

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, January 27, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers at Hickory City Hall.

Members present included: Vice Chair Charlotte Williams; Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Amy Monroe, and Julie Correll; and Board Attorney Jeffrey T. Mackie. Absent were Board Chair Reginald Hamilton and Rev. T. Anthony Spearman.

Also present at the meeting were the following individuals: Dr. Walter H. Hart, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Patterson, Chief Academic Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Adam Huckabee, Facilities Director; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Jeff Tice, Technology Director; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; student and teacher representatives from Jenkins Elementary School; invited guests; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Agenda Items I. and II. (Call to Order and Quorum Determination)

Vice Chair Williams called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present. On behalf of the Board, Vice Chair Williams expressed appreciation for all the wonderful treats and cards from the schools to Board members on behalf of School Board Appreciation Month.

Agenda Item III. (Pledge of Allegiance and Adoption of the Agenda)

Student representatives from Jenkins Elementary School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and the Board's vote was 5-0

Agenda Item IV. (Minutes)

There were no minutes for approval at this meeting.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

Ms. Julie Grice, ESL teacher at Grandview and Southwest and President of the Hickory Public Schools' chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), requested that the Board give consideration to adopting a resolution developed by NCAE that expresses disapproval of the "25% law" which requires superintendents and boards to identify 25% of its teachers to be offered a four year contract that provide for a \$500 bonus during each of the four years of the contract in exchange for those teachers surrendering their career status. Ms. Grice stated that this law is very divisive for teachers and adopting the resolution would reflect the Board's support of public educators. Ms. Grice shared a copy of the resolution and requested that the Board give consideration to its adoption at its next work session.

Ms. Jean McNulty shared concerns with the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Hickory High School. She reminded the Board that she shared concerns three (3) months ago. However, since that time she stated that she had gathered additional information. Ms. McNulty stated that she has spoken with Hickory High parents about the IB program and one has expressed concern about the courses offered. She stated that IB is a liberal arts program and the next generation of workers must be prepared by taking STEM classes which are not offered through IB. She further stated that Hickory High does not have enough students to offer both Advanced Placement (AP) and IB classes and that AP classes are more widely accepted at many colleges and universities. Ms. McNulty encouraged the Board to speak with students and ask for their assessment of the program and further requested that the Board consider eliminating the IB program at Hickory High which she stated is not endorsed or supported by families at Hickory High School. She further stated that eliminating the IB program would save the district over \$43,000, simplify the master schedule, and provide the opportunity for additional AP courses in the schedule which would better prepare students for college. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and shared a prepared handout to each member.

Agenda Item VI. (Programs/Special Recognitions)

Dr. Hart introduced Ms. Terri Hall who has been working with eLeaders at each school and was present tonight with eLeaders Lisa Evans and Denise Prince from Jenkins Elementary School. Ms. Evans and Ms. Prince reported that they have integrated the use of technology in the classrooms to build on skills learned with Literacy First. Three students were present and, using their technology devices, demonstrated to Board members how they use these devices in their classrooms as an instructional tool.

Dr. Hart expressed gratitude to Ms. Evans and Ms. Prince for their efforts. He further stated that during the current school year, including the one to one program being implemented at HCAM, the Hickory Public Schools has purchased over 700 technology devices.

Vice Chair Williams and Dr. Hart recognized the following individuals for recent achievements:

1. Claire McCrea, 8th grade student at Northview Middle School, as the 2014 HPS Spelling Bee Champion;
2. David Wortman, Band Director at Northview Middle School, as the 2014 Catawba County Band Director of the Year;
3. Jason Stephens, NW 3A/4A Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year;
4. John Hamilton and Lisa Clark, NW 3A/4A Girls Cross Country Coaches of the Year;
5. Rom Teague, NW 3A/4A Girls Tennis Coach of the Year; and
6. Winners and Honorable Mention of the HPS 2014 AIG Elementary Science Showcase
 - a. Sarah Marshall, Oakwood Elementary School, 1st Place
 - b. Waker Griffin, Jenkins Elementary School, 2nd Place
 - c. Jackson Mullins, Jenkins Elementary School, 3rd Place
 - d. Mackenzie Tonks, Southwest Elementary School, Honorable Mention

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

Dr. Hart presented the following items under the consent agenda:

1. Donations, adding a \$2,000 donation to Viewmont for science equipment for kindergarten classes;
2. Several field trip requests that included the following:
 - a. Oakwood's 5th grade class travelling to Washington, D.C.;
 - b. Jenkins' 1st grade class going to the Riverbanks Zoo;
 - c. Grandview's band and orchestra attending the Carowinds Music Festival on May 31;
 - d. Members of the Northview Orchestra participating in the Junior Honors Orchestra on May 2 and 3;
 - e. The Hickory High DECA Club attending the state conference on February 27 -- March 1; and
 - f. The Hickory High Key Club participating in district competition on March 21-23.
3. The sale of surplus property.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope the Board voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Agenda Item VII.B. (2014-15 Capital Outlay Budget Request)

Dr. Hart reminded Board members that Mr. Huckabee presented the 2014-15 Capital Outlay Budget Request at its last work session. Dr. Hart recommended the Board approve the request as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2014-15 Capital Outlay Budget Request as presented.

