

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 7, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
JCHS MEDIA CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Marie Potts who then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Chair Potts, Vice Chair Bill Jarnigan, Randall Bradley, Maurice Solomon, Annette Loy, Jim Vines and Michael Phagan. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Potts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dallas Snyder and Ryan McDaniel, SCOPE (Student Congress on Policies Education) participants from JCHS, updated the board on their participation in the SCOPE conference held in Nashville on March 11, 2011. Jennifer Tyrell, JCHS Science teacher, also attended the conference with the students.

Jacob Bales and Cameron Hopkins, representing Rush Strong School, presented their winning 4-H speeches to the board and audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board member Solomon requested the Director of Schools contract be added to new business.

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved the agenda with the above addition. (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Bill Jarnigan, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda items as submitted. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Sharon House and Elizabeth Finchum addressed the board regarding the New Market intermodal and encouraged the board to take action and a stand against the intermodal.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Each board member received a copy of the current financial reports and QSCB expenditures. Darrell Helton, County Finance Director, passed out general budget amendment #4 and federal budget amendment #5 and asked for the board's approval. Mr. Helton commented that one of the goals for the finance department next year would be to limit the number of budget amendments.

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved general budget amendment #4 and federal budget amendment #5 as presented. (see attached)

Mr. Helton updated the board on the budget process. He commented that they had met with all department heads in order to let them know when their budgets were due to Dr. Edmonds. He further commented that they would start scheduling meetings next week with each department head in order to go over their budgets and bring back information to the board as soon as possible. He pointed out that they hoped to have the budget to county commission by May 16th. He also commented that Dr. Edmonds had been invited to the county commission budget committee meeting scheduled for April 25th in order to give them an overview of the school system's budget. Chair Potts requested that the school board also receive any budget information given to the budget committee for the April 25th meeting.

2. Each board member received an invitation from White Pine School inviting them to the Science & Energy Open House on Tuesday, April 26 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Policy Changes for Review and Adoption (First Reading) – **4.406 Use of Internet, 4.600 Grading System, 6.307 Drug-Free Schools, 6.407 Student Social Services**

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Michael Phagan, the board unanimously approved the above policies on first reading. (see attached)

2. Textbook Adoption – Math

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved the math textbook adoption recommendation as submitted. (see attached)

New Business – continued

3. Director's Contract

Board member Solomon recommended that the Director's Contract be added to the April 28, 2011 agenda in order to consider the length of the contract and compensation.

The board was in agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Salaries and Equity for Certified Employees

Dr. Edmonds went over 2010-2011 salary comparisons for Jefferson County, Sevier, Hamblen, Knox, Grainger and Cocke Counties. The comparison showed degree and years of experience, the average salary for the other systems, and the increase needed for Jefferson County to match the average of the other systems. He also went over a projected cost to bring Jefferson County to the average of the surrounding counties, an experience and education analysis and a history of salary increases for teachers.
(see attached)

Board member Loy commented that she would also like more information on administrative salaries. Ms. Loy was also concerned over the low per pupil expenditure compared to surrounding counties. She commented that they needed to look at how funds are being spent on all levels. Board member Bradley commented that teachers were also concerned over health insurance and expressed appreciation to the board for the policy which had been put in place providing health insurance for all full time employees. He stated that he was in favor of keeping the policy.

Dr. Edmonds commented that he would bring additional information to the board at the April 28, 2011 meeting.

2. 2011-2012 Proposed School Calendar

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved the proposed 2011-2012 school calendar as presented. (see attached)

Unfinished Business – continued

3. JCHS Renovations and New High School Facility

Jerry Lewis and Doug Shover from the Lewis Group presented a power point on renovations for Jefferson County High School and a new 750 student high school facility.

Mr. Shover went over the JCHS renovations which included a 41,257 square foot proposed addition. The addition included a Performance Center with a 675 seat auditorium, new art rooms, chorus room, drama department, and band room. Mr. Shover commented that they had met with the administration and Dr. Walker and his staff and looked at all spaces within the existing building including where they are currently located and where they will be located in the plan which would make it a more departmental approach. He went over the pod areas, the proposed secure entry to the building, new office, guidance and marketing locations, drop-off locations for students as well as the exterior of the building. He pointed out that an existing site survey which had been done at JCHS several years ago had been located which would save time and money by not having to have it done again. He also commented on discussion regarding possible turf installation at the football field and re-surfacing the running track. He pointed out that they were looking into possible seating areas, additional paving, shading devices and landscaping in the courtyard in order to make it more attractive and functional. He also commented on the food service area which included changing out most of the equipment in the kitchen and possible reconfiguration of the serving area. He pointed out that mechanical and electrical engineers had toured the current building. According to the mechanical engineers the entire system needed to be replaced possibly with a variable refrigerant flow system which is an extremely energy efficient system. The electrical engineers recommended that the existing system be supplemented.

Jerry Lewis went over the proposed site plan located on West Dumplin Valley Road, floor plan and exterior of the new 750 student high school facility. The gross building area totaled 114,389 with a typical classroom area of 800 square feet. He went over the four (4) classroom pod areas containing six (6) classrooms each. He pointed out that science labs were also included in the pod area. He pointed out that room for expansion was included in the dining area as well as in the gym area. He commented that the gym area could seat 807. He pointed out that the current high school and new high school facility would both have the same kind of mechanical system which would be very energy efficient.

Doug Pettit from Rentenbach commented that cost estimates for the JCHS renovations and new facility would be available the first of June.

Unfinished Business - continued

4. Talbott Elementary

Dr. Edmonds went over information provided by GBS Engineering regarding their calculations for the water usage at Talbott Elementary School. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that the existing system could hold an additional 140 students but to add an additional 200 students (8 classrooms with 25 students) would require modifications to the existing system in order to handle the extra 60 students. This would require the addition of approximately 20 percent more capacity to the existing system. The existing pumps may also have to be replaced with larger units. The engineering company estimated the cost of the expansion to be in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range.

Board member Bradley inquired where the money would come from. He asked if money was still available in the capital outlay note totaling \$1,141,000. Dr. Edmonds responded yes.

After some discussion, board member Bradley made the motion to add eight (8) classrooms and additional restrooms at Talbott Elementary to be adjusted according to the amount of money we have to work with in the capital outlay note. Vice Chair Jarnigan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Board member Jarnigan asked that everyone take time to remember Y.J. McAndrew, former superintendent of schools, in the passing of his wife Barbara who was also a former educator for Jefferson County Schools.

5. Board member Bradley requested a copy of the Director's Contract. A copy will be sent to each board member for review along with the evaluation instrument.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned followed by an E-Rate work session.

Anne Marie Potts, Chair

Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date

