

Bedford County School Board
Bedford Science and Technology Center
September 11, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. - Regular Meeting

Members Present

Mr. G. P. Hostutler, Chairman
Mrs. D. S. Hoback, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. J. M. Bennington
Mr. D. S. Black
Mr. T. S. Huff
Mrs. S. B. McCabe
Mrs. A. M. VanDerwerker
Ms. J. W. Wright

Staff Present

Dr. J. G. Blevins	Mr. G. W. Davis	Mr. R. E. Edwards
Dr. B. F. Johnson	Mrs. S. S. Staton	Mr. H. D. Jones
Ms. T. M. Parlier	Mr. E. A. Hoisington	Mrs. K. D. Arthur, deputy clerk
Mr. R. K. Hagler	Mr. T. L. Parker	

The regular meeting of the Bedford County School Board was called to order by Chairman Gary Hostutler on Thursday September 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Gibson Memorial Auditorium at the Bedford Science & Technology Center, 600 Edmund Street, Bedford, Virginia.

- A motion was made by Mrs. Bennington seconded by Ms. Wright and unanimously carried to go into a closed meeting at 6:00 p.m. pursuant to *Code of Virginia 2.2-3711(A)(1)* for personnel due to appointments, resignations, leaves, and terminations.

Those in attendance during the closed meeting pursuant to *Code of Virginia 2.2-3711(A)(1)* were 8 board members, Dr. Blevins, Dr. Johnson, Gary Davis, and Tim Parker.

- With no objection, a motion was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mrs. VanDerwerker to go out of the closed meeting at 6:48 p.m.

The Bedford County School Board convened in open session at 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Bedford County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Bedford County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia

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law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE: AYES (8) NAYS (0)

Deputy Clerk

Meeting Date

- Mrs. Bennington made a motion with Mr. Black seconding to approve the Personnel Report with the addition of #13. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Mr. Black made a motion with Mrs. Bennington seconding to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation for an employee following a School Board Hearing. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Hostutler announced to the public that employee #13 is Dr. James Blevins. He stated that Dr. Blevins announced to the board during closed session that he would be retiring as Superintendent of Bedford County Public Schools effective June 30, 2009. Mr. Hostutler stated that the plan is to put out an RFP to find a search firm that will be used in a nationwide search to find Dr. Blevins’ replacement. Mr. Hostutler stated that the plan is to announce the search firm by the middle of November and to have a new Superintendent hired by the first quarter of 2009 with this person to assume responsibilities as Superintendent July 1, 2009.

Mr. Hostutler led the Pledge of Allegiance and then opened the floor for public comment on agenda items. As there was no one desiring to address the board, he closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Approval of the agenda was the first action item.

- With no objection, Mr. Black made a motion with Mrs. VanDerwerker seconding to approve the agenda for the September 11, 2008 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the **consent agenda** was the next item to be considered. Included were:

- Minutes from the August 28, 2008 Regular Meeting
- Agent Operating Bills^{1 2}
- Operating Bills for September 11, 2008
- Nutrition Bills for September 11, 2008

¹ Attachment A – Certification of Claims

² Mrs. Bennington checked the bills.

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- Construction Bills for September 11, 2008
 - Textbook Bills for September 11, 2008
 - School Maintenance Projects Bills for September 11, 2008
 - Financial Statements for September 11, 2008
- Mr. Black made a motion with Mr. Huff seconding to approve the consent agenda as outlined. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with Ms. Wright abstaining.

The first informational item was **Committee Reports**. All board members were given the opportunity to give committee reports. With the school year just beginning, none of the board members gave committee reports.

The next informational item was a **Report on PowerSchool**. Mr. Kevin Harrison provided the board with a presentation of the newest trend in student information systems. Mr. Harrison explained to the board that Pearson has announced they will discontinue support for the current SASI state reporting code effective in 2009 and will also discontinue support of the SASI student information system effective in August 2010. Mr. Harrison explained that Pearson will be providing PowerSchool free of charge this year as part of the annual support fee that covers maintenance saving the school system approximately \$200,000. He explained that there will be some out of pocket costs associated with the implementation and training of PowerSchool. Mr. Harrison gave the board members an overview of the differences between SASI and PowerSchool and explained some of the advantages that PowerSchool has over SASI including PowerTeacher, an intergraded K-12 grade book and an intergraded separate parent and student access portal which will allow parents to view information on their child only. Mr. Harrison then gave the board an overview of the implementation process for PowerSchool and opened the floor for any questions. Mrs. VanDerwerker asked if most school divisions would be moving to PowerSchool and Mr. Harrison responded that currently there are 36 school divisions in the state of Virginia who are currently SASI customers but will be moving to PowerSchool. Mrs. Hoback stated that she is very impressed by the fact that grades can be viewed but pointed out that this will be dependent on teachers actually loading the information. Mr. Harrison stated that consideration is being given to actually putting policies in place that will give teachers the required guidelines for loading information.

