

Cherokee County Board of Education

Meeting of
July 14, 2011
6:00 p.m. – Central Office

Minutes

Board Members Present: Mr. Randy Barnett, Board Chair, Ms. Wanda Arrowood, Vice Chair, Dr. David Ackerman, Mr. Erik Brinke, Mr. Paul Brown, Mr. Dean Shatley, School Board Attorney.

Board Members Excused: Ms. Debbie Hogan and Mr. Winfield Clonts.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Invocation. Mr. Randy Barnett called the meeting to order and welcomed all those attending. Dr. Stephen Lane, Superintendent, welcomed all in attendance and delivered the invocation.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. David Ackerman led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Mission Statement. Mr. Paul Brown read the mission statement.
4. Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved as presented.
5. Minutes. The minutes for the Board of Education meeting of June 13, 2011 and the Special Called Board of Education meeting of June 23, 2011 were approved as presented.
6. Public Input. Ms. Judith Crawford appealed to the Board to make public comment. Her comments were heard by the Board during executive session.
7. ADD but TRU Presentation: Ms. Cindi Herr and members of the SADD but TRU club delivered a DVD presentation to the Board. Ms. Herr requested permission from the Board to make the video available to schools as well as local television stations.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to allow the SAAD but TRU video to be showed at schools and by public television. Voting is unanimous.

8. Student Recognition: Dr. Lane recognized students of Murphy High School who were named "All State" for Softball and Baseball. Those recognized were: Larissa Beard—Softball; Katrina Evans—Softball; Brittany Henry—Softball; Kelsi White—Softball; Justin Coker—Baseball.

9. School Calendar for 2011-2012. Mr. Kenny Garland presented the proposed 2011-2012 school year calendar to the Board for consideration and approval.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year as presented. Voting is unanimous.

10. TCEC Calendar for 2011-2012: Ms. Alissa Cheek, Principal of Tri-County Early College, presented the proposed 2011-2012 calendar for TCEC.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the TCEC calendar for the 2011-2012 school year as presented. Voting is unanimous.

11. Charter Bus Companies. Mr. Gary Wright presented the All Aboard USA LLC; Blue Ridge Charter Service; Cherokee Boys Club; and Young Transportation as charter bus companies to be used by Cherokee County Schools to the Board for approval for the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the charter bus companies as presented. Voting is unanimous.

12. Construction Update. Mr. Gary Wright delivered a construction update to the Board that covered progress at the Andrews High School construction project.

13. Food Services Bids. Ms. Karen Kephart requested the Board approve the Food & Services bids as presented.

Food Bids: The following bid awards were approved for Lots not included in the General Food rollover:

- Ice Cream: US Foods
- Water: Indian Hills

Services:

- Pest Control: The continued use of Nantahala Exterminating for the 2011-2012 school year was approved.
- Linen: Aramark.
- Chemical/Dish Machine Equipment: DR Sales and Services of Chattanooga.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the food and services bids as presented. Voting is unanimous.

14. Budget Amendments. Ms. Terelle Harr requested approval of a budget resolution for the Local Current Expense fund, an Interim Budget Resolution for the State Public School fund, and budget amendments for the Federal Projects fund, Capital Projects fund, Nutrition fund, and Grants, Donations & Reimbursements fund. Additionally, Mr. Harr introduced Ms. Shelley Hollingsworth as her replacement.

Motion made (Mr. Erik Brinke) and seconded (Dr. David Ackerman) to approve the amendment to the Federal Projects Fund, Capital Project Fund, Grants, Donations & Reimbursements Fund as presented. Voting is unanimous.

15. Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Wanda Arrowood presented two policies to the Board for second reading: 3470/4305 Alternative Learning Program for Schools, 8510 School Finance Officer and 7920 Professional RIF. As policy 7920 was being presented as mandated by newly received G.S., a special motion to waive the 1st reading was required. Mr. Brinke made said

motion as recorded herein. Additionally, Ms. Arrowood presented two policies for first reading: 6200 Goals of the Student Food Services and 2015 Community College Board of Trustees.

Motion made (Mr. Erik Brinke) and seconded (Dr. David Ackerman) pursuant to G.S. 115C-325; S.L. 2011-145, to waive the standard 1st reading of policy 7920 Professional RIF and proceed with 2nd reading protocol and adoption as presented. Voting is unanimous.

Motion made (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) and seconded (Dr. David Ackerman) to approve the policy for 2nd reading as presented. Voting is unanimous.

16. Superintendent's Report. To highlight on our budget issue, we have completed a very exhaustive review as we were going through what the legislature had completed in their final session and we found about \$900,000 the needed to be reduced. Fortunately, through retirements and self-designated departures, such as resignations, we were able to maintain employment status of the majority of our personnel. We are beginning the next school year with 34 fewer employees than we had when we ended this school year. We do know that in year two (2012-2013), as this is a two year legislative budget, we will be having to deal with the same reductions plus we will have to reduce an additional \$160,000. In addition to this, our small schools funding has terminated a year earlier than we had anticipated. We are looking at the appropriate general statutes and we are asking for an opinion just to confirm that this funding termination is in compliance. I'll be having a Principals meeting on Tuesday and we will go over all the details of the information at that time. We hope to know more as we continue this process. I'm thankful, however, even with the loss of small schools this year as far as personnel goes our losses still remain at 34. All systems across the State of North Carolina are going through similar iterations and we are very hopeful that after the legislature sees what is happening as the year unfolds, that they will take another look in their short session next year and possibly provide some relief to school districts. In addition to these projected revenue loses, we will not have \$600,000 in Federal Edujobs money to offset the losses as we were able to do this year. I know that our staff will do the best they can with the resources that they have to educate children. We're not in this alone in facing this dilemma. In fact, I read in the Asheville Citizen where Speaker of the North Carolina House, Thom Tillis made a statement, "When you are doing the sorts of changes we've done, clearly, not every decision we've made was the right one, and if cuts do badly hurt systems—particularly rural or small ones, I will work to help them." He has a great opportunity starting with Cherokee County to do just that. We will be highlighting our fiscal shortfalls to him as well as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Mr. Phil Berger. Moving on from budget, we have an overnight field trip to report; Andrews High School Year Book club will be traveling to Concord, North Carolina on August 1st and return August 3rd. Also, Martins Creek School has done something I think is wonderful. They have been able to buy supplies for all their students for the upcoming school year and the only thing they are asking of their parents is to provide a back pack to load the supplies into. This is tremendous and I appreciate Mr. Mathews for working this out because I know this economy is affecting everyone. So, hats off to Mr. Mathews for doing this, as well as United Way. I know our other schools looking at similar type efforts to try and help families. Also, the United Way is doing an awful lot to make a difference for our students, and we always greatly appreciate their efforts.

Mr. Erik Brinke spoke of the United Way's Stuff-A-Bus campaign being initiated again this year. He announced that the United Way would be doing the Stuff-A-Bus on August 6, 2011. On behalf of the United Way, he encouraged the public to come out and help. He announced also that they would be located at all the Dollar Stores in the area.

Dr. Lane continued: A decision was made to use a part of our Race to the Top program funding to provide lap top computers with docking stations to our teachers. Jeana Hardin has provided this lap top to show you what all of our teachers will be receiving. Our IT folks are setting these computers up and delivering them to the schools. This will allow our schools to recycle the desktop computers presently being used by our teachers. They will be re-serviced and put to

use in labs and in other functions in our classrooms and schools. Although RtT can't be used for personnel, except on a contract basis such as for staff development, we can use it in this way and we're happy to do so. As for our wireless plan we put into effect this year, Jeana and her crew has been working very hard on its implementation, and as a result we're going to have wireless throughout our schools by the 23rd of July. This will make our system 100 percent wireless.

17. Adjourn to Closed Session:

Motion made (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) and seconded (Dr. David Ackerman) for the Board of Education to move into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes: Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321; and, under subsection (a)(3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege, and Under subsection (a) (3) to receive advice from the school Board Attorney regarding the following lawsuit(s): CCS vs. The Learning Center. Voting is unanimous.

18. Return to Open Session/Closed Session Decisions. After returning to open session, the Board took the following actions based on closed session discussion:

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the Retirement of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/School</u>	<u>Request/Effective Date</u>
Charles Bateman	Teacher, AHS	Retirement; 07/01/11

Voting is unanimous.

Motion made (Dr. David Ackerman) and seconded (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) to approve the hiring recommendations as presented:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Shelley Hollingsworth	Finance Officer	District	07/11/11
David Hughes	Bus Driver	District	07/14/11
Greg Elliott	Teacher	Ranger/HDMS	08/18/11
Brent Lance	Teacher	HDMS/HDHS	08/18/11
Jason Johnson	EC Teacher	AES	08/18/11
Tonya Martin	Interim Teacher	AMS	08/18/11

Voting is unanimous.

Motion made (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) and seconded (Dr. David Ackerman) to approve the transfers as presented:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dave Gentles	Maintenance	.5 Maintenance	
		.5 Energy Manager	07/14/11
Will Meiners	AHS Teacher	MHS Teacher	08/18/11
Tracie Luther	AES TA	MES TA	08/18/11
Susie Swanson	MES TA	AES TA	08/18/11
Teresa McCloskey	Peachtree TA	AES TA	08/18/11
Travis Chastain	Bus Driver	Bus Driver	
		.25 Custodian MYS	08/01/11

Voting is unanimous.

19. Adjournment. The next meeting of the Cherokee County Board of Education will be held at Central Office, on Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made (Ms. Wanda Arrowood) and seconded (Mr. Erik Brinke) to adjourn the meeting. Voting is unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.,
July 14, 2011.

Stephen E. Lane, Ed.D, Secretary

Randy Barnett, Board Chair