

# **HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

Monday, September 8, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, September 8, 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, 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; Angela Simmons, Director of Students Services; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Chairperson Hamilton called the meeting to order and stated there was a quorum.

At this time, Dr. Hart requested a moment of silence. He then expressed thanks to Dr. Stalnaker and her staff for the challenges of last week and for handling the situation with grace and professionalism. Dr. Hart also thanked Ms. Angela Simmons for coordinating counselors and mental health therapists making sure the needs of the children were met.

The first item of business to come before the meeting was a field trip request for the Hickory High orchestra to travel to New York City in April, 2015. Ms. Sally Ross was present and shared the itinerary with the Board which included a trip to the University of Delaware and then to Manhattan to perform at a school where the orchestra director is an alumni of Hickory High School. Students will play for and with his students. She stated that chaperones will consist of retired teachers and counselors and there will be a one to seven ratio of students to chaperones. Ms. Ross further assured the Board that no student would be denied participation due to the inability to pay.

Dr. Hart thanked Ms. Ross for being at the meeting and advised the Board that this field trip would be an action item at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information shared by Dr. Denise Patterson on the Analysis of Student Work (ASW). A handout contained how this process relates to the teacher evaluation system. Dr. Patterson advised the Board that ASW was designed by NCDPI to evaluate teachers who facilitate instruction in World Languages, Music, Art, PE and AP/IB classes. These teachers do not administer assessments at the end of the year that involved Reading 3D, NCFEs, EOG, EOC or CTE. North Carolina is requiring that student test scores become a part of the teacher evaluation process. However, Dr. Patterson used orchestra as an example stating that there is no test at the end of the school year for students who perform string music.

Dr. Patterson stated that the district supports the idea that teachers should be accountable for student growth; however, there are concerns around the logistics of this plan. She further stated that two weeks ago there was an understanding that this was mandatory. On Friday, she received notice from NCDPI that we could request a waiver of this option. Based on this information, Dr. Patterson stated that the district's plan will be to share this information with principals and then poll the teachers who are affected by ASW and let the majority rule. If the majority votes to request a waiver, teachers in this group would receive the same rating as their school. Dr. Hart advised the Board that based on feedback from teachers the Board may be asked to approve a waiver request at a future meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information about Read to Achieve and a list of good cause exemptions that will be submitted to the State by September 23. Dr. Patterson provided a list of good cause exemptions to be considered and indicated that a final list will be recommended for adoption by the Board at its September 22 action meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a contract with the Catawba Science Center. Dr. Hart stated that the contract reflects no increase in cost from the previous year and that he will recommend the continuation of this partnership for approval by the Board at its next meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a discussion of a change to the start and stop times for high school students. Dr. Hart stated that there has been some conversation about changing the start and stop times for Hickory High students; however, he further stated that such a change will affect the entire district and should involve input from students, parents and the community. He suggested that staff will research this issue and come back to the Board with some recommendations for consideration.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a review of revisions to three Board policies: JB: *Attendance* which reflects raising the drop out age to 18; IFCB: *Field Trips* which reflects a change in the time period for field trips prior to the administration of state required testing; and IHE: *Promotion and Retention of Students* which reflects the addition of language around credit for demonstrated mastery. Dr. Hart advised the Board that these policies will be presented for first reading of these revisions at the Board's September 22 meeting.

The Board was requested to approve two contracts for services provided to the Exceptional Children's Program for the 2014-15 school year. They included a contract with Catawba County Schools – Claremont Elementary – to provide educational related services for a hearing-impaired student and a transportation contract with Katie Saine to provide student transportation to and from Claremont Elementary School.

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

Ms. Williams 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. Pope and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Upon return to open session, Ms. Pope made a motion that the Board approve Personnel List No. 5 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Correll and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Chairperson Hamilton reviewed calendar reminders with the Board.

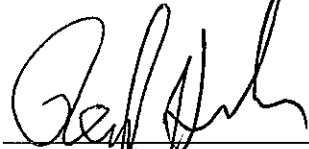
Attendance at the National School Board Association annual conference in Nashville was discussed. Chairperson Hamilton and Board members Sallie Johnson, Margaret Pope, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll indicated they would be interested in attending this conference.

At this time, the Board conducted an interview of Ms. Ittiely Carson, candidate for the vacant Ward 3 seat on the Board.

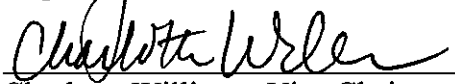
Following the interview, upon motion made by Ms. Correll and seconded by Ms. Pope the Board voted 6-0 that the appointment of the Ward 3 representative would be an action item on the Board's September 22 agenda.

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

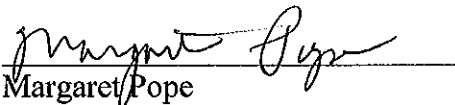
The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Reginald Hamilton, Chair



Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair



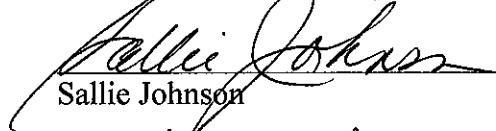
Margaret Pope



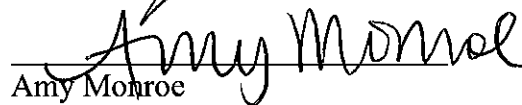
Julie Correll



Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Sallie Johnson



Amy Monroe