

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

October 5, 2009
Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes

Ray Childers Elementary School

Call to Order

Vice Chairman, Mr. Tim Buff, called the meeting of the Burke County Board of Education to Order at approximately 5:17 p.m. in the Gymnasium at Ray Childers Elementary School. Other members of the Board who were present included Mr. Buddy Armour, Mr. John Aulgur, Mrs. Karen Sain, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson. Mr. Rob Hairfield arrived by 5:45 p.m. and Board Chair, Ms. Tracy Norman arrived by 7:15 p.m. Also present for the meeting was Associate Superintendent; Mr. Rick Sherrill, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Tony Cox, Human Resource Director; Mr. Winston Bagley, and Chief Finance Officer; Mr. Keith Lawson. School Board Attorney; Mr. Jon Jones was not present for the start of the meeting but did arrive shortly thereafter.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aulgur made a Motion to approve the agenda as presented with a Second by Mrs. Sain. Mr. Armour requested to amend the agenda with by adding "Termination of Special Counsel" as D. under Item X. Action/Discussion. The Motion to approve the agenda as amended failed 2-3 with Mr. Aulgur, Mrs. Sain, and Mr. Buff in opposition. Mr. Hairfield and Ms. Norman were not present for the vote. The agenda as presented was approved 3-2 with Mr. Armour and Mr. Wilkinson in opposition. Again, Mr. Hairfield and Ms. Norman were not present for the vote.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mr. Tony Cox, Assistant Superintendent for BCPS, offered the opening prayer. In doing so Mr. Cox asked everyone to be mindful of the two Burke County School students, Jessie Norton (Senior, Freedom High School) and Ollie Bigalow (Pre-K, Rutherford College Elementary) who recently lost their lives. The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by SFC Allan Shade, JROTC Instructor, East Burke High School.

Public Comments

George Henne Jr. – Mr. Henne shared his personal observations of school system concerns resulting from current school board majority.

Jane Sohovich – Mrs. Sohovich welcomed the new superintendent, Dr. Arthur Stellar, to Burke County Public Schools. Mrs. Sohovich shared her concern of teachers being harassed and threatened with their jobs. She challenged Dr. Stellar to look into this issue.

Susie Tilley – Mrs. Tilley spoke on the issue of SACS CASI and the importance of retaining accreditation in our high schools.

Wendell Hildebrand – Mr. Hildebrand proposed that the school system consider transferring the Hildebrand auditorium back to the Town of Hildebrand for renovations. Mr. Hildebrand shared that he felt an agreement could be worked to where the Town of Hildebrand as well as the school system could benefit from the use of the auditorium.

Marsha Riddle – Mrs. Riddle welcomed Dr. Stellar to the community. She requested that the "Meet and Greet" receptions for the new superintendent be held on different nights of the week to allow everyone the opportunity to attend.

Barbara Lingerfelt – Mrs. Lingerfelt shared her concern of proposed policies being posted "only" on the website, thus making it difficult for those without access to computers/internet service to view.

Mrs. Lingerfelt also shared her concerns on the SACS CASI issue as well as her thoughts on the obligation to allow the community to use Burke County School facilities.

Sandra Hatley – Mrs. Hatley shared statistics concerning autism and pointed out that our teachers did not have the necessary training to work with children who have autistic characteristics.

Deb Taylor – Mrs. Taylor shared her concerns from a stakeholder’s perspective of the decision making skills that had been exhibited by the current school board majority.

Approval of Minutes

August 10, 2009 – Mr. Aulgur made the Motion to approve as presented with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

August 24, 2009 – Mrs. Sain made the Motion to approve as presented with a Second by Mr. Aulgur. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

August 25, 2009 – Mr. Aulgur made the Motion to approve as presented with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

September 8, 2009 – The Motion to approve as presented was made by Mrs. Sain with a Second by Mr. Armour. The Motion carried 4-1-1 with Mr. Armour in opposition and Mr. Aulgur in abstention. Ms. Norman was not present for the vote.

