

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

July 20, 2009

Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

Call to Order

Board Chair, Ms. Tracy Norman called the meeting of the Burke County Board of Education to Order at approximately 5:16 p.m. in the Olive Hill Room at the West Concord Resource Center. Other members of the Board who were present included Vice Chairman; Mr. Tim Buff, Mr. John Augur, Mr. Buddy Armour, Mrs. Karen Sain, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Mr. Rob Hairfield was not present for the meeting. Also present for the meeting were Acting/Associate Superintendent; Mr. Rick Sherrill, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Tony Cox, Human Resource Director; Mr. Winston Bagley, Chief Finance Officer; Mr. Keith Lawson, and School Board Attorney; Mr. Jon Jones.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Buff made a Motion to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The request was made to amend the agenda with the following additions and/or deletions: Mr. Armour requested the following additions:

- Add Legal Fees as XI. C. under Action/Discussion
- Add Substitute Teachers as XI. D. under Action/Discussion

Mr. Sherrill requested the following:

- Add RIF under VIII. Informational Items to Section B. Reports
- Delete XI. A. Changes to BCPS Gifted Education Plan from Action/Discussion.
- Add August Board Meetings as XI. E to Action/Discussion.

****Note:** Mr. Armour's original request was to Add Legal Fees as XI. D. and Substitute Teachers as XI. E. under Action/Discussion however, Mr. Sherrill's request to delete XI. A. under Action/Discussion shifted these items forward.

Mr. Buff amended his Motion to approve the agenda as amended with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion was approved 6-0; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Prior to the opening prayer Board Chair, Ms. Tracy Norman, asked for a Moment of Silence to remember Judge John Mull. Mr. Jonathan Clontz, CTE Director for BCPS, offered the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Phil Smith, Principal of George Hildebrand Elementary.

Public Comment

The following individuals presented concerns to the Board ~ Mrs. Susie Tilley, Mr. Michael Jones, Mrs. Jane Sohovich, and Mrs. Emily Church. Topics presented to the Board included budget issues, mediation process, Special Counsel, Attorney Fees, and SACS CASI accreditation.

Board Chair, Tracy Norman, called for a recess of the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to Open Session at 5:43 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of Minutes was moved to a later time in the meeting to allow time for Board Attorney Jon Jones to review the Minutes.

Informational Items

A. Important Dates

- Mr. Sherrill highlighted some of the informational items listed on the agenda for the meeting.

B. Reports

- **Energy Conservation Program Update – Mr. Charles Cook**
Mr. Cook reported that BCPS had taken on a new vision as far as energy conservation. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on the program implementation and timeline of accomplishments since efforts began around the first of June, 2009. Mr. Cook reported that after meeting with school principals and head custodians, the summer shutdown implementation was in place by June 30. Mr. Cook continued by reporting that the next procedure would be to train faculty and staff for the next phase of energy savings that would begin once school started back in the fall. Mr. Cook shared that participation had been great and everyone seemed to be willing to help in any way possible to help with the energy savings.
- **SACS CASI Visit – Mr. Jonathan Clontz**
Mr. Clontz reported that SACS would be visiting Burke County on August 3 and 4, 2009 to conduct interviews with specific groups. He shared that SACS would provide a follow up report on August 4th and then review their material from the interviews to provide a recommendation to the full SACS CASI organization.
- **RIF Update - Mr. Winston Bagley**
Mr. Bagley briefed the Board on the procedures that had been put in place to comply with the cost savings initiatives to reduce the budget for this upcoming school year due to the state budget restrictions. Mr. Bagley reported that currently the end result was 14 classified positions that were lost due to the reduction in force. Mr. Bagley shared that if additional funding became available then teacher assistants would be pulled from the RIF list and put back into positions.

First Reading for Proposed Policies

- A. Community Schools Programs – Facility Use Policy 1.5300 w/ Procedures – Mr. Tony Cox**
Mr. Cox reported that the revised facility use policy had been a research effort benchmarking at least 15-20 other school districts across the state looking to see how they charge and handle rent/utility cost associated with facility use. He shared that the proposed policy breaks down the priority in the use of school facilities into three categories consisting of Category A - School Affiliated Groups, Category B - State and Local Government and Community and Civic Groups, Category C - Profit Groups, Private Groups and Individuals of the General Public. He shared that fees would only apply to categories B and C as outlined in the policy.
- B. Energy Management Conservation Policy 6.550 w/ Procedures – Mr. Tony Cox**
Mr. Cox reviewed this proposed policy with Board members. In doing so he stated that it would take all BCPS personnel working together to contribute to energy efficiency in order to ensure an overall success of the energy management program.

