

**SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR (APRIL) MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011**

The Scott County School Board met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at Weber City Elementary School in Weber City, Virginia, with the following members present:

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

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Greg Baker, School Board Attorney/Superintendent; John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Affairs & Operations; Brenda P. Robinette, Director of Special Education; Loretta Q. Page, Clerk Of The Board/Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs and Operations; K.C. Linkous, Deputy Clerk Of The Board/Human Resources Manager; Andy Jones, School Resource Officer; Justin Forrester, Scott County Education Association Representative; Suzanne Goins, Virginia Professional Educators; Billy Nash and Tim Edwards, Maintenance Employees; Ramona Russell, Duffield Primary School Teaching Assistant; David Redwine and Paul Fields, County Board of Supervisors Members; Sabrina Gray, Gate City Middle School Nurse; David Hartley, Heritage TV; Lisa McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star; Wes Bunch, Kingsport Times News; Carol Culbertson, Marie Addington, John Hamilton, Margaret Meade, C.M. Bond, Chastity Burke, Eugene McClellan, Margaret Falin, Lisa Sanders, Kelly Spivey, Nancy and Ronnie Godsey, Citizens; Reagan Mullins, Rye Cove High School Principal; Renee Dishner, Rye Cove Intermediate School Principal; Cindy Dorton, Shoemaker Elementary School Principal; Sam Parks, Twin Springs High School Principal; Kelsey Taylor, Weber City Elementary School Principal; Kathy Musick, Yuma Elementary School Principal; Travis Nickels, Duffield Primary School Principal; Jennifer Meade, Dungannon Intermediate School Principal; Valerie Babb, Fort Blackmore Primary School; Greg Ervin, Gate City High School Principal; Jason Smith, Gate City Middle School Principal; Tim Spicer, Hilton Elementary School Principal; Mike Lane, Nickelsville Elementary School Principal; and, Weber City Elementary School students, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and other citizens.

**CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Jessee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He asked the audience to observe a moment of silence and led the audience in citing the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Chairman Jessee welcomed everyone in attendance and expressed thanks for their interest in the school system. He commented that later during the meeting the schools will be recognized for their outstanding achievements.

**ITEMS BY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA:** None.

Mr. Campbell (school board member serving on the Health Insurance Committee) asked if the health insurance item needs to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting. Mr. Baker expressed that additional information has just been received and this is an item that is still being worked on and will be addressed at a future meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** On a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** On a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Tuesday, March 8, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2011 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. McClelland, all members voting aye, the Board approved the Monday, March 21, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** On a motion by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved payroll and claims as follows: School Operating Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of \$ 822,271.03 as shown by warrants #8099150-8099394 (#8998995 voided) and electronic payroll direct deposit in the amount of \$1,096,514.51 & electronic payroll tax deposit \$481,277.93. Cafeteria Fund invoices & payroll in the amount of \$60,110.08 as shown by warrants #1014031-1014089 and electronic payroll tax deposit \$10,486.14. Scott County Head Start invoices & payroll in the amount of \$30,622.67 as shown by warrants #9508-9536

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

**PRESENTATION OF VIRGINIA INDEX OF PERFORMANCE AWARDS:** Superintendent Baker reported that the Virginia Index of Performance Awards is an incentive established by the Virginia Board of Education to recognize schools and school divisions that exceed minimum standards for learning and achievement of the Commonwealth's rigorous Standards of Learning Program. He further reported that this is an honor held by few schools and school divisions and expressed pride that the schools and school division has once again received excellence awards from the Virginia Board of Education. Chairman Jessee and Superintendent Baker presented the Virginia Index of Performance Awards to the school principals as follows:

Rye Cove High School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Rye Cove Intermediate School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Shoemaker Elementary School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Twin Springs High School – Virginia Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award  
 Weber City Elementary School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Yuma Elementary School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Duffield Primary School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Dungannon Intermediate School – Virginia Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award  
 Fort Blackmore Primary School – Virginia Board of Education Governor's Award for Educational Excellence  
 Gate City High School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Gate City Middle School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Hilton Elementary School – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award  
 Nickelsville Elementary School – Virginia Board of Education Governor's Award for Educational Excellence  
 Scott County Public Schools – Virginia Board of Education Excellence Award

Chairman Jessee expressed that the Board recognizes that these awards are a result of a lot of hard work. He asked principals, teachers, support personnel, and students to stand for recognition of this achievement. He expressed that this accomplishment is about them and "not about us." He expressed appreciation for the work that they do on behalf of the children in Scott County.

