

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HICKORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Monday, March 10, 2014

The Board of Education of the Hickory City Administrative School Unit met on Monday, March 10, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Services Building. Members present included: Chairperson Reginald Hamilton; Board members Margaret Pope, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, Amy Monroe and Julie Correll. Absent were Board members Charlotte Williams and Sallie Johnson.

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; Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs; Amanda Byrd, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs; Jeff Tice, Director of Technology; Tracy Sigmon, Personnel Officer; Rebecca Allen, Director of Child Nutrition; Beverly Snowden, Public Information Officer; Adam Steele, Finance Officer; invited guests; 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 presentation by Ms. Lauren Williams of the Maiden Rosenwald Community Development Corporation. Ms. Williams provided the Board with information about a grant that will provide after school and summer enrichment programs for students in the Hickory Public Schools in grades 3-8, as well as expanding the after-hours program at Hickory High School. Ms. Williams indicated that initially the program will work with 30 students (10 each from Longview Elementary, Southwest Elementary and Northview Middle) and as the program increases, more students will be served. The goal of the program is to increase conflict resolution skills among participants, engage students in community activities, reduce negative behavior in the classroom and on the bus, and increase interest in college and career opportunities. Ms. Williams highlighted the many community partners involved with the grant who have committed to provide resources of time and talent to the success of the program. These partners include: Catawba Science Center, CVCC, Centro Latino, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Maiden Chapel Baptist Church, YMCA and Young People of Integrity. Ms. Williams encouraged Board members to contact her with any questions they may have.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a construction update on the new Longview Elementary School. Mr. Roger Holland, the architect for the project, reported that the wet weather last spring and summer caused some delay in the construction project. However, he reported that, thanks to the cooperation of Hickory Construction and all the subcontractors on the project, there should not be a problem with the school being completed for students to report in August. On the budget side, Mr. Holland reported that there is \$215,000 in the contingency fund which is more than when the project started due to the technology equipment being pulled from the project budget and being purchased through e-rate funding. Mr. Holland stated that he would anticipate the Certificate of Occupancy to be received by the first of July.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was information and a discussion of the IB Program at Hickory High School. Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at previous meetings a family addressed the Board raising questions and concerns about the IB program and requested the Board vote on the elimination of the program. The Board also heard from another family who praised the IB program. Dr. Hart stated that he and Dr. Stalnaker, Hickory High School principal, have put together some information about the IB program to share with the Board and to give the Board an opportunity to ask questions. A copy of the information shared with the Board is attached to these minutes for reference.

Dr. Stalnaker stated that the IB program attracts and retains students at Hickory High indicating that students come to the school specifically for the IB program from private and home schools which increases the district's ADM funding. In response to a statement that the IB program creates scheduling conflicts, Dr. Stalnaker stated that the schedule for both AP and IB classes is challenging but that it is being managed. Enrollment in the IB program has increased since its inception; however, the lack of enrollment of minority students in the IB program was discussed. Dr. Stalnaker stated that this is an issue school wide and is a goal in the district's Strategic Plan. Dr. Stalnaker stated that she supports the IB program at Hickory High and endorses continual improvement for all programs at the school.

Dr. Hart recommended that the Board give consideration to continuing the IB program for the next school year and further recommended engaging an outside researcher to conduct a review of the IB program which would involve data analysis, college credits earned, parent perceptions, current and former students and teacher perceptions. It would include focus groups, interviews and formal surveys. A report of the program review would be shared with the Board in the fall at which time the Board could make a very reasoned decision based on a thorough analysis and comprehensive view of the program. No formal action was taken by the Board at this time.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a review of the district's model plan and options for the selection of teachers to be offered a four-year contract. Dr. Hart stated that the new law requires the superintendent to recommend to the Board 25% of teachers with three (3) years of consecutive years of experience with the district to receive a four year contract which includes a \$500 salary increase for each of the four years in exchange for giving up career status. He stated that the plan to be presented was the result of meetings with principals, directors, Chairs of School Improvement Teams, and NCAE representatives. Ms. Sigmon presented the plan to the Board. After some conversation, the Board came to a consensus that the plan was acceptable based on the legislation that is currently in place.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a review of student fees for the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. Hart advised the Board that the bulk of what was presented is already in existence. A few variations included the elimination of the fee for a band shirt at Northview and the charging of a technology fee of \$25.00 at HCAM due to the fact that all students will be given a computer to use. HCAM also has a number of new fees that reflect the addition of new clubs and organizations at the school. Dr. Hart reminded the Board that the district has a waiver process for families who cannot afford to pay these fees. He further stated that this would be an item at the Board's next meeting and encouraged members to contact him with any questions or concerns prior to that meeting.

The next item of business to come before the meeting was a schedule of Board meetings for the 2014-2015 school year. Based on May 25 being a holiday, there was consensus among the Board to schedule the May action meeting on Tuesday, May 26.

Dr. Hart shared with the Board a lease agreement with Mr. Vic Lail for use of the property adjacent to Viewmont Elementary School for the purpose of selling fruits and vegetables during the months of May through August. Dr. Hart reminded the Board that Mr. Lail has leased this property for several years and that the terms of the lease remain the same. He stated that this would be an item on the Board's agenda for action at its March 24 meeting.

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that for some years the district has had the practice of working four ten hour days during the summer. This year, the four ten hour days will begin on June 23 and end on August 7. He advised the Board that the maintenance staff may have the occasion to work five eight hour days in some weeks during the summer due to work being done at the new Longview School. However, the bulk of the staff will work Monday through Thursday to save on utilities and fuel costs.

Dr. Hart reminded the Board that at a previous meeting it was mentioned that contracts through e-rate funding would be presented to the Board at a future meeting. At this time, Dr. Hart presented three contracts for approval by the Board.

Upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the contract with Broad Plex as presented for services associated with the district's Wide Area Network.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the contract with Windstream as presented for services associated with local and long distance telephone service.

Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Ms. Pope, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the contract with Sharp School for website hosting services with a change in venue for matters relating to this agreement changed from the province of Ontario to the State of North Carolina.

Dr. Hart requested the Board to officially accept Reading 3D as a good cause exemption under the Read to Achieve law.

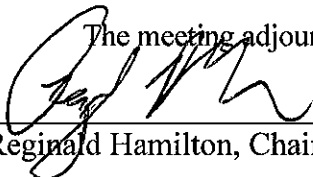
Upon motion made by Ms. Monroe and seconded by Rev. Spearman, the Board voted 5-0 to approve Reading 3D as a good cause exemption under the Read to Achieve law as presented.

Chairperson Hamilton reviewed calendar reminders with the Board:

1. Monday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Board meeting, Hickory City Hall
2. Thursday, March 27, 8:00-5:00, Board Retreat, Rock Barn
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

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion made by Ms. Pope and seconded by Ms. Correll, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

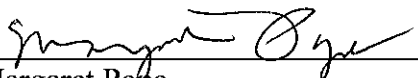


Reginald Hamilton, Chair

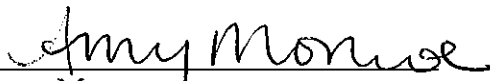


Walter H. Hart, Secretary

Charlotte Williams, Vice Chair (absent)

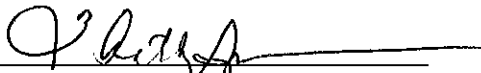


Margaret Pope



Amy Monroe

Sallie Johnson (absent)



T. Anthony Spearman



Julie Correll