

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, September 23, 2013

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, September 23, 2013, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers at Hickory City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the public with an opportunity to suggest names for the new elementary school.

Members present included: Vice Chair Reginald Hamilton; Board members Charlotte Williams, Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, and Amy Monroe; and acting Board Attorney Stephen Palmer. Absent were Board Chair Angela Beaver Simmons 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; Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Adam Huckabee, Facilities Director; Amanda Byrd, Exceptional Children's Programs Director; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Vice Chair Reginald Hamilton called the meeting to order and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Palmer.

Mr. Palmer stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide the public with the opportunity to address the Board with name suggestions for the new elementary school. Mr. Palmer reviewed the ground rules for addressing the Board. He stated that individuals should register prior to the start of the meeting and that each person will have three minutes to address the Board. It will not be a question/answer session with the Board; however, the Board may have questions to clarify an individual's suggestion. After everyone has had an opportunity to address the Board, Mr. Palmer stated that the Board would close the public hearing and will make a decision on this matter at a later date.

Mr. Billy Suddreth addressed the Board on behalf of the National Ridgeview Alumni Association. Mr. Suddreth recommended that the Board give consideration to naming the new elementary school the Marie C. Poston Elementary School. Ms. Poston was an educator in the Hickory community and Mr. Suddreth stated that she was highly regarded not only as a teacher but as an active member of the community who influenced the lives of many young men and women.

Ms. Caroline Walker and Mr. Josh Cornwell, teacher and counselor at the current Longview Elementary School, addressed the Board. They stated that staff at the school was surveyed and voted that the new name for the school should be West Park Elementary School which would honor the community where the school will be.

Ms. Deborah McNuer addressed the Board on behalf of Hickory Westmont Neighborhood Association and recommended that it give consideration to naming the school Westview Elementary School which would bring in the Westmont neighborhood but still keep a connection with the past.

Vice Chair Hamilton thanked the individuals for their recommendations and stated that the Board would take all suggestions into consideration. Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at its last work session there was a discussion about conducting a survey of staff and current parents based on the names that were suggested by the conclusion of this public hearing. Dr. Hart stated that he would provide the Board with the results of a survey at its next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 6-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Angela Beaver Simmons, Chairperson
(absent)



Reginald Hamilton, Vice Chair



Sallie Johnson



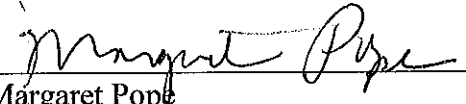
Rev. T. Anthony Spearman



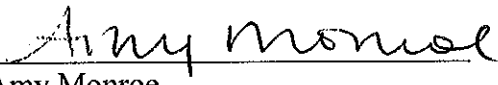
Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Charlotte Williams



Margaret Pope



Amy Monroe