as 2.6 million. He provided an opportunity for Board members to ask questions.

Superintendent Scott reported that he has been notified that there will not be an increase in cost for the school system's insurances for property, vehicles, liability, etc. which are currently provided through the Virginia School Boards Association. He reported that there has been an increase in expense for electrical service and that the largest increase was those received from Appalachian Power Company.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF

SUPERVISORS: Superintendent Scott reported that Mr. Rufus Hood, County Administrator, requested a joint meeting to be held with the School Board and County Board of Supervisors on March 26. After discussion, school board members expressed an interest in having a joint meeting scheduled but not on Friday, March 26. Superintendent Scott reported that he plans to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow (February 3) and would inform them of the discussion and try to work out a mutual time for a meeting.

APPROVAL OF 3 MONTH EXTENSION FOR LINE OF CREDIT:

Superintendent Scott reported that state funding is received bi-monthly and, along with those funds, the school system receives additional local funds. He commented that, as was stated earlier in tonight's meeting, the line of credit used and interest charged has been repaid. He explained that, as was the situation last school year, due to the schedule for receipt of state and federal funds, the school system has been "just getting by." Therefore, he felt it necessary to request approval of a three month extension for use of the line of credit and further stated that this request must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors as well.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board authorized a three month extension for the use of the line of credit with Powell Valley National Bank and request is to be submitted to the County Board of Supervisors for approval.

SNOW SCHEDULE: Superintendent Scott reported that as of today seven days have been missed this school year but, in comparison, area school systems have missed more days. He made board members aware that school will be on a two hour delay tomorrow and explained that a few students will not be picked up as a few buses will not run due to the road conditions. He reported that school system personnel checked roads today and the state highway department personnel have worked on the roads all day. He explained that in situations such as this there are a few students affected but he has asked that these students be provided assistance so that they can keep caught up on their school work. He explained that it is not feasible to wait until all roads are perfectly clear as there are only a few students not able to attend for those few bus runs; and, this is a small number of the total enrollment. He reported that there are several more weeks of winter and potential inclement weather and that this will just have to be reviewed on a day to day basis.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 18 & 19:

Superintendent Scott asked that should any members wish to attend the Legislative Conference in Richmond on February 18 & 19, they need to inform Mrs. Page, Clerk.

CLOSED MEETING: Mrs. McClelland made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 6:49 p.m., according to Section 2.2-3711A(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss central office staff and teachers; motion was seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 7:33 p.m. and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board returned to regular session and considered the following certification of the closed meeting:

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Scott County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires certification by this Scott County School Board that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Scott County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Scott County School Board in the closed meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Beth Blair, Lowell Campbell, Kay Jessee, Kathy McClelland, Joe Meade, Dennis Templeton
Nays: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

No action was taken on the personnel discussed in closed meeting.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the request from Rye Cove High School FCCLA students to attend the State Leadership and Recognition Conference in Virginia Beach, VA, April 15-18, 2010.

On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the request from Rye Cove High School band students to attend the All-State Band Auditions at JMU in Harrisonburg, VA, February 26-27, 2010.

On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the request from Twin Springs High School band students to attend the All-District Division VII Band at the Bristol Conference Center in Bristol, VA, February 5-6, 2010 (Friday & Saturday).

RESIGNATION: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the resignation request of Mr. Darren Reed from the position of Gate City Middle School Track Coach.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN: Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, explained amendments to the classified and non-classified ERIP and recommended approval. On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the amendment to the Scott County Schools 2010 ERIP for Classified and Non-classified Personnel. The amended ERIP is as follows:

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS 2010 ERIP PROPOSAL FOR
NON CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (Secretaries, Cooks, Custodians, Maintenance, Teaching Assistants,
Mechanics, School Nurses)**

ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the ERIP is subject to the approval of the School board, based on the following factors:

- Retiree must be a permanent full time employee with at least 12 years of service with Scott County Schools.*
- Retiree must be currently employed and in good standing with the Scott County School Board;*
- and*
- Retiree must notify the SUPERINTENDENT OF SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS in writing, by March 7, 2010 (special situations between June 30 and December 31, 2010, will be considered) when meeting all of the previous factors and choosing to apply for the ERIP. Retirees under this plan are not required to work any workdays.*

INCENTIVE A:

Retiree will receive \$9,000 per year for 13 years or until the individual reaches age 65, whichever comes first. The retiree may choose to have his/her health and dental premiums taken out of the \$9,000. If an individual chooses to continue to take the school system's insurance, any money left over after the premiums have been paid in full on a yearly basis will be given to the individual for the remainder of the 13 years. In the event of the retiree's death, the balance of the ERIP owed will be paid to the retiree's estate.

INCENTIVE B:

Individuals over the age of 65 with at least 5 years experience with Scott County Schools will receive \$18,000 split over two installments of \$9,000 the first year and \$9,000 the second year. In the event of the retiree's death, the balance of the ERIP owed will be paid to the retiree's estate.

Employee Signature

Date:

EMPLOYER: SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

BY: _____ **Date:** _____

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS 2010 ERIP PROPOSAL FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the ERIP is subject to the approval of the School board, based on the following factors:

Retiree must be a permanent full time employee and have at least 20 years of service with Scott County Schools or a total of 22 years teaching experience.

Retiree must be currently employed and in good standing with the Scott County School Board; and

Retiree must notify the SUPERINTENDENT OF SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS in writing, by March 7, 2010 (special situations between June 30 and December 31, 2010, will be considered) when meeting all of the previous factors and choosing to apply for the ERIP. Retirees under this plan are not required to work any workdays.

INCENTIVE A:

Retiree will receive \$12,000 per year for 13 years or until the individual reaches age 65, whichever comes first. The retiree may choose to have his/her health and dental premiums taken out of the \$12,000. If an individual chooses to continue to take the school system's insurance, any money left over after the premiums have been paid in full on a yearly basis will be given to the individual for the remainder of the 13 years. In the event of the retiree's death, the balance of the ERIP owed will be paid to the retiree's estate.

INCENTIVE B:

Individuals over the age of 65 with at least 5 years experience with Scott County Schools will receive \$18,000 split over two installments of \$9,000 the first year and \$9,000 the second year. In the event of the retiree's death, the balance of the ERIP owed will be paid to the retiree's estate.

Employee Signature

Date:

EMPLOYER: SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

BY: _____ **Date:** _____

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk