

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
April 28, 2008**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman, presided.

Opening Ceremony

Mr. Mercer called the meeting to order. He welcomed visitors to the meeting and informed them that a printed agenda for the meeting was available.

The Reverend L. Wayne Carter, Deep Creek United Methodist Church, pronounced the invocation. Mr. Jay Leftwich led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Dr. Vaughan called the roll and recorded attendance as follows:

Present: Mr. C. Jeff Bunn
Mrs. Barbara B. Head
Dr. Sheila G. Hill-Russ
Mrs. Brenda J. Johnson
Mr. Jay A. Leftwich
Mr. Harry A. Murphy
Mrs. Ann R. Wiggins
Mr. Michael J. Woods, Vice Chairman
Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman

Also present were Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, Superintendent; Dr. William E. Russell, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Steven M. Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance; Dr. Patricia L. Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. James T. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Support Services; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Administrative Assistant and Clerk of the Board; Mr. Robert J. Barry, Attorney; and Mrs. Brenda A. Turbeville, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Minutes

Mrs. Head moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2008, meeting as presented. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion, which carried, with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Superintendent presented a proposed agenda for the meeting and stated that he had no amendments but would need a closed session for two pupil matters and two personnel matters. Mrs. Wiggins moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hill-Russ and carried.

Clerk's Items

Special Presentation: Dr. Vaughan asked Mr. Wayne Martin, Director of Student Services, to facilitate the presentation. Mr. Martin said that earlier this semester the School Board asked the Superintendent to study the feasibility of implementing the 2.0 GPA Rule for Chesapeake Middle School League activities. In addition, the Board inquired about the implementation of a study hall program that would compliment the 2.0 Rule, similar to the high school study hall program. It is estimated that the average cost for the yearlong operation of each school's study hall program will be approximately \$17,500. The study halls would act as a strong support system to assist all students in maintaining high academic success.

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. and Mrs. Larry Battle of Consolidated Logistic Center, and Mr. Curtis Stewart, consultant for Consolidated Logistic Center. The Battles presented a check for \$17,500, earmarked to supplement funding for a study hall program at one Chesapeake middle school. Mr. Battle challenged other businesses and organizations in Chesapeake to partner with the school division and assist with the operational cost of the middle school study hall program.

Mr. Mercer and the Board thanked Mr. and Mrs. Battle for their gracious donation and their support.

Special Recognitions: Mr. Wayne Martin then recognized students and staff for their achievements. Mr. Tom Cupitt, Ombudsman, and Mr. Lenny Vaughan, Supervisor of Pupil

Discipline, assisted with the introductions. A list of all recipients is attached to the minutes.

Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Angela Beyer of 825 Wilbur Avenue, Chesapeake, Virginia 23324, expressed her concerns about the gifted education program. Mrs. Beyer's concerns centered around the phasing out of the current GATE Lab School and the introduction of a new delivery model.

Mrs. Deana Morris, of 752 Johnstown Road, Chesapeake, Virginia 23322, addressed the phasing out of the GATE Lab School as well as concerns regarding a replacement delivery model.

Old Business

Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Board and Trust Options: Dr. Nichols stated that one part of this presentation would be informational only while another portion would require Board action. Dr. Nichols reminded the Board that several steps are necessary to meet the requirements related to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust. He asked Ms. Lucente to present information related to the OPEB Trust.

Ms. Lucente reminded Board members that at their meeting on April 14, 2008, they approved the creation of an OPEB accounting trust fund. Ms. Lucente gave an overview of the process involved and the options available for designating a board of trustees.

Dr. Nichols presented a resolution defining the members of a Deferred Compensation Board and requested Board approval. He then presented a second resolution recommending the deferred compensation board serve as trustees for the OPEB trust. On motion of Mr. Leftwich, seconded by Mr. Bunn, the resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote.

New Business

None

Consent Agenda

By motion of Mrs. Head, seconded by Mrs. Wiggins, the consent agenda was approved. Items included the following:

- A. Bids
- B. Personnel Report
- C. Accelerated Reader Task Force Report - Final Action
- D. School Lunches - Proposed Price Increase - Final Action
- E. Request for Appropriation of Categorical Grants, 2008-2009
- F. Proposed Revisions to A Guide for the User, Bylaws of the School Board, and School Board Policies - Second Reading
 - 1. Chapter 1 - A Guide for the User
 - a. Guide 1-1 - Governing Rules, State and Local
 - 2. Chapter 2 - Bylaws of the School Board
 - a. B 2-1 - Authority and Title
 - b. B 2-2 - Powers and Duties
 - c. B 2-5 - Qualifications
 - d. B 2-6 - Membership
 - e. B 2-11 - Duties of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk
 - f. B 2-18 - Board Actions and Activities
 - 3. Chapter 3 - Administration
 - a. P 3-3 - Consultants
 - b. P 3-4 - Smoking and the Use of Tobacco Products
 - c. P 3-13 - Policy Manual
 - d. P 3-18 - The Superintendent
 - e. P 3-20 - Administrative and Supervisory Personnel
 - 4. Chapter 4 - Business Affairs
 - a. P 4-1 - Responsibilities for School Funds
 - b. P 4-1.1 - Audits
 - c. P 4-4 - Monies in School Buildings
 - d. P 4-8 - Fees
 - e. P 4-12 - Budgets Required
 - f. P 4-16 - Special Funds
 - g. P 4-24 - Purchasing Generally
 - h. P 4-25 - Payment for Goods and Services
 - i. P 4-32 - Maintenance and Security
 - j. P 4-41 - Student Transportation
 - k. P 4-49 - School Lunch Meal Program

