

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, July 14, 2014

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

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; Angela Simmons, Director of Students Services; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; Terri Hall, Instructional Technology Specialist; Ryan McCreary, Principal, Oakwood Elementary School; representatives from Aramark Management Services; Roger Holland, Architect with Holland and Hamrick; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Chairperson Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. stating that Board members had a tour of new Longview School prior to the meeting.

The first item of business to come before the meeting was a video on heart health that was produced through a partnership with students from Hickory Career & Arts Magnet High School, Catawba Valley Community College and Carteret Hospital. Dr. Hart thanked Ms. Snowden for her role in the production of the video.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a report from Roger Holland on the status of the new Longview Elementary School. Mr. Holland reported that the project was on schedule and under budget and asked if Board members had any questions as a result of the tour they took prior to the beginning of this meeting. There were no questions from the Board. However, Board members did make positive comments on the new facility and appreciated the hard work of Mr. Holland and Mr. Huckabee.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was an update to the Board on the possibility of Aramark Management Services taking over the custodial program for the Hickory Schools which would be a savings of \$200,000 to the district. Dr. Hart stated that this proposal is a reality about the current budget situation. He introduced representatives from Aramark – Dwight Teague and Joan White – who were present to answer questions from the Board about the proposal.

Board members questioned salary, insurance and retirement benefits of those employees who would be affected. Dr. Hart reported that the proposal would affect 16 full time (three of whom are eligible to retire with full benefits) and nine part-time employees. Dr. Hart stated that the

part-time employees do not currently receive benefits and for the full-time employees the benefits with Aramark would be different than the state benefits they currently have. Dr. Hart stressed to the Board that this recommendation is based on the current budget situation. The \$200,000 shortfall in the budget has to be covered either by the proposed move of custodians to Aramark or through other cuts to programs or services. He encouraged Board members to contact him with additional questions or concerns they may have.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was the review of a contract with Nexcheck which will provide electronic re-resentation of insufficient funds checks and other dishonored check recovery systems for the Hickory Public Schools Child Nutrition Program. Dr. Hart advised the Board that this would be presented for formal approval at the Board's July 28 meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was four new policies related to Child Nutrition from the North Carolina School Boards Association. The first policy stated that the child nutrition program will be operated in accordance with federal guidelines. The second policy states that the district will provide free and reduced price meals to students who qualify for them without discrimination. The third policy states that the district will comply with new guidelines on nutritional standards and the fourth policy states that beverage vending machines cannot be turned on until 30 minutes after the end of the school day. Child Nutrition Director Rebecca Allen reviewed each of the policies and entertained questions from the Board. She stated that these policies would be presented for first reading at the Board's July 28 meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was an agreement with Catawba Valley Community College to continue the partnership with HCAM. The district has been covering a portion of the salary of CVCC instructions and with this agreement CVCC is covering the entire cost. The agreement will be presented for approval at the Board's next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was an agreement with I-CARE Head Start for a preschool program at Jenkins Elementary School. This contract will be presented for approval at the Board's next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a request to submit a waiver request to the state to provide for five additional days of testing for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability, stated that this would provide an option of extending the testing window if it was needed and recommended that the Board approve the submission of the waiver request. Dr. Hart stated that formal approval by the Board would be asked at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a list of contracts for services to the Exceptional Children's Program. Ms. Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children, presented contracts for review and entertained questions from the Board. Ms. Byrd stated that the contracts would be presented for adoption by the Board at the next meeting.

Dr. Hart stated that a charitable organization is providing a grant to the Hickory Schools in the amount of \$150,000 which will provide for a reading specialist to serve 2nd and 3rd grade students at Longview and Southwest schools for the next three years. Dr. Hart thanked Dr. Patterson for her work in serving as a liaison with the charitable organization involved. Dr. Hart recommended that the Board approved this donation as presented.

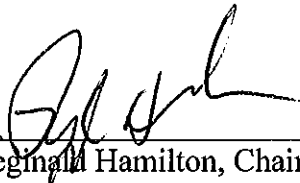
Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 4-0-1 to accept the donation as presented, with Ms. Correll abstaining from the vote.

Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board 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. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and the Board's vote was 5-0.

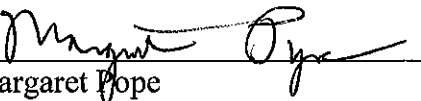
Upon return to open session, Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 1 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and the Board's vote was 5-0.

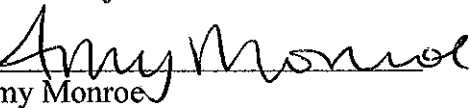
There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

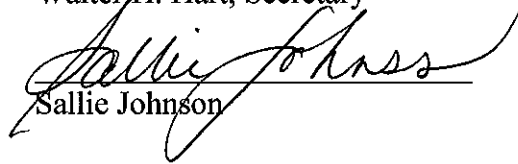

Regina Hamilton, Chair

Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair (absent)


Margaret Pope


Amy Monroe


Walter H. Hart, Secretary


Sallie Johnson

T. Anthony Spearman (absent)


Julie Correll