The next informational item was the **403(b) Plan**. Mr. Randy Hagler explained to the board that the school system already had 403(b) participation, but in response to IRS rulings the plan needed to be in a more formal document. Mr. Hagler explained that he, along with the help of ADMIN Solutions, put the plan together. Mr. Hagler stated that they basically took IRS language and checked off what they did and did not want in the plan. He stated that this plan is the same plan that the school system had in place before with the exception that it is now documented. Mr. Hagler stated that he will be coming back to the board at the next meeting with a resolution to adopt the plan. Mr. Hagler informed the board that the school system has strived to keep all current vendors, and that the plan's effective date would be November 1, 2008, which is actually two months ahead of the IRS deadline of January 1, 2009. Mr. Hagler brought to the board's attention item #6 in the adoption agreement which is 15 years of service catch up contributions. Mr. Hagler stated that this is one item that was not included in the plan due to the

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fact that it would have been an extra cost to the third party administrator, ADMIN Solutions, and it would have required the school system to go back 15 years and gather payroll data on all employees with 403(b) participation. Mr. Hagler pointed out that the payroll system only has payroll data going back to July 2006 so to go back for 15 years would require a huge manual task. Mr. Black asked if this plan was modeled after a successful plan. Mr. Hagler stated that this plan was modeled after the IRS plan.

The next informational item was the **Membership Report**. Mr. Randy Hagler provided the board with information regarding membership for the first ten days of school. He stated that the information was gathered internally by calling schools and asking for membership numbers. Mr. Hagler stated that the official report will be put together through SASI by Kevin Harrison later in the month. Mr. Hagler informed the board that overall they are over by three students from the number that was budgeted. Mr. Hagler stated that looking back at the last three years, membership usually drops by about a half percent between fall and spring. He stated that if this trend continues, this may mean that membership could decrease by about 50 students by spring and this is what funding numbers are based upon. Mr. Hagler stated that the school system has dropped by 110 students since last spring. Mr. Hostutler pointed out that some of the smaller elementary schools such as Big Island and Body Camp picked up some good numbers and said that he hopes that will help to balance out some of their classrooms. Mr. Hagler responded by saying that these schools were actually budgeted for a decrease but had an increase.

The last informational item was a **Student Advisory Committee Update**. Mr. Ryan Edwards informed the board that originally when the board chose the committee for the Student Advisory Committee that it was only a selection committee. Mr. Edwards told the board that they could be given the option to select an actual Student Advisory Committee. Mr. Black pointed out that if the board chose to select the committee the rules would have to be suspended because this item was on the agenda as an informational item. Mr. Edwards agreed and ask for direction from the board. Mrs. VanDerwerker stated that in order to get the committee appointed in a timely manner, the rules should be set aside. Mr. Black asked if there was interest from any board members to serve on the committee. Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. VanDerwerker were interested in serving on the committee.

- Mrs. Hoback made a motion to set aside the rules in order to place the selection of the Student Advisory Committee on the agenda as an action item. Mr. Huff seconded the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote.
- Mr. Huff made a motion with Mrs. Hoback seconding to appoint Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. VanDerwerker to the Student Advisory Committee and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Wright added that she would like to see other central office staff added to the committee. Mr. Edwards informed the board that he had four proposed meeting dates for the committee and shared these dates with the board. Mr. Edwards told the board that one of the ideas that had been presented to him was that the board members would actually supply the students with the topics that they wanted feedback on from the schools. Mrs. VanDerwerker stated that it was originally discussed that the board would set the list of topics for the students so that the agenda would be

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more structured. She added that the committee could provide time for “matters from the committee” in order to give students an opportunity to share their ideas. Ms. Wright encouraged any board member who would be attending the VSBA Conference in November to attend sessions on the topic of Student Advisory Committees. Mr. Hostutler stated that he would like to meet the students who have been chosen to serve on the Student Advisory Committee. Mr. Hostutler suggested inviting the students to the next school board meeting. It was decided that the students would be invited to have dinner with the board members and to attend the September 25th school board meeting.

Matters from the Board:

- Mr. Huff thanked Dr. Blevins for his service to Bedford County Schools. Mr. Huff stated that he has enjoyed working with Dr. Blevins and that he feels as though Dr. Blevins will be a hard act to follow.
- Mrs. Bennington thanked Dr. Blevins for making her first year on the board enjoyable.
- Mr. Black stated that there have been many changes in the board since Dr. Blevins has been here and that he has weathered them all. Mr. Black appreciated Dr. Blevins for his leadership and especially for his leadership during the renovations.
- Mrs. Hoback thanked Dr. Blevins for his service and stated that it was unfortunate that Dr. Blevins was not able to make the announcement of his retirement in a more private setting. She commented that there is still a lot of work to do before Dr. Blevins’ retirement.
- Mrs. McCabe stated that she was on the board ten years ago when Dr. Blevins came onboard. She stated that since that day Dr. Blevins has given 100% towards improving Bedford County Public Schools.
- Ms. Wright thanked Dr. Blevins for his professionalism, leadership, insight and vision and wished him a lot of happiness with his retirement.
- Mrs. VanDerwerker stated that she was also on the board when Dr. Blevins came and thanked him for his ten years of service.
- Mr. Hostutler thanked Dr. Blevins for everything he has done and stated that he has made things easy for the board members. Mr. Hostutler stated that he wanted to clear up any misperception about the funds that were set aside for professional consulting. He said that these funds will not be spent on the superintendent search. The search will not cost anywhere near the \$100,000 that was set aside. Mr. Hostutler stated that the board did feel it important to hire a professional firm to assist in the search to replace Dr. Blevins to ensure that they find an outstanding candidate.

There being no further business,

- Mrs. VanDerwerker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. with Mr. Black seconding. The motion carried unanimously to the call of the chairman.

Chairman

Deputy Clerk