

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, December 1, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers at Hickory City Hall.

Members present included: Chairperson Reginald Hamilton; Vice Chair Charlotte Williams; Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Amy Monroe and Ittiely Carson; and Board Attorney Jeffrey T. Mackie. Absent was Board member Julie Correll.

Also present at the meeting were the following individuals: Dr. Walter H. Hart, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Patterson, Chief Academic Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; Dr. Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Angela Simmons, Director of Student Services; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Adam Huckabee, Facilities Director; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Jeff Tice, Technology Director; invited guests; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

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

Chairperson Hamilton 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 Viewmont Elementary School led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Johnson made a motion that the Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Williams and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Agenda Item IV. (Minutes)

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the October 13 minutes as presented.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

Ms. Lisa Bradley addressed the Board expressing concerns with the expense of the IB program at Hickory High School. She presented the Board with a petition signed by individuals that urge the Board to eliminate the IB program at Hickory High School. She stated that additional signatures were being gathered and would be passed along to the Board. Ms. Bradley stated that the Board should maximize its resources for all students.

Chairperson Hamilton thanked Ms. Bradley for her comments.

Agenda Item VI. (Programs/Special Recognitions)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that one of the focus areas for this school year is to improve the achievement of minority students. He stated that Dr. Chance Lewis has been working with

principals in this endeavor. Dr. Hart stated that principals have been asked to update the Board each month about initiatives at their respective schools. He then introduced Mr. Jeff Hodakowski, Principal at Viewmont Elementary School, who was present to share the initiatives Viewmont Elementary School has developed to improve the achievement of minority students.

Mr. Hodakowski introduced four members of his faculty – Ms. Dijion Gibson, Ms. Micha Hale, Ms. Laura Carter, and Ms. Denise Knowles. He stated that one of Viewmont’s goals is to improve the academic achievement of all students and indicated that the teachers who were present would share with the Board strategies and initiatives that have been implemented, in addition to a few that will start later in the year, toward that goal.

Faculty members from Viewmont shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board which highlighted the use of technology by students and staff in the classrooms stating that each classroom has 10 iPads, thanking the efforts of the Viewmont PTA and the district’s matching funds program. This use of technology allows students to collaborate on reading and research projects, as well as view subject areas on their own. It further assists teachers to identify where student may be struggling. The faculty further highlighted a recent science festival that was conducted by the school in which the Catawba Science Center participated. A school-wide homework and grading policy has been implemented and provides for increased student responsibility as they move to the next higher grade level. Additionally, students with good grades may participate in various clubs at Viewmont which include robotics, running, elementary battle of the books, fire bowl and chorus. Future plans for Viewmont include a gifted and talented center for students who finish their work and have extra time. It will include higher level thinking games and strategies. Another future plan includes a display of pennants that would reflect the 91 different colleges and universities attended by Viewmont staff and faculty members to encourage students to further their education after they graduate from high school.

Chairperson Hamilton and other Board members thanked Mr. Hodakowski and members of his staff for all the good things that are happening at the school and for making a difference in the lives of children.

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Various donations;
2. Field trip request;

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Agenda Item VIII.A. (Chairperson’s Report)

Chairperson Hamilton reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Tuesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall meeting, Hickory High School
2. Monday, December 15, 5:30 p.m., Specially Called Meeting of the Board, Administrative Services Building

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

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Hart reported that he would be attending a meeting in Asheboro with other city systems from across the state.

Agenda Item IX. (Closed Session)

Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board of Education go into closed session for the following reason: 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. Johnson seconded the motion and the Board's vote was 6-0.

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. 10. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)

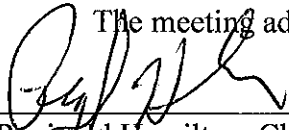
Board Attorney, Jeff Mackie, announced that he will be retiring from the practice of law effective March 1 and, therefore, will no longer serve as the Board's attorney. Mr. Mackie indicated that Mr. Stephen Palmer will assume the duties of attorney to the Board. Mr. Mackie thanked the Board for keeping its focus on what is best for the students in the Hickory Public Schools.

The Board thanked Mr. Mackie for his services to the Hickory Public Schools.

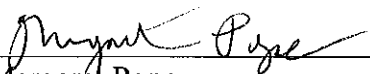
Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

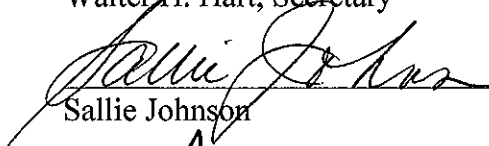

Reginald Hamilton, Chairperson

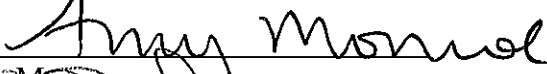

Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair

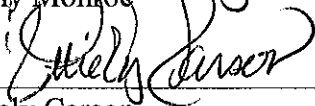

Margaret Pope

Julie Correll (absent)


Walter H. Hart, Secretary


Sallie Johnson


Amy Monroe


Ittiely Carson