

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, October 28, 2013

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, October 28, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers at Hickory City Hall.

Members present included: Chairperson Angela Beaver Simmons; Vice Chair Reginald Hamilton; Board members Charlotte Williams, Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, and Amy Monroe; and Board Attorney Jeffrey T. Mackie.

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; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; 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 Northview Middle School; elementary principals and their school improvement team chairs; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

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

Chairperson Beaver Simmons called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present.

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

Student representatives from Northview Middle School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Beaver Simmons thanked the students for their participation in the meeting.

Ms. Williams made a motion that the Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pope and the Board's vote was 7-0

Agenda Item IV. (Minutes)

Ms. Johnson made a motion that the Board approve minutes from the September 9 and September 23 meetings of the Board. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion and the Board's vote was 7-0.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

Ms. Jean McAnulty thanked the Board for the opportunity to share a few comments about the IB program at Hickory High School. Ms. McAnulty stated that at the inception of the IB program at Hickory High in 2007, she attended many meetings to learn about the program. Since she was familiar with the AP program, she thought it was important to learn about the IB program. Since that time, enrollment at Hickory High has decreased and Ms. McAnulty stated that it is difficult for the school to support both the AP and IB programs. She asked the Board to discontinue

the IB program upon graduation of the current junior class due to decreased enrollment at Hickory High School, the complications it creates with the master schedule, and the cost of the program. She stated that students at Hickory High are interested in achieving academic success and the AP offers the accelerated classes they need. Ms. McAnulty advised the Board that she has shared these comments with Dr. Ann Stalnaker, Principal at Hickory High School.

Mr. James Brinkley, a former student of Longview Elementary School, requested that the Board give thoughtful consideration to not changing the name of the school once the new school is built. Mr. Brinkley stated that the students are proud of their school and should be able to have a new school with the same name. He asked the Board to consider his request and thanked the Board for the opportunity to share his concerns.

At this time, Dr. Hart introduced Ms. Carrie Kahn and Ms. Kathryn Little, teachers at Northview Middle School, and student representatives from Northview who were present to talk about the integration of technology to meet the needs of all students.

Ms. Kahn and Ms. Little provided each Board member with a mimeo tablet. With the assistance of student representatives, Board members participated in a “class” where they would read a question on their tablet and would click on the correct answer. Answers would project on the screen. Ms. Kahn stated that with this device she is able to perform some quick, informal assessments with her students and it provides her with the ability to reach all the different learners in her class. Ms. Little gave the Board a paper/pencil test, handing out two sheets to each member, one is modified and one has advanced answers. Students can respond to the questions with the mimeo tablet but no one knows who has the modified version or who has the advanced version. Students assisted Board members with their use of the mimeo tablet and engaged them with the integration of technology in the “class”.

Agenda Item VI. (Programs/Special Recognitions)

Dr. Hart and Chairperson Beaver Simmons recognized Ms. Tammy Reyes, Band Director at Hickory High, for recent successes at band competitions. Dr. Hart thanked Ms. Reyes for building a quality band program at Hickory High and Chairperson Beaver Simmons presented Ms. Reyes with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Hart and Chairperson Beaver Simmons recognized Mr. Jeff Hodakowski, Principal at Viewmont Elementary School, for being selected by his peers at the Hickory Public Schools’ Principal of the Year.

Dr. Hart announced that each elementary school principal was present with their school improvement team chair to share accomplishments from the 2012-2013 school year and the focus for improvement for 2013-2014. A copy of each school’s presentation is attached for reference.

Chairperson Beaver Simmons thanked principals and teachers for sharing information about their school improvement plans. She stated that the Board appreciated a look at the accomplishments from last year and a focus to the future. She stated that the Board is able to have a tangible sense of what is happening in the schools through these presentations.

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Field trip request and
2. Fund raiser request

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Agenda Item VII.B. (2012-2013 Audit Report)

Upon motion made by Rev. Spearman and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the 2012-2013 Audit Report as presented.

Agenda Item VII.C. (School Improvement Plans – Northview, Grandview, Hickory High and HCAM)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that the middle and high school's school improvement plans were presented to the Board at its October 14 work session. Dr. Hart stated that he was recommending formal approval by the Board of the plans presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the 2013-2014 School Improvement Plans for Northview Middle, Grandview Middle, Hickory High, and Hickory Career & Arts Magnet High as presented.

Agenda Item VII.D. (Fee Schedule for Use of Facilities)

Dr. Hart stated that the proposed reduced fee schedule which would apply to non-profit agencies requesting use of facilities in the Hickory Public Schools was discussed at a recent work session. Dr. Hart recommended approval by the Board.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the fee schedule for facility use by non-profit agencies.

