

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010
GOOCHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Linda A. Underwood, Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were:

Mr. Ivan O. Mattox, Sr.
Mr. James L. Haskell
Mr. Maxwell G. Cisne
Mr. Raymond A. Miller
Mr. Andrew A. Meng, III
Dr. Linda A. Underwood, Superintendent

Also attending were:

Ellen Guidry, Director of Elementary Education
Thomas DeWeerd, Director of Secondary Education
Lynne Venter, Director of Finance and Operations
Debra Beasley, Director of Special Education and Student Services
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Transportation
James Hopkins, Principal, Byrd Elementary School
Dianna Gordon, Principal, Goochland Elementary School
Stacey Austin, Principal, Randolph Elementary School
Francie Ball, Principal, Goochland High School
Johnette Burdette, Goochland Middle School
Connie Foreman, Gifted Specialist
Ned Creasey, District 3 Supervisor
Brad Franklin, Research and Information Services Analyst
Andrea Erard, Esquire, Legal Counsel

The Media was represented by:

David DesRoches, *The Central Virginian*
Amy Condra, *The Goochland Gazette*

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Dr. Underwood provided agenda addendum items and a personnel addendum to the Board.

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Underwood and Mr. Miller presented certificates of recognition to the following students for competing in the Maggie L. Walker Regional Robotics Tournament:

Goochland Elementary School

Team: Lego Kings

Coach: Lisa Brown

Won 1st place for Robot Design

Harry Bailey	Jacob Marks
Camden Harrahy	Brittany Melton
Joshua Hobbs	Tierra Morris
Deryk Hope	Conner Rosier
Paul McCluskey	Mary Swift

Goochland Middle School

Team: Rockerz

Coach: Mr. Burdette

Won 2nd Place Teamwork Division II

Ross Stanley	Cameron Ford
Eile Rosenbaum	Matthew McCauley
Giovanni Esposito	Michael Gambino
Jaleel Jackson	Joshua Revercomb
Ian Schwertdfeger	

Goochland Middle School

Team: GLO

Coach: Karen Harden

Aaron Early	Anne Thrasher
Chase Lewis	Joseph Rosenbaum
Hunter Bailey	Jake Liesfeld
Jonathan Ferguson	Christopher Staunton
Jamal Jackson	Robert Brown

Goochland Middle School

Team: Legocy

Coach: Mr. Jackson

Michael Sainsbury	Thomas Richardson
Joey Rudolph	Brandon Myrick
Daniel Stanley	Beth Osborne
Robin Donne	Joe Empston
Jonathan Thrasher	

Randolph Elementary School
Team: The Traveling Traffic Crushers
Coach: Annelise Ware
Assistant Coach: Rebecca Raab

Edward Grigg	Micah Allen
Grayson Edwards	Mitchell Rosenbloom
Jack McDowell	Owen Early
Jacob Webb	Peyton Butts
Luke McCann	Rosa Rodriguez

Byrd Elementary School
Team: Mega Robo Byrds
Coaches: Glenda Hawk, Bryant Clark, Rob Carscadden
Won Championship Award at Regional Tournament and
attended State Tournament at James Madison University

Kade Adamy	Lane Martin
Tyler Gentry	Jamathan Myles
Hannah Meyer	Gus Payne
Henry Carscadden	Christopher Pinkston
Payton Harrigal	Cody Clark

ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Dr. Underwood called for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to elect Mr. Miller as Chairman of the Goochland County School Board for CY 2010, to serve until the budget process is complete. The motion was approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Miller called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to elect Mr. Cisne Vice-Chairman of the Goochland County School Board for CY 2010, to serve until the budget process is complete. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK

Mr. Mattox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to appoint Diane Bennett as Clerk of the Goochland County School Board for CY 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that in her absence or inability, Mr. Peter M. Gretz and Mr. Thomas DeWeerd be approved as her designees to attend meetings of the School Board and be authorized to sign reports, requisitions, and other official correspondence for the period January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE SCHEDULE FOR REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to accept the Superintendent's proposed schedule for Board meetings based on Regular Business meetings being held on the second Tuesday of each month in the auditorium of Goochland High School and Workshops being held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Courthouse Annex Conference room. The motion was approved unanimously.

SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAGGIE WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to appoint Mr. Mattox as the Maggie Walker Governor's School Board Representative for CY 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BLUE RIDGE VIRTUAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Mattox made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to appoint Mr. Miller as the Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School Board Representative for CY 2010. The motion was approved unanimously.

CODE OF ETHICS

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, for each of the Goochland School Board members to sign the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Code of Ethics. The motion was approved unanimously.

