

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

January 22, 2015

The Greene County Board of Education met in regular session Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 4:30 p.m., at the Greene Technology Center.

Board members present were: Chairman Rick Tipton, Vice-Chairman Nathan Brown, Kathy Austin, Tom Cobble, Michelle Holt, Clark Justis and Brian Wilhoit.

Chairman Tipton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. The pledge to the flag was led by Grant Freeark, student at Camp Creek Elementary and Nathan Brown led the invocation.

III. PRESENTATIONS & CELEBRATIONS

- McDonald Elementary students Reagan Davis– 8th grade and Maggie Justis – 6th grade were recognized for winning the American History Essay contest.

-CDMS student Melannie Rojas won 3rd place in the recycled art category at the State Beta Club National Convention.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA INCLUDING CONSENT AGENDA AND ADDENDUM

Approve the Agenda, Consent Agenda and Addendum

On motion by Tom Cobble, seconded by Nathan Brown

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

V. REPORTS, HEARINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Budget Report – Budget Director, Mary Lou Woolsey gave a brief update on the budget stating that Sales Tax is up 5.5% and Property tax is up 2.4%. Current revenues are at \$21,547,000. Current expenditures are at \$18,723,000. She noted that diesel is down \$.29/gallon from this time last year. She gave our undesignated fund balance as \$3.3 million and last year at this time it was \$2.9 million. She said that we have moved one million out of that so it will go down to \$2.3 million.

Personnel Report–Dr. Vicki Kirk gave a brief personnel update for the month. (See January 2015 Board Agenda, Item V-C2-Attachment, Greene County Schools Personnel Update January, 2015 on our website at www.greenek12.org)

Blended Online Learning-Dr. Kristi Wallin and Dr. Kirk gave a report on Blended Learning where students learn in part online and in part face to face and are able to self-pace which can be beneficial to the students and help meet them where they are in their learning. They both showed videos with additional information and gave several sites and open sources for teachers and students to use that are completely free. Some of the main sources listed were Khan Academy, Florida Center for Reading Research, CPalms; Engage NY and West Virginia Phonics.

Data Report-Dr. Julia Lamons had teachers to report on the use of data to drive instruction in their classrooms. Teachers presenting were: **Camp Creek**-Dr. Amy Hall, principal; Jamie Gibson, teacher and Grant Freeark, student. **NGHS**-Amanda Weems, principal; Kim Casteel, Curt Glover and Caroline Tucker, all teachers at NGHS.

Director of Schools, Dr. Vicki Kirk, addressed the following items in her report:

Director's Report - Greene County BOE Meeting ~ *January 22, 2015*

School News

Since returning from the break, I have met with all principals in mid-year conferences. These meetings afford great opportunity to stop and reflect; to look at what is working well and where adjustments need to be made for the second semester. I enjoy taking time to speak with each principal individually, and I consider it time well spent.

Dr. Lamons and some of our teachers will be bringing you information on how we are using data to help students grow and be successful. I am extremely proud of the teachers' efforts and the schools' progress in the area of data use. I think we can point to data use and strong instructional practice as we begin to see greater reading proficiencies in third grade.

I visited Ottway Elementary School on January 6th for their big back to school bash. It was such an exciting event. I was touched to see the relationships between students and teachers as all students were assembled in the gym, and the faculty introduced a new positive behavior program. Students were divided into multi-age houses, and they made a big deal about the "reveal" of which students were in each house. There are four houses, and within that house, the teachers are the leaders, but there are also two student leaders - one boy and one girl in eighth grade. The houses earn points together for exemplary behavior and academics as well as some competitions. Houses also decide how they will perform community service together. This concept is similar to what Ron Clark does at his school in Atlanta. Doak has been out front on this effort, with several teachers visiting the Ron Clark Academy. Some of Ottway's teachers accompanied them on their last visit. Doak is also developing this behavior/expectation model, and they had a similar event there on the sixth.

We are doing several things in Greene County to promote strong character and empathy among students. The Ron Clark Academy "House" model is one. We are also moving forward with the S3 Grant activities at high school - and expanding those down to middle school grades. And in February we will host a training for our administrators in Capturing Kids Hearts. We have reserved three slots for board members, so you may come and go throughout the two days as you wish to see the program training. The training will be held at the First Church of God (We are grateful for their kind hospitality.) on February 12th and 13th.

I am mentoring six West Greene students through TN Achieves to help them meet their deadlines for TN Promise. It was thrilling to see all the students and parents in the cafeteria Tuesday night for the first meeting with TN Achieves. Students were required to make this meeting in order to keep the promise. I am convinced that, across Greene County, we have a great number of students who now see college as an option for them who would never have considered it in the past. I am personally grateful to those who are serving as mentors. Without adult prompting and encouragement, some of these students would not have been in attendance for this mandatory meeting. This is a game changer for many students and for Tennessee.

I sat in on one of four Institutes that were held early in January in the evening for principals and their leadership teams. Mike Murphy conducted these trainings to get us started on a planning cycle that will help us to plan in advance in ways that will, not only meet federal guidelines for Title funds, but also to coordinate our efforts in a way that insures that we are putting our time, effort and resources in the right direction. This process will continue through the spring and will result in an aligned Title budget for each school as well as a cohesive professional development plan.

Meetings with Community Partners

Due to the break for Christmas, there were no meetings with community partners since the last board meeting.

County Commission & Local Government Meetings

Education Committee – I met with the Education Committee on December 22. We reviewed the budget amendments that the board passed in December. These were passed in the committee and sponsored by the committee as resolutions to come before the County Commission. We also reviewed with the committee the Pathways plans for high school. Committee members were very interested to see how students will begin to learn about available jobs and to plan their education with a career goal in mind.

Budget and Finance Committee of the County Commission – I brought our amendments before the Budget and Finance Committee. They approved.

Insurance Committee of the County Commission – I sit on this committee by virtue of my position.

County Commission Meeting – I attended the County Commission Meeting. I was late due to my attendance at the TN Achieves meeting at West Greene at 5:30. The Commission passed both our resolutions unanimously.

Parents/Teachers/Students

S3 Grant - I met with the district team of students and teachers for S3. We talked with students about their experience in school and in high school. You would be impressed to hear these students talk about school and their experience. They are honest and forthright, and they want to help us to improve schooling for future students.

Miscellaneous

LEAN Frog– Many of you met with representatives from LEAN Frog at the TSBA Conference. They are in the process of completing the free assessment on three of our departments: IT, Transportation and HR. David, Jason, Bill and I met with them this week. They have quickly identified some areas where we can improve efficiencies, and they have asked for more information. They told me at the exit conference that they are fairly certain they can identify some actual savings in transportation, which is what many of you had hoped. They were also very complimentary about our board goals, and they stated that it is rare to see school systems that have goals around responsible use of resources. . I will report their findings at the conclusion of their study or ask them to meet with you as a group if possible.

Fire – I cannot adequately express my gratitude to everyone involved in the evacuations of Mosheim and West Greene this week. The principals (Kristi Wallin, Mike Garland, Steven Tunnell

and Amanda Weems) worked together brilliantly. David McLain and David Myers worked to arrange bus transportation that went flawlessly. Colby Wagner and his cafeteria staffs at the respective schools sprang into action, moving food and themselves to the remote locations and fed all the children without a hitch. It went as well or better than anyone could have expected. All of these folks deserve a pat on the back.

Textbooks – Dr. Wallin and Mr. Norman are meeting with teachers who are serving on the textbook committee. Each high school will be hosting an evening when the textbooks that are up for adoption can be viewed. We will also have them on display in a central location.

Entrepreneurship – I attended a meeting in Gray, TN on this topic. There is an organization out of Illinois that runs a class on entrepreneurship. Todd Smith saw a presentation at the Governor’s Conference on Economic Development and brought the speaker in to tell us about the program. Several Directors of Schools were in attendance, as were Dr. McCamey and Dr. Miller from Walters State. This looks like a very promising program. We will bring you more information as it becomes available, and, of course, if it is offered for credit, you will need to approve it at some point. We are in planning stages now, so the program wouldn’t start until fall of 2016.

Professional Learning – I have had a number of opportunities over that past several weeks to learn.

Dr. Lamons and I attended a workshop on assessment literacy sponsored by TOSS and presented by Battelle for Kids. It was very enlightening, and Dr. Lamons has plans to use much of what we learned in data discussions with teachers and with principals.

I participated as a panelist at the Education Writers’ Association Seminar which was held in Chapel Hill at UNC on January 12. This was a very interesting experience as the audience was exclusively members of the press. There were representatives from large newspapers from the southeast, including the Tennessean as well as representatives from National Public Radio and Education Week. I learned a great deal, and I think I communicated new information to those in attendance. The purpose of the seminar was for members of the press to educate themselves about standards and assessments.

I spoke to legislators at the Business Roundtable’s Legislative Boot Camp on January 15. This event was well attended by legislators, and they seemed to appreciate the attention to standards, assessments and instruction. My topic was great teaching, and I discussed the elements of great teaching, what we look for in teacher observations, and how we use that to help teachers grow and learn through targeted feedback, support and appropriate professional development.

