

**Minutes**  
**Anson County Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009, 5:30 p.m.**

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, February 23, 2009. All members were present. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Executive Director), Anne Hyatt (Board Assistant), Michael McLeod (Executive Director) and Frances Williamson (Deputy Superintendent).

**I. Call to Order**

Board Chairperson Lisa Davis opened the meeting and welcomed all visitors.

**II. Invocation**

Chairperson Davis asked Russell Sikes to give the Invocation.

**III. Adopt Agenda**

The agenda for today was unanimously adopted by the Board upon a motion by Russell Sikes, with a second by Rob Rollins. Motion carried.

**IV. Approve Minutes (Regular Meeting 01-26-09)**

Altheria Patton moved the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2009, be approved. This motion was seconded by Jackie Huntley, and unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**V. Closed Session**

- Matters Related To Personnel

Chairperson 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 Jackie Huntley seconded by Altheria Patton and unanimously approved. The Board went into closed session at 5:34 p.m.

**VI. Reconvene Open Session**

- The Board returned to open session at 6:46 p.m. upon a motion by Michael Livingston seconded by Rob Rollins. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

## **VII. Public Comment (limited to three minutes, 20 minutes total)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE**

**Public Comment is limited to three 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.**

Tanisha Solomon, Maxine McLendon and Vancine Sturdivant were all present to speak about Teen Pregnancy.

Fredrick Colson was present to speak about his support for Leon Gatewood to fill the vacant District 7 Board of Education Seat.

## **VIII. Anson County Council on Teen Pregnancy**

Leon Gatewood, representing the Anson County Council on Teen Pregnancy, said he is a concerned citizen with our 7<sup>th</sup> overall ranking when it comes to our children having babies and being exposed to deadly diseases. He said, of course, our number one ranking when it comes to African American children having babies and becoming mothers early and being exposed to deadly diseases. He said he is also concerned that our community is not doing all that it can do to counter this situation. Mr. Gatewood said as a follow-up to the last meeting where it was discussed about the need to address the extraordinary high rates of teen pregnancy in Anson County. He said we need to (as a community) figure out a way to help teens make healthier decisions. He said it is incumbent upon us to make sure that our teens have the information before them to make healthy decisions. Mr. Gatewood said he would like to thank the board for putting the council on the agenda. He said he would also like to thank the partners of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC for being present (Kaye Phillips, Sally Swanson and Emily Polino have all provided technical assistance on programs that work). He said he would like to thank community members present who are in support of curricula changes. Mr. Gatewood said as per North Carolina State Law, expanded curricula to focus on both abstinence and contraception is allowed through the process of having a public hearing. He said this process includes choosing a curriculum that meets community needs, putting it on display for 30 days, convening a hearing and vote from the school board, and then putting that accepted curriculum on display for another 30 days. Mr. Gatewood said the NC statute (GS 115C-81) that outlines this process was distributed to each board member at the beginning of the meeting. He said Lisa Davis has begun to assemble a task force that will review the curriculum. Mr. Gatewood stated over the next months, there will be an opportunity for feedback from community members. Mr. Gatewood said that he wants everyone to join in this process of reviewing something that he thinks could help enlighten our children as to the dangers that they are exposing themselves to. Mr. Gatewood said there will be a public announcement in the local papers, the curriculum will be put on display in the Hampton B. Allen Library, a comment sheet will be provided so that community members can make suggestions or leave a number where they can be contacted to further discuss the curriculum that is being presented. He said according to NC Law, the hearing would occur on the April School Board Meeting to

allow for Public Comment. Mr. Gatewood further stated, at that meeting a vote will be taken on the proposed curriculum. He said the curriculum that has been chosen to use as a starting off point and are proposing to the board of education is called, "Making Proud Choices" (a program that has evidence of changing behavior and the content page was also given to each board member at the start of the meeting). He said all the curriculum that is considered will be for 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade health classes and will simply augment the standard course of study already outlined for health education and will take as little as 1 to 2 weeks to present to students. He said he understands that the board might be concerned about cost as well. Mr. Gatewood said resources have been secured for training and curricula purchases and follow-up technical support. He said, currently, parents have a right to opt out of any portion of the healthy living curriculum and will still have that opportunity in the proposed curriculum. Mr. Gatewood asked for questions and said he would sincerely like for the board to consider this proposal. He said the council is concerned that there are too many children becoming parents and that the community is not doing enough to counter it. He said he really appreciates the thought that children should be taught abstinence because that's what his mother taught him. He said he is asking for the board to sincerely consider this curriculum because the times have changed and times are desperate. He said desperate times require desperate measures and we're in desperate situations. Dr. Patton asked if the Council on Teen Pregnancy had reviewed the curriculum on sex education that is currently in operation in the schools. Mr. Gatewood said he would love to, do we have one? Dr. Patton responded by saying yes. Mr. Gatewood asked if it was available. Dr. Firm said it was provided to the person that requested to be on the board agenda. Misty Harris (member of the Anson County Council on Teen Pregnancy and audience member) responded to Dr. Firm by saying she received a packet in the mail and they all went through the packet today and they couldn't figure out what was the actual process and what was actually the curriculum. Dr. Firm stated that the whole packet was the entire curriculum. Misty Harris responded by saying that it was confusing to them and maybe everyone should sit down as a group. Ms. Harris said she e-mailed Lisa about forming a committee; she said the entire task force would like to sit down and talk about the curriculum and for someone to point out the exact curriculum. Chair Davis commented that the curriculum presented tonight is different from the curriculum that was presented last time and it's actually not the curriculum; it's just an information sheet. Ms. Davis said last time it was "Be Proud, Be Responsible" and today it's "Making Proud Choices" so that's a change in curriculum. Mr. Leon Gatewood said that curriculum is what they are doing right now. One of the representatives from the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC said the reason the curriculum is different is because "Be Proud Be Responsible" and "Making Proud Choices" are by the same developers and is almost the exact same program. She said the only thing is that "Be Proud Be Responsible" is an HIV Prevention and "Making Proud Choices" more intentionally inserted more about pregnancy prevention. She said there are modules that deal specifically with pregnancy prevention even though the behaviors overlap, it just has a more detailed module that is specific to pregnancy prevention. She further stated that they are by the same developers and have similar evaluation results. Ms. Harris said she has the actual curriculum and it's the Anson County Partnership for Children's copy, but anyone could look at it. Dr. Patton said the reason she asked that was because the State Department of Public Instruction does have curriculum K-12 and it includes sex education and she said if you put the two together, you will find some overlapping and some differences. She said it would be a good idea for the people who have come tonight to know that the board is aware of the problem of teen pregnancies. She said our teachers, faculties, nurses and

