

MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

The Lee County School Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board Office.

PRESENT: Kyle Chadwell, *Chair*, Mike Twigg, *Vice Chair*, Ty Harber, Jr., *Debbie Jessee*, and Don Williams, *Board Members*; Mr. Mark Carter, *Superintendent*; Eleshia M. Fields, *Clerk*

Mr. Ty Harber, School Board member, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kyle Chadwell, Chair asked everyone to remain standing for a Moment of Silence.

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, asked that everyone pause for a moment to remember Mrs. Doreen Daniels a Speech Pathologist at Flatwoods Elementary school who passed away on Saturday, May 09, 2015. He said she would be sadly missed and asked that we keep her family in our thoughts and prayers.

Upon motion by Mr. Twigg, seconded by Mr. Harber, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented.

Upon motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 regular School Board Meeting, April 22, 2015 recess meeting and April 29, 2015 recess meeting.

Recognition

Ms. Crystal Ely, Family Consumer Science teacher and Family Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) advisor at Lee County Career & Technical School, recognized that out of 13 of the students who attended the State Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach, seven of them would be going to Nationals in Washington D. C..

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, recognized Christian Baker, Dryden Elementary School, Walker Baker, Landon Deirth, Gracie Dillman, Virgil Hobbs, Kynlee Johnson, Cameron Mosley, Eli Sharrett, and Dezaire Taylor, Elk Knob Elementary School, students whose drawings were published in the KTN Drawing Card, Kingsport Times News.

Dr. Vickie Brown, Special Education and Fine Arts director, recognized Abigail Myers, a third grade student at Elk Knob Elementary School, as the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) art contest winner.

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, recognized the schools with the highest percentage of attendance, Elk Knob Elementary School came in first with 95.6% and Elydale Elementary School was second with 95.2%.

Mr. Kyle Chadwell, Chair, and Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent recognized Teachers of the Year from each school by presenting them with a plaque and a shirt with the school board emblem on it: Dr. Jim Myers – Dryden Elementary School; Ms. Robin Marcum – Elk Knob Elementary School; Ms. Jessica Zumbum – Elydale Elementary School; Mr. Mark Long – Rose Hill Elementary School; Ms. Sheila Mitchell – St. Charles Elementary School; Ms. Rosharon Blevins – Jonesville Middle School; Ms. Jan Copeland and Ms. Jane Haynes – Pennington Middle School; Ms. Crystal Ely – Lee County Career and Technical Center; Ms. Joy McKnight – Lee High School; and Colonel Mark Caruso – Thomas Walker High School. Ms. Sheila Mitchell received Division Teacher of the Year award.

Public Expression

Sheriff Gary Parsons spoke to the Board about a voluntary drug testing program of the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and Operation UNITE, designed as a way for our youth to avoid peer pressure and give them a reason to say “no” to drug use. The drug testing kits will be free to parents or caregivers and can be picked up at the Lee County Sheriff’s office, Lee High School or Thomas Walker High School.

Reports

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, reported that the Annual Retirement Dinner for all retired Lee County School System personnel will be held May 28, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center beside Lee Theatre in Pennington Gap, VA. He said the Educators of Distinction Committee Members will provide a program at 6:30.

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Cheryl Allread, Lead Evaluator with the AdvancED External Review Team thanking the division for hosting the review and for their hospitality and attending to the team’s needs. She said we should be receiving a written report soon. She commended the district for its commitment to advancing excellence in education through the accreditation process.

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, reported that in the Board packets was a copy of a request from the Lee County Career & Technical Center Advisory Council requesting the State Elected Officials of Virginia to support and approve more funding for Career and Technical Education.

Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent, gave the total school enrollment as of April 30, 2015 was 3,100 students, an increase of 2 students from last month and a decrease of 82 students from this same time last year.

Mrs. Denise Lambert, Finance Officer, gave the financial report.

Action Agenda Items

Upon motion by Mr. Harber, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to renew the contract with Tri-State Chemical & Paper for janitorial supplies for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Ms. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Harber, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to renew the contract with Wright Pest Elimination for the 2015-2016 school year, with the price remaining the same as last year, as presented by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Ms. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Williams, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve two Head Start Field Trips, Brights Zoo, Limestone TN, and Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport, TN, as presented by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Mr. Chadwell, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to name the baseball and softball field at Thomas Walker High School the William H. Starnes Sports Complex, as presented by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Mr. Harber, seconded by Mr. Williams, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve a Request for Use of School Facilities at Thomas Walker High School, as presented by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Ms. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve local policy LC-G05 (tabled from the April 14, 2015 meeting), with the deletion of the cap being placed on sick days, as presented by Lucas Hobbs, School Board attorney.

