

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, March 24, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 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, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll; 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; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Adam Huckabee, Facilities Director; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Jeff Tice, Technology Director; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; student and teacher representatives from Grandview Middle School; 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 Grandview Middle School lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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)

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes from the February 10 and February 24 meetings of the Board.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

Mr. Mackie reviewed the guidelines for addressing the Board of Education during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

Mr. Franklin Davis addressed the Board expressing concerns with the Board's decision to keep the name of Longview Elementary School for the new elementary school being constructed. He requested that the Board reconsider its decision and name the school the Marie G. Poston Elementary School as previously requested by the Ridgeview Community.

Ms. Fran Durak addressed the Board expressing her support for the elimination of the IB Program at Hickory High School. She stated that she has a rising 9th grader who has an interest in STEM and the AP and IB programs compete against each other. She further stated that the IB program is expensive and causes scheduling conflicts. She requested that the Board give consideration to eliminating the IB Program at Hickory High School.

Ms. Barbara Byrd addressed the Board on several issues. They included: the need for more scholarship opportunities for student athletes; the use of the Hickory High gymnasium; college preparation of students attending HCAM; and the lunch program that is offered at HCAM.

Chairperson Hamilton thanked Mr. Davis, Ms. Durak and Ms. Byrd for being at the meeting and for sharing their concerns with the Board.

Agenda Item VI. (Programs/Special Recognitions)

Dr. Hart introduced Ms. Terri Hall who has been working with eLeaders at each school and was present tonight with eLeader Robert Turner who teachers at Grandview Middle School.

Mr. Turner thanked the Board for its support of the eLeader program in the Hickory Public Schools. He stated that Ms. Hall introduced him to Twitter during the Summer Learning Academy. During this current school year through his use of Twitter he has learned to stay current and engage with other teachers locally and around the world to see what they are doing in their classrooms and try new methods his own classroom. He further stated that Twitter has helped him to motivate and relate to his middle school students on a higher level and engage his students in real world math and science. Mr. Turner invited Board members to visit his classroom at Grandview Middle School or follow him on Twitter @turnercoach1024.

Board members and Dr. Hart recognized the following individuals for recent achievements:

1. Rebecca Morford, Viewmont Elementary School kindergarten teacher, Burroughs Wellcome Grant recipient
2. Viewmont Elementary School students as the Elementary Battle of the Books Champions
3. Northview Middle School students as the Middle School Battle of the Books Champions
4. Emmaline Peterson, Hickory High School freshman, 2014 3A State Champion in the 500 yd. freestyle swimming event and the 3A state record in the 500 yd. freestyle swimming event
5. Employees Years of Service (middle/high school and administrative services office staff)

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Donations;
2. Field trip requests; and
3. The second reading and adoption of Board policy IHA: *Evaluation of Student Progress.*

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

Agenda Item VII.B. (Budget Amendments)

Mr. Steele reviewed budget amendments with the Board.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the budget amendments as presented.

Agenda Item VII.E. (2014-2015 Student Fees)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that the student fees to be charged for the 2014-2015 school year were reviewed at the Board's recent work session. He recommended approval by the Board.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the student fees to be charged for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.F. (Lease Agreement)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that the lot adjacent to Viewmont Elementary School has been leased for several years by Mr. Vic Lail for the purpose of selling fruits and vegetables during the months of May through August. He recommended approval by the Board.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the lease agreement with Mr. Vic Lail, as presented.

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

Chairperson Hamilton reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Thursday, March 27, 8:00-5:00, Board Retreat, Rock Barn;
2. April 5-7, NSBA Conference, New Orleans;
3. Monday, April 14, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building;
4. Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall; and
5. Thursday, May 8, Noon, Wm. Jenkins Teacher of the Year Lunch, Lake Hickory Country Club

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

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Hart shared the following items:

1. Congratulations to the Hickory High basketball team for an outstanding season and representing Hickory Public Schools in a fine manner throughout the season;
2. Hickory High student Danasia Witherspoon has been named as the Conference Women's Player of the Year;
3. Hickory High student Devonte Fuller has been named as the Conference Men's Player of the Year;
4. Drop out numbers for the 2012-2013 school year are being finalized and may represent the least number of dropouts ever for the district;

5. During the upcoming Board retreat, Dr. Nancy Farmer will provide training from NCSBA, staff will provide updates on the district's Strategic Plan, Mr. Steele will provide a budget update and the Board will have a brief opportunity to meet Dr. Chance Lewis.

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. Ms. Williams 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. Monroe made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 14. The motion was seconded by Rev. Spearman and the Board's vote was 7-0.

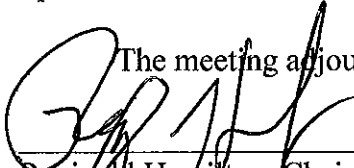
Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)

Dr. Hart stated that he wanted the Board to be aware that the district has been approached about the possibility of putting a cell tower on the campus at Hickory High School. He stated that he would keep the Board apprised of this matter.


Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



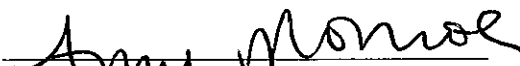
Reginald Hamilton, Chairperson



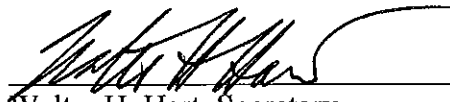
Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair



Margaret Pope



Amy Monroe



Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Sallie Johnson



Rev. T. Anthony Spearman



Julie Correll