

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

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session Monday, March 30, 2009. All members were present except for the excused absence of Rob Rollins. Others in attendance were Mike Flake (Board Attorney), 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 Michael Livingston. Motion carried.

IV. Approve Minutes (Regular Meeting 02-23-09 and Special Meeting 03-05-09)

Altheria Patton moved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2009, and the special meeting of March 5, 2009, be approved. This motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt, 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 Michael Livingston 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 6:42 p.m. upon a motion by Russell Sikes seconded by Michael Livingston. 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.

Dr. Fred Thompson, Stewart Poisson and Police Chief Janie Schutz were present to speak about Teen Pregnancy and the need for a comprehensive sex education curriculum.

Debra Horton and Beverly Roberts were both present to speak about the Season of Achievement initiative.

VIII. Chair's Report

- Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Michael Livingston, the following Resolution was adopted by the Board of Education and unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Anson County "Season of Achievement" Resolution

Whereas the Anson County School Board seeks to encourage community support for positive educational outcomes for all youth in Anson County; and

Whereas the Anson County School Board affirms the NC PTA's founding principle "to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth"; and

Whereas the Anson County School Board affirms that strong parental involvement is an essential component of a child's education and development; and

Whereas the Anson County School Board supports the efforts of the NC PTA's Parent Involvement Initiative, NC PIRC and all community organizations who promote high social, emotional and academic achievement for youth in Anson County; and therefore be it

Resolved that the Anson County School Board encourages all members of Anson County and its community of schools to declare their desire to support and strengthen student learning with policies, programs, and campaigns; and be it further

Resolved, that the period from April 6, 2009 to June 9, 2009 is set aside in all of Anson County as the "Season of Achievement" to encourage parental involvement and high academic achievement for students during in-school and out-of-school times.

- Ms. Debra Horton with NCPTA invited the Board of Education to the kickoff event for the “Season of Achievement” on April 18, 2009, at the Lockhart Taylor Center from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Upon a motion by Michael Livingston, seconded by Altheria Patton, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Hoy Lanning Jr. as a trustee for South Piedmont Community College. Motion carried.
- Chair Davis asked members to look at the letters from the English III and English IV students at AHS that were distributed in their board packets. Dr. Firm asked the members to make sure they read the letters and he said there can be opportunities for members to interact with students on the topics that were presented if interested.

IX. Superintendent’s Report – See Attached

X. New Business

c.1 – Personnel Report

- Upon a motion by Russell Sikes, seconded by Daniel Wilson, personnel items A, C, D and H presented by Dr. Firm, were approved by the Board. Motion carried.

c.2 – Budget Amendments

Local Budget Amendments

- A motion to approve the Local Budget Amendments as presented by Dr. Firm was given by Altheria Patton. The motion was seconded by Jackie Huntley and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

State Budget Amendments

- A motion to approve the State Budget Amendments as presented by Dr. Firm was given by Michael Livingston. The motion was seconded by Daniel Wilson and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

Federal Budget Amendments

- A motion to approve the Federal Budget Amendments as presented by Dr. Firm was given by Michael Livingston. The motion was seconded by Altheria Patton and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

Capital Outlay

- A motion to approve the Capital Outlay Budget Amendments as presented by Dr. Firm was given by Altheria Patton. The motion was seconded by Michael Livingston and unanimously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

XI. Anson County Council on Teen Pregnancy

Subrina Hough said she would like to thank each and everyone present and asked for someone to share their information with Rob Rollins. Ms. Hough gave thanks to the entire board for their patients for allowing the Council to come and share a few things. She said they are coming to the board tonight as the Anson County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, but said this actual organization will be done away with and this initiative will move under the umbrella of the Healthy Ansonians as stated by

Dr. Thompson during Public Comment. Ms. Hough explained that she has taken on the role as chair of that particular initiative under Healthy Ansonians. She said they will continue to work on this issue just under a different umbrella at that time.

