

# **HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

Monday, February 10, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, February 10, 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, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll.

Also present were Attorney Stephen Palmer; Dr. Walter Hart, Superintendent; Dr. Denise Patterson, Chief Academic Officer; Shawn Clemons, Director of Accountability; Adam Huckabee, Director of Facilities; Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs; Jeff Tice, Director of Technology; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Angela Simmons, Director of Student Services; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; Julie Grice, Hickory teacher and local NCAE President; Crystal Pritchard, Hickory teacher and local NCAE representative; and Mary Duquette, Clerk to the Board.

Chairperson Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The first item of business to come before the meeting was a discussion of new Board policy IHA – *Evaluation of Student Progress* – and administrative guidelines. Dr. Hart stated that there has been a long standing practice in the district to change a failing grade at the end of the first and third grading periods to a 60 which gives the student a chance to pass the course. He further stated that this practice has not been officially adopted and made policy. The proposed policy is taken from the North Carolina School Boards Association policy service and contains general language pertaining to student evaluation. The guidelines are more specific to the Hickory Public Schools and Dr. Hart asked Ms. Angela Simmons, Director of Student Services, to review the guidelines with the Board. Ms. Simmons reviewed the expectations contained in the guidelines and a chart that further defined grading practices. Dr. Hart stated that the Board would be asked to approve the first reading of the new policy at its next meeting. In the meantime, should Board members have questions, he encouraged them to contact him or Ms. Simmons.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a resolution presented by Ms. Julie Grice, local President of the North Carolina Association of Educators that urges the General Assembly to repeal the 25% contract law and to develop an effective compensation plan for all educators with input from the education and business community. Ms. Grice requested that the Board give consideration to adopting the resolution at its next meeting which would be evidence of the Board's support of NCAE and voice its disagreement with the law. After some discussion, there was consensus among the Board to take action on the resolution at its next meeting.

The next item of discussion to come before the meeting was a recommendation from Ms. Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition, that the Board give consideration to raising meal prices for the upcoming school year. Ms. Allen reported that prices have not been increased in three years and recommended a 25 cent increase. She stated that children who qualify for free and reduced lunch prices would maintain that

status and that the increase would be in line with other districts in the region. Dr. Hart recommended that this be an item on the Board agenda for the next action meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a reminder to the Board that contracts through the federal funding source Erate have a narrow window for bids and vendor selection and, therefore, contracts for Wide Area Network, Local and Long Distance Telephone Service, and Website Hosting Services will be presented for Board approval at the March 10 work session.

The Board discussed attendance at the upcoming National School Boards Association annual conference. Dr. Hart encouraged Board members to notify Ms. Duquette of their plans to attend.

Dr. Hart provided the Board with an update on the Read to Achieve legislation. He reminded the Board that under RTA third grade students who do not score proficient (Level III or IV) on the N.C. End-of-Grade examination in reading will not be promoted to the fourth grade unless that qualify for a good cause exemption. Those who do not qualify for a good cause exemption are expected to attend a six-week summer reading camp which will consist of three hours of daily instruction. Dr. Hart shared a list of alternative assessments recently approved by the State Board of Education. He stated the Board would be asked to approve alternative assessments for the district which would then be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction for confirmation. A copy of Dr. Hart's RTA update is attached for reference.

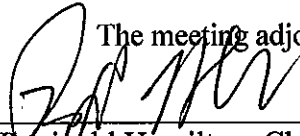
Ms. Williams made a motion that the Board go into closed session for the following reason: to consider candidates recommended for employment by the administration as provided for in G.S. 143.318.11 and in accordance with the North Carolina Personnel Act. The motion was seconded by Ms. Correll and the Board's vote was 7-0.

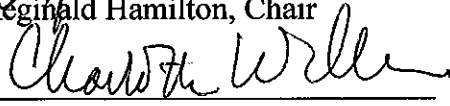
Upon return to open session, Chairperson Hamilton advised the Board that a group of citizens plan to attend the Board's March 24 meeting to voice concerns with the naming of the new elementary school that is replacing the current Longview Elementary School.

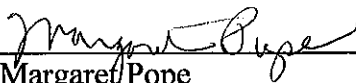
Chairperson Hamilton reviewed calendar reminders with the Board.

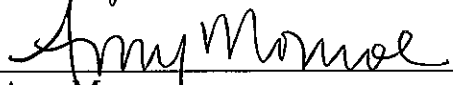
There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn.

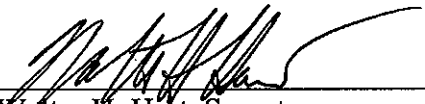
The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

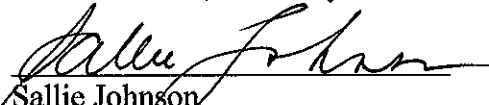
  
Reginald Hamilton, Chair

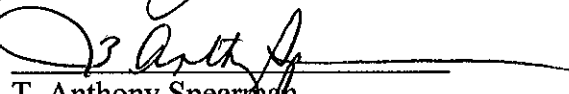
  
Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair

  
Margaret Pope

  
Amy Monroe

  
Walter H. Hart, Secretary

  
Sallie Johnson

  
T. Anthony Spearman

  
Julie Correll