

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 24, 2012. All members were present with the exception of an excused absence from Daniel Wilson. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Deputy Superintendent), Howard McLean (Executive Director), Mary Ratliff (Administrator), Holly Berry (Chief Financial Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Anne Hyatt (Clerk to the Board of Education).

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Lisa Davis opened the meeting and welcomed all visitors.

II. Invocation

Chair Davis asked George Truman to give the Invocation.

III. 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. Chair Davis indicated a conflict of interest with the Consent Items (specifically A.04 and A05) and asked if other 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 other conflicts of interest communicated by the remaining 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.

IV. Adopt Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board after removing Old Business Item b.02 (Athletic Trainer). The motion was made by Russell Sikes, with a second by Bobbie Little. Motion carried.

V. Approve Minutes

(Regular Meeting 08-27-12)

Marilynn Bennett moved the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2012, be approved. This motion was seconded by Bobbie Little and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

VI. 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 George Truman,

seconded by Marilynn Bennett and unanimously approved by the board. The Board went into closed session at 5:33 p.m.

Matters related to personnel were discussed and no action was taken.

VII. Reconvene Open Session

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

VIII. 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.

There was no one to speak during this section.

IX. Chair's Report

- Public Engagement: Several members spoke about public engagement they were involved in where they visited schools, attended school functions, etc.
- NCSBA District Meeting: Chair Davis gave an overview of the district meeting that was attended by most of the board members on September 13 in Richmond County.
- NCSBA Nominations:
 - **Voting Delegates**: Chair Davis asked for volunteers to serve as voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference and indicated we are allowed to select four delegates and an alternate. Dr. Truman, Ms. Bennett, Chair Davis and Ms. Pratt all volunteered to serve and Mr. Sikes agreed to be the alternate. Dr. Firn mentioned that Mrs. Hyatt will follow-up with members on conference details.
 - **Awards**: Chair Davis reviewed the various awards available through NCSBA. She said to let Mrs. Hyatt know if there are any nominations. Dr. Firn pointed out Mrs. Hyatt will remind members and Chair Davis indicated the deadline of October 5th for submitting nominations.

X. Superintendent's Report – See Attached

Planetarium & Science Center Update (Wendy Efird): Ms. Wendy Efird began by thanking the board for giving our children the opportunity to participate in something that most counties do not have the opportunity to participate in. Currently, she said some of our children (5th graders) are dissecting (cats, pigs, frogs, etc) and said they handle themselves in a very appropriate manner. Ms. Efird then gave a brief overview of the Planetarium & Science Center's recent activities and usage since the 2008-2009 school year. She said during the 2008-2009 year, usage numbers for in-county students visiting the facility for hands-on activities, etc. were 941 and this number has drastically increased to 3,496 during the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. Efird went on to say that numbers for out of county

students and community groups visiting the facility as well as holiday shows have all increased within the last four years. She also updated the board on the upgrades in the facility that has taken place over the past year (new doors and windows, heating and AC, a new environmental area behind the planetarium).

Dr. Truman mentioned to the board about the Rotary District Governor visiting Anson County on October 18th. He said the Wadesboro Rotary Club plans to have an Open House at the Planetarium for his visit and the board of education will be receiving an invite.

Ombudsman: Dr. Dave Johnson (Regional Director for Ombudsman) was present to answer questions from board members regarding the proposal for uniforms at Ombudsman. Chair Davis informed the board a committee from the board must be formed to hear the proposal and make a recommendation at the October Business Meeting. Dr. Truman, Dr. Little and Mrs. Gibson all agreed to serve on the committee. Dr. Little agreed to serve as Chair and Dr. Truman likewise as Vice Chair. Mr. Freeman further explained Dr. Firn would then select parents and teachers to serve on this committee. Dr. Truman added he would not be available until after October 11 for a committee meeting.

Abstinence Education Federal Grant: Mrs. Mary Ratliff and Mrs. Emily Marsh were present to give an overview of the Abstinence Education Federal Grant and the WhyTry Contract that is on the table for approval. Mrs. Ratliff and Mrs. Marsh were very excited to discuss WhyTry and said it is a kid and adult friendly program that focuses on approaches to help youth overcome their challenges and improve their outcomes in the areas of truancy, behavior and academics. They both indicated the program will target grades 4-6 and this year they will target 6th grade students. Mrs. Marsh also mentioned the program has opportunity to range from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

Comprehensive Communication and Engagement Plan: Dr. Firn reviewed the Comprehensive Communication and Engagement Plan document presented to the board and said it is essential to have a comprehensive, intentional engagement and communication plan that would ensure all stakeholders are equally informed of how, when, and why of events, activities, accomplishments as well as the invitation, access, and opportunity to participate in the public's schools. He further highlighted that this plan is a first step in identifying stakeholders, the information to be communicated and how the information will be communicated.

XI. **Consent Items**

- Chair Davis abstained from voting due to a conflict with items a.04 and a.05. Upon a motion by George Truman, seconded by Russell Sikes, the following Consent Items were approved by the board: Personnel Report (Certified A1-A8, Classified B1, Substitutes C1-C6, Certified Transfers D1-D4, Classified Transfers D5-D7), Budget Amendments, Anson Children's Center Contract, Federal Title V State Abstinence Education, WhyTry Contract, Pitsco Addendum, Apple Proposal and Camcor Contract. Motion carried.

XII. Old Business

- Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Michael Livingston, the 7000 Series Policies as presented below were approved by the board. Motion carried.
 - 7120 Employee Health Certificate
 - 7130 Licensure
 - 7130-R Licensure
 - 7140 Criminal History Checks
 - 7210 Staff Involvement in Decision Making
 - 7240 Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace
 - 7260 Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens
 - 7262 Communicable Diseases - Employees
 - 7265 Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals
 - 5027/7275 Weapons and Explosives Prohibited
 - 7300 Staff Responsibilities
 - 7340 Employee Dress and Appearance
 - 5070/7350 Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition

XIII. New Business

- Discovery Education: Dr. Firn said administration is recommending approval to amend the existing subscriber agreement using State Technology Funds. Michael Livingston made a motion to rescind the motion approving last months Discovery contract and to approve amending the existing subscriber agreement using state technology funds and approve a new contract for professional development and curriculum alignment using Title I funds. The motion was seconded by George Truman and unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.
- 7000 Series Policies: Chair Davis said the 7000 series policies listed below would remain on the table until the October business meeting for possible approval at that time.
 - 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
 - 7110 Information Provided by Applicant or Employee
 - 5026/7250 Smoking and Tobacco Products
 - 7335 Employee Use of Social Media
 - 5071/7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention

XIV. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Russell Sikes, seconded by Michael Livingston. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary