

# **HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Monday, April 14, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, April 14, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Services Building. Members present included: Chairperson Reginald Hamilton; Vice Chair Charlotte Williams; Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll.

Also present were Board Attorney Jeff Mackie; Dr. Walter Hart, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Patterson, Chief Academic Officer; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Adam Huckabee, Director of Facilities; Dr. Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs; Jeff Tice, Director of Technology; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; invited guests; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Chairperson Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Hart introduced Mr. Ryan McCreary, Principal at Oakwood Elementary School, who was present to share with the Board information about a program at his school known as the Young Heros of Hickory which was created to provide a safe environment where young black males could discuss their experiences and learn skills that will enable them to have the opportunity to be successful in life. Accompanying Mr. McCreary was a group of eleven 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys who are members of the Young Heros of Hickory at Oakwood. These young men shared with the Board information about themselves and their plans for the future. Mr. McCreary thanked the parents in attendance for their continued support of the program and also thanked Oakwood teacher Bobby Dettelbach for serving as a group leader. At the end of the presentation, in unison, the boys stated, "If it is to be, it is up to me".

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a presentation by Ms. Gina Sain and Ms. Beth Shoffner, Oakwood Elementary School's eLeaders. Ms. Sain reported that her class did a research project on the Wright Brothers using iPads and students took the assignment to another level researching how planes have changed from the time of the Wright Brothers to the present. She further reported that she recently held a professional development session with Oakwood staff members and shared resources she learned at recent eLeader meetings that could be used in the classroom. Ms. Shoffner stated that technology is fun at Oakwood and shared a program – Reading through the States – that is interactive and something the students can use at school or at home to reinforce the names of states and the state capitals. Principal McCreary stated that it has been great to see the eLeader concept take shape and to be able to get educators together to enhance technology.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a presentation from representatives of Carolina Value Village (CVV), Mr. Bill McLaughlin and Mr. George Upton. Mr.

McLaughlin shared with the Board information about their program that recycles textiles and schools would receive \$.20 for each pound of textiles collected. CVV would be responsible for the delivery and maintenance of the bins placed at the school and would provide marketing to notify parents and the community. There is no expense to the school or the district to participate in the program. Dr. Hart encouraged Board members to contact him or Mr. Huckabee if they have questions about the program and stated that this would be an item recommended for approval at the Board's next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a request from the co-chairs of the Longview Elementary School's school improvement team, Josh Cornwell and Caroline Walker. Mr. Cornwell and Ms. Walker stated that, in an effort to honor individuals and unify the community, the school improvement team would like to suggest the naming of certain areas of the new school as follows:

1. Place a plaque at the new playground to thank the PTA officers and all others who have donated to the purchase of new playground equipment;
2. Honor Dr. Edwin Rogers for his many years of volunteer service to the Longview Elementary School by naming the STEM lab the "Dr. Edwin Rogers STEM Lab";
3. Unify the community in which the new building is located by naming the cafeteria/gymnasium the "Westmont Multipurpose Room"; and
4. Honor the contributions of Marie G. Poston to the education of students in the Ridgeview Community by naming the media center the "Marie G. Poston Media Center".

Board members thanked Mr. Cornwell and Ms. Walker for presenting these recommendations. Dr. Hart advised the Board that this will be presented for formal action by the Board at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information shared by Dr. Hart about changes to the criteria for performance based teacher supplements for which funding is provided by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. Dr. Hart stated that in order to make the model fit the new state accountability standards, there had to be a change in the language around EVAAS growth. Based on the criteria for performance based teacher supplements, Dr. Hart advised the Board that teachers at four schools (Jenkins, Oakwood, Grandview and Northview) would receive the supplement with their April pay.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a recommendation from Dr. Hart that the Board give consideration to continuing the AVID program at HCAM for the third consecutive year. He reminded the Board that AVID is a national program designed around preparing children for college who typically would be the first in their family to attend college. Principal Teresa Carroll advised the Board that there is required training for teachers as part of the school's participation in the program and that currently there are 17 students enrolled in the AVID class. There was a discussion of offering the AVID program at Hickory High School. However, budget constraints prohibit the district from expanding the program at this time. Dr. Hart stated that the Board will be asked to take formal action on this contract at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a resolution that commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Dr. Hart stated that the Board would be asked to take formal action on the resolution at its next meeting. He further stated that principals have been asked to make staff and students aware of this historic Supreme Court decision through announcements, writing and art work.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a report from Chairperson Hamilton and Board member Rev. Spearman on their recent attendance at the National School Boards Association annual conference in New Orleans. Both were grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference and shared information about the many sessions they attended. They also provided Board members with handouts from the conference and suggested that Board members visit the NSBA conference website for additional information.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information shared by Dr. Hart pertaining to SMART Lunch. He advised the Board that SMART Lunch would restructure the lunch period at Hickory High School. Students would have a one hour SMART Lunch period between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> period classes. One half of the students eat lunch during the first 30-minute segment and then have tutoring sessions, enrichment or free time during the second 30-minute segment. Teachers and students who were in tutoring during the first 30 minutes eat lunch during the second 30-minute segment. Dr. Hart advised the Board that Dr. Stalnaker, Principal at Hickory High, would share more detail with the Board at next month's work session.

Dr. Hart presented for approval by the Board a contract for services with Tatia Prieto of Prismatic Services to conduct an independent evaluation of the International Baccalaureate program at Hickory High School.

Upon motion made by Rev. Spearman and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the services of Tatia Prieto as presented.

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that it had the opportunity at its recent retreat to meet Dr. Chance Lewis and learn about his work. He further stated that the district is fortunate to have someone with Dr. Lewis' expertise on the achievement of minority children who is willing to work with us. Dr. Hart presented for approval by the Board a contract for services with Dr. Chance Lewis to provide professional development with administrators and school leaders to develop an action plan for success at each school.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the agreement with Dr. Chance Lewis as presented.

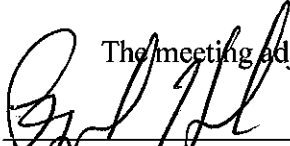
Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to approve a field trip request from Grandview Middle School for students to compete in the State Environthon Competition April 25 and 26.

Chairperson Hamilton reviewed calendar reminders with the Board:

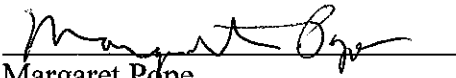
1. Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting Hickory City Hall;
2. Thursday, May 8 at Noon, Wm. Jenkins Teacher of the year Luncheon, Lake Hickory Rotary Club;
3. Friday, May 9 at Noon, HPS Teacher of the Year Luncheon, Market on Main;
4. Monday, May 12, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building; and
5. Monday, May 19, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall.

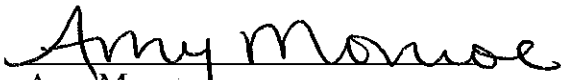
There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


  
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Reginald Hamilton, Chair

  
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Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair

  
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Margaret Pope

  
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Amy Monroe

  
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Walter H. Hart, Secretary

  
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Sallie Johnson

  
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T. Anthony Spearman

  
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Julie Correll