

Minutes

Anson County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Monday, July 30, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 30, 2012, All members were present. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Deputy Superintendent), Howard McLean (Executive Director), Mary Ratliff (Executive Director), Holly Berry (Chief Financial Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Anne Hyatt (Clerk to the Board of Education).

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Lisa Davis opened the meeting and welcomed all visitors.

B. Invocation

Chair Davis asked George Truman to give the Invocation.

C. Conflict of Interest Statement

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chair Davis reminded Board Members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. She asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated by the members. Chair Davis then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to her attention. She further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

D. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board upon a motion by George Truman, with a second by Russell Sikes. Motion carried.

E. Approve Minutes

(Regular Meeting 06-28-12)

Russell Sikes moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 28, 2012, be approved. This motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and unanimously approved. Motion carried.

F. Closed Session

- Matters Related To Personnel

Chair Davis entertained a motion that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a) (6). This motion was made by Russell Sikes, seconded by Marilyn Bennett and unanimously approved by the board. The Board went into closed session at 5:32 p.m.

The board of education approved a motion to direct legal counsel to communicate the decision that an employee was not entitled to benefits under NCGS 115C-338. The motion was made by Russell Sikes, seconded by George Truman and unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.

@. Reconvene Open Session

- The Board returned to open session at 6:28 p.m. upon a motion by George Truman seconded by Marilyn Bennett. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

@. Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

Public Comment is limited to five minutes per speaker. Speakers may offer objective comments about school operations and programs. The Board will not permit any expression of personnel complaints nor defamatory comments about the Board of Education personnel and students or against any person connected with the Anson County School System. Security issues and matters relating to negotiations/grievances will not be permitted.

Ms. Valerie Ratliff was present to speak about not allowing Pat Frost to return to Anson High School. Chair Davis stopped Ms. Ratliff to clarify whether she was a parent. Ms. Ratliff confirmed that she is the mother of the student involved (Johnathan Smith). Chair Davis said

Ms. Ratliff would not be allowed to speak any further due to the pending investigation and Board Attorney (Mike Flake) would speak with her on her way out.

Dr. Firn said this is a situation where it is currently under investigation, there is nothing to report and there are no comments to be made at this time. Chair Davis added to make it fair and impartial to everyone, the board of education cannot hear either side until the investigation is completed.

I. Chair's Report

- Public Engagement: Dr. Truman reported that he attended the Southern Region School Boards Association Meeting last week.

- Filling Vacant District 7 Position: Mike Flake clarified the process to the board that the remaining members would appoint a successor to the vacant seat and the seat must be filled by a citizen from District 7. He said the board can advertise and letters of interest could be sent to him. However, Mr. Flake added that Rev. Rollins did not seek another term and his seat expires this year. He said he will make contact with the State Board of Elections Office to get advisement on how to proceed and will be able to give an update at a later time. Daniel Wilson made a motion to approve tabling this discussion due to the fact that Rev. Rollins did not seek re-election and Mr. Flake will be calling Raleigh to get correct advisement on how to proceed. The motion was seconded by Russell Sikes and approved by the board. Motion carried.

@. Superintendent's Report – See Attached

- Professional Development/Programming: Dr. Firn briefly explained both the Curriculum Advantage Contract (Classworks) and the Silverback Learning Contract. He said Classworks is a strategy for Anson Middle School targeting literacy and Mathematics. Dr. Firn explained that Silverback is used by districts to monitor, analyze and report on student educational achievement data.

Chair Davis asked if these were additional contracts or did they take the place of other contracts. Dr. Firn said these are new contracts. He said Classworks may reduce the amount of students who will need Fast ForWord. Chair Davis asked if it will require another facilitator and Dr. Firn replied no. Michael Livingston asked if there were other districts that used this and Dr. Firn indicated that Hoke County used Classworks.

- Testing Data: Dr. Firn and Georgia Maner reported testing data to the board. He clarified the data is preliminary and not official until the State Board approves it at their meeting in August.

Michael Livingston asked how the AIG Program is looking as far as students all coming together. Ms. Maner said they are doing surveys and plans are coming together. She said DPI is just now sending them curriculum related information and they want to ensure they have everything in order before they begin. Dr. Firn added it would be second semester before this is started. He said he wants student and parent input before they begin.

@. Consent Items

- Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Daniel Wilson, the Consent Items were approved by the board (Approved Consent Items: Personnel Report {Certified A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12; Certified Transfers – Administration D1; Certified Transfers D2 and D3; Classified Transfers D4, D5, D6, D7; Dismissed G1 and Change in Status H1}, Community Facilities Fee Structure and Beginning Teacher Support Program). Motion carried.

@. Old Business

4000 Series Policies: Upon a motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Beulah Pratt, the following 4000 series policies were approved by the board.

- 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission
- 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements

- 4125 Homeless Students
- 4150-R School Attendance Areas
- 4220 Student Insurance Program
- 4230 Communicable Diseases - Students
- 4202/5029/7272 Service Animals in Schools
- 4240/7312 Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations
- 4335 Criminal Behavior

1. New Business

Policy 2450 Suspension of Board Policies

• Michael Livingston moved the Suspension of Policy 2450 be approved for the purpose of taking action to adopt the Policy 3460 Graduation Requirements and Policy 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress. The motion was seconded by Russell Sikes and unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.

Policy 3460 Graduation Requirements

Dr. Firn said administration will be coming back to the board in September with a new graduation requirement for current 9th graders (CPR/Heimlich Maneuver requirement).

Chair Davis asked about occupational course of study for Art Education where the policy states it is recommended and asked if it was required. Mrs. Maner said that is State language. Chair Davis asked how we were going to provide that course offering. Ms. Maner said we have visual arts and there are online blended courses with NC Virtual Public Schools for Arts and Music as well as an Art Teacher is available. Mr. Freeman said we may need to explore other offerings. He also mentioned that Ms. Hagins has done well and has looked heavily at dually licensed individuals for that course of study. Ms. Davis replied by saying that online opportunities aren't always a best fit for a student who qualifies in this course of study. Dr. Firn said they will closely look at course offerings in the future.

Dr. Truman asked what would happen if students did not meet the community service requirement for graduation. He asked if there were other service requirements for other schools. Dr. Firn said it would be principal discretion and the principal would work with the student and family to determine how that requirement would be met. Ms. Maner pointed out that Anson New Tech School also has a service requirement.

Dr. Truman questioned the number of hours the Academy must meet for community service and said there are not many businesses that would allow underage students on their premises. He said 360 hours may be a lot. Dr. Firn clarified it would be the discretion of the principal and if he feels it is overambitious, administration could come back to the board to adjust the hours. Dr. Firn further stated that Dr. Ratliff, Ms. Ingold and Mr. Thacker from Career and Technical Education are working together to help provide assistance with community service.

Upon a motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Russell Sikes, Policy 3460 (Graduation Requirements) was unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.

Policy 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress

Upon a motion by George Truman, seconded by Bobbie Little, Policy 3400 (Evaluation of Student Progress) was unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.

Dr. Truman said on opening day convocation, if finished early, he would like employees to be released early in appreciation from the board of education for their hard work. He further stated he would like them to know the board appreciates them and they stand behind them. Dr. Firn said the board's appreciation of employees will be relayed to the employees.

0. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by George Truman, seconded by Bobbie Little.

There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary