

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, October 27, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, October 27, 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 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; Dr. Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; 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 Jenkins Elementary School led 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 6-0.

Agenda Item IV. (Minutes)

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the September 8 and September 22 minutes as presented.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

No one addressed the Board during the Public Hearing.

Agenda Item VI. (Programs/Special Recognitions)

Board members and Dr. Hart recognized Hickory High student Barbara McAnulty who was the recipient of the 4-H State Youth Service Award.

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. John Black, Principal at Jenkins Elementary School, who was present to share the initiatives Jenkins Elementary School has developed to improve the achievement of minority students.

Mr. Black, together with staff members Rebecca Little, Pat Middleton, Harriet Jeffords, and Paula Gambill, provided the Board with their goals to close the achievement gap through their ENRICH (Engage, Nurture, Recruit, Involve, Connect, and High Expectations) Program. The goals of the ENRICH program include connecting positively with students, recruiting minority tutors and volunteers, increasing parent and community involvement, and thinking “outside the box” in terms of classroom instruction. Additionally, Jenkins has implemented Explorations which involves the three 4th grade classes. During one hour whole group literacy time, students rotate every two days between the three teachers. This provides the students with the opportunity to hear and learn from three different teaching styles through three different subject areas (social studies, science and technology) which will align better with the variety of student learning styles. Mr. Black stated that it is too early in the process to have any hard data but further stated that the school has put together some strategies it believes will make a difference in the achievement of minority students.

Chairperson Hamilton thanked Mr. Black and members of his staff for the presentation and for making a difference in the lives of children.

The next item was a review of school improvement plans for the elementary schools. Prior to the meeting, Board members received videos which were produced by each principal that summarized their school’s improvement plan for 2014-2015. At this time, the principals, together with their School Improvement Team Chairperson, entertained questions from the Board. Common themes throughout each plan included approving the achievement of minority students, community partnerships, and the continuation of professional learning communities. Dr. Hart advised the Board that schools continue to have challenges around proficiency rates due to the changes in the cut scores. However, this past year schools demonstrated tremendous growth across the board in all tested areas and within subgroups. Board members encouraged principals to contact them with ideas on ways the Board can assist them with their challenges and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to improving the success of all students.

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Various donations;
2. Field trip request;
3. Fund Raising Request; and
4. The second reading and adoption of revisions to the following policies:
 - a. IFCB – Field Trips
 - b. IHE – Promotion and Retention of Students
 - c. JB – Attendance.

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

Agenda Item VII.B. (2013-2014 Audit Report)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at its recent work session there was a review of the audit report presented. At this time, Dr. Hart recommended the Board’s approval of the report as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Johnson, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the 2013-2014 Audit Report, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.C. (Budget Amendment)

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Monroe, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the following budget amendment as presented by Finance Officer Adam Steele: OSR #1.

Agenda Item VII.D. (First Reading of revisions to Board policy JGCD: Administering Medicines to Students)

Dr. Hart advised the Board that the revision to this policy included allowing high school students with written parental permission to have a one day supply of over the counter medications for their personal use. It also contains new language regarding emergency epinephrine auto-injectors and their use.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the first reading of revisions to Board policy JGCD, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.E. (First Reading of revisions to Board policy JGCDA – Student Wellness)

Dr. Hart advised the Board that the revisions will align the district's policy with new state guidelines.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the first reading of revisions to Board policy JGCDA, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.F. (Agreement for Services – Community Schools)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that this agreement was reviewed at its recent work session and provides for Community Schools to manage the use of the district's facilities by outside groups and organizations.

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Monroe, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the agreement for services with Community Schools, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.G. (Appointment of Ward 3 Representative)

Ms. Monroe made a motion that the Board appoint Ms. Ittiely Carson as the Ward 3 Representative to the Hickory Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Ms. Carson will be administered the Oath of Office at the Board's November 24 meeting.

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

Chairperson Hamilton reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Monday, November 10, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building;
2. NCSBA Annual Conference, November 17-19, Greensboro;
3. Monday, November 24, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall; and
4. Monday, December 1, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall.

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

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

1. SAT scores continue to improve over the last three years;
2. All four of the women's sports programs at Hickory High were conference champions;
3. October 30 and October 31 are teacher workdays;
4. Report cards will be sent home on November 6;
5. November 13 is Read to Achieve night at Ridgeview Recreation Center at 5:30;
6. Board members will receive a request to complete a short survey dealing with architect selection; and
7. On November 7, Dr. Hart will be presenting to a commission with a group of superintendents from across the state on the issue of high stakes testing in North Carolina.

Agenda Item IX. (Closed Session)

Ms. Johnson 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. Correll 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. Pope made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 8. The motion was seconded by Ms. Correll and the Board's vote was 6-0.

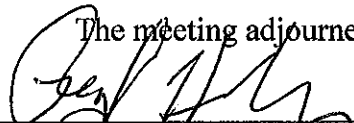
Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)

Dr. Hart advised the Board that at the November 10 work session, the Board will be provided with options to consider relative to the recent recommendations from the study of the IB Program at Hickory High.

Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

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

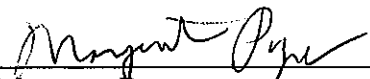
The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Reginald Hamilton, Chairperson



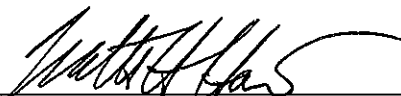
Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair



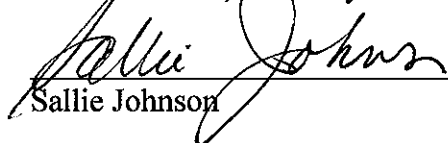
Margaret Pope



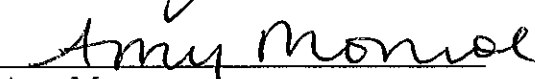
Julie Correll



Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Sallie Johnson



Amy Monroe