Second Readings

- A. Burke County Board of Education Policy Manual Chapters 1 to 3 – Mr. Tim Davis**
Mr. Davis began by requesting that everyone remember the family of Caleb Bollinger during their loss. Caleb was a student of Patton High School.
Mr. Davis reported that the NCSBA had made recommendations for each of the proposed sections. He reported that each of the proposed policies had been updated with the current laws that go with each policy. Mr. Jones recommended that these policy manual chapters be brought back at the next meeting as a second reading again for additional changes.

Action/Discussion Items

- A. Child Nutrition Budget – Ms. Crystal Cooper**
Ms. Cooper presented a program overview of the Child Nutrition Program for 2008-2009. She presented the different options concerning the increase in meal prices to support the child nutrition budget for SY 2009-2010. She stated that without an increase in meal prices there would not be enough in the child nutrition fund balance to balance the budget or operate at the projected budget. Ms. Cooper reported that she was recommending a .25

increase in breakfast prices for grades 6-12, a .20 increase in lunch prices for elementary, and a .25 increase in lunch prices for middle/high schools. She stated that she recommended this option because of the situation the fund balance was in. Ms. Cooper included meal price comparisons for Region 7, reporting that the meal price increases she recommended was in line with surrounding counties. After much discussion, the Board decided to table the child nutrition budget until the August 10th meeting to allow additional time for review.

B. Selling of East Burke Band Uniforms – Mr. Tim Buff

Mr. Buff shared that he had been contacted concerning the possibility of selling the old band uniforms with the intent of applying the proceeds to the purchase of new band instruments. Mr. Lawson reported that although the Board did have a policy specifically stating how the school system disposes of real and personal property, the request was being made to allow East Burke High School to circumvent this board policy due to the uniqueness of band uniforms due to colors, school initials, etc. Mr. Lawson read into record the letter outlining the disposal of (old/unusable) East Burke Band Uniforms. The Motion to approve the letter outlining the disposal method was approved by Mr. Buff and Seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. The Motion was approved by a 6-0 vote; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

C. Legal Fees – Mr. Buddy Armour

Mr. Armour raised the concern that Mr. Schwartz of Schwartz & Shaw had not submitted an invoice of legal expenses incurred thus far. Mr. Armour then made a Motion to dismiss Mr. Schwartz due to the fact that he had not submitted an invoice for the legal services of his firm. Mr. Sherrill clarified that Mr. Schwartz had recently submitted an invoice through the month of May. Mr. Lawson stated that he was not aware of the invoice due to being on vacation the week prior to this meeting. Mr. Armour stated that BCPS should have an invoice at least through June of the services from Schwartz & Shaw and that he would withdraw his Motion for the time being in anticipation of the next invoice. Ms. Norman requested a breakdown of legal expenses, both regular and special counsel, incurred by the Board for the last five years.

D. Substitute Teachers – Mr. Buddy Armour

Mr. Armour requested clarification on the \$50 reduction in teachers' salary for the use of a personal day. Mr. Lawson clarified that the school system does not receive 100% of the funding from the state to support substitute teachers. Mr. Lawson clarified that the \$50 deduction for the use of a personal day is allocated back to the school system to support the payment of substitute teachers and that this method is utilized in all districts of the state to help the substitute program.

E. August Board Meetings – Mr. Rick Sherrill

Mr. Sherrill presented a recommendation to the Board to cancel the August 3rd and August 17th Board meeting and reschedule to one meeting to be held on August 10, 2009. He shared the justification that this would allow SACS to interview individuals within our county without being pressured to finish up before a scheduled board meeting. He also stated that he would like to see Board meetings scheduled on a monthly basis instead of bi-weekly in an effort to address essential information. The Motion to reschedule the August Board meetings and schedule the meeting for August 10th was made by Mr. Aulgur and Seconded by Mr. Buff. The Motion was approved 5-1 with Mr. Armour opposed; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Without opposition, Ms. Norman requested that the Board receive information on the history of the use of the fund balance at the August 10th meeting. She specifically requested the amount of operating expenses that the BOE had obligated itself to over the last ten years for facilities without requesting additional funds. She further stated that she didn't believe the condition of the fund balance was a result of the \$116,000 but a result of about a decade of poor management, poor recommendations, and poor actions by the BOE. Mr. Armour shared that the issue with the fund balance was a result of difficult times when the BOE could have used the \$116,000.

