

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MARCH 9, 2010**  
**GOOCHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Raymond A. Miller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Present were:**

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

**Also attending were:**

Peter M. Gretz, Assistant Superintendent  
Francie Ball, Principal, Goochland High School  
Johnette Burdette, Principal, Goochland Middle School  
Dianna Gordon, Principal, Goochland Elementary School  
Stacey Austin, Principal, Randolph Elementary School  
James Hopkins, Principal, Byrd Elementary School  
Matt Covington, Assistant Principal, Goochland High School  
Karen Scott, Assistant Principal, Goochland High School  
Christin Ciminelli, Assistant Principal, Goochland Middle School  
Lynne Venter, Director of Finance and Operations  
Ellen Guidry, Director of Elementary Education  
Tom DeWeerd, Director of Secondary Education  
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Transportation  
Debra Beasley, Director of Special Education and Student Services  
Sonny Turner, Supervisor of Maintenance  
Karren Streagle, Testing Coordinator  
Brad Franklin, Research and Information Services Analyst

**The Media was represented by:**

Amy Condra, *The Goochland Gazette*

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Dr. Underwood presented additions/changes to the agenda.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Underwood and Mr. Miller presented certificates of recognition to the following:

- Maintenance Staff for their dedication and hard work during the Winter Storms of 2009: Sonny Turner, David Frith, Rob Lawrence, Chris Richmond, Steven Rochkind, James Shelton

- Transportation Staff for their dedication and hard work during the Winter Storms of 2009: Betty Thurston, Sonia Talman, Debora Winston, Mark Thompson, Forrest Henley, Michael Franklin

#### FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Jo D. Hosken spoke regarding an email sent by Dr. U titled "Battle is On" stating she was horrified and sickened that parents speaking out for teachers can be considered a battle. Mrs. Hosken stated that the Goochland Parents Association (GEPA) never insinuated the athletic director would be eliminated and that GEPA does not support cutting the athletic program. She spoke in support of no cuts to teachers, textbooks, or programs. She stated she could not believe that email was sent out to incite teachers into battle, calling it a blatant abuse of power. Mrs. Hosken stated she no longer has any faith or trust in the Superintendent and asked School Board to stop turning a blind eye to what is going on.
- Dena Tremain spoke regarding the email sent by the Superintendent that was circulated among athletic boosters. Ms. Tremain stated she would not support elimination of the athletic director and that Dr. Underwood was the only one who suggested any cuts to athletics. Ms. Tremain stated she will not stand by while someone pits one group of parents against the other (athletic vs. academic), stating there are more than 90 teachers' jobs on the line, but no administration; transportation costs are still skyrocketing when there are two complexes next to each other. Ms. Tremain stated that GEPA was the first to stand up and defend athletics when Dr. Underwood was the first to suggest it be cut.
- Rena Hamzey, a Senior at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, thanked the School Board and Dr. Underwood for funding the Maggie Walker program.
- Kristin McNaron spoke as concerned parent and secretary of GEPA stating she recently spoke with Mr. Miller and several parents regarding the waste in maintenance and transportation. She stated the School Board and the Superintendent appear unwilling to do a thorough analysis of costs in these areas. Ms. McNaron stated GEPA will not support further cuts in teachers and programs, stating the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and five other administrators total over \$1 million dollars. The budget approved will cut textbooks and supplies and even though transportation costs are one of the highest, no cuts were proposed for that category. She urged School Board to focus on why they are here and be the stewards they were elected to be.
- John Wright spoke on behalf of GEPA, reiterating his request that a formal review of the Superintendent be performed due to an ever-widening breach of confidence with the citizens, misrepresentations of fact, disregard for Department of Education regulations, and the abusive environment she has created for her staff and the students. Mr. Wright also stated the Superintendent used the school's email delivery system to "rile up" the athletics boosters against GEPA based upon false accusations of GEPA's intentions to have the athletic director removed from his position. Mr. Wright also stated that parents closely associated with GEPA can no longer reach their children's teachers via email, but the emails have not been reaching their destinations, and speculates that Dr. Underwood has a hand in the problem. Mr. Wright also stated that Dr. Underwood is culpable in the now famous "The Dogs are coming" video aired in January 2009

on the high school morning announcements in order to warn drug using students that Goochland's Sheriff intended to bring drug sniffing dogs into the school. Mr. Wright again requested the Board perform a formal review of the Superintendent and asked that the results be made available to the public.

- Michael McDermott spoke regarding budget stating he is tired of the culture of entitlement and feels either new people need to be elected or the people who are elected need to listen. He stated there always seems to be a surplus at the end of every budget year and feels our educational bureaucracy is top heavy. Mr. McDermott stated there are opportunities for savings available such as recycling cardboard or printing the Board agenda using double-sided printing.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS**

- Regular Monthly Workshop-Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex Conference Room
- 2010 VSBA Southside Regional Forum-March 24, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at Petersburg High School
- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on Budget-March 30, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Goochland High School

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

##### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

##### **MINUTES**

##### **BILLS/PAYROLL**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval: February 16, 2010 regular meeting minutes, February 23, 2010 workshop minutes, Bills and Payroll for February, and Personnel Actions.

#### **Supplemental Appointments:**

Mary Lennarz, Middle School Girls Soccer  
Caryl-Ann Reece, Track  
Jonathan Smith, Track

#### **Resignation:**

Rebecca Doroshenk, GHS, English (effective end of school year)

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:**

##### **TITLE III CONSORTIUM APPLICATION APPROVAL**

Dr. Underwood presented information on the Title III Consortium Application stating that Goochland participates in a consortium with Powhatan, Dinwiddie, Sussex and New Kent counties in order to reach the number of ESL students necessary to access the Title III funds. Goochland is entitled to \$5,090.87. The School Board Chair and the Superintendent need to sign the application agreeing to the consortium. Dr. Underwood recommended approval of the application.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to approve the Title III Consortium Application as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

##### SUMMARY OF MID-YEAR REVIEWS

Dr. Underwood presented a summary of mid-year reviews of each of the schools.

##### VIRGINIA ADVANCED STUDIES STRATEGIES

Paul Nichols, President of Virginia Advanced Studies Strategies, presented information regarding the grant awarded to Goochland High School. Mr. Nichols explained that the focus of VASS over the last three years is to work with schools in the area of math. There will be a letter of agreement going to Goochland High School for the grant over a period of three years.

##### TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

Dr. Underwood presented an analysis of transportation costs and asked board members to review information provided. The item was deferred to the workshop to allow board members to review the information. Mr. Haskell asked that percentages be presented as compared to other counties.

##### BUS GARAGE UPDATE

Dr. Underwood presented information regarding the bus garage stating there had been many meetings regarding the metal building. Sonny Turner obtained estimates for outside coverings other than metal, which would increase the cost of the building by \$50,000-\$100,000. Dr. Underwood stated the county is looking at using a portion of the old middle school for a transportation facility. Dr. Underwood asked the county to present a plan for the facility as soon as possible. Mr. Haskell stated he would like to see the two boards get together and talk about costs and possibly have an analysis done. Mr. Mattox would like to get together an *ad hoc* committee consisting of staff and at least two members of each board, if the two boards cannot get together.

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to continue with what is needed at the bus garage on the money that has been appropriated without doing anything toward building a metal building for the buses and continue to do items that need to be done to repair what is there but to not build new building. The Board discussed the matter, and the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Haskell until more information can be gathered. Mr. Miller asked that a list of "must be done" items be presented at the next workshop, going out at least two years, with the highest priority items being those of safety. He also requested a timeline for the old middle school bus garage with the caveat the either two boards meet or an *ad hoc* committee is formed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Haskell stated that regarding the Drug Dogs issue, the school system had no input on when dogs were coming. The Superintendent has about 10 minutes notice when the dogs are going into the schools.
- Mr. Haskell wanted everyone to know the School Board is looking in transportation and maintenance costs, as well as talking with the county to consolidate services.

- Mr. Miller made the following statement regarding category changes:  
"We, being the Superintendent and I, had a conversation with the Board Chairman and the County Administrator. During conversations with County Administration it was discussed and agreed that a review of categories would be made and if change is appropriate, change would be made so long as the bottom line budget integrity is preserved. We, the Board, have no objections to such a review and agree that the county administration will be part of the process. Where we can agree on change, changes will be made."
- Dr. Underwood commented on questions that had been presented regarding the Reduction in Force (RIF) process. She stated the process is a three-step process. Step 1 is approval of a Resolution by the School Board, which was completed on January 26, 2010. Step 2 of the process is that a letter is sent out to those employees whose positions may be affected by the RIF process to verifying employment status. Those letters were sent out on February 23, 2010. March 9, 2010 was the last day to raise an issue of any discrepancies. Step 3 will not go into effect until we know what the county transfer to the schools will be and what kind of funding we will receive from the state. A decrease in state funding may require that this process start again.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Penny Palen suggested cutting school messenger to save money stating she wondered how many books could be purchased with monies spent on school messenger.
- Teresa Miller spoke regarding cuts in programs in science and math. Ms. Miller does not feel information is available to parents and students to figure out where they are going with classes. She feels her daughter will not have classes available to her to go into the science field. Ms. Miller stated that parents are the best advocates for their children. She asked the School Board to look at what is being cut and what is available to children and make that information available soon.

#### **CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to go into closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(2) for the discussion or consideration of a student disciplinary matter that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a student.

#### **END CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Meng 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. Cisne 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.

**ACTION ITEM**

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to readmit student no. 14-08 as of May 27, 2010 provided the conditions as established by the Superintendent and agreed to by the family are met. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

**APPROVED:**

**APPROVED:**

*Manuel L. Cisne*

*Diane W. Bennett*

Signature

Signature

*4/13/10*

*4/13/10*

Date

Date