

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

March 16, 2009
Regular Session Minutes

Board Chair, Tracy Norman, called the Burke County Board of Education meeting to Order at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom of the Human Resources Building with all members of the Board present, as well as Superintendent, David Burleson; Associate Superintendent, Rick Sherrill; Assistant Superintendent, Tony Cox; Human Resource Director, Winston Bagley; Chief Finance Officer, Keith Lawson and School Board Attorney, Jon Jones.

With the first order of business being to approve the agenda for the meeting the Motion was made by Mr. Buff to approve the agenda as presented with a Second by Mr. Barnard. The Motion carried 7-0.

At 5:31 p.m. the Board unanimously voted following a Motion by Mr. Barnard and a Second by Mr. Buff to go into Closed Session.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m. at which time Rev. Darrell Webb of Oak Ridge Baptist Church offered the opening prayer followed by Superintendent David Burleson leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Recognitions

A. Youth Leadership Forum

Michael Williams from Draughn High School was recognized for being selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington.

B. Soil and Water Winners

• Essay:

6th Grade ~ Will Wilson, Heritage Middle School

6th Grade ~ Jordan Jenkins, Liberty Middle School

6th Grade ~ Kristen Walker, Table Rock Middle School

• Speech:

7th Grade ~ Caroline Dean, Table Rock Middle School

8th Grade ~ June Huffman, Table Rock Middle School

7th Grade ~ Lamara Parnell, Walter Johnson Middle School

8th Grade ~ Riley Minnear, Walter Johnson Middle School

C. Elementary School Speech Contest Winners

The Board recognized the following students as winners in the elementary school speech contest:

• Recited Oratory:

1st Place ~ Noah Martin, Forest Hill Elementary School

2nd Place ~ Alex Whisnant, Salem Elementary School

3rd Place ~ Avery Rogers, Valdese Elementary School

• Original Oratory:

1st Place ~ Alexandra Crawford, Forest Hill Elementary School

2nd Place ~ Hannah Hang, Salem Elementary School

3rd Place ~ Kara Towery, Mull Elementary School

• Interpretative Poetry:

1st Place ~ Chloe Ross, Forest Hill Elementary School

2nd Place ~ Kross Robinson, Salem Elementary School

3rd Place ~ Maddie Baker, Valdese Elementary School

• Interpretative Prose:

1st Place ~ Caleb Decker, George Hildebrand Elementary School

2nd Place ~ Dorian Packer, Ray Childers Elementary School

3rd Place ~ Logan Cline, Valdese Elementary School

1st place winners from each category who were in attendance for the meeting, presented their speeches to the Board.

Public Comments

John Ervin shared his concerns regarding an insertion in the Parental Inspection of and Objection/Challenge to Supplemental Instructional Reading Materials policy. Mr. Ervin shared that he felt the proposed policy was well outlined with the exception of the section pertaining to allowing any individual the right to challenge materials who are not parents, guardians, or custodians of students in the classroom where the material is being taught. He continued by stating that the procedures set forth for the person making the challenge were undefined.

Approval of Minutes

Without opposition the Open Session Minutes for March 2, 2009 were tabled.

Informational Items

A. Important Dates

Mr. Burleson highlighted some of the upcoming dates as listed in the final agenda for this meeting.

B. Reports

Update on Glen Alpine Elementary School – Mrs. Susan Stroup, Principal

Mrs. Stroup reported that Glen Alpine had approximately 573 students including 38 pre-k students and 13 babies in their licensed 5 star childcare center. She reported that Glen Alpine was 70% free and reduced and that 23% of the students enrolled were students with disabilities. She continued by reporting that Glen Alpine had met AYP for math last year in all sub groups but that students with disabilities didn't make AYP in reading; however, many interventions were in place to help these students achieve AYP in reading this year. Assistant principal, Mrs. Emily Garrison continued by reporting that Glen Alpine was continuing to focus on hands on learning and developing activities to make the curriculum come alive for their students. She shared that they were continuing to focus on technology, strengthening the implementation of RTI, and continuing to strive for growth, high growth, and AYP.

Long Range Items/Topics

A. Construction Program – Mr. Tony Cox

Mr. Cox reported that the science labs for both East Burke and Freedom were continuing with a design charette (concentrated team based meeting) scheduled at both high schools. Mr. Cox provided a detailed report of other ongoing projects to the Board and briefly updated on each of the ongoing projects.

Reports from the Superintendent

A. Budget Concerns and Stimulus Package

Mr. Burleson reported that there were still many questions as to how the federal stimulus could be used. He noted that North Carolina received \$1.2 billion and that it was at the discretion of the governor as to how it could be spent. He also added that there would be money coming to school systems in Title I and IDEA/Exceptional Children's funds, but there was still some debate as to how that money could be used as well. Mr. Burleson reported that the federal stimulus could help prevent some of the major cuts Burke County could be looking at without the help of the federal stimulus money. Mr. Burleson also noted the importance of receiving the state budget prior to the start of the new school year.

B. Crime and Violence Report

Mr. Burleson shared that he had received the consolidated drop out and crime/violence report and that Burke County had fared well on this report. He stated that Burke County was 1 of 5 school systems that had decreased the drop out rate the most over the past 3 years, putting Burke County below the state average on the drop out rate. He also added that Burke County was below the state average on reportable offenses – short term and long term offenses.

C. Revised 2008-2009 Calendar

Mr. Burleson presented the updated 2008-2009 school calendar due to the day missed for inclement weather on March 2nd. Without opposition, the Board accepted the updated calendar by consensus.

D. Purchasing off State Contract – Mrs. Crystal Cooper

Mrs. Cooper presented a draft proposal outlining the possibility of purchasing items off non-state term contracts. The proposal outlined areas being looked as possible purchases from non-state

term contracts; she identified those areas as being technology, instruction/office supplies, and custodial supplies. In order to purchase off non-state term contract the Board would need to revise the local board policy which currently prohibits from purchasing from non-state term contracts. Without opposition, the Board will bring this policy revision back as action/discussion at the next Board meeting. Mr. Buff suggested looking beyond the three outlined areas for other areas that money could be saved.

School Board Reports

A. School Dress Code – Ms. Tracy Norman, Chairman

After discussion by the Board it was decided to hold the public forum concerning the dress code at either Patton or Draughn High School. It was further decided that Mr. Burleson along with Mr. Shemill and Ms. Norman would get together to develop a format for the forum to post for the media. Mr. Burleson asked individuals wanting to speak at the forum to either email him or contact his office in advance.

B. School System Audit – Mr. Jon Jones

Mr. Jones briefed the Board on the agreement of the finance sub-committee to accept the amended term changes to the original audit contract. He stated that the two changes included an extended term of the audit completion to May 31, 2009. He stated that the auditor expects the audit to be fully completed by the end of April but the LGC recommended using May 31st as the projected completion date just to be on the safe side. The other change would be an additional \$6,000 added to the original contracted \$24,000 for a total of \$30,000. Mr. Jones presented these two term changes for the Board to approve.

Action/Discussion Items

A. Selection of Supplemental Materials

Board members shared the following comments concerning these policies.

Mr. Wilkinson shared the reasons he would vote against this policy ~ while he was very appreciative of all the work that had gone into this policy he shared he still had concerns in regards to the reading selection committee, stating he saw it as being intrusive, that it could cause an impairment of academic freedom, and could cause teachers to be reluctant in their creativity. He added that he feels Burke County has the right people in place to decide what is taught. He continued by stating that he felt there was a lot of good in these policies but not enough to overcome the intrusiveness that could be used by possible political gain by some people.

Mr. Armour shared that he felt this policy was taking the control of the classroom away from the teacher and putting in the hands of those who aren't teachers. He added that it was the responsibility of the school system to hire individuals who would be the best for our school system and what outstanding English teacher would want to come to Burke County because of this policy. He concluded by stating that he saw the policy as a stumbling block.

Mr. Buff stated the he felt there had been a misconception with these two policies. He stated that he interpreted the policies as putting "the power" in the hands of the teachers and parents and that there would be a policy in place if there's controversy over a book. He added that he didn't feel there was enough representation of individuals outside the school system on the selection committee.

Mr. Barnard shared that he believes teachers should have the right to teach but also believes parents have the right to the upbringing of their children. He stated there should be a basic common approach allowing teachers to choose what materials they teach and have it reviewed; if not satisfied then there's an appeals process to follow. He added that he felt the Board had a moral objective to implement policies to make sure the process is fair for all students, teachers, and parents.

Mr. Hairfield stated that there was nothing in the policy prohibiting teachers from using certain reading materials. He added that the policy does give parents the opportunity to ask for an alternate assignment if they are opposed to reading the selection chosen by the teacher.

Mrs. Sain commented that she felt the policy was a fair and equitable policy for everyone involved. She added that everyone had worked hard on the policy and that she was in support of the policy.

Ms. Norman shared that while there were parts of the policy that she agreed with and parts that she didn't agree with, she felt Burke County needed a policy addressing these issues. She added that she didn't feel there would be many objections to the literature but that if objections should arise then the parent should have the right for their child to opt out.

Mr. Burleson concluded by stating that it would be difficult to come up with a policy that would appease everyone. He complimented everyone for the time and effort that had been spent on developing these policies, stating that much effort had gone into doing what the Board had asked as far as coming up with a policy that has legal grounds. He added that he would be the first to say that the policy wasn't perfect but that the best possible effort had been put forth in trying to be responsive to what everyone had asked for. He complemented students for the appropriate, articulate manner in which they have shown their feelings towards this policy.

B. Parental Inspection Of and Objection/Challenge to Instructional Materials

The Motion was made by Mr. Buff to accept the Parental Inspection of and Objection/Challenge to Instructional Materials Policy with a Second by Mrs. Sain. Mr. Barnard commented on the part of the policy that allows any community citizen the right to challenge what reading materials have been chosen by the teacher. He shared that he felt that part of the policy should be removed from the policy. After discussion the Board voted on the policy as presented. The Motion failed 3:4, with Mr. Armour, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Hairfield, and Mr. Barnard all opposing.

Upon Motion by Mr. Barnard and a Second by Mr. Wilkinson, the Board unanimously voted to return to Closed Session at 8:18 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:11 p.m.

Personnel Reports

The Motion was made by Mr. Wilkinson to accept Personnel Report dated March 9, 2009 as presented with a Second by Mr. Barnard. The Motion was approved by a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Mr. Barnard made a Motion to accept the March 9, 2009, Addendum A, as presented, with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion was approved by a unanimous 7-0 vote.

The Motion was made by Mr. Buff to approve Personnel Report dated March 16, 2009 as amended, with a Second by Mr. Barnard. The Motion carried 7-0.

Addendum A for the March 16, 2009 report was tabled.

Mr. Wilkinson Motioned to accept Personnel Report dated March 16, 2009, Addendum B as presented, with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Barnard Motioned to accept Personnel Report dated March 16, 2009, Addendum C, noted as temporary until the end of the year), with a Second by Mr. Hairfield. The Motion carried 6:1 with Mr. Armour in opposition.

Without opposition, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Tracy Norman, School Board Chairman

David Burleson, School Board Secretary

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

**PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report**

**for
March 9, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Causby, Martha | Salem ES | 1 st Grade Teacher |
| 2. | Mc Cormick, James | EBHS | Guidance Counselor |
| 3. | Stroup, Susan | Glen Alpine | Principal |
| 4. | Whisnant, Rita B. | WA Young | 2 nd Grade Teacher |
| 5. | Wilson, Beverly | Glen Alpine | 2 nd Grade Teacher |

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 6. | Brittain, Norma | Hillcrest ES | cafeteria worker |
| 7. | Norman, Wanda | Oak Hill ES | cafeteria worker |

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: SUB BUS DRIVERS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 8. | Conner, Lloyd G. | Heritage MS | Sub Bus Driver |
| 9. | Mathis, Wanda | Freedom HS | Sub Bus Driver |

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS – TEMPORARY/PART-TIME

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 10. | Armellie, Mike | Patton HS | Tutor |
| 11. | Barrier, Patricia | Glen Alpine | SES Tutor |
| 12. | Hubbard, Amber | WJMS | Tutor |
| 13. | Jenkins, Penny | Patton HS | Tutor |
| 14. | Lynch, Regina | Patton HS | Tutor |
| 15. | Vitrone, Mark | Patton HS | Tutor |

ELECTIONS: SUBSTITUTES

Code Justification

- 4 These persons hold a teaching certificate or are student teaching in our system.
- 3 These persons do not hold a teaching certificate. They are either a retired BCPS employee or have a non teaching 4-year degree and must complete ETT for substitute training within one year of board approval.
- 2 These persons hold at a minimum Associate's Degree or equivalent and completed the ETT for substitute training.

- 1 These persons hold a high school diploma; have a written recommendation from a school principal requesting that they substitute in their school and have completed the ETT for substitute training.

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>CODE</u> | <u>EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION</u> |
|-----|---|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 16. | Frate, Anthony <i>(Emergency Approval)</i> | 4 | Bachelor of Science/Health/PE |

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
March 9, 2009

Addendum A**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL:PROMOTION W/BENEFITS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Bradshaw, Elaine | Bus Driver | Heritage MS |
| 2. | Robinson, Rondell | Bus Driver | Heritage MS |

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
March 16, 2009**

Amended

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Stamey, Revonda P. | Hild. ES | 2 nd Grade Teacher |
| 2. | Wright, SGM James | EBHS | JROTC Instructor |

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 3. | Baker, Lois J. | Forest Hill ES | Sec/Data Mgr |
| 4. | Crane, Brenda K. | WA Young | Cafeteria wkr |
| 5. | Smith, Vera M. | Icard ES | Cafeteria Mgr |
| 6. | Stirewalt, Gloria A. | Teacher Assist. | RCES |

TRANSFERS:

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>TRANSFERRED FROM</u> | <u>TRANSFERRED TO</u> |
|----|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7. | Marler, Aimee | Patton HS | EBHS |

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

8. Summer Holman's sub pay needs to be increased to sublevel 3 pay--\$90/day

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
March 16, 2009**

Addendum B

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL; ELECTION

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Franklin, Heather | WJMS | MS Teacher |

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
March 16, 2009**

Addendum C

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL;ELECTION WITH BENEFITS

| | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> |
|----|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Davis, Timothy | Central Office | Policy Administrator |