September 17, 2009 – The Motion to approve as presented was made by Mrs. Sain with a Second by Mr. Aulgur. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

September 21, 2009 – Mrs. Sain made the Motion to approve as presented with a Second by Mr. Aulgur. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

September 22, 2009 – Mr. Aulgur made the Motion to approve as presented with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion carried 6-0 with Ms. Norman not present for the vote.

September 24, 2009 – The Motion to approve as presented was entered by Mrs. Sain followed by a Second from Mr. Aulgur. The Motion carried 5-0-1 with Mr. Wilkinson in abstention. Ms. Norman was not present for the vote.

Informational Items

A. Reports from the Superintendent

Dr. Stellar shared that during his first week on the job he was visiting each of the schools and as many classrooms as possible. Dr. Stellar shared that he had been very impressed by the cleanliness and maintenance of the buildings, with the schools and classrooms being very inviting. Dr. Stellar shared that it became apparent to him early on that he would need to open up the channels of communication with as many people as possible in our county, thus he immediately scheduled a “Meet and Greet” session for the community to share their thoughts and concerns. Dr. Stellar also shared the importance of families filling out applications for students to receive free and reduced meals. He shared that students benefited from free and reduced meals by having access to these meals as well as students benefiting from the funds the school system receives from various sources based on free and reduced application counts. Dr. Stellar emphasized good student attendance, stating that it impacts student learning. He continued by asking the Board to be thinking about Board trainings/retreats to discuss goals and the operation of a Board and Superintendent working together as well as working with the community. Dr. Stellar also shared the importance of getting as many policies in place as soon as possible to provide a foundation and base of how the school district operates. He shared that the policies could be further refined later. Dr. Stellar concluded by reporting that schools are for teaching and learning and that political activity should take place outside the schools.

B. Important Dates

In order to move on with the agenda the upcoming dates were not read aloud.

C. Reports

• School Improvement Plans

The following principals presented their School Improvement Plans to the Board:

Jan Crump; Salem Elementary, Ross Rumbaugh; Hallyburton Elementary, Teresa Dehart; College Street Academy, Jennifer Hawkins; Mountain View Elementary, Beth Young; North Liberty, Darrin Foddrell; Walter Johnson Middle, Angela Williams; Liberty Middle, Debbie Kendall; Forest Hill Elementary, Todd Sudderth; Heritage Middle, Becky Roach; Rutherford College Elementary

Long Range Items/Topics

A. Construction Update – Mr. Tony Cox

Mr. Cox reported the science facility renovations at Freedom and East Burke were still ahead of schedule and were approaching 70% completion. Mr. Cox provided a PowerPoint showing not only the science lab renovations but also additional science classrooms and media center renovations at both schools. Mr. Cox briefed on the re-roofing project at George Hildebrand Elementary, HVAC upgrades to Liberty Middle, Energy Star roofing at Freedom High School, etc. Mr. Cox complimented Dr. Angie Blalock and her staff for the installation of over 700 pieces of computer equipment within the past 11 ½ months.

First Readings for Proposed Policies

A. Ethics Policy – Mr. Jonathan Clontz, CTE Director

Mr. Clontz reported that the policy presented for this meeting was a current revision of an ethics policy by the North Carolina School Boards Association. Mr. Clontz reported that the proposed ethics policy spoke indirectly to recommendations #2 and #5 and directly to recommendation #7 by the SACS CASI Advanced ED team.

Action/Discussion

A. Burke County Board of Education Policy Manual – Mr. Tim Davis

Chapter 1 – Governing Principles

Chapter 2 – School Board Operations

Chapter 3 – General School Administration

Chapter 5 – Instructional Program

The Motion was made by Mr. Buff to approve Burke County Board of Education policy manual updates chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5. Mr. Hairfield provided a Second to the Motion which passed by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board.

B. Long Range Planning – Mr. Tony Cox

Mr. Cox reported that the facilities sub-committee was still working on this particular action item and hoped to have it ready to present to the Board at the next meeting.

C. Temporary Attendance Policy 10.2011 – Mr. Tony Cox

Mr. Cox reported that amending this policy was necessary due to the recognition of the current H1N1 flu pandemic and that the amendment to this policy would be temporary until the conclusion of the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Cox stressed the need to go ahead get this policy approved; therefore, the Motion was made by Mr. Aulgur to suspend the rule in the policy that requires a second reading of the said policy. Mr. Hairfield provided the Second for the Motion which carried by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board. The Motion was then made by Mr. Hairfield to approve the temporary policy 10.2011 with a Second by Mrs. Sain. Mr. Armour shared his concern of #2 under the Exemption From Exams section, stating that it might

possibly encourage students who had no more than one absence to come to school sick to keep from having to take the exams. It was the consensus of the Board to further amend the policy by striking #2 from the Exemption from Exams section of the policy and to include letter grade "C" in #1 of the Exemption from Exams section of said policy. The Motion was then made by Mr. Aulgur to approve the temporary policy 10.2011 with before mentioned changes. Mr. Armour provided a Second to the Motion was passed by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board.

Closed Session

Ms. Norman read into record the wording for the Motion to go into Closed Session for personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 115C-319 - 115C-321, and for attorney client matters pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed by the Board in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Board, and for the consideration of qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness conditions or appointment and or conditions of initial employment of potential employee or employees of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). The Motion was made by Mrs. Sain to enter into Closed Session as stated by Ms. Norman with a Second by Mr. Buff. The Motion carried by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board. The Board proceeded to Closed Session at approximately 8:48 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:55 p.m. for the approval of personnel reports.

Approval of Personnel Reports


Mr. Aulgur made a Motion to approve personnel reports dated September 28, 2009 and October 5, 2009, as presented, with a Second by Mrs. Sain. The Motion carried by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board.


Dr. Stellar reported that after discussing the unsealing of executive (closed) session minutes, the Board had asked him to work with attorneys to develop a proposed policy to determine how to deal with this issue in the future. In the interim, the Board voted by a Motion from Mr. Armour and a Second by Mr. Wilkinson to unseal the executive (closed) session minutes of August 10, 2009 and September 17, 2009. The Motion carried by a unanimous 7-0 vote of the Board.

Ms. Norman asked that everyone remember the families of Jessie Norton, former Freedom High School student, and Ollie Bigalow, former Rutherford College Elementary student, who had both recently lost their life.

Adjournment

The Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hairfield and Seconded by Mr. Aulgur. Without opposition, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m. by a 7-0 vote of the Board.


Chairman, Burke County School Board


Secretary, Burke County School Board

**BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ray Childers Elementary School**

**Closed Session - Special Called Meeting
October 5, 2009**

Members Present: Ms. Tracy Norman (Chair), Mr. Tim Buff (Vice Chair), Mr. Buddy Armour, Mr. John Aulgur, Mr. Rob Hairfield, Mrs. Karen Sain and Mr. Sam Wilkinson.

Others Present: Mr. Rick Sherrill (Acting Superintendent), Mr. Tony Cox (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Jon Jones (Board Attorney) and Mr. Winston Bagley (Director, Human Resources).

The Board entered into closed session at 9:02 P.M. The Board briefly discussed Personnel Reports for September 28, 2009 and October 5, 2009.

The following Closed Session Minutes were discussed and voted on:

Closed Session Minutes for August 10, 2009 – The Motion was made to approve as corrected by Mr. Tim Buff and Seconded by Mr. John Aulgur. The Motion was approved 7-0.

Closed Session Minutes for August 24, 2009 – The Motion was made by Mr. John Aulgur and Seconded by Mr. Tim Buff. The Motion was approved 6-1 with Mr. Armour in opposition.

Closed Session Minutes for August 25, 2009 – The Motion was made to approve as corrected by Mr. John Aulgur and Seconded by Mr. Tim Buff. The Motion was approved 6-1 with Mr. Armour in opposition.

Closed Session Minutes for September 8, 2009 – The Motion was made by Mr. Tim Buff and Seconded by Mrs. Karen Sain. The Motion was approved 5-2 with Mr. Armour and Mr. Wilkinson in opposition.

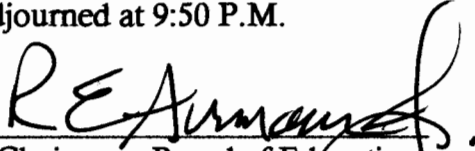
Closed Session Minutes for September 17, 2009 – The Motion was made by Mr. John Aulgur and Seconded by Mrs. Karen Sain. The Motion was approved by 7-0.

It was the consensus of the Board to release the August 10, 2009 and September 17, 2009 Closed Session Minutes to the public.

Mr. Jon Jones updated the Board on the status of security issues concerning the letter send via email to Mr. Sherrill from Mr. Randy Sain. This letter was posted on a web site prior to being delivered to SACS CASI Review team. Mr. Jones has corresponded with Mrs.

Thomas. She would not release the name of the person who gave her the contents of the letter. He also has asked the assistant district attorney to investigate. He gave each Board member and Dr. Stellar a copy of the correspondence.

Mrs. Sain made the Motion to come out of Closed Session followed by a Second from Mr. Buff. By a unanimous 7-0 vote Closed Session adjourned at 9:50 P.M.


Chairman, Board of Education


Secretary, Board of Education

**BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC COPY
Personnel Report
for
September 28, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - PART-TIME/TEMPORARY

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Brookes, James	Countywide	BATS Counselor
2.	Costello, Nikki	East Burke HS	After School Remed.
3.	Hardin, Edward	Countywide	BATS Counselor
4.	Morgan, Crystal	East Burke HS	After School Remed.
5.	Russ, William T.	East Burke HS	Driver's Ed. Instructor
6.	Shehan, Eric	East Burke HS	After School Remed.

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: RESIGNATIONS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
7.	McCall, Stacey	Ray Childers Elem.	Daycare Worker

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - FULL-TIME

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
8.	Lowman, Jr. Michael	George Hildebrand	Teacher Assistant

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - TEMPORARY/PART-TIME

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
9.	Ford, Laura	Hillcrest Elem.	Sub Bus Monitor
10.	Schwacke, Jill	North Liberty	Sub Bus Monitor

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.

NAME CODE

- 11. Koontz, Kimberly C. 4
- 12. Yount, Candace 4

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

**Public Copy
Personnel Report
for
October 5, 2009**

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: RETIREMENTS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1.	Read, Elton D.	Freedom HS	JROTC Instructor

CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - PART-TIME/TEMPORARY

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
2.	Banks, Regina	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
3.	Bowman, Keisha	Heritage MS	Project Rise Up Tutor
4.	Campbell, Dawn	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
5.	Crumpler, Hillary	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
6.	Dowdy, Sharon	Heritage MS	Project Rise Up Tutor
7.	Fleming, Jenny	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
8.	Hyde, Heidi	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
9.	Metcalf, Angie	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
10.	Murray, Jerry	Draughn HS	After School Tutor
11.	Pieto, Joanne	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
12.	Piercy, Kerri	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
13.	Pritchard, Cindy	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
14.	Propst, Christy	Draughn HS	After School Tutor
15.	Schroeder, William	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
16.	Smith, Myrtle	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
17.	Spain, Timothy	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
18.	Toothman, Brad	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor
19.	Thornton, Dustin	Draughn HS	After School Remed.
20.	Wall, Lisa	Draughn HS	After School Tutor
21.	Weider, Jennifer	Table Rock MS	After School Tutor

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL: ELECTIONS - TEMPORARY/PART-TIME

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
22.	Cooke, Jamie	Valdese Elem.	Teacher Assistant
23.	Foy, Weston	Forest Hill Elem.	Daycare Worker
24.	Stamey, Debra A.	East Burke HS	Sub Bus Driver

ELECTIONS: SUBSTITUTES

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NAME CODE

25. Cox, Jonathan 4 .