

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY WORKSHOP
JANUARY 26, 2010
ANNEX BUILDING TRAINING ROOM
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond A. Miller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Present were:

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

Also present:

Pete Gretz, Assistant Superintendent
Thomas DeWeerd, Director of Secondary Education
Lynne Venter, Director of Finance and Operations
Francie Ball, Principal, Goochland High School
Johnette Burdette, Principal, Goochland Middle School
Dianna Gordon, Principal, Goochland Elementary School
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Transportation
Connie Foreman, Gifted Specialist
Ned Creasey, District 3 Supervisor
Rebecca Dickson, County Administrator
Andrea Erard, Legal Counsel

The Media was represented by:

Amy Condra, *The Goochland Gazette*

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

Dr. Underwood presented additions and changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Kim Gentry, a teacher at Randolph Elementary School, spoke regarding what she has heard about teachers' fear of speaking. She said she had had no retribution for speaking her mind during her time working in Goochland and has found the administration always open to suggestions.
- Kamesha Smith, a special education teacher at Randolph Elementary School and 2009 Teacher of the Year, spoke in support of the School Board and children in education. She mentioned her love of students in Goochland and said that Dr. Underwood continued her vision. She stated she understands that the decisions being made are not easy, but has found Dr. Underwood and the School Board forthcoming with information.

- Bonnie Spencer, a teacher at Goochland Elementary School, stated she understands the challenges faced and felt she need to share her feelings. She continues to hear that certain positions should be eliminated. Dr. Underwood's job is thankless and difficult, making sure the children receive quality education and are taught by highly qualified teachers. She commended Dr. Underwood for all she has been expected to accomplish and for all that she has done for the teachers and the county, for being approachable and willing to listen. She wanted Dr. Underwood to know she stands behind her.
- Vickie Howell, President of the Goochland County Council of PTAs, thanked Dr. Underwood and the School Board for all of the work they have done, stating the schools are all accredited and have received recognition from the Governor. She stated that there are other systems out there with more money who do not have the technology that we have. She stated the looks forward to working with Dr. Underwood and the School Board as the schools move forward.
- Jane Christie, a member of the Goochland Education Parents Association (GEPA), stated GEPA will only support a budget that ensures balanced curriculum. GEPA will not support a budget that eliminates teachers, core programs, center-based gifted program, Tender Tots, textbooks, funding for arts, athletics and other programs. GEPA will only support a budget with adequate line-by-line detail. GEPA expects the School Board to deliver academic rigor at a minimum. GEPA has published a plan on how curriculum will be delivered and is hopeful this will be the positive beginning for the community, teachers and the School Board for education.
- Jo D. Hosken, Chairman of GEPA, stated the proposed budget is not acceptable. Ms. Hosken state that members of GEPA will go to the Board of Supervisors and request that the budget not be accepted. She stated they will work with the School Board to cut waste and create growth and to return to the past. She stated the schools are not a place for politics and asked the School Board to ask the Board of Supervisors for a fully funded budget. She asked the School Board not to use reduction in force and to do what is best for the schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

Supplemental Appointment:

Wes Farkas, Head Baseball Coach
 Dan Summitt, Assistant Baseball
 Patrick Gordon, Assistant Baseball
 Amy Henneberger, Head Softball Coach
 Sarah Nicholson, Assistant Softball
 Bonnie Spencer, Assistant Softball (split)
 Krystle Battistelli, Assistant Softball (split)
 Henry Jones, Head Track Coach
 Margie Yurick, Head Boys Tennis Coach
 Sandy Hinchman, Head Girls Coach

Patrick Brook, Head Boys Soccer Coach
Eric Albright, Assistant Boys Soccer
Tom Reid, Head Girls Soccer Coach
Stephanie Mask, Middle School Softball Coach (split)
Laura Copley, Middle School Softball Coach (split)

Resignation:

Ron Spessard, GES, Instructional Assistant

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

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Dr. Underwood presented the FY 2010-2011 Budget as well as a summary. She asked the Board to adopt the budget as presented.

Mr. Miller read the following statement:

As I have previously stated, what we have before us is the Superintendent's proposed budget. Once we vote on this proposed budget, it will be the School Board's proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors. Before we vote, I'd like to take a minute to comment on this budget and hopefully provide some insight. We all know how trying this budget year has been. We all have spent many hours have been spent thinking of the issues and pondering the ramifications of the choices available. Many suggestions and comments have been put forward and have been carefully considered. Our goal has been and will always be, to the best of our abilities, with the resources allocated to provide for the needs of our students. We have never been a school division that accepts minimums and now is not the time to start. Every Board member, administrator, and teacher is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience, and we strive to provide more than is expected. This has been an unprecedented challenge and we all have learned what works and what doesn't work. We will take what we have learned into future years. Tonight the proposed budget before us certainly isn't perfect. As a matter of fact, it's far from it. Because an ideal budget would have enabled us to build on the progress we have made over the years, and not significantly compromise what people have work for so hard and for so long. With the economic reality we are facing, some hard choices have been forced upon us necessitating some tough decisions. While trying to be fair, equitable and good stewards of the public dollar, let me be clear, any amount less than this budget will have dire consequences to our school division and county. What we've been asked to reduce is not what people of this county would like to do but it is what we have to accept in order to provide for our entire school system. By taking this action hopefully we can stave off much worse consequences, which could become a reality if we did not provide significant cuts in our budget. I think it's important for people to realize that these are not easy choices, taken lightheartedly or without consideration of all facets. Although you may not agree with decisions that were made in order to arrive at this budget, not supporting this budget would be completely counterproductive. If nothing else we can agree that we all want students to flourish. It is our belief and understanding that without the current level of cuts made, we risk larger, more severe cuts that would wipe out most of the last ten years of progress. Without these budgets those cuts would likely double what we have already identified here. We

can only hope with support of the community that that will not happen. Regardless of what this board approves tonight, this budget is still in jeopardy of experiencing further reductions. We hope that the community recognizes its ability to help influence the eventual outcome of this process. We need to come together behind this budget. This budget allows us to preserve as much as possible, to provide for needs across the spectrum and to be fiscally responsible, as well as realistic. Frankly this is not the budget we want to approve, but it is the budget that we need to approve given the circumstances. In times of crisis, we have to look deeper, think clearer, and hopefully understand all of the factors at play. This budget is our best effort to retain and preserve what is needed in order for Goochland County to position itself to be able to resume its place of dignity.

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to approve the FY 2010-2011 budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Meng-Yay; Cisne-Yay; Miller-Yay; Haskell-Yay; Mattox-Yay.

Prior to voting Mr. Mattox made the following statement: I think in good faith in what the School Board and the Superintendent have been asked to do, I think that we have to make a decision based off of the information Mr. Miller just mentioned, but I would say this publicly, that the cuts that we are suggesting I don't feel are in the best interest of our county, I don't feel are in the best interest of our kids, and I ask publicly if there is any way possible that our Supervisors can find a way, and I know some of them might be in here, but if they can find a way to positively impact what we are suggesting, i.e., give us more dollars toward this budget, I think its in the best interest of what we have done in the past years and what we are planning to do in the future to better impact the kids of this community. With that said, I know that I have to in good faith say yay.

AUDIT PROCESS/PURPOSE

Dr. Underwood presented information regarding the audit process, stating that KPMG was contracted to complete the audit process for 2009. They are nearing completion of that process. At the same time the audit is coming to a close, we need to start thinking about decisions for the 2010 audit and asked that two board members volunteer to serve as the audit committee to gather information and share with the Board. Mr. Cisne and Mr. Meng volunteered for the committee.

REDUCTION IN FORCE RESOLUTION

Dr. Underwood presented a Resolution to begin the procedures for the Reduction in Force to allow staff to know what their status is. Andrea Erard read the resolution into the record, as follows.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the federal, state and local economy has suffered a downturn unlike any other in the last hundred years, except for the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS notwithstanding the best efforts of our federal, state and local leaders, revenue continues to decline; and

WHEREAS the Goochland County School Board has been advised by the County Administrator, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, to eliminate approximately \$2.6 million dollars from the FY 2010-2011 budget; and

WHEREAS 83.6% of the annual budget of the School Board consists of costs directly related to personnel; and

WHEREAS it is not possible to make the reductions requested by the County Administrator without impacting personnel; and

WHEREAS policy GCPA-R of the School Board requires the adoption of a Resolution prior to the initiation of a reduction in force.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Goochland County School Board at its regular monthly workshop on January 26, 2010, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby authorizes a reduction in force for next fiscal year, which is FY 2010-2011.

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to approve the Resolution for Reduction in Force as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS
None.

CLOSED MEETING
None.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVED:




Signature

2/19/10

Date

APPROVED:



Signature

2/19/10

Date