**PRESENTATION OF "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS:** Superintendent Baker stated that the "Making a Difference" Faculty & Staff Awards is a tradition begun to recognize a faculty and staff member at each school. He explained that the awards are not only to recognize the recipients but exemplifies the great job and team effort of them and their colleagues as well. He presented a brief biographical summary for each recipient along with awards as follows:

Jackie Willis, School Secretary  
 Vicki Lane, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Each recipient received congratulations from board members and administrative staff, as well as, a round of applause from the audience.

**KELSEY TAYLOR, WEBER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Kelsey Taylor, Weber City Elementary School Principal, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance at the meeting. She expressed pride in being a part of a school system that has been recognized as being one of the best in the state of Virginia. She commended educators and support staff for the difference they make at the school. She expressed appreciation for the parents, grandparents and hard working students.

**SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE:** Superintendent Baker stated that since the last school board meeting the construction has been pretty much halted until there is a better understanding of the financial situation moving forward and a determination of savings from this budget. He explained that at this time it is hard to predict what the school system will have available to pay on the project.

Superintendent Baker informed the Board that he needs their guidance with a decision on putting the press box/concession stand under roof and the installation of an irrigation or sprinkler system for the grass at the complex.

Assistant Superintendent Ferguson reported that the press box/concession stand needs to be put under roof to preserve what has been done at this point.

**ROOFING FOR SPORTS COMPLEX PRESS BOX/CONCESSION STAND:** Mrs. McClelland made a motion that Superintendent Baker be authorized to proceed with roofing needed for the Sports Complex press box/concession stand to be put under roof to preserve what has already been done, motion was seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING HIGHWAY ENTRANCE ONTO FILTER PLANT ROAD – SPORTS COMPLEX:** Superintendent Baker reported that VDOT, school system and county personnel met to discuss the safety issue concerning the highway cross over for travel to the Sports Complex.

**BIDS TO BE OBTAINED FOR AN IRRIGATION/SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR SPORTS COMPLEX PROJECT:** Board members and Superintendent Baker discussed the need for an irrigation/sprinkler system for the Sports Complex Project and it was decided that bids would be obtained and information presented at the May meeting.

**VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (VSBA) 2011 SHOWCASES FOR SUCCESS:** Superintendent Baker provided a brief summary on the three Scott County Schools programs that were included in the *VSBA Showcases for Success*: ABA Program, Speech Intervention Program (SIP) and STOP the Violence.

**APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST:** On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Ferguson, and on a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mrs. Blair, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request from Rye Cove High School band student (1) and sponsor (1) to attend the All-State Band Clinic in Charlottesville High School, Charlottesville, VA on April 6-9, 2011.

On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Ferguson, and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the overnight field trip request from the Scott County Career & Technical Center students (4) and sponsors (3) to attend the Skills USA State Leadership Conference in Hampton, VA on March 31 – April 3, 2011.

**BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE:** Assistant Superintendent Ferguson provided a Building Services Update and informed board members that day to day work orders are available upon request.

**TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS UPDATE:** Assistant Superintendent Ferguson provided a Technology in Classrooms Update providing the numbers of labs, SmartBoards, projectors, wireless slates and document cameras in each school.

**APPROVAL OF SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS HEAD CONCUSSION POLICY:**

Assistant Superintendent Ferguson reported that it is required by the Virginia Department of Education that a Head Concussion Policy be in place by July 2011 and the policy being presented was approved by the School Health/Safety Advisory Board. Mrs. McClelland asked that the two classes, one training class taught by a medical professional (either a physician or registered nurse) and the online training course provided by the VHSL, be a requirement. On the recommendation of Mr. Ferguson and on a motion by Mrs. Blair, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the *Scott County Schools Head Concussion Policy* as follows and include the stipulation that the two classes be required as requested by Mrs. McClelland:

***Scott County Schools Head Concussion Policy***

***Introduction***

*Pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-271.5 of the Code of Virginia, Scott County Schools have developed a policy dealing with the identification and proper handling of suspected head concussions in student-athletes. Our goal is to ensure that student-athletes are properly diagnosed, given adequate time to heal, and are comprehensively supported until they are symptom free.*

***Definitions***

*A **concussion** is a brain injury that is characterized by an onset of impairment of cognitive and/or physical functioning, and is caused by a blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes a sudden jarring of the head (i.e., a helmet to the head, being knocked to the ground). A concussion can occur with or without a loss of consciousness, and proper management is essential to the immediate safety and long-term future of the injured individual. A concussion can be difficult to diagnose, and failing to recognize the signs and symptoms in a timely fashion can have dire consequences.*

*Most athletes who experience a concussion can recover completely as long as they do not return to play prematurely. The effects of repeated concussions can be cumulative, and after a concussion, there is a period in which the brain is particularly vulnerable to further injury. If an athlete sustains a second concussion during this period, the risk of permanent brain injury increases significantly and the consequences of a seemingly mild second concussion can be very severe, and even result in death (i.e., "second impact syndrome").*

***Appropriate licensed health care provider** means a physician, physician assistant, osteopath or athletic trainer licensed by the Virginia Board of Medicine; a neuropsychologist licensed by the Board of Psychology; or a nurse practitioner licensed by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.*

***Return to Play** means participate in a nonmedically supervised practice or athletic competition.*

***Procedures***

**A. Participation in Athletic Activity**

1. *In order to participate in any extracurricular athletic activity, each student-athlete and the parent/guardian shall review, on an annual basis (every 12 months), information on concussions provided by Scott County School Division. After having reviewed materials, the student-athlete and parent/guardian shall sign a statement acknowledging receipt, review, and understanding of such information.*

**B. Suspected Head Concussion**

1. *A student-athlete suspected by that student's coach, athletic trainer, or team physician of sustaining a concussion or brain injury in a practice or game shall be removed from the activity at that time. A student-athlete who has been removed from play, evaluated, and suspected to have a concussion or brain injury shall not return to play that same day nor until (i) evaluated by an appropriate licensed health care provider as determined by the Board of Education and (ii) in receipt of written clearance to return to play from such licensed health care provider. The licensed health care provider evaluating student-athletes suspected of having a concussion or brain injury may be a volunteer.*
2. *Appropriate licensed health care providers or properly trained individuals evaluating student-athletes at the time of injury will utilize a standardized concussion sideline assessment instrument. **Sideline Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT II), the Standardized Assessment of Concussion (SAC) and the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS)** are examples of sideline concussion assessment tools that test cognitive function and postural stability.*

**C. Protocol For Return To Play**

1. *No member of a school athletic team shall participate in any athletic event or practice the same day he or she is injured and:*
  - a. *Exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors attributable to a concussion; or*
  - b. *Has been diagnosed with a concussion.*
2. *No member of a school athletic team shall return to participate in an athletic event or training on the days after he/she experiences a concussion unless all of the following conditions have been met:*

- a. *The student no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, at rest or with exertion;*
- b. *The student is asymptomatic during, or following periods of supervised exercise that is gradually intensifying; and*
- c. *The student receives a written medical release from a licensed health care provider.*

**D. Helmet Replacement and Reconditions**

- 1. *Helmets must be National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) certified by the manufacturer at the time of purchase.*
- 2. *Reconditioned helmets must be NOCSAE recertified by the reconditioner.*

**E. Signs and Symptoms of Concussions**

- 1. *Nausea (feeling that you might vomit)*
- 2. *Dizziness or balance problems*
- 3. *Double or fuzzy vision*
- 4. *Sensitivity to light or noise*
- 5. *Headache*
- 6. *Feeling sluggish or tired*
- 7. *Feeling foggy or groggy*
- 8. *Confusion*
- 9. *Trouble concentrating*
- 10. *Trouble remembering*
- 11. *Pupil changes (change in size or no reaction to light)*

Chairman Jessee expressed thanks and commended the School Health/Safety Advisory Board for their work on the Head Concussion Policy.

**LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE:** On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Templeton, seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye, the Board approved the leave-of-absence request of Julie Bowen, effective for the 2011-2012 school year.

**APPROVAL OF RYE COVE HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER BASEBALL**

**COACHES:** On the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Ferguson and on a motion by Mr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Templeton, all members voting aye, the Board approved the employment of Rye Cove High School Volunteer Baseball Coaches as follows: Jeff Hass, Thomas Bowen and Jon Hammonds.

**AUTHORIZATION OF JOHN I. FERGUSON, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, TO SIGN DOCUMENTS AND ASSUME DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENT IN ABSENCE OF SUPERINTENDENT:** On a motion by Mrs. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Meade, all members voting aye, this Board hereby authorizes John I. Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent, to sign documents and assume all duties of superintendent in the inability or absence of the superintendent.

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

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Board members expressed thanks to the audience for their interest in the school system.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to be discussed, Mr. Templeton made a motion to adjourn at 6:47 p.m., and motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, all members voting aye.

James Kay Jessee, Chairman

Loretta Q. Page, Clerk