

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 28, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, July 28, 2008. All members were present. Others in attendance were Michael Flake (Board Attorney) Frances Williamson (Deputy Superintendent) Michael Freeman (Executive Director) and Michael McLeod (Executive Director).

I. Call to Order

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

II. Invocation

Chairperson Davis asked M. R. Bell to give the Invocation.

III. Adopt Agenda

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

IV. Approve Minutes (Regular Meeting 06-26-08)

Russell Sikes moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 26, 2008, be approved with the amendment for the excused absence of M. R. Bell. This motion was seconded by Lannie Allen, and unanimously approved.

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 M. R. Bell seconded by Altheria Patton and unanimously approved. The Board went into closed session at 5:33 p.m.

There was no action taken.

VI. Reconvene Open Session

- The Board returned to open session at 6:47 p.m. upon a motion by Russell Sikes seconded by M. R. Bell. 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.

Ms. Annie Grady was present to speak during the public comment section. She asked if the uniforms would be done away with this school year. Chair Davis said the Board of Education has not looked into doing away with uniforms. Ms. Grady also commented on her concern for more reinforcement on the way students wear their uniforms.

VIII. Chair's Report

- Survey: Chair Davis asked each member to complete the survey given to them and mail it in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.

IX. Superintendent's Report – See Attached

- Budget (see attached):
 - ♦ Vince Quinn with Dixon Hughes and Frances Pope were present to summarize the financial information related to fund balances that will be carried forward to the next school year.
 - ♦ Michael Livingston asked Dr. Firn to provide a break down of the athletic concession budget that details concession costs and revenues by sport.
- CTE Plan: Dr. Firn explained that the CTE Plan will be complete after being populated with student data information in September or October. He said that Cynthia Hampton (CTE Director) will be coming back with the official CTE Final Plan at that time for the Board's approval.
- Common Late Start (AHS/AMS): Dr. Firn explained that 27 Mondays will start 90 minutes later this school year at AHS and AMS. He said staff will report at their normal time where they will work together around the evidence as well as the planning of student work. Dr. Firn said we will reserve the right to discontinue Common Late Start if we run into any challenges (i.e. transportation, food service, safety/security or child supervision) and if it's not doing what we expect it to do. Dr. Firn said this plan will be reported to the members on how it is being used on a monthly basis. He asked each member to let him know if there were any concerns.
- Dress Code: Dr. Firn provided recommendations/modifications (see attached) from Anson High Schools' School Improvement Team (SIT) regarding dress code. Dr. Firn advised the SIT that recommendations must not interfere with the safety, learning and well-being of others. Dr. Firn said he would not present the recommendations to the members if the modifications were not in concert with the Board's current policy. The members began a discussion and decided that clarification was needed in order to go further with the

recommendations. Dr. Firn said that he will provide Dr. Boothby and the SIT with the members' feedback and ask for clarification and for them to revisit their proposal.

- Initial AYP Results: Frances Williamson will share full details about Reading scores when they are back in October. Math results are posted on our website and on the NC Department of Public Instruction's website.
- School Choice: Frances Williamson said that parents will be notified in early August that the choice will be their home school or Ansonville Elementary School. Letters will be going out August 1. Dr. Firn said the Federal Government has tightened their definition of students who are eligible for Choice (regarding academic performance and economic status). Lannie Allen asked if students who moved last year would have to go back to their home school. Dr. Firn said once they have moved, they can stay. However, Mrs. Williamson pointed out that when their home school makes AYP for two years, the child can continue to stay, but we no longer are required to provide transportation. She explained that if WPS makes AYP next year, those students who opted for Choice will be required to pick up the transportation bill.

X. Presentation

- Clint Davis was present to speak about Cooperative Learning through Community Engagement (Improving the Quality of our Students). Mr. Davis explained that improving the quality of our students and our school system can be done through a mentor program. Mr. Davis said a good mentor program must consist of three strong individual things that come together that form a net to carry the program. He said those things are mentors, mentees and the program itself. Mr. Davis further explained the process of the mentor program. He also stated that the program will be for ALL students and not just low performing students. To conclude, Mr. Davis asked those in attendance to e-mail him at if interested in becoming a mentor.

XI. Old Business

c.1 – Board Policies:

- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Policy (4235/6130/7263)
- School Plan for Management of Student Behavior Policy (4302)
- Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools (4302-R)
 - Upon a motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Lannie Allen, board policies (4235/6130/7263), (4302) and (4302-R) were approved by the Board. Motion carried.

XII. New Business

c.1 – Extension of Superintendent's Contract

- Upon a motion by Altheria Patton, seconded by Rob Rollins, the board unanimously approved a one year extension of Dr. Firn's contract to 2012. Motion carried.

c.1 – Personnel Report

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

XIII. Calendar Items

- Board Advance – August 16 or 30 (let Anne know which date works best)
- First Day for Students – Monday, August 25, 2008
- District 6 Meeting – Thursday, September 18, 2008 (Stanly County)

XIV. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Russell Sikes. The motion was seconded by M. R. Bell. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary