

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010**

The Scott County School Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 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
Joe D. Meade
Katherine "Kathy" J. McClelland
Dennis C. Templeton

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: James B. Scott, Superintendent; John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent; Greg Baker, School Board Attorney; Loretta Q. Page, School Board Clerk; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk; Justin Forrester, SCEA; Suzanne Goins, VPE; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News; Billy Nash and Tim Edwards, Maintenance Employees; John Hamilton, Citizen; Ramona Russell, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant; Cynthia Dorton, Duffield Primary School Principal; Autumn McConnell, Fort Blackmore Primary School Teacher; Timothy Spicer, Hilton Elementary School Principal; Renee Dishner, Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal; Dr. Kellie Johnson, Weber City Elementary School Principal; Kathryn E. Musick, Shoemaker Elementary School Principal; Sammy O. Parks, Yuma Elementary School Principal; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Gerald Miller, Mayor of Duffield; and, M.A. Lunsford, Imagination Library of Scott County Representative.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jessee called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Superintendent Scott requested additions to the agenda as follows: (Items By Superintendent) **I.** Cafeteria Food Expenses and **J.** Consideration of Extension of ERIP. On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda with additions as submitted by Superintendent Scott.

PRESENTATION: 2010 DISTINGUISHED TITLE I SCHOOL AWARDS: Superintendent Scott explained that this is the "second go around" for the school division receiving Distinguished Title I School Awards. He reported that the federal and state government recognizes schools making adequate yearly progress and receiving accreditation for two consecutive years. He explained that these schools will be awarded additional state funding, which can be shared with the Board when figures are received. He further explained that since it will possibly be sometime during the spring when funds are awarded this funding would be spent next school year. Each school received a round of applause from the audience as Superintendent Scott presented the Distinguished Title I School Awards to representatives from the schools as follows: Duffield Primary School (Cindy Dorton, Principal), Fort Blackmore Primary School (Autumn Gillenwater McConnell, Teacher), Hilton Elementary School (Tim Spicer, Principal), Rye Cove Intermediate School (Renee Dishner, Principal), Shoemaker Elementary School (Kathy Musick, Principal), Weber City Elementary School (Dr. Kellie Johnson, Principal), and Yuma Elementary School (Sammy Parks, Principal).

Superintendent Scott and board members expressed pride and commended the schools for their accomplishments and success. They extended best wishes for continued success as well.

Principals were provided an opportunity to speak and gave credit for this accomplishment to the efforts of the superintendent, school board members, administrators and staff, students, parents, grandparents, and everyone working together.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone in the audience and opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. M.A. Lunsford, Imagination Library of Scott County Representative, stated that he was present to clear up and to explain any matters necessary pertaining to the "Memorandum of Understanding" presented at the December school board meeting. He requested that Superintendent Scott put the Imagination Library on the Board's agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Greg Baker, School Board Attorney, informed Mr. Lunsford that the problem was that the request received was for a two year commitment and explained that there is no budget in place with funds allocated. He reported that he feels the board agrees with the concept but needs to have a budget approved.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AND JOINT MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the March 2, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 25, 2010 Joint Meeting Minutes as submitted.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: On a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved payroll and claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$1,058,648.13 as shown by warrants #8094848-8095199 and \$1,088,883.09 electronic payroll deposit and \$520,714.95 electronic payroll tax deposit. Cafeteria Fund invoices and payroll in the amount of \$137,155.76 as shown by warrants #1012819-1012905 and \$11,349.52 electronic tax deposit. Head Start invoices and payroll in the amount of \$41,226.59 as shown by warrants #8693-8743 (#8665 voided \$420: replacement warrants #8691 \$346 & 8692 \$74).

