

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2009
GOOCHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond A. Miller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present were:

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

Also attending were:

Peter M. Gretz, Assistant Superintendent
Ellen Guidry, Director of Elementary Education
Francie Ball, Principal, Goochland High School
Johnette Burdette, Principal, Goochland Middle School
Dianna Gordon, Principal, Goochland Elementary School
James Hopkins, Principal, Byrd Elementary School
Stacey Austin, Principal, Randolph Elementary School
Matt Covington, Assistant Principal, Goochland High School
Lynne Venter, Director of Finance and Operations
Betty Thurston, Supervisor of Transportation
Sonny Turner, Supervisor of Maintenance
Brad Franklin, Research and Information Services Analyst
William Quarles, District 2 Supervisor
Ned Creasey, District 3 Supervisor
Rudy Butler, District 4 Supervisor
Rebecca Dickson, County Administrator
Andrea Erard, 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 presented additions and changes to the agenda.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Underwood and Mr. Miller presented a Certificate of Recognition to Lisa Landrum, Nutrition Supervisor, for being selected by the Virginia Department of Education to

participate in an expert panel meeting entitled "Exploring the Uniqueness of School Nutrition Programs in Small School Districts."

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- John Wright spoke regarding the budget and the lack of information available to parents and citizens. He asked that process be more open and asked for a copy of proposed budget cuts. He asked board to be transparent. He addressed health insurance for school staff and asked how much has been done to pool the educational staff with remainder of county employees in order to better gain advantageous premiums. He asked how much of the school system has shopped the insurance that is out there, as well as looking into "health savings accounts."
- Jane Christie spoke regarding the budget and asked three questions:
 1. Is the current school budget available and if so, where is it?
 2. What is the minimum amount of health insurance mandated for employees?
 3. Has the school board considered a minimal level with employees being allowed to purchase additional coverage?

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- The Special Meeting/Public Hearing on the Budget is Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Goochland High School.
- The next regular monthly workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex Conference Room.

CONSENT ITEMS

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MINUTES

BILLS/PAYROLL

The following Consent Agenda items were presented for approval:
November 10, 2009 regular meeting minutes and November 24, 2009 workshop minutes,
Bills and Payroll for November.

Appointments:

Susan Blanchard, BES, Part-time Cleaner
Chyrl Lockhart, GMS, Cafeteria Worker

Retirement:

Shirley Wargo, BES

Resignation:

Greg Jastrzemski, Math Specialist
Lewis Stratton, Driver

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

ACTION ITEMS:

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD

Dr. Underwood presented a request for supplemental appropriation for grant funds awarded in the amount of \$8,488 in recognition of the efforts of Byrd Elementary School in earning the distinction of Title I Distinguished School for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

ADDITION TO COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Underwood presented a revised list of Community Advisory Committee members adding Jim Popp as a District 5 representative.

Mr. Haskell made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, to approve the Community Advisory Committee list as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

REDUCTION IN FORCE POLICY (GCPA-R)

Dr. Underwood presented the revised Reduction in Force Policy (GCPA-R) for second reading and approval.

Mr. Meng made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to approve the revised Reduction in Force Policy (GCPA-R) as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

BYRD ELEMENTARY 2009-10 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

James Hopkins, Principal, presented the Byrd Elementary 2009-10 School Improvement Plan.

REPORT OF DIVISIONWIDE STAFFING RATIOS

Dr. Underwood presented a snapshot of this year's enrollment for the Board's review.

FY 2010-2011 BUDGET INFORMATION

Dr. Underwood presented information on the FY 2010-2011 budget showing net cuts of approximately \$700,000. Dr. Underwood stated the Board could expect a 12-13% decrease in state funding which equates to approximately a \$500,000-\$600,000 reduction. The date for presentation of the FY 2010-2011 budget to the Board of Supervisor has been extended to January 28, 2010.

RACE TO THE TOP

Dr. Underwood presented information on the federal Race to the Top program. This item will be brought back at the workshop on December 22, 2009 with recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Haskell asked for clarification as to the location of the current budget on the website, which Dr. Underwood provided.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- John Wright spoke again regarding the budget, and spoke to the cyclical nature of the land values that have caused the budgetary shortfall and the quality of education within the county. Mr. Wright stated the greatest factor in the value of a home or the land that the home would sit on is the county's educational system. He feels that if that is damaged, it will only lower land values and therefore create next year's budget problems. He prefers that instructional staff be the last to be cut and asked that if there is a "rainy day fund" that this would be the time to tap into that fund. Lastly, he requested the gifted center remain a centralized program.
- Kristen McNaron posed a list of questions:
 1. What can we expect at next week's hearing?
 2. Will we get a copy of the actual proposed budget?
 3. Will we get details of the \$700,000 in cuts mentioned tonight?
 4. Will the gifted teacher assigned to each elementary school be expected to cover 3-5 or K-5?
 5. Where does the \$115,000 (if that's accurate) in proposed savings by returning the gifted center children to their home schools actually come from?
 6. Since children at the gifted center are already working above grade level, how is the school board proposing to accommodate them if they return to their home schools?
 7. What percentage of the proposed cuts is administrative versus academic?
 8. How can less than one-third (or less than one-sixth, depending on the answer to question no. 5) of the gifted instructional time produce the same quality program (as asserted last week by Dr. Underwood twice last week)?
- Heather Earley spoke regarding the FAQs on the web. She thought it would be a great advantage to repeating parents' questions exactly as they are asked on the FAQ site rather than reinterpreting. Mrs. Earley also commended Dr. Underwood on the process and wanted to make sure everyone looks at all aspects of the budget and not just the gifted program.
- Karen Myrick spoke again stating she does not support submitting any instructional staff cuts to the Board of Supervisors regardless of meeting the budget number. She stated that in terms of scores Goochland Schools are fabulous and have a lot to be proud of. She commented that the gifted program delivers unbelievable scores. Ms. Myrick recommend the School Board read research from the National Association of Gifted Children regarding the benefits of grouping. She encouraged the School Board to not cut academics, to push for more funding, and use any "rainy day" fund.

- Susan Doczi spoke regarding the budget and suggested getting rid of clerical staff rather than teachers. She suggested the School Board start with assistant positions and work around in any way to avoid cutting teachers. Mrs. Doczi spoke against larger class sizes and against cutting the gifted center. She suggested other items such as asking parents to transport children to school, getting rid of "fluff" like the weight training class held at old middle school, instructional assistant positions, Central Office positions, and changes in health insurance. She also stated she feels no one is getting answers to questions asked and people are getting frustrated. Mrs. Doczi suggested answers to questions be in person rather in letter form.
- Dave Hollis spoke regarding the budget and asked the School Board to look at all avenues of budget reduction and stated the public wants to know what the board is doing. Mr. Hollis also stated he feels the student code of conduct is not being followed in schools.
- Elizabeth Nelson-Lyda spoke regarding the budget and pointed out things she feels people are failing to see. She stated that she feels all items should stay in budget. She feels people failing to see that Dr. Underwood was specifically asked to cut \$2.9 million from the budget and that based on cuts they are not even close because there is no where to cut. She stated the county is making its budget cuts equitably, not taking it from schools and putting it somewhere else. Mrs. Nelson-Lyda feels the only way to solve it the problem is to raise taxes.
- Laurel Heiser spoke regarding the budget and raising taxes. She stated she had spoken with neighbors without children who they said they wanted to raise taxes in order to preserve real estate values. She asked that the School Board go into schools before they make cuts to see what teachers are doing and see what will happen if class sizes are larger.

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 that is contained in individual student records.

END CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Meng, 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. Meng, 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 ITEMS

Mr. Cisne made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mattox, to long-term suspend student 4-09 for the remainder of the 09-10 school year and to allow student 4-09 to participate in Project Return during the long term suspension and to request that the principal review the grades and behavior of student 4-09 at the end of the third marking

period and to authorize the superintendent to readmit student 4-09 prior to the end of the school year. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

APPROVED:

APPROVED:

Raymond A. Miller

Signature

DiANE Bennett

Signature

1/12/10

Date

1/12/10

Date