

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, July 27, 2009. All members were present except for an excused absence from Altheria Patton and Daniel Wilson. Others in attendance were Mike Flake (Board Attorney), Michael Freeman (Executive Director) and Anne Hyatt Clerk to the Board of Education.

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 Jackie Huntley. Motion carried.

IV. Approve Minutes (Regular Meeting 06-29-09)

Russell Sikes moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 29, 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 Michael Livingston seconded by Jackie Huntley and unanimously approved. The Board went into closed session at 5:42 p.m.

Superintendent Contract Extension - Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Jackie Huntley, the board voted to extend Dr. Firn's contract by one year, making the new date June 30, 2013. The motion carried.

VI. Reconvene Open Session

- The Board returned to open session at 6:53 p.m. upon a motion by Michael Livingston seconded by Russell Sikes. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Board of Education District 7 Seat

Mike Flake facilitated a paper vote for the board members present of the three candidates that applied for the District 7 Seat. Upon counting the votes from each member present, the Board welcomed Mr. Leon Gatewood as the new member of the Board of Education for District 7. Chair Davis said the board looks forward to having Mr. Gatewood at the next board meeting.

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.

Subrina Hough was present to speak on the Million Fathers' March. This March is a about Fathers, across the US, taking their child or a child to school on the first day. She said they are asking their father's in the county to get involved and stay involved year round.

VIII. Chair's Report

IX. Superintendent's Report – See Attached

- Personnel/Budget – Dr. Firm said the Governor has issued an Executive Order that has frozen all activity as it relates to spending any funds. Dr. Firm said we must receive permission from Raleigh to take any action to operate the school district other than those areas that have already been obligated or contracted. Dr. Firm prefaced that information with the budget piece because 89 percent of the budget is people and that includes not only compensation for salary but also for all benefits.
- AYP Results – Dr. Firm said last year 3 of our schools made AYP; he said this year, 7 of our schools made AYP. Dr. Firm said all elementary schools except one made AYP this year. He said this is the largest number of schools since the No Child Left Behind Act was put in place and the reporting of Annual Yearly Progress took place. Dr. Firm said they are interpreting the results as validation and affirmation of the work that staff has been doing (not only this year, but building up to it from last year). Dr. Firm said the one elementary school that did not make AYP, still grew 17.6 percent (meaning they were just two targets/goals away from hitting 100 percent). Dr. Firm applauded the hard work at MES and WES and the gain those schools made. He said he is extremely pleased! Dr. Firm said he will be reporting in August (in greater detail), for all of the secondary schools, the growth and the targets that were met for their End of Course exams. He said this has to do with eligibility and there was an error in the students that should have been tested that were not tested. Dr. Firm said they have worked with Raleigh and rectified the problem and it does not reflect in any way issues with student performance. Dr. Firm feels the board will be equally pleased with the progress made in all of the secondary schools in each subject area.

- Extended Day (AES/PPES) – Dr. Firn explained that PPES is extending their day by 10 minutes to focus on literacy. Dr. Firn said they want to continue their drive on the work they are doing with reading in the area of comprehension and writing (Fast ForWord will also be extended). He also explained that AES is extending their day by 30 minutes to incorporate Fast ForWord and Head Sprout into their day.

X. Old Business

c.1 – Board Policies:

- Travel Policy 7650/8620

Upon a motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Russell Sikes, the Travel Policy 7650/8620 was approved by the board. Rob Rollins abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

XI. New Business

c.1 – Personnel Report

- Upon a motion by Rob Rollins, seconded by Jackie Huntley, personnel items A, C, D, G and H presented by Dr. Firn, was approved by the Board. Motion carried.

c.2 – Extended Day (AES/PPES)

- Ansonville Elementary School Extended Day
Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Rob Rollins, the extended day request from Randy High for Ansonville Elementary School was approved by the Board. Motion carried.
- Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Extended Day
Upon a motion by Rob Rollins, seconded by Jackie Huntley, the extended day request from Craig Wright for Peachland-Polkton Elementary School was approved by the Board. Motion carried.

XII. Calendar Items

- District 6 Regional Meeting – September 24, 2009, at Wadesboro Primary School. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m. and General Session will follow at 4:00 p.m.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Livingston. The motion was seconded by Jackie Huntley. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary

*Upon a phone poll vote conducted by Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk) on August 6, 2009, the board approved the performance bonus for the Superintendent with only one opposition.