Ms. Hough said when they first came before the board, there was some mixed emotions about the fact that there was a battle being forged between the community and the board of education. She said she really hope (by now) that the board realizes that they are coming to the board to join forces and not to create a wedge. Ms. Hough said she hopes that has been clarified and she hopes that everyone (whether an administrator, a teacher, a board member, a parent or community leader) realizes that they are coming to join the board and not cause any type of separation. Ms. Hough said when they first came to the board, there was discussion (weekly) about the curriculum and about the process thereof. She said (hopefully) there are choices that are starting to narrow down now and they are getting closer to a possible solution for the good of all children in the county. Ms. Hough said, also, when they first came before the board (at that time) there had not been any teenagers who had arrived at the legislative building in Raleigh to tell lawmakers what really was going on in their particular school systems and their particular classrooms concerning sex education. She said, in short, they were saying it was not enough. Ms. Hough explained at that time, as the students went to the state, they begin to also share with lawmakers that the lessons they were learning were not helping them to make the choices that they needed to make concerning sex education and concerning sex as a whole and was causing more STD's and more of a rise in pregnancies in their particular communities. Ms. Hough said, surely, from the first time to this time, everyone should realize that there are a lot of changes, a lot of disagreements that may have taken place, but has it has been forestated tonight, they hope everyone has gotten passed their personal feelings, personal concerns, personal thoughts on this particular subject because it's not personal. She said this is not personal. Ms. Hough stated that as she begins to write down things (sometimes you write down things and you forget some things), but you can't forget where you came from. Ms. Hough said she can't forget where she came from. She said (standing before you tonight), she was a teenage pregnant mom, 16 years old, and she said her mother passed away and she didn't have a lot of the opportunities to have a parent that would share things with her that would her make the right decisions. She said her mother worked late at night and she was making other choices. Ms. Hough said (for her) that's some of the things that some of our children are going through right now and some of the communities that are in Anson County. Ms. Hough said she is again coming before the board and asking them to think hard and very long. Ms. Hough said she was told a report would be given to the board from the meeting that took place during the morning of March 30th by Mrs. Williamson. She said (hopefully) when the facts are gathered and when the board begins to make decisions that they will be the decisions that will make everyone proud to have on the same jersey, to be on the same team here in the county. She explained that whether everyone agrees or not about the final choice, know that they will continue to work for the children and for the good of the county because it's not personal (it's definitely not personal). She said this is about making the right choices for all children. Ms. Hough said (at this time), one of the members of the original committee, Ms. Cindy Taylor, will address the board.

Ms. Taylor gave thanks to the board members and thanked Ms. Hough for allowing her the opportunity to present this portion to the board. She explained that they are seeking to work collaboratively. Ms. Taylor said each board member was given a packet of information on teen pregnancy prevention. She said she wanted to address a couple of

things that were in the packet. Ms. Taylor said the very first thing was something that presented by Dr. Donna Breitenstein (Director for the NC School of Health Training Center) and she laid out a table representing the perspectives of public schools and the perspectives of advocates for comprehensive education and then the commonality that everyone has and seeing that they do want to work together. She said Dr. Breitenstein is one of the state trainers for “*Making Proud Choices*” and that’s one of the comprehensive programs that she has stated in her table. Ms. Taylor said she wanted the board to know about the information on the publication “*Science and Success*” and the abstract that it gives for “*Making Proud Choices*” and the table of contents that goes along with the curriculum “*Making Proud Choices*”. She explained that in talking about that curriculum, there are many that are actually supported by the “*Science and Success*” and those different ones are science-based, they’re research-based, but one of the things that’s important with the “*Making Proud Choices*” is that it is reality-based. Ms. Taylor said reality-based means that they are actually using scenarios and role plays in this particular curriculum. She explained that one of the scenarios that they give is one talking about risk-taking behaviors and just to give the board an idea and an example. She said in this particular one, they use an activity called red light, green light and yellow light. Ms. Taylor said these are the things that are taken out of the chapter for preventing HIV and risk behaviors. She stated that information has already been taught at that point by the time the students get to this activity and this will reinforce the information that has been taught.