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET

- Carolyn Elliott – Stated that local business provide tax base in the county that fund the schools and said that businesses are struggling – urged everyone to buy local – asked the School Board to not cut programs – stated parents don't feel their opinions have been welcomed or respected in this process. She stated teachers and parent volunteers are afraid to speak out because they fear retribution. Ms. Elliott stated she would like to see a list of Central Office cuts. She hopes the School Board will maintain effort to keep an open mind and try to preserve a full service curriculum, stating kids and teachers need to come first. She asked if the School Board meetings could be podcast in order to allow parents who cannot be present to keep up with what is going on.
- Kristin McNaron, a member of Goochland Education Parents Association (GEPA), requested a third public hearing be held because the proposed budget has not been provided to the public for review. She stated that investing in a quality education system supports property values, and in turn attracts businesses and homebuyers to the area, which affects tax revenue. Ms. McNaron stated that GEPA supports some of the \$700,000 cuts proposed, but will not support further cuts to core programs or teaching positions, elimination of the center-based gifted program, Maggie Walker Governor's School slots, staggered bus schedule, or elimination of middle school athletics. She stated that cuts should be made to higher-level administrative positions, transportation, and maintenance.

- Jane Christie, a member of GEPA, stated she believes cuts should be made in administration first. Ms. Christie stated she has repeatedly asked that the Superintendent and School Board identify the positions included in the administration and instruction categories of the budget, but has not received the information. She believes there are positions included in the instruction category that should not be paid in that category. Ms. Christie suggested the School Board look at higher paid administrative positions.
- Becky Steadman, a member of GEPA, stated she feels transportation and maintenance costs are extremely high. She mentioned a comparative study done by John Herrmann comparing Goochland to other school districts. She asked if the School Board had questioned these costs. Ms. Steadman suggested combining elementary and secondary children on the same buses and having local bus stops in neighborhoods for fewer stops. She asked that the School Board examine these costs in detail and consider reducing the transportation budget.
- John Wright, a member of GEPA, spoke regarding the addition of \$276,000 in health insurance increase to the budget. He does not feel this is a non-negotiable expense or that it should be passed on to the taxpayer. Mr. Wright suggested we seek alternatives to the current health insurance as well as health savings accounts.
- Adeeb Hamzey, a member of GEPA, spoke in support of the gifted program, specifically the center for gifted, stating that gifted students fare better in center-based programs. Mr. Hamzey feels that elimination of the program would have an effect on SOL scores. He feels that more cuts should be made to the administration side of the budget. He asked the School Board to reconsider the budget cuts and trim from non-instructional budget positions and save the gifted center.
- Cynthia Stansbury, a member of GEPA, spoke against cutting slots at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, stating that the cost per student to attend Maggie Walker is less than the average cost per pupil in the Goochland System. She asked the School Board to consider adding more places to Maggie Walker and not eliminate any at all. She feels Goochland High School does not offer a gifted program like Maggie Walker.
- Dena Tremain, a member of GEPA, spoke against proposed cuts to middle school athletics, stating that a good number of families in the community could not afford programs such as GUSA and GYAA. She asked the School Board to keep middle school sports.
- Karen Myrick, a member of GEPA, spoke against staggered bus schedules, stating that she feels change would harm families. She suggested other options such as putting gifted children on the GMS/GHS buses, combining bus stops, putting elementary and secondary children on the same buses, and a voluntary fee for service.
- Jennifer Hefner, a member of GEPA, stated she would like to see more open communication and more parent involvement. She stated the parents feel there is open communication or full disclosure of information. She asked that the School Board not make any further cuts in programs or teachers.

- Julie Valerie spoke against cutting the Tender Tots program. She asked the School Board to consider the Americans with Disabilities Act and how Tender Tots relates to children who have a legal federal right to an appropriate public education.
- Megan Elliott spoke regarding budget cuts, stating she understands that some job loss is needed. However she does not feel it should be positions that have a direct impact on students. She feels that other things can be eliminated from the budget with little impacts on children.
- Chad Smith stated he does not agree with some of the proposed budget cuts, including cutting the gifted center. He praised teachers and staff at gifted center, stating that if it were not for them his son would not be ready for kindergarten. He also spoke against cutting middle school sports and stated they provide a great value to the system. He also spoke against cutting textbook funds.
- Heather Earley stated the most important thing needed in this process is collaboration among all as well as a proper understanding of how the decisions are made. She stated she has faith in the School Board to make solid decisions. She asked the School Board to hear all of the individuals who have a vested interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- The next regular monthly workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex Conference Room. The location of the meeting may need to be moved based on the number of attendees. The location will be posted.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MINUTES

BILLS/PAYROLL

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

December 1, 2009 budget workshop minutes, December 8, 2009 regular meeting minutes, December 15, 2009 budget workshop minutes, and December 22, 2010 regular workshop minutes, Bills and Payroll for December, and Personnel Actions.

Resignation:

Kelley Mann, BES

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to approve the Consent Items as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

WAIVER FOR PRE-LABOR DAY OPENING

Dr. Underwood provided the School Board with information about Goochland County's eligibility for a pre-Labor Day opening. Under current regulations, a school division is eligible for such a waiver if it has missed an average of eight days during five of the previous ten years. Goochland County meets this requirement.

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to authorize the Superintendent to take the necessary steps to seek a waiver for a pre-Labor Day opening from the Virginia Department of Education. The motion was approved unanimously.

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT REGULATION APPROVAL

Dr. Underwood presented the revised Title I Parent Involvement Regulation (IGBC-R) for second reading and approval.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to approve the Title I Parent Involvement Regulation (IGBC-R) as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

GOOCHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dianna Gordon, Principal of Goochland Elementary School, presented the Goochland Elementary School Improvement Plan.

FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Dr. Underwood presented a copy of the proposed FY 2010-2011 budget. The total operating budget is \$24,370,160. This is \$1,720,350 less than the current year. It is \$2,209,107 less than 2008-2009. The local transfer which is the target we have been working with was originally given to us at \$2.9 million. This budget includes a \$1,441,266 reduction in the local transfer. Dr. Underwood stated that the budget will be put on the website for citizen review. Dr. Underwood stated she feels there will be more reductions in the budget. The proposed FY 2010-2011 budget must be approved on January 26, 2010 and must be to the Board of Supervisors on January 28, 2010, and will be formally presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 2, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Belinda Bowles stated she does not understand why the School Board cannot specifically discuss the cuts in the budget. She stated she finds it disturbing that in a public meeting they will not come out and say what the budget cuts are. She feels this has not given them the opportunity to look at what budget is. She asked if there will be another opportunity for them to go to Board to talk the budget. She feels the School Board has not given the information that they are responsible to provide to the parents.
- Jane Christie asked the School Board to consider the request for another public hearing on the budget.
- The Board decided to have another public comment period on January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

- Heather Earley stated she thinks it is important for the community and citizens to understand the process of the School Board, in that typically there is no open conversation with the School Board and the public. She feels that understanding needs to be communicated by the Board and asked the Board to explain that to the citizens.

Mr. Miller read a question and answer that was previously posed:

"Question: Is there dialogue between this Board and the public? The School Board does not engage in dialogue during the public comment portion of the meeting because it is for the public comment. There have been a few, very few exceptions over the past several years that I have been in Goochland County. The public comment section is for the public to make their opinions known to the Board. Sometimes the Board will ask a question to clarify what has been said. As a rule, however, they do not respond during the public comment portion. This leaves more time for the public to speak and allows the answer to come from the Superintendent as directed by the Board. As a single Board member has no authority but any response given by a single Board member might give during a public comment dialog may give the impression of Board approval. Thus to avoid any confusion about a questions that the School Board may nor may not have taken, Board members do not respond to questions during public comment.

That was the answer at that time and unfortunately it is still the answer. Members are invited to contact their Board members and whatever comments the Board member gives are his comment and are not to be construed as the position of the Board.

- Jo D. Hosken stated she understands what the Board is saying and that they need to go home and read the budget. She stated the Board knows the questions to which they would like answers because they have been presented at all of the other meetings.
- Adeeb Hamzey asked if the Board members were invited to a meeting would they attend and be available for comment? Answer deferred to Andrea Erard.

Andrea Erard, Legal Counsel, stated it is possible to have such a meeting. It is a public meeting so anyone could attend.

Dr. Underwood read into the budget some of the proposed cuts included in the budget.

- Virginia Donaldson stated she understands that cuts have to be made, but feels there have been valid questions asked that should be answered. She suggested the Board look at the top positions for cuts. Ms. Donaldson asked the Board to show justification for the proposed cuts.

SCHEDULING OF SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Miller suggested that the Superintendent and Legal Counsel work out the logistics of a round table and that members of the public submit the questions to be discussed with a limitation on the time. A meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2010 at 7:00 at the School Board office.

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to schedule a special meeting of the School Board on January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and to recess the public hearing until that time.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Julie Valerie asked if parents have questions about the legal ramifications of dissolution of Tender Tots is there an appropriate way to speak up about that? Does she need to bring legal counsel to the meetings? Mr. Miller asked her to put her specific questions in writing and Dr. Underwood will provide that answer.
- Mr. Miller reiterated that this is the Superintendent's proposed budget and is not final.
- Jo D. Hosken asked again that communication be opened up through blogs, round table, and emails.

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to go into closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3) for the discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the School Board.

END CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne for the Board to come out of Closed Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox to certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

APPROVED:



Signature

2/19/10

Date

APPROVED:



Signature

2/19/10

Date