

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Special Called Meeting

April 6, 2009
Open Session Minutes

Patton High School

Board Chair, Tracy Norman called the Burke County Board of Education meeting to Order at approximately 5:15 p.m. in the media center at Patton High School. Other members of the Board who were present included Vice Chairman; Mr. Tim Buff, Mr. Buddy Armour, Mrs. Karen Sain, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Mr. Hairfield was present but was not available in the media center due to health reasons. Mr. Barnard was not present to the meeting at this time. Also present for the meeting were Superintendent; David Burleson, Associate Superintendent; Rick Sherrill, Assistant Superintendent; Tony Cox, Human Resource Director, Winston Bagley, and School Board Attorney; Jon Jones.

At approximately 5:16 p.m. Ms. Norman shared the need for the Board to recess to Closed Session to deal with legal issues or personnel performance. Ms. Norman shared that due to the large turnout the meeting would reconvene back in the school auditorium. At that time, Mr. Buff Motioned for the Board to go into Closed Session with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion carried 3-2, with Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Armour in opposition; Mr. Barnard and Mr. Hairfield were not present for the vote.

The Board reconvened to Open Session in the school auditorium at approximately 5:50 p.m. with all members of the Board present. At this time, Ms. Norman conveyed to Board members that they could choose to do one of two options that included the following:


1. Enter a Motion concerning the Superintendent's contract.
2. Motion to recess the meeting until a later time.

Mr. Armour at this time made a Motion that the Board extend Mr. Burleson's contract until June 30, 2012 followed with a Second to the Motion by Mr. Wilkinson. The Motion failed 2-5 with Mr. Barnard, Mr. Buff, Mr. Hairfield, Ms. Norman, and Mrs. Sain all in opposition.

Mr. Barnard Motioned to recess the meeting for a two (2) week period of time with a Second by Mr. Hairfield. The Motion carried 5-2 with Mr. Armour and Mr. Wilkinson in opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m. with a Motion by Mr. Buff and Second by Mr. Barnard. The vote was 5-2 with Mr. Armour and Mr. Wilkinson opposed.


Chairman, Board of Education


Secretary, Board of Education

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Special Called Meeting

April 20, 2009

Open Session Minutes

Board Chair, Tracy Norman called the recessed April 6, 2009 Burke County Board of Education meeting back in Session at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the Board room of the Office of Administrative Services. Other members of the Board who were present included Vice Chairman; Mr. Tim Buff, Mr. Buddy Armour, Mr. David Barnard, Mr. Rob Hairfield, Mrs. Karen Sain, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Also present for the meeting were Superintendent; David Burleson, Associate Superintendent; Rick Sherrill, Human Resource Director; Winston Bagley, and School Board Attorney; Jon Jones.

Board Attorney Jon Jones reviewed the rules that had been set forth by the Board Chair Tracy Norman requesting that those in attendance maintain a certain course of behavior during the meeting. Mr. Jones further stated that it was unlawful to disrupt these meetings.

Ms. Norman stated the purpose of the meeting as being to deal with the contract of the Superintendent. At this time, she asked if there was a Motion concerning the contract of the Superintendent. Mr. Armour stated that he felt there should be time allowed for public comments, stating, "Its people's rights to speak out on this issue". Ms. Norman shared that public comments had never been allowed concerning a personnel issue.

Mr. Buff made a Motion that the contract of the Superintendent not be renewed and that it end June 30, 2009 in accordance to the General Statute. Mrs. Sain Seconded the Motion. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he felt this decision was irresponsible and one that would set the school system up for legal proceedings. Mr. Wilkinson continued by stating that elected officials must listen to the people who put them in office. He shared that the whole situation could easily be resolved by extending the Superintendent's contract until June 30, 2010, thus allowing enough time to hear the public's opinion. Mr. Wilkinson stated that he was totally against this Motion.

Mr. Armour stated that he felt that this Motion would be "To the detriment of this county, to the detriment of this school system, and above all, to the detriment of the kids that we are supposed to be working for".

Ms. Norman stated this that was not a situation that she created. She stated, "This is in line with the General Statutes that mandates that contracts end June 30th of a year".

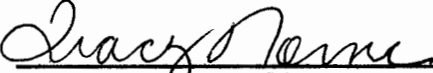
Mr. Hairfield called for an amendment to the Motion on the floor, thus requesting not to renew the Superintendent's contract without stipulating a date. The Motion failed for lack of a Second.

Mr. Armour questioned Mr. Burleson if his contract had been sent to the State Board of Education when it was renewed in April of 2006. Mr. Burleson responded, "I assume it was, since all contracts are sent". He stated that the State Board had never shared a concern over the date that was listed on his contract. Mr. Burleson further stated that he had never heard a concern about the date on his contract until about a month ago.


Mr. Wilkinson questioned Mr. Jones if his opinion had changed since the opinion he had given the Board at the April 6, 2009 meeting. Mr. Jones replied that his opinion had not changed since the opinion he gave the Board on April 6, 2009.

The Motion passed with Board Chair, Tracy Norman, Vice Chair, Tim Buff, Rob Hairfield, and Karen Sain all voting in favor of the Motion. Buddy Armour and Sam Wilkinson both opposed the Motion with David Barnard recusing himself from the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. with a Motion by Mr. Hairfield and a Second by Mr. Buff. The vote was 5-2 with Mr. Armour and Mr. Wilkinson opposed.



Chairman, Board of Education



Secretary, Board of Education