Agenda Item VII.E. (Resolution)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that members of the Hickory community approached the Board about a year ago with a proposal to participate in a program that would raise the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18. Dr. Hart recommended the Board consider passing this Resolution which requests the North Carolina legislators to pass legislation that would enable Hickory City Schools to pilot a program that would require students to attend school until they are graduated from high school or the completion of the school year of their 18th birthday. Dr. Hart stated that this pilot program would be effective July 1, 2014.

Upon motion made by Mr. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Resolution as presented.

Agenda Item VII.F. (Naming of New Elementary School)

Chairperson Beaver Simmons reminded those in attendance that the Board held an open hearing for members of the community to share their suggestions for a name for the new elementary

school that will replace the current Longview Elementary School. She stated that the Board has policy that provides guidelines for naming of facilities and that the Board has taken seriously the suggestions that have been made.

Ms. Johnson made a motion that the Board name the new school Longview Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Rev. Spearman.

Ms. Johnson stated that after careful consideration her motion to name the new school Longview Elementary School was to recognize and honor all the students, teachers and administrators who have been a part of that community. She stated that the children at the school identify themselves as Longview students and it gives them a sense of ownership. Mr. Hamilton stated that the Board considered three suggested names for the new school and that he was in agreement with Ms. Johnson to keep the name of Longview Elementary School. Ms. Pope and Ms. Monroe made positive comments to retaining the Longview name. Chairperson Beaver Simmons stated that there was a motion on the floor and it was seconded. She called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0, to name the new school Longview Elementary School.

Agenda Item VII.G. (Contract – Board Attorney)

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the renewal of a contract with Mr. Jeffrey T. Mackie to serve as Attorney to the Hickory Board of Education for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015.

Agenda Item VII.H. (Contract – Superintendent)

Chairperson Beaver Simmons stated that the Board has reviewed the performance of Superintendent Dr. Walter Hart and is extremely satisfied with his performance. As a result, the Board would like to renew his contract through June 30, 2017.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the Board voted 7-0 to renew the contract with Dr. Walter Hart to serve as Superintendent of the Hickory Public Schools for the period November 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017.

Agenda Item VII.I (First Reading of new board Policies)

Dr. Hart presented six policies for approval by the Board on first reading. He reminded the Board that these policies were reviewed at its recent work session.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Mr. Hamilton, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy IFBG – Technology in the Educational Program – as presented.

Upon motion made by Rev. Spearman and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy IFBGA – Technology Responsible Use – as presented.

Upon motion made by Rev. Spearman and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy IFBGB – Internet Safety – as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy IFBGC – Web Page Development – as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy JH – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations – as presented

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve Board policy CEI – Superintendent’s Evaluation – as presented.

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that these policies would be posted on the district website for public input and would be presented at the Board’s December 2 meeting for second reading and adoption.

Agenda Item VIII.A. (Unfinished Business)

There were no items to discuss under unfinished business.

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

Chairperson Beaver Simmons reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Monday, November 4, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building;
2. Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall.

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

During the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Hart reminded the Board of a tour scheduled of the new Longview Elementary School prior to the Board’s November 4 meeting. Members should plan to meet at the site at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Hart advised the Board that he would hope to have detailed information on last year’s test scores by the Board’s next work session. He did state the proficiency rates across the state will decrease even though the actual score may reflect growth.

Agenda Item IX. (Closed Session)

Ms. Johnson 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. Rev. Spearman seconded the motion and the Board’s vote was 7-0.

Agenda Item X. (Action Items from Closed Session)

Upon return to open session, Ms. Johnson made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 8. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and the Board’s vote was 7-0.

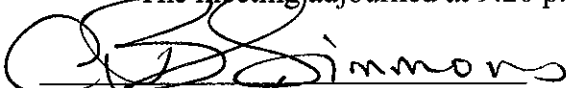
Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)


There were no special announcements.


Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn.

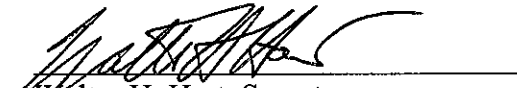
The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

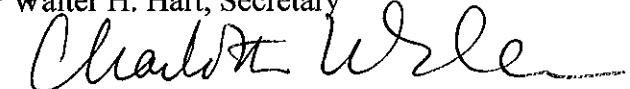

Angela Beaver Simmons, Chairperson

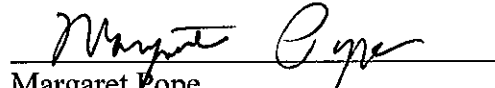

Reginald Hamilton, Vice Chair

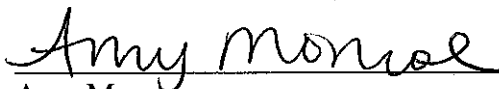

Sallie Johnson


Rev. T. Anthony Spearman


Walter H. Hart, Secretary


Charlotte Williams


Margaret Pope


Amy Monroe