Ms. Taylor gave the following examples from the curriculum they are proposing:

Massage: is that an activity that can lead to HIV? She said, no, that is a green light activity.

Showering Together: is that an activity that can lead to HIV? She said, no, that is a green light activity.

Having Sex With Multiple Partners Without Using a Condom: She said, no, that is a red light activity.

She said there are different ways to get students to see and bring back real life situations of what would be risky behaviors. Ms. Taylor said they are not asking the board to supplant anything that is already being done. She said Mrs. Williamson was very gracious in allowing them to be educated about what is going on in the schools system. She said but what they would like to do is encourage the board to support enhancing what’s going on in the school system by addressing all the aspects of the standard course of study which the “*Making Proud Choices*” does do except for the physical education and the nutrition. She said it does not address those, but it addresses the others. Ms. Taylor said there has also been a lot of discussion about what needs to be done in the homes. She said they know that so much does need to start in the home and the home is the foundation. Ms. Taylor explained that just as the schools are doing character education and that’s something that is incorporated in the first two models of “*Making Proud Choices*”. She said that should be something that ideally starts in the home, but yet, it needs to be reinforced with the school system. She said that is what they are asking is that the board look at a more comprehensive approach to reinforcing some of the other information that children need in the school system. Ms. Taylor said the beauty of program is that it won’t take up so much extra time to make it ridiculous. She said it’s

not a whole year curriculum. She said you're looking at ten sessions and those are just ten, 50 minute sessions, but there is in-depth application and hands-on practice specifically addressing the use of condoms and talking about contraception. Ms. Taylor said as cited from MayoClinic.com, (a leading authority on health education) it sites that per 100 couples, 15 percent fail with the incorrect use of condoms. She further stated that with 100 couples, 2 percent failure rate with the correct use and that could be with condom breakage. She said there is a disparity there. Ms. Taylor said one of the things that was brought out with the Fast ForWord approach was that when using it correctly. She said that's all they are trying to do is get children to understand how to use it correctly. Ms. Taylor said she stands before the board today coming from a very small (very small) rural town and smaller than Wadesboro (smaller than Chesterfield). She said in her graduating class there were four girls who were together from 6th grade through high school. She stated in 1980 when she graduated, that year one of the girls got a sexually transmitted disease, two got pregnant and fortunately for her, she had condoms that she was using and was able to stay on the trajectory for her life path. She said she stands before the board today having achieved many goals and many of the things that she wanted and set out to do because she was being a teenager. She said, yes, her parents educated her and they wanted her to be abstinent until she was married. Ms. Taylor said, but, as a teenager she had a different path that she chose personally. She said she got in trouble that summer – she got in big trouble that summer. Ms. Taylor said she had a little extra protection that helped her to stand before the board today and say she still stayed the path. She explained that looking at time and money to be spent; the adolescent pregnancy prevention campaign of NC has agreed to spend \$5000 in Anson County to get the curriculum that the board would choose to enhance what is already going on as well as to provide the training. Ms. Taylor said they would like to encourage the board to examine that and look at it as one of the examples of a curriculum that is reality-based, science-based and research-based that will help address the needs of the young people in Anson County. She said so many good things are happening and “we” can enhance all of that and set the kids up for success. Ms. Taylor said that is what they are beseeching the board.

Ms. Hough said she would like to share with the board that they did receive an e-mail from Ms. Donna Breitenstein and she has said that she is willing (if the school system agrees) to provide the funding for a mediator to work with the schools and the community groups on the issues if the school is willing. Ms. Hough said if there is any other discussion, she is willing for that to take place and is willing to provide funding if that is necessary.

XII. Calendar Items

- AHS Prom – April 25, 2009
- Weather Make-Up Day – April 27, 2009

XIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Jackie Huntley. The motion was seconded by Michael Livingston. There was no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Lisa G. Davis, Chairperson

Dr. Gregory Firn, Secretary