DISCUSSION OF PROPERTY/AUTOMOBILE/LIABILITY/WORKERS' COMPENSATION/STUDENT INSURANCE: Superintendent Scott reported that the school system has been satisfied with the insurance services provided this school year from the Virginia School Boards Association. He explained that there are two local representatives available, with one being in Abingdon and the other in Wise. He was pleased to report a cost savings proposal for the 2010-2011 school year as follows:

<u>Type Policy</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011 (PROPOSAL)</u>
General Liability	\$3,355	\$3,355
Auto Liability & Physical Damage	\$39,648	\$27,260
(Excess Liability \$1,000,000)		+ <u>\$11,015</u>
		\$38,275
School Board Legal Liability	\$4,486	\$4,486
Property	\$50,629	\$50,584
Boiler & Machinery	\$5,063	\$5,058
Crime	\$800	\$800
Workers' Compensation	\$102,103	\$96,975
Student Accident Insurance	\$28,521	\$28,521
GRAND TOTAL	\$234,605	\$228,054

APPROVAL OF MILK AND BREAD BIDS: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved a continuation of bid conditions and pricing agreements for milk and bread products as follows:

Flav-O-Rich Dairies as milk vendor for a continuation, for the 2010-2011 school year, of the bid conditions and bid pricing agreement from the 2009-2010 school year which included an Escalator Clause: Milk prices will be increased/decreased monthly by \$0.0010 per half pint for every .15 per hundred weight change in raw milk from the base contract level.

Flav-o-Rich (Milk Vendor)	\$99,023.50 (continuation of 2009-2010 bid)
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Sara Lee Bakery as Bread vendor for a continuation of bid conditions and bid pricing agreement from the 2009-2010 school year for the 2010-2011 school year.

Sara Lee Bakery (bread vendor)	\$294,409.20 (continuation of 2009-2010 bid)
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Product Number	Product Description	Net Units	2010-2011 Pricing
43	BREAD WHITE ROUNDTOP	4,259	\$1.26
3000	BUNS 4" WHEAT 12CT	5,355	\$1.47
3577	ROLL SLICED SOFT HOAGIE 6CT	2,121	\$1.26
24440	CONEYS 12CT	3,205	\$1.31
51566	BAGEL DLX BLUEBERRY 6C22Z BSKT	180	\$1.89
51567	BAGEL DLX CINNAMON RAISIN 6C22Z BSKT	31	\$1.89
53067	BREAD CLASSIC 100% WHOLE WHEAT	244	\$1.26

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS SALE: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved a surplus sale to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010 and a list of items to be sold as submitted.

APPROVAL OF HEAD START PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS SUMMARY REPORT 2009-2010: Superintendent Scott informed board members that the Head Start Program will be audited the last of April. 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 Head Start Program Self-Assessment Results Summary Report Program Year 2009-2010 as submitted and approved by the Head Start Policy Council.

APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT TECHNOLOGY PLAN THROUGH 2011: Superintendent Scott explained that the Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2010-15 was approved by the Virginia Board of Education on January 14, 2010; however, school divisions will need to align their own technology plan with the new plan and have been given another year's extension to do so. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved extending the current Scott County Schools Technology Plan through 2011.

APPROVAL OF RACE AND ETHNICITY IDENTIFICATION NOTIFICATIONS: Superintendent Scott explained that according to new guidelines regarding race and ethnicity data collection the school division will be sending out letters and forms to parents, guardians and staff. On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff as per the following letters and SCPS Form 1-A & 1-B:

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff. The federal government, which requires all states to collect this information, has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories.

The federal government has developed these new categories in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. This will enable individuals to be identified in ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category. In the past, forms allowed individuals to be identified in only one racial category.

Currently, Scott County Public Schools (SCPS) asks families to provide information on student's race and ethnicity at the time of enrollment. Beginning in the spring 2010, we will ask the families of newly enrolled students AND of all current students to complete a brief form to update information on their children's ethnicity and race. The collection of data from staff will occur at a later date.

The data with the new ethnicity and race categories will be used in the same manner that such information is currently used. For example, the federal government uses racial and ethnic data in reporting and analyzing test results, such as the Virginia Standards of Learning. The new categories will replace all existing categories for use in state and federal data collections that include data on ethnicity or race.

Enclosed is the new form with instructions for completing it. Information regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity also is available on the SCPS web site at <http://scott.k12.va.us/ethnicityrace>.

Respectfully,

James B. Scott, Superintendent of Schools

Dear Colleagues:

Each year, every school district in Virginia is required to report to the state staff data by race and ethnicity categories that are set by the Federal government. Accurate racial and ethnic data help us conduct research and evaluation as well as comply with Federal and state equal employment opportunity laws.

The state of Virginia does not report individual data to the federal government, but does report the total number of educational staff in various categories in each school. The Federal government recently changed the reporting categories for staff data. As a result, you have the opportunity to update your race and ethnicity data in your record, if you wish to do so. You may now identify yourself by ethnicity (either Hispanic/Latino or not Hispanic/Latino) and by one or more racial groups (American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African-American, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, White). Starting with the 2010-2011 school year, all schools in Virginia will report student and staff data to the Virginia Department of Education using the new format and categories.

Please complete the enclosed form and return to your school board office by [date]. If we do not hear back from you, a designated school staff member will observe and select racial and ethnic categories on your behalf, as required by the Federal government for aggregate reporting. Please contact the school board office if you would like to check your race and ethnicity information currently on file.

For more information about the student data reporting categories, please visit our web site at <http://scott.k12.va.us/ethnicityrace> or you may contact Debby Brickey at 276-386-6118.

Respectfully,

James B. Scott, Superintendent of Schools

APPROVAL OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATES: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved high school graduation dates as follows:

Twin Springs High School: Friday – June 4 – 7 p.m.
 Rye Cove High School: Saturday - June 5 – 9 a.m.
 Gate City High School: Monday – June 7 – 7 p.m.

Alternative dates that were submitted and discussed; however, it was decided that due to the numerous conflicts with other events, the above schedule would be the only schedule approved.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL BUDGETS: Superintendent Scott reported that the state and federal funding loss together is a shortfall of approximately 4 million dollars next year. He explained that the state shortfall is approximately 2.8 million. He reported that it is being said there is a \$900,000 shortfall; however, he explained that this amount is only in comparison to the governor's amended budget presented in December, not in comparison to original budget figures. It was discussed that stimulus funding remains uncertain and the state plans to apply for Race To The Top funds in the second round of applications. Superintendent Scott reported that once again next year is a concern but the following year is of an even greater concern with funding. Superintendent Scott reported that a little more than half of the stimulus funding will be spent this year. He provided an opportunity to answer any questions. Superintendent Scott also reported that the plans are to request school board approval of next year's school budget at the May school board meeting and submit the school budget to the Board of Supervisors the following day at their meeting and then send out employee contracts.

APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS FOOD BUYING CO-OPERATIVE (SAM) AND EXTENSION OF CURRENT CONTRACT FOR FOOD AND SUPPLIES: On the recommendation of Superintendent Scott and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved Scott County Public Schools continuation in the partnership with the Southern Appalachian Mountains Food Buying Co-operative (SAM) and the current contract for purchasing food and supplies through the Co-op would be extended for the 2010-2011 school year beginning August 1, 2010 and ending July 31, 2011.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN: Superintendent Scott reported that he couldn't answer why certain employees did not apply prior to the deadline; however, he informed the Board that he had been approached by a couple of employees about retirement with an ERIP benefit. After discussion of this opportunity to maybe help save jobs, the Board agreed to extend the ERIP. 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 extension of this year's Early Retirement Incentive Plan until April 15, 2010.

CLOSED MEETING: Mrs. McClelland made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 6:48 p.m., according to Section 2.2-3711A(1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to discuss all classifications of personnel and to discuss legal matters concerning pending and future contractual matters involving the school system, motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING: All members returned from closed meeting at 8:24 p.m. and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board returned to regular session and considered the following closed meeting certification as cited by Mrs. McClelland:

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

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request received from the Scott County Career & Technical Center students and sponsors to the State Skills USA Leadership Conference in Hampton, Virginia on April 22-25, 2010.

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – TEACHERS & GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP retirement requests of teachers and guidance counselor as follows:

Marie Barker, Weber City Elementary School Teacher, December 31, 2010

Jennifer Beavers, Hilton Elementary School Teacher

Teresa Dishner, Gate City High School Teacher

Johnene Galloway, Hilton Elementary School Teacher, effective February 28, 2011

Teresa Gardner, Gate City Middle School Teacher, effective December 31, 2010

Patsy Lewis, Fort Blackmore Primary School Special Education Teacher

Regina Lockhart, Gate City Middle School Teacher, effective December 31, 2010

Elaine C. Scott, Twin Springs High School Guidance Counselor, effective June 30, 2010

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – SUPERINTENDENT: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP request of Mr. James B. Scott, Superintendent, effective December 31, 2010.

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – CAFETERIA EMPLOYEES: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP requests of cafeteria employees as follows:

Emogene Bright, Hilton Elementary School Cafeteria Employee
 Wilma (Susie) Childress, Duffield Primary School Cafeteria Employee, December 31, 2010
 Ada Darnell, Twin Springs High School Cafeteria Employee
 Vivian Gilbert, Duffield Primary School Cafeteria Employee
 Shirley Harper, Cafeteria Employee, effective December 31, 2010
 Delores Johnson, Gate City Middle School Cafeteria Employee
 Gaynelle F. "Vicky" Jones, Weber City Elementary School Cafeteria Employee
 Deanna Nickels, Fort Blackmore Primary School Cafeteria Employee
 Sharon Smith, Shoemaker Elementary School Cafeteria Employee

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – TEACHING ASSISTANTS: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP requests of teaching assistants as follows:

Lorene Counts, Hilton Elementary School Teaching Assistant
 Margaret Louise Dorton, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant, end of school year
 Lois Herron, Shoemaker Elementary School Teaching Assistant
 Danise Snodgrass, Gate City High School Teaching Assistant

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – CUSTODIANS: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP requests of custodians as follows:

Gary Bowen, Gate City High School Custodian, December 31, 2010
 Fleda Kern, Rye Cove Intermediate School Custodian
 Richard J. Sexton, SCCTC Custodian, December 31, 2010

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN – SECRETARIES: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the ERIP requests of school and central office secretaries as follows:

Lynn Cassell, Weber City Elementary School Secretary, effective October 31, 2010
 Ellen Stacey, Gate City Middle School Secretary
 Kim Fansler, Central Office Secretary
 Jean Quillen, Central Office Secretary

APPROVAL OF LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the leave-of-absence request of Ms. Jessica D. Thomas, Yuma Elementary School Teacher, effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

APPROVAL OF VOLUNTEER COACH: On the recommendation of Mr. John I. Ferguson and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved Dustin Lucas as a Gate City High School Volunteer Coach effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Templeton stated that he often gets questions as to why the school system cannot add 12 or 15 minutes on each school day so that the school system would never have to make up missed school days. Also, why the school system doesn't follow the policy the

neighboring schools follow and according to Virginia state law: Virginia school divisions are required to have school 180 days or 990 instructional clock hours. Mr. Templeton asked Superintendent Scott to explain to all present and for all employees, so they can get an explanation from the school board meeting minutes; why Scott County Schools follow the make-up day policy that is currently practiced.

Superintendent Scott explained that it would not be real easy to keep up with the 990 instructional hours or instructional time due to the many factors involved such as the early dismissals, snow schedules, lunch periods, club meetings, pep rallies, as well as the difference at the high school and grade school levels, issues due to the difference between each of the three high schools, the various number of contracted days for employee contracts and he also presented an example of how there could be a potential for a loss of funding with the cafeteria and the general fund having to supplement the program. He stated that he couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments of the school division on testing and contributes this in part to the school division's attempts to protect instructional class time. He also presented an example of how some bus runs already begin early (6 a.m.) and adding minutes to the day could make issues with sports programs and/or with getting these students home even later and closer to dark. He also felt that this would be something that would need further review if the school system missed 25 or more days; however, the school system averages missing 8 or more days during the required number of years and qualifies for the Pre-Labor Day Waiver by the Virginia Department of Education. He also reported that a comment he has heard is that with the banked days teachers would not have to teach as many days; however, he explained that with a 200 day teaching contract the teachers have to work their contracted days. He stated that, with the number of days generally missed and the factors involved, he didn't feel that having banked days and going fewer days was feasible.

Superintendent Scott also reported that all personnel problems cannot be solved; however, he reported that everything that can possibly be done to save jobs is being reviewed.

Chairman Jessee requested that the Pledge of Allegiance be added to the next school board meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk