

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MONTHLY WORKSHOP  
July 27, 2010  
Goochland High School Studio B  
6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Maxwell G. Cisne, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**Present were:**

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

**Also attending were:**

Peter M. Gretz, Assistant Superintendent  
Tom DeWeerd, Director of Secondary Education  
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Maintenance  
Connie Foreman, Gifted Specialist  
Rebecca Dickson, County Administrator  
Lynne Venter, Director of Finance and Operations  
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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- John Wright stated that in the agenda there is a proposal to change the way in which the school activity funds are examined. Currently there is the requirement that there be an audit of the school activity funds, but the proposal is to change that to a lesser form of assurance. He advocates for it to remain an audit function. Mr. Wright stated it is not his intent to drag the budget further down. He also mentioned that the Superintendent evaluation form included in the Board packet was missing two questions and that Policy CBA was not mentioned in the evaluation. (Mr. Cisne commented that the error in the copy of the Superintendent evaluation form had been corrected.)
- Sekou Shabaka petitioned again for redress of grievance regarding disproportionality of students in Goochland. One of areas that represents disproportionalities is the gifted program. He asked that the draft of the gifted program not be finalized at this point in that if it is put into motion under-representation will continue. He feels the four standardized tests used do not

take into effect the cultural orientation or the socioeconomic factors of the students. There is a distinct cultural difference. He feels the middle class students with the middle class teachers seem to do quite well. He feels everyone is gifted in some way. He asked that math/science, art, music, and literature all be considered as gifted areas. We already have a gifted area in athletics. Lastly it seems like the educational system are the last ones to fully understand the cultural distinction. He feels it is time for the educational system to see that distinction. There are instruments called adaptive cognitive competent skills that he feels are better than standardized tests where the approach is through interviews and you can get a better feel for a child's ability and knowledge. It's not that these under-representations that black children or children of color are not smart, intelligent, or creative. I think the failure of the school district's ability to determine how to get to understand that kind of competence and knowledge in poor children who come our way.

- Michael McDermott takes offense to being nickled and dimed to death. He is a taxpayer and believes in public education and whatever money the schools need they will get from his taxes. He takes umbrage to the additional fees and feels they are unethical and immoral. He is going on the record now to say that he will not pay those fees for his son. He feels that the testing fees need to be part of the budget. He feels that if the School Board cannot do what it needs to do within the scope of the budget then it shouldn't be done. He said he will not stand for it. He is perplexed why the complete agenda cannot be online prior to the meeting. When he sees huge change in personnel actions, he wonders why things are not prepared. In the interest of transparency and as one of the stated goals of the school system to engage the public, if the School Board is going to engage the public, the public has to have the information with which to be informed and to be able to address the School Board during public comment.
- Jane Christie said the School Board and the public are entitled to receive the agenda at the same time. If the public is receiving information at the same time the School Board is, which is about an hour before the meeting, it does beg the question of reasonableness and due diligence. She said there is rarely any discussion heard during school board meetings. Ms. Christie also spoke regarding fees and asked why the listed fees are not coming out of the budget when other things are coming out of the budget. She wants to know what the mobile phone costs are for the county. She said it appears there are a number of personnel with iPhones. She wants copies of the mobile phone records. (Dr. Underwood clarified that Ms. Christie's request is for the schools and not the county. Ms. Christie stated she wants to know the total cost and would be happy with a summary.)

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:

#### **Appointments:**

Angela Allen, Driver

Heather Bryant, Driver

Catherine Goodloe, BES, Cafeteria Worker

Michael Hardman, Driver  
Suzanne Keeton, Driver  
Leslie Neely, GES, ECSE  
Vicki Ruffner, BES, Administrative Assistant

**Supplemental Appointments:**

Head Football-Joe Fowler  
Assistant Football-Dan Summitt  
Assistant Football-Patrick Gordon  
Assistant Football-Matt Singleton  
Assistant Football-Lonnie Kirk  
Assistant Football-Joel Gray  
Assistant Football-Harris Diggs  
Assistant Football-Bill Donati  
Golf-Louis Martin  
Head Cheerleader-Bethany Hughes Gordon  
Assistant Cheerleader-Beth Curfman  
Head Volleyball-Bert Stanley  
Assistant Volleyball-Margie Yurick  
Boys Cross Country-Henry Jones  
Girls Cross Country-Henry Jones  
Athletic Trainer-Melissa Black  
Middle School Boys Soccer-Tom Reid  
Middle School Volleyball-Jennifer Erixon  
Marching Band-Jay Sykes  
Assistant Marching Band-Kent Gall  
Color Guard-Liz Kuhns  
Drama-Gemma Smith  
Yearbook GHS-Bruce Montgomery  
Yearbook GMS-Karen Hardin  
Newspaper/Literary Magazine-Bruce Montgomery  
SCA-Crystal Neilson-Hall  
Junior Class-Kim Berry  
Head ACE-David Tual  
Assistant ACE-Patrick Brook

**Resignations:**

Megan Ash, GES, ECSE  
Karren Streagle, CO, Testing Coordinator

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

**INFORMATION ITEM:**

**GIFTED UPDATE**

Connie Foreman presented an update on the gifted program, explaining that the high school teachers have gone to VASS training for AP courses, training has been scheduled for the middle school teachers, and for elementary it is non-stop.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**RECOMMENDED FEES FOR 2010-2011**

Dr. Underwood presented the list of recommended fees for the 2010-2011 school year. The Board discussed the matter.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the Recommended fees for the 2010-2011 year as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY REGULATIONS UPDATE**

Dr. Underwood presented the revised Title I Parent Involvement Policy Regulations (IGBC-R) for approval.

Mr. Mattox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to approve the Title I Parent Involvement Policy Regulations (IGBC-R) as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSAL**

Dr. Underwood presented the health insurance proposal, explaining that the committee had received quotes for individual policies for schools, individual for county, and combined schools and county. There is an anticipated savings if schools and county go together. Through the evaluation process the committee came down to The Local Choice (TLC), which provides the best in healthcare services. There have been many meetings and many discussions. Moving to TLC will provide comparable or better services than we are currently receiving with Healthkeepers. Dr. Underwood requested that the Board approve the TLC contract for our health benefits program with the monthly contribution of \$468.00 for single, \$715.72 for employee + 1, \$817.15 for employee + family, \$262.50 for part-time employee only, \$412.68 for part-time employee + 1, \$489.72 for part-time employee + family.

Mr. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to approve the TLC contract and contribution schedule subject to the county's participation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Underwood also presented the Dominion Benefits contract that secures a consultant to do open enrollment, answer employee questions, and help us find the best service for the smallest dollar. Dr. Underwood requested approval of the contract.

Mr. Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Haskell, to approve the Dominion Benefits contract subject to the county's participation. The motion was approved unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**2010-2011 TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

Dr. Underwood presented a letter regarding changes to the transportation schedules. Betty Thurston was present to answer questions. Ms. Thurston explained that the number of stops was reduced as well as the dead end turnarounds. She wanted to present the letter to the School Board for recommendations and to remind the public of the changes.

**POLICY UPDATES**

Andrea Erard presented the following policy updates for first reading:

<b><u>Policy Code</u></b>	<b><u>Revision</u></b>
<b>BDA</b>	<b>Regular School Board Meetings</b> Policy updated to reflect content of Legal References, and to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 2.2-3707 by HB 1028. Legal Reference and Cross References added.
<b>DG</b>	<b>Custody and Disbursement of School Funds</b> Legal reference updated to reflect revision of Virginia Board of Education regulations.
<b>DGC</b>	<b>School Activity Funds</b> Policy revised to reflect revision of Virginia Board of Education regulations.
<b>GCB</b>	<b>Professional Staff Contracts</b> Policy revised to reflect amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-302 by HB 623.
<b>GDPD</b>	<b>Support Staff Members Contract Status and Discipline</b> Policy updated to reflect Legal References. Cross References added.

The policies will be brought back at the August 10, 2010 meeting for approval.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Dr. Underwood presented information regarding a comprehensive plan. The School Board discussed the CEEG and when it was last done and thought it would be good if the Board of Supervisors could be involved in the process as well. Ms. Dickson spoke and asked that Dr. Underwood submit a letter making the request and stated the Board of Supervisors would appreciate being a part of it. The School Board would like to use a facilitator, possibly the same one the county used. Dr. Underwood will talk with Ms. Dickson and with other superintendents who have prepared a comprehensive plan and will have recommendations at next meeting.

**NAACP REQUEST**

Dr. Underwood presented information on the pass rates of white versus black students, explaining the differences and disparities. She said we must do whatever we can to close the achievement gap.

**BUS GARAGE UPDATE**

Dr. Underwood presented an update on the bus garage, reminding the School Board that some time ago they were asked to stop work on the bus garage. More recently it was suggested that there were some safety issues that could be repaired that would get us through the next few years until something could be done about the bus garage. It has been suggested that we do a concrete slab for one bay, a safety net over the pit,

and storage containers for parts and tires placed outside to give more workspace in the garage. Those three items are estimated to cost about \$15,000. Mr. Meng mentioned his concern about proper ventilation in the pit and making sure there is adequate oxygen for the person working in that space. Dr. Underwood said they would look into that piece. Mr. Miller would like to ask the Board of Supervisors to put the bus garage back on the CIP to at least have a date. Dr. Underwood will put the facilities committee either on next month's agenda or the following and will start the process earlier.

#### BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Dr. Underwood presented information on the YMCA Bright Beginnings Program. Currently, the program is \$7,000 short. Dr. Underwood made two requests of the School Board: (1) to consider a donation to the program, or (2) to participate in the shopping trips.

#### OLD GHS GYM

Dr. Underwood presented a copy of a letter from Mr. Quarles laying out the plan and what needs to happen for GES to be able to include the old GHS gym as part of its campus. Mr. Miller stated he is the Board member referenced in the letter and that he has pressured his supervisor to make this happen sooner than later. He is disappointed in the fact that the schools were not allowed time to plan.

#### VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Deferred to August 10, 2010 meeting.

#### SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Mr. Cisne explained that all School Board members were given copies of the revised Superintendent evaluation that included the two questions that were omitted from the form in the packet.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

None.

#### CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to go into closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion or consideration of the performance of two specific central office administrators and to discuss the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

#### END CLOSED MEETING

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

**APPROVED:**

Signature

8-10-2010

Date

**APPROVED:**

Signature

*Diane Bennett*

8/10/10

Date