Calendar for December/January

Date	Event	Notes
12.22.14	Education Committee (County Commission)	
01.05.15	Central Team	
	Mid-year Conferences	

01.06.15	Back to School Kick-off – Ottway Mid-year Conferences	
01.07.15	Budget & Finance SCALES Luncheon Mid-year Conferences	
01.08.15	Mid-year Conferences	
01.09.15	Assessment Literacy Workshop	
01.12.15	EWA Seminar (Vacation Day)	
01.13.15	Mid-year Conference Superintendents’ Study Council Planning Process Institute	
01.14.15	GTC Advisory Council Insurance Committee Met with Teacher	
01.15.15	Legislative Bootcamp	
01.16.15	Lunch with Mentees at WGHS	
01.19.15	Office Time	
01.20.15	Met with Student C Team C Team Budget Meeting TN Achieves Meeting County Commission	Evening Event Evening Event
01.21.15	Entrepreneurship Meeting Met with GCEA Policy Committee	
01.22.15	Leadership Team	

Upcoming Dates

January 29	Meeting with Commissioner McQueen – Nashville
February 3-4	TOSS Legislative Conference – Nashville
February 16-18	Tennessee Council on Career and Technical Education - Nashville

VI-OLD BUSINESS

Approve Policies on 2nd Reading

On motion made by Nathan Brown, seconded by Brian Wilhoit

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

- 1.502 – Board Meeting News Coverage
- 1.806 – Advertising and Distribution of Materials in the Schools
- 1.808 – Registered Sex Offenders
- 2.804 – Expenses and Reimbursements
- 6.203 – School Admissions

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Policies on 1st Reading

On motion made by Nathan Brown, seconded by Clark Justis to approve all **except 1.406**
– *Minutes pulled by Kathy Austin*

Vote: 6 – 0

- 1.403 – Agenda
- 1.406 – Minutes (Kathy Austin-Pull and vote individually)
- 1.601 – Administrative Procedures
- 2.400 – Revenues
- 2.403 – Surplus Property Sales
- 2.404 – School Support Organizations
- 2.702 – Inventories
- 2.805 – Purchasing
- 2.806 – Bids and Quotations
- 2.807 – Requisitions
- 2.808 – Purchase Orders and Contracts
- 2.809 – Vendor Relations

1.406-Minutes

On motion made by Nathan Brown, seconded by Clark Justis

Vote: 6 – 1

Yes-Brown, Cobble, Holt, Justis, Tipton, Wilhoit

No-Austin

Kathy Austin asked for an explanation of the changes to the added language “where votes are taken”. Chairman Tipton responded that this was a correction on what the Board voted on before he was elected. Mr. Brown agreed that this was also his understanding and this was to get the language into policy. Dr. Kirk added that a determination of whether votes would be taken would come from the agenda for the Committee meeting and if a meeting was being held for informational purposes such as

Long Range Planning where the meeting is visiting schools and gathering information there would be no need for Minutes. Ms. Austin asked to clarify that we are still not taking Minutes at workshops and Chairman Tipton confirmed that she was correct.

B. Approve Procedures

On motion made by Tom Cobble, seconded by Nathan Brown

Vote: 7 – 0

- 1.103 Exhibit A – Procedure and Timeline Board Self-Evaluation
- 1.103 Exhibit B – Board Member Self-Evaluation
- 1.103 Exhibit C – School Board Self-Assessment
- 2.404 Exhibit A - Agreement between Greene County Schools and SSO
- 2.702 Exhibit C – Inventories (change to 6.311 Exhibit A)
- 2.805 Exhibit A - Purchasing
- 2.805 Exhibit B – Procurement Processes
- 2.809 Exhibit A – Vendor Relations

C. Approve Out-of-State Field Trips

On motion made by Tom Cobble, seconded by Brian Wilhoit

Vote: 7 – 0

D. Approve ESP Step Increases

On motion made by Clark Justis, seconded by Tom Cobble **WITH** Amendment to add “reviewed by the Board”

Vote: 7 – 0

Kathy Austin asked if in paragraph two, sentence two it could be added reviewed “by the Board”.

E. Approve Baileyton Elementary to Host a B-Team Tournament

On motion made by Tom Cobble, seconded by Nathan Brown

Vote: 7 – 0

F. Approve Granting Tenure to Qualified Teacher-Hilary Wampler

On motion made by Nathan Brown, seconded by Brian Wilhoit

Vote: 7 – 0

G. Approve DeBusk Boosters to hold a 7th Grade AAU Basketball Tournament

On motion made by Tom Cobble, seconded by Clark Justis

Vote: 7 – 0

H. Approve Certified Payroll Clerk Job Description

On motion made by Clark Justis, seconded by Tom Cobble

Vote: 7 – 0

I. Approve CDHS Girls BB Team to attend Kennesaw State Basketball game

On motion made by Tom Cobble, seconded by Brian Wilhoit

Vote: 7 – 0

Chairman Tipton announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the James W. Parham Central Office.

On Motion by Tom Cobble, Second by Clark Justis, and with no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:10 p.m.