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Lucente reported on all financial activity for expenditures and revenue through March 31, 2008. She noted

that Impact Aid received in February was recognized in the March financial report. A payment of \$612,000 in additional Impact Aid funds was received in March and will be recognized in the April financial report. It is anticipated that due to participation in the Impact Aid program, additional funds may be forthcoming from the Department of Defense. ADM numbers have been reported and may result in a small increase in projected revenue. A shortfall between \$500,000 and \$800,000 in general fund revenues is projected. The pattern of expenditures is typical of early spring and continues to be monitored.

Mr. Murphy asked what was budgeted for fuel costs in next year's budget. Ms. Lucente will bring that information back to the next Board meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent had no announcements.

Serving Gifted Students: Dr. Nichols stated that action on this item would be requested at a later meeting. This will be the initial presentation of information. The Superintendent reminded Board members that over the years there have been discussions regarding the program for gifted students. Staff has conducted research on the gifted program to determine if changes needed to be made to the current program. In his State of the Schools address in August 2007, Dr. Nichols stated, "We must look seriously at the future of our service delivery model for gifted to ensure that our model is aligned with best practices and research." Dr. Nichols stated he would like to present a plan to serve gifted students, which calls for a number of changes in the current delivery model. Board action will be requested at a later meeting. He then asked Dr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, with assistance from Mrs. Linda Byrd, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, and Mrs. Anita James, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, to present the plan.

Dr. Powers described the current delivery model for serving gifted students. Mrs. Byrd reviewed research and key best practices to use when serving gifted students. Mrs. James presented the plan for strengthening the model used by Chesapeake Public Schools for serving gifted students. Board members made comments and asked questions throughout the presentation. Mr. Woods encouraged parents to talk with staff if they had questions or concerns regarding

the new model of serving gifted students. Dr. Nichols said that this topic will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for final Board approval.

Proposed Revisions to School Board Policies and Administrative Regulations - First Reading: Dr. Nichols stated that this item is a continuation of the review of the recommended revisions to School Board policies. The Superintendent requested approval on first reading and said that the item would be placed on the agenda for final approval at the next School Board meeting. He then asked Dr. Vaughan to present the revisions. Dr. Vaughan noted that due to the manual having been compiled over a period of decades by various individuals, the manual reflects different writing styles. Prior to the revised manual being printed or placed on the website, a consistent format will be utilized throughout the manual. Dr. Vaughan then presented an updated revision to Bylaw 2-28 and revisions to Chapter 5.

Upon completion of Dr. Vaughan's presentation and on motion of Mrs. Head, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the revisions were unanimously approved on first reading.

Board Member Items

Dr. Hill-Russ thanked Board members for their support at the VSBA Tidewater Regional Forum. She also attended the "Use Your Brain Day 2008" sponsored by the Luncheon Pilot Club of Chesapeake and area businesses and organizations. Each child attending the function received a free tee shirt and a bicycle helmet donated by the husband of Lynn A. Chiaverotti, a woman who died from a brain-related injury. Dr. Hill-Russ thanked Dr. Russell for his assistance in setting up the event. Dr. Hill-Russ also attended the custodial banquet and thanked custodians for their hard work in our schools. In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week next week, Dr. Hill-Russ thanked all teachers for their dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Johnson attended the LPN graduation on April 22. Twelve students graduated, some of whom have already signed contracts for employment. She also attended the Southeastern District PTA dinner as did Dr. Nichols and Mr. Cupitt.

Mr. Leftwich asked when there would be a presentation on the grading scale and the method used to calculate grades. Dr. Nichols responded that a full report would be presented in June.

Mr. Bunn as well as Mrs. Johnson attended the musical, *My Fair Lady*, at Indian River High School. He thanked everyone involved for their hard work and participation. He also reminded everyone of the Governor's School for the Arts 20th Anniversary Gala to be held May 17.

Mr. Murphy reminded everyone of election day, May 6. He extended his best wishes to those Board members who are running for re-election. He also announced that on Thursday afternoon, May 1, 2008, there will be a baseball game between Hickory High School and Grassfield High School at Harbor Park at 3:30 p.m. prior to the Tides game. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy both games.

Closed Session

Mr. Mercer asked Mr. Barry to prepare the language for the Board to go into closed session. Mr. Barry stated that the motion should read as follows:

"The Board should convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for consideration of two pupil matters and two personnel matters."

Mr. Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session as provided for in the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session. Mr. Woods moved that the record show the only items discussed in the closed meeting were those specifically cited in the motion to convene into closed session. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Items Resulting from Closed Session

The Superintendent recommended the expulsion of Student #1 and Student #2 under the conditions discussed in closed session. On motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Head, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Wiggins and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman