

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Special Called Meeting

May 8, 2009

Open Session Minutes

Board Chair, Tracy Norman called the Burke County Board of Education meeting Session at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the Board room at the Office of Administrative Services. Other members of the Board who were present included Vice Chairman; Mr. Tim Buff, Mr. Buddy Armour, Mr. Rob Hairfield, Mrs. Karen Sain, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Also present for the meeting were Superintendent; Mr. David Burleson, Associate Superintendent; Mr. Rick Sherrill, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Tony Cox, Chief Finance Officer; Mr. Keith Lawson, and Board Attorney; Mr. Jon Jones.

Before presenting the proposed 2009-2010 local current expense budget to the Board, Mr. Lawson did report that the LGC had approved the 2007-2008 audit on the evening of May 7, 2009.

Mr. Lawson shared with the Board that due to the uncertainty of the state funding situation the school system would be forced to rely on county resources to finish the remainder of the fiscal year or possibly tap into federal stimulus monies, which they had not intended to do until next year. He reported that the 2009-2010 local current expense budget had been balanced without using any fund balance and that the development of this budget hinged on the 2009-2010 cost savings initiatives that had been approved.

Mr. Wilkinson brought up discussion concerning the reduction in supplements for coaches as well as band/choral teachers. He suggested possibly eliminating the funds allocated to the school board in an effort to keep from reducing these supplements. Discussion continued as to whether the membership to the NCSBA was indeed a requirement. Ms. Norman commented that she felt the Board should continue their membership to the NCSBA, especially with the need for their assistance in updating the Board policy manual. After much discussion as to what was paid through the line items allocated to the Board, Mr. Wilkinson then made a Motion to rescind line items 104 and 106 of the 2009-2010 local current expense budget to use those funds to help restore the reduction in supplements for coaches and band/choral teachers. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Armour. Mr. Hairfield requested a breakdown as to the specifics of these two line items. The Motion failed 2-4 with Ms. Norman, Mrs. Sain, Mr. Buff, and Mr. Hairfield opposed.

Ms. Norman stated that she didn't intend to vote on 2009-2010 budget at this meeting because she felt it was missing some items that were required by statute. She stated that she wanted the board attorney to look at the proposed budget to make sure it met what was required by statute.

There was discussion concerning the allocation of 9 teaching positions in the local current expense budget. Mr. Burleson explained that with a worst case scenario of an 11% reduction from the state that student class size would be affected and that these 9 teaching positions would first be used to help with reduced class size in grades 1-3.

There was also discussion concerning the elimination of the middle salary level for substitute teachers. It was noted that the current proposed budget for 2009-2010 did not reflect this elimination because it was not part of the cost savings initiatives.

Mr. Hairfield made a Motion to table the current expense budget pending clarification of some of the questions and concerns that had been raised during the meeting. Mr. Buff provided a Second to the Motion. It was suggested that the Board could go ahead and provide the county commissioners with the information detailing revenues and expenses which would show a balanced budget, and then work out the details of the line items at a later date. Mr. Hairfield then

rephrased his original Motion to state that the Board send the revenue and expense page of the budget showing a balanced budget with a reduction of .6% from last year to this year, thus complying with the requirement of having a balanced budget to the commissioners by June 15th; Mr. Wilkinson provided a Second to this Motion.


Ms. Norman shared that G.S. 115C-427(b) outlined the information that must be contained in the current expense budget and that she didn't feel that everything that was outlined was a part of the budget. She also commented on the fact that the current expense budget would be under scrutiny from the commissioners and that she felt it wouldn't be in the best interest of the Board to pass any part of the budget without it being looked at thoroughly by legal counsel.

Mr. Armour questioned the need to spend more money from the line item in attorney fees for legal

The Motion failed 3-3 with Ms. Norman, Mrs. Sain, and Mr. Buff opposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:58 p.m. following a Motion by Mr. Hairfield and a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Armour in opposition.


Chairman, Board of Education


Secretary, Board of Education