

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

March 12, 2015

The Greene County Board of Education met in called session on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at 7:30 a.m., at the James W. Parham Central Office.

Chairman Rick Tipton called the meeting to order and noted that all Board members were present. Michelle Holt led the pledge to the flag and Nathan Brown led the Invocation.

III. New Business

- A. Acceptance of resignation letter from Dr. Vicki Kirk.

On motion by Nathan Brown, seconded by Clark Justis

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

Several Board members expressed their gratitude, respect and honor in working with Dr. Kirk and wished her much success in her new position as Deputy Commissioner with the State of Tennessee Department of Education.

- B. Approval of Interim Director.

On motion by Clark Justis, seconded by Brian Wilhoit

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

Chairman Tipton stated that after consulting with TSBA Attorney, Chuck Cagle, he has been advised that the State of Tennessee requires that an Interim Director be appointed before the process can be started to search for a new director. Mr. Cagle also advised that the Chairman has the right to appoint an Interim Director and after careful research and consideration he would like to present to the Board for their approval, Mrs. Judy Phillips. Mrs. Phillips has fifty-two years experience with Greene County Schools and thirty-six of those years were spent working in the Central Office under seven directors.

Mrs. Phillips commented that Dr. Kirk exemplifies excellence in education and that she hoped the Board's search proved successful in finding an effective Director. She stated that her interest has always been with Greene County Schools and that she would strive to carry on with the excellent plans that Dr. Kirk has in place.

Ms. Austin stated that in the last Director search the Interim Director was voted on by the Board and she did not understand how the Board Chairman alone could pick the interim. Chairman Tipton responded that the Board was voting now on the Interim Director and that TSBA Attorney, Chuck Cagle advised him that the Chairman has the right to appoint an interim.

Mr. Tipton informed Mrs. Phillips that her contract would be ready at the next Board meeting on March 26, 2015, and that Chuck Cagle would be going over the contract before that date.

C. Approval of posting the position for Director of Schools.

On motion by Clark Justis, seconded by Tom Cobble

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

Chairman Tipton recommended that the vacancy announcement be advertised beginning March 13, 2015, and end on April 3, 2015. He said his goal is to have a Director in place by the end of May. Clark Justis suggested a May 1st deadline due to the many duties he or she would need to do at this time of year. Chairman Tipton agreed that it would be great to exceed the goal set but he certainly did not want to rush to process and wanted to be sure that we keep moving forward. Kathy Austin agreed with his statement and added that we want to keep our standards and qualifications and that the last time we had raised the bar. Ms. Austin also reminded the Board that with the last two Director searches the Board had hired outside agencies to conduct the search, review the applications and make a recommendation to the Board of the finalists to keep the selections unbiased. She asked if the Board would be conducting the search in this same manner. Mr. Tipton responded that he felt that since he reviews applications in his current position and other Board members have the same business experience, he felt sure the committee would be able to do this without incurring the added expense of an outside agency and also remain unbiased.

Chairman Tipton stated that the Board would be having a Called meeting to set the timeline for the Director Search process and that everything would come before the Board for a vote. He also noted that it takes a 2/3 vote to select the Director. Mr. Tipton's recommendation is that applications are received by the Board Secretary until April 3rd and copies be made for the Board. Ms. Austin asked if the qualification criteria limited the applications from only candidates with supervisory experience and not principals. Mr. Tipton responded that principals will be included in the search and are considered as having supervisory experience. Ms. Austin asked who would be allowed to see the applications and Mr. Tipton responded that the committee and the entire Board

would be able to see all applications and all Board members would be able to attend the committee meetings.

Approval of the placement of the ad

On Motion by Nathan Brown, Seconded by Michelle Holt

Vote: 7 – 0 Passed

The Board agreed that the vacancy announcement would be advertised in the Knoxville News Sentinel, The Johnson City Press, The Greeneville Sun and Mr. Bill Ripley agreed to make sure the announcement was on the State website as well.

Based on Policy 1.300 Board Committees, Chairman Tipton stated that a committee would need to be formed for the Director Search to go over the applications and select the finalists. Mr. Tipton stated that he would be the Chairman of the committee, Nathan Brown was appointed as the Vice Chairman and Brian Wilhoit and Michelle Holt were appointed to complete the committee. Mr. Tipton reminded everyone that all Board members were invited to attend all committee meetings and have questions and discussions and the final recommendation of finalists would be made by the committee to the full Board. He added that once a decision was made he would like for the entire Board to support that decision and for the Board to be united.

Chairman Tipton set a Called meeting of the Board to discuss and set a timeline for the Director Search as Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 5:30 pm.

On Motion by Brian Wilhoit, seconded by Michelle Holt and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 a.m.