Approval of Minutes

The Motion was made by Mr. Wilkinson to approve the Minutes for April 6, 2009, April 20, 2009, May 4, 2009 (as amended), May 14, 2009, May 18, 2009, May 26, 2009, and June 3, 2009. The

Motion was Seconded by Mr. Armour. The Motion to approve carried 5-1 with Mr. Aulgur abstained; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Closed Session

At approximately 7:43 p.m. upon a Motion by Mrs. Sain and a Second by Mr. Aulgur the Board voted 6-0 to go into Closed Session to deal with personnel reports and for the approval of closed session minutes.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:25 p.m.

Approval of Personnel Reports

Mrs. Sain made a Motion to approve the personnel report dated July 6, 2009 as presented with a Second by Mr. Aulgur. The Motion carried by a 6-0 vote; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Mr. Aulgur made a Motion to approve the personnel report dated July 13, 2009 as presented with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried by a 6-0 vote; Mr. Hairfield was absent.


Mrs. Sain made a Motion to approve personnel report dated July 20, 2009 as presented with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried by a 6-0 vote; Mr. Hairfield was absent.


The Motion was made by Mrs. Sain and Seconded by Mr. Aulgur to approve Addendum A of personnel report dated July 20, 2009 as presented. The Motion carried by a 6-0 vote; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Mr. Aulgur made a Motion to approve Addendum B of personnel report dated July 20, 2009 as presented with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried 6-0; Mr. Hairfield was absent.

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. following a Motion by Mr. Buff and a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion was unanimous; Mr. Hairfield was absent.


Chairman, Burke County School Board


Secretary, Burke County School Board

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
July 6, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Blalock, Robin	Chesterfield Elem.	Pre-K Teacher

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
2.	Brown, Elizabeth	WCRC	School Psychologist
3.	D. Chad Higdon	Patton HS	Band Director

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
4.	Nicely, Melvin L.	North Liberty	Bus Monitor

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

**Public Copy
Personnel Report
for
July 13, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Needham, Ellen	George Hildebrand	2 nd Grade Teacher

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
2.	Fisher, Karoline	Central Office	Licensure Specialist

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Personnel Report
for
July 20, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Hassler, Holly	College St.	Speech Lang/Pathologist

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
2.	Franklin, Heather	WJMS	8 th Gr. Math/Science Teacher

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - PART-TIME/TEMPORARY

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
3.	Bollinger, Malinda	Central Office	Administrator
4.	Garrison, Randal	Freedom HS	SAT Freshman Seminar
5.	Holt, Jenna	Freedom HS	SAT Freshman Seminar
6.	Jones, Tyra	Freedom HS	SAT Freshman Seminar
7.	Kiddoo, Rusty	Freedom HS	SAT Freshman Seminar
8.	Kolb, Melissa	Salem Elem.	Psychologist
9.	Smith, Jonathan	Freedom HS	SAT Freshman Seminar

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
10.	Amero, Lauren	Chesterfield Elem.	Daycare Director
11.	Morgan, Amy	Public Relations	Administrative Asst.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: TERMINATION

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
12.	Pierce, April	Drexel Primary	Custodian

TRANSFERS:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED FROM</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
13.	Arrowood, Brad	Salem Elem(Asst. Principal)	Oak Hill Elem.(Interim Principal)
14.	Foddrell, Darrin	East Burke HS(Asst. Principal)	WJMS(Asst Principal)
15.	Ford, Robbie	Freedom HS(Asst. Principal)	Patton HS(Asst. Principal)
16.	Nichols, Chad	Valdese Elem(Full Time Custodian)	Drexel/Valdese(PT Custodian)
17.	Scott, Steven	Patton HS(Asst. Principal)	Freedom HS(Asst. Principal)

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
July 20, 2009
Addendum A**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Griffin, Susan	Central Office	EC Director

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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for
July 20, 2009

Addendum B**

TRANSFERS:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED FROM</u>	<u>TRANSFERRED TO</u>
1.	Smith, Nickey Joe, Jr.	East Burke HS	Freedom HS
2.	Watson, Britt	College St. Academy	North Liberty
3.	Zimmerman, Clint	Patton HS	Freedom HS