Agenda Item VII.C. (2014-15 Current Expense Budget Request)

Mr. Adam Steele, Finance Officer, presented the 2014-15 Current Expense Budget Request. He reminded the Board that both the Current Expense and Capital Outlay budgets are requested by the Board of Commissioners by the end of February for county planning purposes. He reviewed items in the request and entertained questions from the Board.

There being no further discussion, upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2014-15 Current Expense Budget Request as presented.

Agenda Item VII.D. (Budget Amendments)

Mr. Steele reviewed the follow budget amendments with the Board: State #11; OSR #3, #4, and #5; and Federal #10 through #15.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe the Board voted 5-0 to approve the budget amendments as presented.

Agenda Item VII.E. (Audit Contract for FYE June 30, 2014)

Mr. Steele reminded the Board that the contract for audit services was presented at its recent work session. The fee of \$27,000 reflects no increase over the previous year.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the contract with Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC for audit services of the general purpose financial statements of the Hickory Public Schools for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 as presented.

Agenda Item VII.F. (Resolution – Voucher Litigation)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that this resolution was presented at its last work session. The North Carolina School Boards Association has requested that districts across the state join a lawsuit that it filed against legislation that would allow for the payment of vouchers from public funds to families for children to attend private schools. Dr. Hart assured the Board that there is no cost to the district for its participation in this litigation.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the resolution as presented.

Agenda Item VII.G. (2014-2015 Calendar)

Dr. Hart stated that the proposed calendar meets the requirements of the law, has been shared with neighboring districts, as well as leadership groups in the district, and was discussed at the last work session. He recommended the Board approve the proposed calendar as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Correll and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the 2014-2015 calendar as presented.

Agenda Item VII.H. (MOU – Catawba Valley Emergency Medical Services)

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 5-0 to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Catawba Valley Emergency Medical Services for the purpose of providing instruction in emergency medical treatment as part of the Public Safety Academy at HCAM, as presented.

Agenda Item VIII.A. (Unfinished Business)

There were no items to discuss under unfinished business.

Agenda Item VII.B. (Chairperson's Report)

Vice Chair Williams reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Monday, February 10, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building;
2. Thursday, February 13, 8:00-5:00, Board Retreat, Rock Barn Golf & Spa;
3. Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall.

Vice Chair Williams announced that Hickory High will host an Italian dinner and Open House at the school on Monday, February 3, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item VIII.C. (Superintendent's Report)

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Hart shared the following items:

1. February is Black History Month and provided the Board with a list of activities that are planned at schools and encouraged Board members to attend;

2. A copy of the CAFR – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – for fiscal year ended June 30, 2013 has been provided for each member and is an excellent resource for statistical and demographic information;
3. Congratulations to Beverly Snowden who has received seven (7) awards of excellence in writing.
4. In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, Dr. Hart thanked Board members for all they do for the children and staff of the Hickory Public Schools.

Agenda Item IX. (Closed Session)

Ms. Monroe made a motion that the Board of Education go into closed session for the following reasons: to consider candidates recommended for employment by the administration as provided for in G.S.143.318.11 and in accordance with the North Carolina Personnel Act. Ms. Correll seconded the motion and the Board’s vote was 5-0.

Agenda Item X. (Action Items from Closed Session)

Upon return to open session, Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 12. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and the Board’s vote was 5-0.

Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)


No announcements were made.

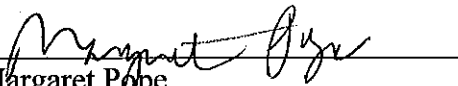
Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

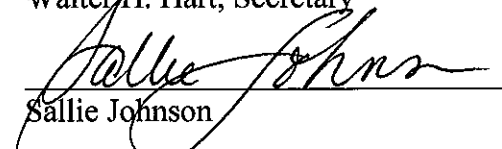
Reginald Hamilton, Chairperson (absent)


Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair


Margaret Pope

Amy Monroe


Walter H. Hart, Secretary


Sallie Johnson

Rev. T. Anthony Spearman (absent)


Julie Correll