Upon motion by Mr. Harber, seconded by Ms. Jessee, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve to Renew Insurance Coverage Option 2, for the 2015-2016 school year, all policies except health insurance), (tabled from the April 14, 2015 meeting), as recommended by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Ms. Jessee, seconded by Mr. Williams, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve the 2015-2016 Health Insurance Plan, as recommended by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Upon motion by Mr. Twigg, seconded by Mr. Harber, and passed with four ayes, and one abstention (Mr. Williams), the Board approved the proposed 2015-2016 school budget, as presented by Mrs. Denise Lambert, Financial Officer.

Upon motion by Mr. Chadwell, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve payment of the bills, as recommended by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Reports & Recommendations of the Board

Mr. Don Williams said he had been asked by the Town of Pennington about where the road took the baseball field and a portion of the football field. He said the town of Pennington has some plans underway. They have already filled in some of the area and are looking at upgrading the facilities, and have already done a lot. There is an old Driver's Ed. building there that has been a pain for the school even when the middle school was a high school. The building would not allow them to put seats on that side of the stadium and the roof on the building is rotting away and cannot be used for anything except storage for some football pads and things that could be moved pretty easily. He said the town would like to upgrade and put in some bathrooms for little league football, soccer and other athletic teams. He said Mr. Harber was also aware that they were only asking for permission from the school board to tear down that building, at no expense to the school board.

Mr. Harber said that Mr. Glass told him that they would be able to tear the building down unless they run into an asbestos problem, but he doesn't think they will. He said it would be of no cost to the school board.

Upon motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Harber, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to waive the rules to vote for the building at Pennington Middle School to be torn down.

Upon motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Harber, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve tearing down the old Driver's Ed. building at Pennington Middle School.

Mr. Ty Harber, thanked everyone who worked on the budget, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Carter, the budget committee, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Dane Poe, and Mr. Bailey. He said he appreciated their effort and the hours spent to prepare the budget.

Mr. Williams said he has served on the board now for almost four years and every time we give a percentage raise in his opinion we are hurting Lee County and everyone else. These poor 12 month secretaries and custodians are getting further and further out of the realm. Every one of us knows that and probably all of us have talked to someone and everyone would like to do something but we never seem to get around to doing anything. He said he would like to know if it is possible for us to adopt something and send to our state asking them to see if they couldn't figure out a way to give straight across the board raises. He said he hates to vote when he knows that the ones who are making the most money are getting the biggest raises and we are leaving a person who works 12 months and doing the hardest work in the school and some of them making less than \$20,000.00 a year. Maybe we could ask our State Representatives about our raises or if there is any way we could find any money to give them a boost or change the salary scale and catch them up a little. What I am trying to say is that I am for the little man and as long as we continue giving a percentage it is going to get worse and worse.

Ms. Debbie Jessee expressed sympathy to the family of Mrs. Doreen Daniels. She said she would like to express her appreciation to all of those who was involved in the AdvancED Review and appreciation and thanks to all our teachers since last week was "Teacher Appreciation Week". She said she wished there was more they could give

than words of thanks. She asked if our schools had a process in place about meat that was being served to our students with what had been on the news about a neighboring county.

Mr. Carter said our stock is rotated and we keep close tabs on that he said honestly does not believe that would ever be a problem.

Ms. Jessee congratulated all the teachers of the year at each school. She said she would like to make a suggestion that the 2-3 minute presentation that the schools did for AdvancED be shown as part of our School Board meeting.

Mr. Carter said we can do that and actually what they were planning on doing was getting those presentations back together and recording them to go on our website. He said they are short and he could have each school come and do their presentations.

Ms. Jessee wished the students well as they begin to get involved in their SOL test.

Mr. Twigg congratulated all the FCCLA students and sponsor for all their hard work and accomplishments. He said he would like to reiterate on what Ms. Jessee said about the Teacher of the Year from each school. He said he would also like to reiterate on what Mr. Williams said about the secretaries. He said he thought they had made some provisions in the budget, by giving the lower salary employees a flat rate rather than a percentage.

Denise Lambert said that the budget committee did look at the option of giving a flat rate rather than a percentage.

Mr. Twigg said it was a pretty significant amount overall, the best that they could do with what the budget could provide. He said he would like to offer a suggestion, of course nothing that they had to do, but he wished the board would look at a four or five year plan and that the board would really think about it. He said that we need to apply for money from the Army Core of Engineers and any other money. As we well know over the past years our enrollment is decreasing and the problem with that is we are having to keep the same number of teachers at each school. He said he knows that it is difficult, but his recommendation for the Board and the Board of Supervisors, although he probably won't be around to help with it, is to make Pennington Middle school and Jonesville Middle school, elementary schools and try to get some grant money together to build a Middle School and just have four schools on this end of the county. This would help to absorb a lot of positions that would meet the needs of our county. He said he hates to close schools but at the same time we are in a position that we need to really look at that. I just hope the county will consider looking at some of those grants. He said someone mentioned to him that we might be able to get a lot of funding from the Army Core of Engineers because St. Charles Elementary School is still considered in the flood plains. He said this is something he hoped the Board would look at down the road. Our newest school is Lee High School and it is showing wear and tear and if it is showing wear and tear you can only imagine what is happening with some of our older schools. This is just a recommendation and he said he thought we should have a four or five year plan to make some changes. He said the Budget is very tight again, and it seems like it is

like this every year. He thanked the Board of Supervisors, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Carter, for all their hard work and effort to reach a budget. He thanked the Board of Supervisors for listening to their concerns and also for their input. He said he hoped we have a good resolution.

Upon motion by Mr. Harber, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously passed, the Board voted to convene in a closed session to consider Personnel Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Contract Matters Section 2.2-3711(A)(6), and Pending and Threatened Litigation Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), of the Code of Virginia.

Upon motion by Mr. Twigg, seconded by Mr. Williams, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to reconvene in open session and affirm that only matters permitted under the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A) (1), Section 2.2-3711(A)(6), and Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), were heard, discussed, or considered.

Mrs. Eleshia Fields, Clerk, took a roll call of the members of the Board pursuant to section 2.2-3712(d) of the Virginia Code, certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirement under the Freedom of Information Act and only the public business matters as identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting.

<i>Mr. Twigg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Jessee</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Chadwell</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Harber</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Williams</i>	<i>Yes</i>

Upon motion by Mr. Harber, seconded by Mr. Twigg, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to approve the following personnel list, as recommended by Mr. Mark Carter, Superintendent.

Resignations

Brock Livesay, assistant baseball coach at Thomas Walker High School, effective immediately

Steve Powers, assistant baseball coach at Thomas Walker High School, effective immediately

Brittany Wampler, school newspaper sponsor at Thomas Walker High School, effective, 2014-2015 school year

Retirements

Steve Massey, maintenance shop, effective May 01, 2015 – corrected date

Belinda Thomas, bus driver, effective January 15, 2015 – corrected date

Coaching Staff

Mollie Smith, assistant track coach at Thomas Walker High School, effective 2014-2015 school year

Joe Miracle, assistant baseball coach at Thomas Walker High School, effective 2014-2015 school year

Dustin Powers, assistant baseball coach at Thomas Walker High School, effective 2014-2015 school year

Nonrenewal

<i>Amy Aldridge</i>	<i>Sherri Underwood</i>
<i>Heather Bailey</i>	<i>Kelli Wilson</i>
<i>Kathleen Barlow</i>	<i>Whitley Yeary</i>
<i>Sonya Baumgardner</i>	<i>Martha Davis</i>
<i>Jodi Bowen</i>	<i>Kiley Farmer</i>
<i>Christie Borgan</i>	<i>Tessa Garrett</i>
<i>Jessica Clark</i>	<i>Kristy Howard</i>
<i>Jonathan Grimes</i>	<i>Leslie Leonard</i>
<i>Valerie Miller</i>	<i>Sarah Renee Wilder</i>
<i>Tara Haley</i>	<i>Michelle Mitchell</i>
<i>Nicole Herron</i>	<i>Mark Mullins</i>
<i>Alexander Hill</i>	<i>Lindsey Pauley</i>
<i>Alex Hounshell</i>	<i>Kristen Rogers</i>
<i>Alex Hult</i>	<i>Glen Smith</i>
<i>Haley Johnston</i>	<i>Andrea Stewart</i>
<i>Brian Lee</i>	<i>Lee Ann Street</i>
<i>Alex Long</i>	<i>Kristina Cress Taylor</i>
<i>Ashley Marcum</i>	<i>Edna Trees</i>
<i>Tyler Mullins</i>	<i>Tabbitha Chadwell</i>
<i>Christina Oaks</i>	<i>Brian Coomer</i>
<i>Alexa Orr</i>	<i>Doug Ely</i>
<i>Noelle Owens</i>	<i>James Haynes</i>
<i>Terri Powers</i>	<i>Krista Kimberlin</i>
<i>Patricia Rogers</i>	<i>Keith Perkins</i>
<i>Alena Satterfield</i>	<i>Kristen Porter</i>
<i>Heater Spade</i>	<i>Rhonda Shepard</i>
<i>Amy Taylor</i>	<i>Robert Landon Smith</i>
<i>Jacob Thomas</i>	

Substitutes with a Degree

Joyce Williams

Substitutes with some College

Joshua McCall
Kelsey Phillips
Megan Woodard

Substitute Bus Drivers

David Daniel
Laura Gilley
Bobby Spivey

Mr. Chadwell recessed the meeting until Tuesday, June 02, 2015, 6.00 p.m. at the School Board Office.

Chairman

Date

Clerk