

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, February 24, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met in regular session on Monday, February 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, and Julie Correll; and Board Attorney Jeffrey T. Mackie. Absent was Board member Amy Monroe.

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 Longview Elementary 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 Longview Elementary 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 6-0.

Agenda Item IV. (Minutes)

Upon motion made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes from the November 4, December 2, January 13 and January 27 meetings of the Board.

Agenda Item V. (Public Hearing)

Mr. Dale Menard thanked the Board for the opportunity to share his opinion of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program which is offered at Hickory High School. Mr. Menard stated that the IB program provided his daughter with a well-rounded base which prepared her for her college experience at Vanderbilt. Mr. Menard stated that the IB program prepares students for a wide variety of experiences, makes them well-rounded citizens for life, it is good for students and good for Hickory.

Ms. Jean McAnulty stated that she had appeared before the Board on two previous occasions to share concerns with the IB program at Hickory High School and provided examples of why, in her opinion, the program should be eliminated. Ms. McAnulty asked Board member to vote to eliminate the IB program at Hickory High School. She stated that the program is not endorsed by a majority of parents at the school and the elimination of the program would allow students to be better prepared for college in that students could take Advanced Placement courses. She thanked the Board for its time.

Chairperson Hamilton thanked Mr. Menard and Ms. McAnulty for their comments.

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 eLeaders Barbara Miller and Carolyn Brown from Longview Elementary School.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Brown thanked the Board for the opportunity provided through the eLeader program. They stated that they integrate technology by collaborating with each other to bring the classroom learning into the media center and help build 21st century skills. Two students from Longview Elementary School, Byron Phillips and Daisy Parker, shared with the Board their most recent project which was researching animal camouflage and how they created comic strips from their research.

Dr. Hart expressed gratitude to Ms. Miller and Ms. Brown for their efforts.

Chairperson Hamilton and Dr. Hart recognized the following individuals for recent achievements:

1. Claire McCrea, 8th grade student at Northview Middle School, the recipient of the Gold Key Award from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
2. Students from Grandview Middle School all of whom are winners in the Elks Lodge National Essay Contest. Division I (6th grade students) winners included: 1st place – Harper Hancock, 2nd place – Jadya Loftin, 3rd place – Emily Greene. Division II (7th and 8th grade students) winners included 1st place – Olivia Belcher, 2nd place – Mallorie Dufour, 3rd place – Lamarr Moss.
3. Members of the Hickory High School Beta Club were recognized for achievements at the annual state convention. They included: Luke Kessel – NC State Beta Club Vice President, Katie Johnson – 1st place short story, Jeremy Robison – 1st place math, Lukas Pisel – 1st place written quiz bowl test, Susie Wold – 1st place acrylic painting, McKenzie Anderson and Caroline Miller – 2nd place special talent, and quiz bowl team Scott Mendenhall, Taylor panzer, Lukas Pisel, Jeremy Robison – 2nd place & qualification for nation competition.
4. Faculty and staff from elementary schools were recognized for years of service to the Hickory Public Schools.

Agenda Item VII.A. (Consent Agenda)

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

1. Donations;
2. A field trip request; and
3. A fund raising request.

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

Agenda Item VII.E. (2014-2015 Child Nutrition Meal price Increase)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at its recent work session Ms. Rebecca Allen proposed an increase to meal prices for the upcoming school year. For preK to grade 5, lunch would increase to \$2.25 from \$2.00 and for grades 6-12, lunch would increase to \$2.50 from \$2.25.

Upon motion made by Rev. Spearman and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 6-0 to approve an increase in student meal prices for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented.

Agenda Item VII.F. (Resolution – 25% Contract Law)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at its last meeting Ms. Julie Grice appeared before the Board with a request that it consider adopting the NCAE resolution that encourages legislators to repeal the 25% contract law.

Rev. Spearman asked what it means for the Board to adopt the resolution. Dr. Hart stated that the Board would be asking the legislators to revisit the issue of paying teachers in the fashion outlined in the law. He further stated that NCAE has litigation pending to stop this piece of legislation and the Board's adoption of the resolution has no legal affect but is an expression of the Board's support of the NCAE litigation.

Ms. Williams made a motion that the Board adopt the resolution as present. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and the Board's vote was 5-1, with Rev. Spearman voting in the negative.

Agenda Item VII.G. (New Board Policy IHA – Evaluation of Student Progress)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that this new policy was reviewed at the Board's recent work session and recommended the Board approve the first reading of the policy and guidelines as presented.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the first reading of new Board policy IHA – Evaluation of Student Progress – and the administrative guidelines associated with the policy as presented.

Agenda Item VII.H. (Read to Achieve)

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at the recent work session he mentioned that the State Board of Education provided alternative options for good cause exemptions for Read to Achieve. Dr. Hart recommended that the Board give consideration to approving the following alternate assessments as good cause exemptions under the North Carolina Read to Achieve legislation for the Hickory Public Schools. They included: Iowa Test of Basic Skills; STAR Assessment; and SchoolNet Assessments.

Upon motion made by Ms. Correll and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the recommended alternate assessments as good cause exemptions for the Hickory Public Schools as presented.

Agenda Item VIII.A. (Unfinished Business)

There were no items to discuss under unfinished business.

Agenda Item VII.B. (Chairperson's Report)

Chairperson Hamilton reminded Board members of upcoming meetings which included:

1. Monday, March 10, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building;
2. Monday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall;
3. Thursday, March 27, 8:00-5:00, Board Retreat, Rock Barn;
4. April 5-7, NSBA Conference, New Orleans;
5. Monday, April 14, 5:30 p.m., Board meeting, Administrative Services Building; and
6. Monday, April 28, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall.

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

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

1. The Hickory Public Schools joined a regional consortium and received a technology grant in the amount of \$385,000;
2. Viewmont teacher Rebecca Morford received a \$3,000 grant for STEM activities in her kindergarten classroom;
3. No need to make up the student days due to inclement weather due to the fact that we have more days and hours in the calendar this year than is required;
4. Mr. Huckabee will attend a City Council meeting that will address the construction of an apartment community being developed in the Viewmont Elementary School district.

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 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. 13. The motion was seconded by Ms. Williams and the Board's vote was 6-0.

Agenda Item XI. (Announcements)

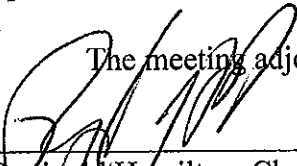
Rev. Spearman expressed concern that, during the recognition portion of the meetings, he would like to be able to see the faces of the students and staff being recognized in order to make comment to them, as appropriate. After some discussion, there was a consensus among the Board that at future meetings the full Board will come forward to participate in the portion of the meeting that recognizes students and staff for their achievements.

Following a discussion on the possibility of Catawba County Schools electing to adopt a year round calendar, Dr. Hart advised the Board that he would pull together information about year round calendars and share with the Board for information purposes.

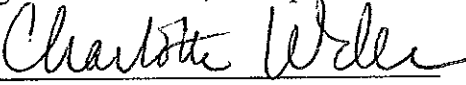
Agenda Item XII. (Adjournment)

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

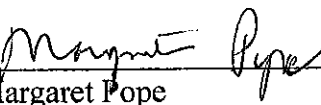
The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Reginald Hamilton, Chairperson

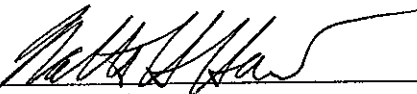


Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair

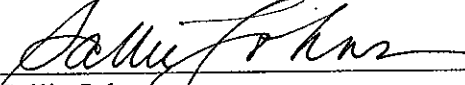


Margaret Pope

Amy Monroe (absent)



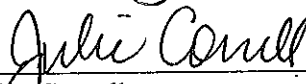
Walter H. Hart, Secretary



Sallie Johnson



Rev. T. Anthony Spearman



Julie Correll