

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY WORKSHOP  
APRIL 27, 2010  
ANNEX BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM  
6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Maxwell G. Cisne, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Mattox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cisne, to go into closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion or consideration of a Grievance by a member of the support staff.

**END CLOSED MEETING**

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

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell 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.

**RECONVENE**

Maxwell G. Cisne, Chairman, reconvened the meeting at 7:00 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  
Tom DeWeerd, Director of Secondary Education  
Matt Covington, Assistant Principal, Goochland High School  
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Transportation  
Andrea Erard, Legal Counsel

**The Media was represented by:**

Amy Condra, *The Goochland Gazette*

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Dr. Underwood presented additions and deletions to agenda.

## FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Sekou Shebakah, a member of educational committee with NAACP, stated he has been coming before the school board for about 10 years asking that the issues of disproportionality and dropout rates for black males be addressed. Mr. Shebakah stated they have not seen any appreciable results from past efforts. He stated they ask for data, the data is disappointing, and they make comment and the paper picks it up and the cycle begins again. He feels the issues are classroom management, high level of energy of black males mistaken as misbehavior, and lack of reading skills. Mr. Shebakah does not think that effective results will be received until certain things happen. He feels there has to be a neutral entity coming in to assess the situation and that there should be a comprehensive plan that includes parents and community. Mr. Shebakah stated they are not angry but disappointed. They will not go another 10 years. He asked that the School Board and this administration address a comprehensive plan with measurable goals. He feels all children can learn. Mr. Shebakah stated they will be coming back to the School Board in the hope they can get together in unity to make a difference for all students who come to Goochland. Mr. Shebakah suggested the book "Reducing the Black Male Dropout Rate" as a good reference. Mr. Shebakah stated he had presented a list of recommendations last year explaining that they want to do whatever they can to make sure all students have an opportunity and that they get whatever they need to make a difference.
- Karron Myrick a GCPS parent spoke about focusing on core education. She does not feel enough data analysis is done and that the schools are looking at the core. She feels the schools have strayed from that. Ms. Myrick feels what is needed is outlined in the SOLs, such as reading, math, science, social studies, and special education at the highest level you can. Any program that is direct instruction related should be the last to go. She stated the program for the advanced students was one of the first items on the list for cuts and stated the schools "went to the core". Ms. Myrick further commented that in January the GAC presented to the School Board and the Board of Supervisors research on best practice, explaining it is not what people want but what research says is the very best program and is the most efficient way to present advanced studies. She finds it hard to believe the schools would walk from a core program for advanced students. She empathizes with Mr. Shebakah saying she wants change. Ms. Myrick feels peer pressure is an issue and putting gifted students back in a regular classrooms will have an effect on that. She would like to have 5 years of SOL scores from the kids that came out of the center, put together as comparative data. Ms. Myrick commented that research says it will drop and asked the School Board to prove to her that it will not drop. She wants the model change measured. Mr. Cisne asked that the request be in writing.
- John Wright spoke about budget and an area that he cannot recall being covered. He stated he saw an item in the budget that mentioned the leasing of computers and the cost associated with that. He does not feel a lease is economically beneficial. He read an article from the Times Dispatch where Henrico County Public Schools awarded a contract to Dell bumping out Apple which provided a laptop to every middle school student. Mr. Wright explained

that Henrico chose Dell for lower costs and suggested it is something for the School Board to consider.

- Cynthia Stansberry thanked the School Board for their hard work and providing education to students of Goochland County. She spoke about bell curve and students who end up on the ends of the curve. She wanted the School Board to know that the teaching methods that serve the majority of children will not serve her children well. She asked the School Board to do everything in their power to keep the programs in place that serve these children.
- Jane Christie asked the following questions:
  1. Are there any plans to replace positions that have been vacated?
  2. Will Brad Franklin's position be filled with a teaching position?
  3. At the last School Board meeting Dr. Underwood mentioned hiring an energy consultant to address energy needs. Ms. Christie asked if the School Board is aware that Mr. Hamzey has offered to do this for years free of charge.

Ms. Christie further commented that the peer pressure her high school daughter endured from going to the middle school gifted program to the high school where there is no gifted program. She feels her daughter is losing her way, being forced to fit in, and is not doing well, and feels she is the perfect example of what the School Board will see. Ms. Christie stated that when students get bored they start making trouble.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

#### **Summer School Appointments:**

##### **Elementary:**

Krystle Battistelli  
Nicole Carter  
Laura Hatcher  
Margaret Dickerson  
Sara Jones  
Shelliotte Lawson  
Jamie-Ellen Spessard

Leah McGowan  
Lisa Mollica  
Deanna Nichols  
Megan Donovan  
Zarina Singh

##### **Elementary Special Education:**

Kamesha Smith  
Terri Nunes  
Brenda Davis

Sharon Owens, Aide  
Debora Harkrader, Aide

**Middle School:**

**Grace Creasey  
Julia Norris  
Patrick Gordon**

**Leslie Deitterick  
Courtney Rodgers  
Emily Ray**

**High School:**

**Margie Yurick  
Jim Neuffer**

**Bert Stanley  
Allison Brook**

**Leave of Absence:**

**Ellen Guidry, CO, Director of Elementary Education  
Amie Potter, RES, Kindergarten  
Amanda Tickle, BES, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Jamie Winfield, GMS, Social Studies**

**Retirement:**

**Paula Curle, RES, Intervention Teacher  
Joyce Rigsby, GHS, Instructional Assistant**

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

**Dr. Underwood presented a request for supplemental appropriation for adjustments to the FY 09-10 Grant Fund, as follows:**

**The final General Assembly Adopted FY 10 Budget funded a portion of basic aid for school divisions with State Fiscal Stabilization Funds of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Goochland Public Schools basic aid reductions were offset by SFSF funds in the amount of \$162,204.**

**The portion of Basic Aid entitlement that is funded with federal ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization funds will be paid on a cost reimbursement basis, via the Omega System. School divisions have been directed to follow normal procedures for processing these federal funds through the state Omega Accounting System.**

**The budget adjustment includes a transfer from the school operating fund to the school grant fund in the amount of \$162,204 in order to comply with state requirements.**

**In addition there is a supplemental appropriation request for Title II Improving Teacher Quality funds to adjust to the approved FY 10 allocation and an appropriation for the distinguished Title I award for Byrd Elementary School.**

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to approve the request for supplemental appropriation as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### 2009-2010 CALENDAR/MAKE-UP DAYS

Dr. Underwood explained that a lot of days for snow during the current school year. The calendar allows for 6 make-up days which have all been used. The next step would be to go to extended days. The entire school calendar has been shifted by about a week and a half for testing, etc. Administration has consulted with principals and curriculum staff and the recommendation is that school days not be lengthened to make up school days for the additional 18 hours. According to state code you must go to school for either 880 days or 990 hours. Assuming no more days are missed, school will have been in session for 1062 hours. Dr. Underwood recommended that we continue with the make up days as designated, not extend days this school year, and meet the state requirement by hours rather than days.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the calendar be amended to use the designated make-up days designated in the calendar and meet the state requirement by hours rather than days. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### 2010-2011 CALENDAR

Pete Gretz presented the proposed 2010-2011 Calendar for approval. Mr. Gretz explained that the calendar had been posted on the web site and he had received no additional comments and that no changes to the calendar had been made since the last meeting.

Mr. Mattox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to approved the 2010-2011 calendar as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### YMCA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Dr. Underwood presented a Memorandum of Understanding for review and approval. As part of the budget process the Tender Tots program and the VPI program were eliminated. In looking to fill the gap the Goochland YMCA has put together a plan to take over the program. Jan Kenney, Program Director at the YMCA was presented and stated they are ready to assume the preschool program. They will use the same curriculum that GCPS used. It will be available to the entire community.

Mr. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to approve the Memorandum of understanding as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### COMMUNITY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM (CPMT)

Dr. Underwood explained that there is a conflict between Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) and the Department of Education regarding the funding of programs. We currently have programs and services that are funded by CSA that in the meantime we do not know if they will be able to continue.

##### BUDGET UPDATE: FY 2009-2010 AND FY 2010-2011

Dr. Underwood presented an update on the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 budgets, explainint that we must have at least \$750,000 left at the end of the year; \$100,000 beginning balance for next year and to cover the \$650,000 reduction this year. She will



bring recommendations on May 11 for closing the gap for reduction and will ask that the School Board approve the recommendations at the May 27 workshop. The Board of Supervisors wants the it for their June 1 meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Dr. Underwood advised that Board that the Sheriff's office took the drug dogs into the GMS/GHS complex last week.
- Mr. Mattox mentioned the Independent Studies and Internship Programs handout asking that the information be posted on the website.
- Mr. Miller commented that it had been suggested that the School Board should upgrade their facilities and perhaps use Board of Supervisors meeting room for School Board meeting. He asked Dr. Underwood to make some inquiries to see if future School Board meetings could be scheduled in those facilities.

#### **CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to go into closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(2) for the discussion or consideration of two student disciplinary matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in scholastic records and pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of a grievance by a member of the support staff.

#### **END CLOSED MEETING**

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

#### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

Mr. Mattox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell 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. Haskell, to long-term suspend student no. 8-09 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and to permit student no. 8-09 to participate in Project Return during the long-term suspension so as to receive educational services consistent with his/her IEP. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell to long-term suspend student no. 9-09 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and to permit student no. 9-09 to participate in Project Return during the long-term suspension. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

APPROVED:

Michael S. Cisni  
Signature

5/11/10  
Date

APPROVED:

Diane Bennett  
Signature

5/11/10  
Date