staff in our schools are aware of it and they are working with it. She said if you compare, you may decide that these things are being taught but just in a different format. Dr. Patton said they are being addressed; she said she has had three children come through this system and they have brought home information that they got at school and of course the parents give them information too. Dr. Patton said that working together and knowing what is being taught in the schools could help to give some specific changes that you would want the school system to have. She said they do have what is called a comprehensive curriculum. Dr. Patton said if you worked together.....Mr. Gatewood interjected by saying that was their whole point of being at the meeting is to work together and find a solution and present a curriculum to work with. Dr. Patton said the curriculum that we have starts in Kindergarten and children are taught family and responsibility and it goes right up through elementary, middle and high school. The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC representative said it wouldn't affect the whole curricula; the curriculum that is being proposed is just augmenting what is already being done. She said the idea would be to use a program that actually changes behavior and it's less about information you're taking home and actually building skills that help teens make those decisions in situations they find themselves in. She said it's not in competition with what is being taught in the Standard Course of Study, it's just more detailed and it's a little more expanded on the contraception piece. Another representative from the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of NC said it's an abstinence foundation and the curricula is built on top of that.

## **IX. Chair's Report**

- Resolution for M. R. Bell

Chair Davis said she would like to entertain a motion that a Resolution be presented to Ms. Bell's family in honor and in memory of the service that she gave.

Russell Sikes made the motion for the Resolution saying that Ms. Bell was one of the finest ladies he had ever met and she did a super job. Rob Rollins seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

- District 7 Seat

Chair Davis said in the past we have asked our board attorney to make notice to the newspaper for applications. She said applications are then sent to the board attorney for screening and then applications that are deemed appropriate will come before the board for an interview process. Rob Rollins asked for clarification that the screening would involve eligibility for that particular seat. Chair Davis said correct.

Russell Sikes made a motion to move forward with the process stated by Chair Davis. The motion was seconded by Daniel Wilson and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

- Health Advisory Council

Chair Davis stated that on the advice of counsel, the board is not naming an additional task force, but we are using our task force that is already in place which is the Health Advisory Task Force. The Health Advisory Task Force will be meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Staff Development Center. At that time, a small delegation from the Anson County Council on Teen Pregnancy will be on the agenda to present the curriculum they are interested in coming before the board of education. This will be an open meeting and any others that would like to attend may do so.

**X. Superintendent's Report – See Attached**

- **NOVA 5000 Presentations**

Deborah Davis was present to briefly introduce one of her teachers (Mrs. Tracy Small) and two of her students (Kinsey Martin and Katie Hill) who gave an interactive presentation to the board on the NOVA 5000. Dr. Firn said this was a presentation that our staff and students were selected to present at the State Level and unfortunately that conference was canceled. Dr. Firn said he felt it was important enough because of the work they had put in to present, not only here tonight, but also just so folks could see what exciting things are taking place at the Early College High School. Mrs. Small began by saying that NOVA 5000 are portable hand-held computers that have lots of features that Kinsey and Katie will talk about. She said the great part about it is it limits what they can do and she can track what her students do. Kinsey and Katie both discussed the variety of programs they use daily with the NOVA 5000 which include Text Maker (version of Word), Plan Maker (form of Excel), Sketchy (animation program) and Multi-Lab (used to collect data and transform it into the form of a graph so it can be analyzed). Both students gave illustrations of projects they created in class. Mrs. Small said the NOVA 5000 are synched and their work is uploaded to her laptop. She said there is good communication between the teacher and students and it allows her to know whether or not students are ready for the EOC's.

**XI. New Business**

**c.1 – Personnel Report**

- Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Altheria Patton, personnel items B, C, and D presented by Dr. Firn, were approved by the Board. Motion carried.

**c.2 – Budget Amendments**

- A motion to approve the Local, State and Federal Budget Amendments as presented by Dr. Firn was given by Altheria Patton. Rob Rollins asked for clarification from Dr. Firn that when the cuts are made, are we making corresponding decisions (if any need to be made) in order to make sure the budget is balanced. Dr. Firn said correct. The motion was seconded by Russell Sikes and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

**c.3 – 2009-2010 Board of Education Meeting Dates**

- Upon a motion by Jackie Huntley, seconded by Daniel Wilson, the 2009-2010 Board of Education meeting dates were approved by the Board. Motion carried.

**XII. Calendar Items**

- Joint Meeting with County Commissioners - March 5, 2009, 6:00 p.m. (SDC)
- Spring Law Academy – March 25-26, 2009 (Let Anne know if you plan to attend)
- NSBA Annual Conference – April 4-7, 2009 (San Diego)

**XIII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jackie Huntley. The motion was seconded by Altheria Patton. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

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Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary