

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 27, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
JCHS MEDIA CENTER**

Prior to the meeting a special program in honor of the school board members and National School Board week was presented by members of the JCHS choral group and a member of the JCHS Forensic team.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Potts called the meeting to order and 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

Board member Solomon led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Potts recognized students from the Leadership Program.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Steve Gadbois, Manager from the Dandridge Food City, presented an award to Vice Chair Bill Jarnigan recognizing him as the winner of the Claude P. Varney Volunteer Recognition Program. Mr. Gadbois commented that Mr. Jarnigan had won the district, the division and overall for the company.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Carol Baker, Human Resources Manager, introduced recently hired new employees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Jim Vines, the board unanimously voted to approve the agenda as submitted. (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Maurice Solomon and second by Bill Jarnigan, the board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as submitted. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Each board member received a copy of the current financial reports.
2. Each board member received an update from Sharon Winstead, Deputy Finance Director, of funds available for the school building program as of January 9, 2011 totaling \$27,359,369.89. (see attached)
3. Each board member received an update of investments for each individual school.
4. Each board member received a 2010-2011 sales tax revenue chart from the finance department.
5. Each board member received information regarding 2010-2011 teacher salary comparisons for surrounding counties which included Sevier, Hamblen, Knox, Grainger, and Cocke. They also received salary supplements and a listing of salaries for all personnel. Board member Loy thanked Dr. Edmonds for the information and the work that had been done. She expressed concern over discrepancies in the pay scale and asked that they begin to study it further possibly by forming a study group or committee. She also requested the formula that was used to set the level of pay for all employees.
6. Each board member received information regarding the 2010 Report Card.
7. Bill Nolen, Facilities Director, updated the board on future needs for major maintenance projects and capital improvements.
8. Dr. Edmonds informed the board that the E-Rate contract had been awarded.
9. Dr. Edmonds informed the board that the County Commission had approved drafting a resolution for the Trane contract to be approved at the next county commission meeting.

New Business – Audit Report - continued

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2009-2010 Schools, SACC, and Student Nutrition Audit Report

Don McFarland from McFarland and Gann, P.C., reported on the activity funds audit report conducted on the schools, School Age Child Care Program, and Student Nutrition as of June 30, 2010 and answered any questions the board had. He commented that there were no major findings and the report showed that everyone was making an effort for improvement.

2. Policy Changes for Review and Adoption (First Reading) – **5.1141 Teacher Effect Data**

Upon motion by Maurice Solomon and second by Randall Bradley, the board unanimously approved the above policy on first reading. (see attached)

3. Approval – 2011-2012 Budget Schedule

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Maurice Solomon, the board unanimously approved the 2011-2012 budget schedule as submitted. (see attached)

4. Increase ESL Tutors Hours to 58 Hours per Week (Split between two (2) tutors – Paid for From Title III monies

Upon motion by Bill Jarnigan and second by Michael Phagan, the board voted 6-1 to approve the above request to increase ESL tutors hours to 58 hours per week which would be split between two (2) tutors and paid from Title III monies. Board member Vines abstained due to conflict of interest.

5. 9th Grade Academy

Dr. Scott Walker, JCHS Principal, presented a proposal to the board in regards to a 9th grade academy being implemented on the JCHS campus for the 2011-2012 school year. He focused on the challenges that freshmen face when transitioning from middle school to high school. Dr. Walker proposed that the academy be composed of four (4) teams with six (6) teachers on each team. The six (6) teachers would be responsible for 150 freshmen and those freshmen would stay with those six (6) teachers. There would also be a full-time counselor to work with the students. The students would receive double instruction in math and language arts. He commented that the six (6) teachers would have a common planning time and the students would have a mixture of 45 minute classes as well as 1 ½ hour classes. He pointed out

New Business - 9th Grade Academy – continued

that all 9th graders would eat together during the first eating period.

Dr. Walker went over updated research regarding the freshman year of high school. He commented that housing the freshmen in a separate area on the campus would significantly reduce hallway traffic and the size of the high school to 1,600. Dr. Walker commented that in his opinion the freshmen academy concept was in the best interest of the children.

Dr. Walker requested an additional portable to house the students making a total of 24 classrooms as well as a designated restroom portable. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that a canopy would be built to keep the students out of the weather.

Board member Solomon thanked Dr. Walker and his staff for putting together the proposal. Board member Loy commented that this proposal by Dr. Walker and his staff was the best improvement to be made to the county in a long time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Policy Changes for Review and Adoption (Second Reading) – **6.402 Physical Examination and Immunization, 6.411 Student Wellness**

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

2. Proposed Snow Make-Up Calendar

Board member Solomon made the motion to approve the proposed snow make-up calendar with the removal of Good Friday. Board member Jarnigan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. (see attached)

3. Building Program

Chair Potts pointed out that at the last board meeting there was discussion regarding a joint meeting with County Commission in order to ask them to amend the resolution to approve the current building plan. She mentioned that she had communicated with Marty Mills, County Commission Chairman, and he mentioned that the County Commission was interested in expanding discussion regarding other options on how to spend the \$16M if the amendment to the resolution failed. She pointed out that if the board was not interested and

Unfinished Business – Building Program - continued

wanted them to vote for or against on changing the resolution then the County Commission saw no need in having a joint meeting.

Vice Chair Jarnigan recommended leaving it like it was. There was no more discussion.

Dr. Edmonds commented that he had met with all teachers at the high school in order to discuss the building program and input they would need for the renovations of the high school. He pointed out that he was in the process of setting up a meeting with the architects and Rentenbach for next week.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Anne Marie Potts, Chair

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date