

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 8, 2009 – 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 Emily Fox, Michael Phagan, Bill Jarnigan, Annette Loy and Maurice Solomon. Board member Jim Vines was absent. Connie Campbell, 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**

Director Campbell recognized Graycie Miracle, second grade student in Treva Ogle's class at Piedmont Elementary, as the first 2009-2010 Director's Gallery winner from grades K-2.

Director Campbell recognized Board member Bill Jarnigan for achieving TSBA's Level I Boardmanship Award.

Chair Potts recognized Connie Campbell for achieving "Supervisor of the Year" in Tennessee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Annette Loy, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as submitted. (see attached)

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Upon motion by Bill Jarnigan and second by Maurice Solomon, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda items as submitted. (see attached)

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Betty Stone, concerned employee, addressed the Board on behalf of her daughter-in-law who was requesting an appeal to the Board regarding her application for employment as a school bus driver.

**Items for Discussion – continued**

Ms. Stone commented that when her daughter-in-law filled out an application for employment, she had marked “no” where it asked if she had ever committed a felony even though she had made a mistake while driving an automobile fourteen years ago. Ms. Stone felt the reason she had not been hired was because she had marked “no” on her application and that was being held against her.

Mr. Bob Holt, concerned citizen, addressed the Board regarding the English Mountain Football Conference and the school system allowing them to use their facilities. In order for the conference to continue using the facilities, Mr. Holt asked that the Board issue a letter to the conference stating that they would not recruit teams outside of their school district, if a coach or an adult are recruiting that they be excluded from participation and that a child would not be required to sit out for a year due to moving from one district to the next.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**

1. Financial reports will be available at a later time.
2. Dr. LaDonna Meade updated the Board on Jefferson County being the recipient of a new grant program called TIES (Tapping into Educational Solutions).
3. Director Campbell commented that each principal had sent in their maintenance requests. The requests will be discussed at the next work session.
4. Director Campbell updated the Board on the impact of the updated baseline on value-added assessment and achievement scores.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Board Policies for Review and Adoption (First Reading) – **6.316 Suspension/Expulsion/Remand**

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

2. Proposed Improvement to School Property –
  - (a) Jefferson Middle School – Retractable Shelf in Auditorium
  - (b) Dandridge Elementary – Wooden Pergola

**Proposed Improvement to School Property – continued**

(c) Dandridge Elementary – Concrete Curb – Playground Area

Upon motion by Maurice Solomon and second by Michael Phagan, the Board unanimously approved the above improvements to school property as submitted. (see attached)

3. Emergency Purchase – Repair cover over porch at JCHS Building 8 in the amount of \$8,000

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the Board approved the emergency repair work in the amount of \$8,000 on a porch cover at Building 8.

4. JCHS Structural Issues

Bill Nolen, Maintenance Director, explained that they would like to have a company come in and check for structural issues surrounding the porch cover at Building 8 as well as other areas. Mr. Nolen commented that cost would run approximately \$1,000 and would come out of the maintenance budget.

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Annette Loy, the Board voted unanimously to have a company come in and check for structural issues at JCHS.

5. Resolution – Board Goals

Board member Phagan made the motion to postpone the item until the next meeting so that all board members could be present to approve it. Board member Solomon seconded the motion and the motion failed 2-4 with board members Phagan and Solomon voting for the motion and board members Potts, Jarnigan, Loy and Fox voting against the motion.

Board member Jarnigan made the motion to approve the resolution as written. Vice Chair Fox seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1-1 with board members Potts, Jarnigan, Loy and Fox voting for the motion, board member Phagan voting against the motion and board member Solomon abstaining.

The resolution was signed by members of the Board. A copy will be sent to the county commission and county mayor.

**New Business - continued**

6. Request for Adoption of Local Textbook not on Contract

Sherry Finchum, Curriculum Director, explained that AP Economics had been approved as a new course at the high school which will be available the spring semester. Textbooks for the course were not ordered due to the fact that they were not sure if the course would be approved or not. The members of the local textbook selecting committee were requesting that the textbook for the course be adopted.

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the local textbook as requested. (see attached)

7. Position Statement Regarding County Commission Resolution 2009-16

After reading the statement, Board member Loy made the motion to adopt the statement as written as a resolution for the board, to make it a part of the minutes and to distribute it publicly. Board member Solomon seconded the motion.

There was some discussion regarding the statement. Chair Potts commented that she would like to change the October 8, 2009 statement in the Banner as referencing a Letter to the Editor and not a written article. Board member Phagan commented that he disagreed with the last sentence in the demographic study paragraph. He agreed with the last seven years of indecision, discussion and debate but he disagreed that it was solely caused by the original plan. He felt there had many factors involved. Board member Loy commented that she felt the excessive cost of the original plan started the previous Board down the path with problems. Board member Loy pointed out that in her observation the previous Board as well as this Board had spent a lot of time trying to reduce the cost of the plan. Board member Phagan agreed that reducing cost had been one factor but not the primary factor. He commented that he felt it had been a variety of agendas. Board member Phagan also disagreed with the suggestion that the demographic study would provide definitive, unbiased data. He asked if Board member Loy had any evidence to suggest that the data they had in the past was biased. Board member Loy commented that she did not. Board member Phagan then commented that he was opposed to leaving the word unbiased in the statement. Board member Loy commented that the statement did not say that the other one was biased but that the information they would be getting from the demographic study would be unbiased.

After the discussion, the motion passed 5-1 with Board member Phagan voting against the motion.

**New Business - continued**

8. Appointments

The following appointments were made:

Americans with Disabilities Coordinator – Carol Baker  
Section 504 Coordinator – Debbie Berry  
Ethics Committee – LaDonna Meade, Jim Vines, Annette Loy

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the Board unanimously voted to approve the above appointments.

9. Monthly Work Session

Chair Potts commented that the Board had discussed at the Board Retreat changing their second monthly meeting to a work session only. She recommended that the Board rescind their prior motion of September 25, 2008 stating that the building program be placed on all regular and called meeting agendas and that all work sessions be advertised as called meetings.

Bill Jarnigan made the motion to rescind the motion of September 25, 2008 stating that the building program be placed on all regular and called meeting agendas and that all work sessions be advertised as called meeting. Board member Loy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion regarding the called meeting/work session scheduled for October 22, 2008 to be held at Maury Middle School and whether it needed to be changed back to the high school. Chair Potts recommended leaving it the way it was scheduled in order to see how it would work out. Sharon Winstead, Deputy Finance Director, requested that the Board still have a called meeting on October 22 because she had a budget adjustment that needed to be approved at that time. The Board agreed to have a called meeting with the one item on the agenda.

Director Campbell pointed out that items for the agenda needed to be turned in to the board secretary by 4:00 p.m. on Friday prior to the next week's board meeting.

10. Demographic Study Evening Meetings

Director Campbell commented that they had talked about having the demographic meetings in the evenings in order to accommodate more people. She pointed out that there would be an evening meeting in February when everything was pulled together.

**Demographic Study – continued**

She also pointed out that everything they had been working on was on the website.

11. Principals'/Board Members Dinner

Director Campbell commented that she was in the process of checking with Carson-Newman College in order to set up a time for the dinner with the Board, principals and assistant principals. The Board agreed on the first week of November or the second week of December.

12. Budget Adjustment Approval

Sharon Winstead, Deputy Finance Director, went over the adjustments.

Upon motion by Michael Phagan and second by Maurice Solomon, the Board unanimously approved the federal budget adjustment as submitted. (see attached)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Board Policy for Review and Adoption (Second Reading) – **4.605 Graduation Requirements**

Upon motion by Vice Chair Fox and second by Michael Phagan, the Board unanimously approved the above policy on second and final reading. (see attached)

2. Bonds

Nancy McBee, Trane representative, updated the Board on a bond that was available from left over lottery money for energy efficient projects. She recommended that the Board submit a letter of intent in order to apply for a \$500,000 EESI loan program at 0% interest for seven (7) years in order to implement energy efficiency measures throughout the school system. She pointed out that the letter would serve as confirmation that the correspondence would not bind Jefferson County regarding the loan or obligate Jefferson County to repay said loan. She also pointed out that if Jefferson County decided not to pursue the loan or if they found out that they would not have the ability to repay the loan, they would forfeit this loan to another school system. She recommended that the process begin immediately because the loan was given on a first come, first serve basis.

She also went over some additional stimulus grant opportunities.

**Unfinished Business – Bonds – continued**

Board member Phagan made the motion to give permission to sign the letter contingent upon approval by the county attorney in order to make sure it was not obligating them. Board member Solomon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 6-0.

3. Chair Potts asked if the Board would consider changing their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to November 19<sup>th</sup> due to the fact that the “Night of the Patriots” program was on that night. A decision will be made later.

4. Tanyr Seay, student representative, invited everyone to a tailgate party on Thursday night, October 15 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. prior to the ballgame with Morristown West. The cost is \$6 and all the proceeds will go towards their senior project.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Marie Potts, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Campbell, Director of Schools &  
Secretary to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date