

**Regular School Board Meeting
Thursday, November 1, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
Fayette-Ware High School - Library**

Minutes

1. Call meeting to order.

Mr. Ronnie McCarty, Board Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Establishment of a quorum.

A quorum was established. The following members were present: Robert Redditt, Marandy Wilkerson, Evangeline Shaw, Wendell Wainwright, Ronnie McCarty, David Barnes, James Garrett, Sally Spencer, Dana Pittman and Mr. James Teague, Superintendent.

3. Consider adoption of agenda.

Mr. Barnes motioned to approve the amended agenda.

Mr. Wainwright seconds.

Mr. McCarty added Mrs. Debra Jones to Item #5 on the Consent Agenda - TN Principals Association Annual Leadership Professional Development - December 5 - 7, 2012.

Ms. Pittman removed items #2 and #6 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. McCarty stated that Item #2 will become #11 and Item #6 will become #12 and move the other numbers down accordingly.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

4. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Consider approval of minutes.

Mr. Barnes motions to approve.

Mrs. Shaw seconds.

Ms. Pittman had some corrections. On page 4, 7th line down, it should read straits. She also stated that the 8th line up from the bottom should be fiscal. On page 5, 5th line down it should be straits. On page 9, 3rd line from the bottom should be bond.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

6. Speaking to agenda and non-agenda items.

(Time limit total - 15 minutes)

Tim Sweeney - thanked Mr. Teague for splitting the medical insurance premiums in 2 separate checks. He spoke about the teacher's pay. He stated that the teachers need a raise. "Teachers need a Raise".

Hattie Williams - No elementary tutorials for children who might need extra help. She stated to the Board Members that they are accountable to these children, their parents, and your constituents.

Lameshia Harris – expressed her concern over the closing of Northwest Elementary School. She wants to know the set time for the closing. Mr. McCarty stated that there is no set time. This is just one of the alternative plans that we are looking at to try to get the Consent Order through and trying to get us to unitary status. It is not set to be closed.

Tracy Wade – stated that when she attended the transportation committee meeting on October 18th, she learned that the Board wants to return to the EDULOG system. She wanted to know what has the Board done to guarantee the children's safety. She wanted to know if the Board could guarantee that the children will not have to walk miles to a bus stop, that the students will not have to change buses on a busy highway or in the Walmart parking lot and not to spend hours riding on a bus.

Mark Davis and Charlie Scott – No shows.

7. Director of Schools' Report.

Mr. Teague told the Board that he did meet with a group of parents at Northwest this afternoon. He stated that he told the parents that there is no plan in place to close Northwest Elementary. Tonight we were going to talk about the possibility of exploring a new plan.

He stated that we took care of the extra positions in our budget. We had 9 positions that we needed to cut in order to balance our budget. Seven teachers resigned. Other people were moved into their position. We did away with 3 positions, which were Literacy Leaders and moved them into other positions.

Mr. Teague asked the Board Members when they have a request for information to send their request directly to him and let him pass that on to the people that work for him.

Mrs. Wilkerson asked Mr. Teague if there is a guideline or job description that speaks to the duties for the people who received stipends. If they were assigned those duties, what do we have to look at to say that those people were overpaid? If they were overpaid, how much were they really supposed to be paid?

Mr. Teague stated that this is a Report from Federal Programs. This is not an Audit. He stated that when they came, they looked at job descriptions, they looked over salaries for the past few years and made their recommendations based on that. He stated that he was gathering information from the people who were involved in this and trying to get their responses together to send back to Federal Programs hoping to resolve some of this.

8. Board Members' Report.

Mr. Redditt stated that he knew Mr. Teague and Dr. Harris have worked very diligently in an attempt to secure grants and everything else so that this county could have a magnet school. LDF and DOJ thought this was a great idea. We have a great opportunity here if we can do this on grant money. He asked the Board Members to think about that when it comes time.

Ms. Pittman spoke about a message that came out on Community Counts concerning the Consent Order and Alternative Plans that the Board has spent some time looking into. She stated that it represents a very abbreviated statement about what is in the current Consent Order and it certainly does not

address some of the complexities of it and some of the serious considerations in it. She stated that it also goes on to make some statements about the Alternative Plans that the Board has discussed and been looking into. It misrepresents those and also states that the Board will be in non-compliance with the Consent Order, which is just simply not true. She stated that these type of messages and flyers come out whenever the Board so much as breathes the idea that we might want to look at something different and progressive for this county. She stated that they come out prematurely and inaccurate. Incomplete information and designs have a negative light on that process. She stated that what this does is guarantee that Fayette County stays forever at status quo. She stated that she did not get elected to this Board to come up here and sit for four years and see this school system continue as status quo. I got sent here to see that we manage our money more effectively and that we don't waste it. What that means is that when we are wasting money and we stop doing that, it goes into the classrooms, into education, into helping our children and the children of the future get a better education in this county. She stated that is what I am here to do and that I feel like this what all of my fellow Board Members are here to do. We cannot keep the status quo and get that done. We have got to move forward and look at things differently and do some things differently. Ms. Pittman asked the public to give the Board Members a chance, to listen and educate Themselves. Call a Board Member or Mr. Teague if you have questions. She stated that we all need to come together, the public, the parents, the School Board, staff and teachers and work together to do everything we can to improve the school system.

9. CONSENT AGENDA.

Mr. Barnes motions to approve the Consent Agenda without Items #2 and #6.
Mrs. Shaw seconds.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

10. Financial Update. (Ms. Parks)

Ms. Parks spoke about the financial statements that were in the Board Members packets for the month of September. She stated that we have drawn down the last of the Tax Anticipation Money. Right now all utilities are paid. She stated that we have right at \$72,000 worth of invoices that we are holding. She stated that we are holding all of our purchase orders until we start receiving some of our tax monies. November will be a rough month for us. Payroll is taking all of our BEP money. Hopefully, in December we will start getting some of our tax money.

Mr. Redditt motioned to suspend the rules to move budget amendments up under the Financial Update.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

11. Budget Amendments.

Ms. Parks stated that there are two budget amendments tonight that are in the Board Members packets. She went over the amendments with the Board Members.

First was the capital projects fund. She stated that the Board Members asked the County Commission for \$225,000 to start the design with the architects for the new school.

The second one is to add the funding for a preliminary grant for EJHS to the books. She stated that East Jr. High received a grant last month for \$167,402 and this needs to be put on the books.

Mr. Barnes motioned to approve both of the amendments.

Mr. Wainwright seconds.

Mrs. Wilkerson asked Ms. Parks if we had an After School tutorial budget.

Mr. Teague stated that there are no funds for elementary tutorials. He stated that this is a specific grant for East Jr. High that they applied for and were granted to do several things and one of which is some after school tutoring at East. It is specific to that school only.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

12. Items that were removed from the Consent Agenda.

#2 - Discussion of the TASN Conference - November 7th - 11th, 2012.

Shirelle Hobson.

Ms. Pittman motions to approve.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

#6 - Discussion of the Somerville Elementary 5th Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C.

May 1st - 6th, 2013. Debra Jones, Chris Hobson, and Frederick Murden.

Ms. Pittman wanted to know how school Field Trips work and who pays for those trips.

Mr. Teague gave an explanation to the Board. He asked Mrs. Jones to come forward and explain the details of the trip.

The PTO President explained how they raised money to pay for the trip. She spoke about the fundraisers that they were having to raise money for this trip.

Mrs. Jones stated that there will be 39 students and 4 chaperones. There will be 1 chaperone per 10 students.

Ms. Pittman motions to approve the Field Trip to Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wainwright seconds.

9 - Yes 0 - No

Motion carries.

13. Reports of the Standing Committees

a. Policy Committee - Sally Spencer

1. Minutes

She stated that the minutes from the committee meeting were included in the Board Members packets. She gave a report on their meeting.

2. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Policy 1.400 – School Board Meetings (1st Reading)

Mrs. Spencer explained the changes that were made to this policy.

Mrs. Spencer wants to bring this policy from the Policy Committee before the Board for approval.

Mrs. Spencer wanted to move that this Policy be accepted as written and that we replace this Policy with the old policy on 1st Reading.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

Mr. McCarty stated that you don't need a motion coming out of a committee. He stated that he had one question. He wanted to know if they were going to leave the meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Ms. Pittman stated that the policy we have currently has some language in it that is not included in the model that we got from TSBA. She stated that they do not recommend to just adopt the model from TSBA, but for the section in the new policy, Electronic Attendance, to be inserted into our existing policy. We didn't make a recommendation at the time as to where it should be located. She stated that she thought the appropriate place for it to be is before the Adjourned Section in our policy. She stated that the recommendation is to insert the entire section into our policy.

Mr. Redditt stated that we need to have some way to establish a way to do electronics before we put it into this policy.

Mr. Barnes asked if we could put this in with some language that states when have electronic capability.

Ms. Pittman stated that we do have Skype capabilities.

The Board Members continued with discussion concerning the Electronic Attendance.

8 – Yes 0 – No 1 – Pass – Mrs. Wilkerson

Motion carries.

b. Transportation Committee – Mrs. Wilkerson

1. Minutes

Mrs. Wilkerson stated that we met on October 18th. The next meeting is set for November 15th at 6:00 P.M. She stated that Mr. Teague asked the committee to look at the routes designed by EUDLOG that will be implemented the first of the year. She stated that the committee will look at the EDULOG Plan and also Dr. Gray's plan that was submitted. They put on the agenda to discuss the savings by using EDULOG and increasing the salaries for the bus drivers and additional savings will be discussed.

c. Budget Committee – Dana Pittman

1. Minutes

The committee met on October 17th. A copy of the minutes was in the Board Members packets.

2. **Public Address System for Board Meetings**

Ms. Pittman stated that she would like to make a recommendation to the full Board to purchase a PA System when funds become available. Mr. Garrett seconds.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Barnes, Yes; Mr. Garrett, Yes; Mr. McCarty, Yes; Ms. Pittman, Yes; Mrs. Shaw, Yes; Mr. Redditt, No; Mrs. Spencer, No; Mr. Wainwright, No; Mrs. Wilkerson, No.

5 – Yes 4 – No

Motion carries.

3. **Recapture of Uncollected Insurance Deductions.**

Ms. Pittman stated that two years ago in January Health Insurance rates changed. She stated that the 25% the county pays is based on teacher's single coverage. She stated that he took 25% no matter what plan each teacher had opted to do. This went on for all of the 2011 calendar year and the first six months of this calendar year until Ms. Parks and Mr. Teague recognized there was a problem there. The failure to properly deduct those insurance deductions is \$317,000 of money that came out of Fund Balance and the school system's budget instead of teacher's pay. She stated that she has a small problem there because it was not an equal benefit for each teacher. She stated that the rest of the committee felt that we cannot go back in time and collect that money.

Ms. Pittman stated that she would like to make a motion at this time to recommend that the Board move forward and we do not ask for the insurance money back from the teachers.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

8 – Yes 1 – No Ms. Pittman voted No.

Motion carries.

4. **Phase II Environmental Study**

Ms. Pittman stated that one issue that was brought up was with the Education Committee of the County Commission. The motion was made and approved for a Phase II Environmental Study to be done at the North Site for the bond money to be released to us. The thought was that that might be a requirement of the company that is going to do the bonds for us. She stated that the Budget Committee met after the Education Committee met and we discussed doing the Phase II study. She stated that the committee came up with a motion to recommend to the Board we do one as quickly as possible on the basis that if a study was done and we delayed doing that study and it comes up with anything then figuring out alternatives will delay construction and just jam up the process. Ms. Pittman stated that after the Budget Committee meeting, the County Commission met and they declined to make that requirement. The Mayor was then asked to see if that was going to be a requirement from the Bond Company. Ms. Pittman

stated that she was going to go ahead and make this motion so that we may discuss this issue.

Ms. Pittman stated that she moves that we have a Phase II Environmental Study performed on the North Campus site soon as possible.

Mrs. Spencer seconds.

Ms. Pittman stated that she feels like we need to reject this motion. She stated that she has gone back, talked to several people and looked at the Phase I Study and soil testing and everything came out clean there. She stated that no further testing has been recommended there. She stated that Mr. Fleming said that from an architect's standpoint, Phase I was successful, no problems were found and he doesn't really see the need to move forward and the County Commission is not going to require it.

0 – Yes 9 – No

Motion fails.

5. Alternative Plans for New School and Zones

Ms. Pittman stated that she moves that the Board take all necessary efforts to explore alternative plans for the new elementary school and school attendance zones including conferring with the County Commission regarding funding for the construction of a larger school and holding community meetings with the stakeholders, because of concerns that the Board may not be able to comply fully with the Consent Order entered on August 21, 2012, due to our dire financial situation.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

Mr. Redditt stated that he still thinks it is a great opportunity to have a Magnet School.

7 – Yes 2 – No Mrs. Wilkerson and Mrs. Shaw voted No.

Motion carries.

14. Report from Special Committees

a. Building Committee – David Barnes

1. Minutes

Mr. Barnes stated that the Building Committee met on October 17th and that he was selected as Committee Chairman. He stated that no other meeting had been scheduled yet and that he would inform the Board Members when one would be scheduled.

15. Discussion and/or approval of a Planning Committee. (Ms. Pittman)

Ms. Pittman stated that in the Board Members packet they had the chapters on planning from TSBA and also a copy of the 5-year plan for the period July 1, 2006 thru June 30, 2011. A long range plan could be a very powerful tool for us to determine what our goals are, work out strategies for how we are going to get there, and then come back frequently and measure where are we on that progress and that we are making these various goals. She stated that she would like to see them bring teacher's salaries up to commensurate with surrounding counties, Haywood and Hardeman. She stated that

then the Board could develop a strategy as to how we are going to develop the funds to get that done in the time frame that we feel like we can do it. She stated likewise, that needs to be done for staff.

Ms. Pittman made a motion to have a standing committee for Planning.

Mr. Barnes wanted to know if this committee would meet regularly or on a Saturday for a workshop to try to work through some of this stuff.

Ms. Pittman stated that we would want to have some community meetings with the public and get their ideas on how they would want to have things done and then have a workshop.

Mrs. Wilkerson stated that we already have long-range plans for the next two years and that is to comply with the court order. Mrs. Wilkerson stated that we need to set goals and see how to comply with the court order. She stated that we need to involve our parents and our stakeholders. She stated that she would like to see the entire Board involved in this plan.

Mrs. Spencer stated she does not see that any of this is exclusive of the Board, if anything it is inclusive, we are talking about community meetings, workshops. This includes the Board even more.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Barnes – Yes; Mr. Garrett – Pass; Mr. McCarty – Yes; Ms. Pittman – Yes; Mr. Redditt – Yes; Mrs. Shaw – Yes; Mrs. Spencer, Yes; Mr. Wainwright – Yes; Mrs. Wilkerson – No.

7 – Yes 1 – No, Mrs. Wilkerson 1 – Pass, Mr. Garrett

Motion carries.

16. Set schedule for Outstanding Committees. (Ms. Pittman)

Ms. Pittman stated that she would like to propose to set the Transportation Committee to meet on Wednesday at 6:30 and the Policy Committee to meet at 7:15 and on Thursday the Planning Committee to meet at 6:30 and the Budget Committee meet at 7:15. She stated that she is looking at 45-minute windows.

Ms. Pittman motions to set meetings for committees for the 3rd Thursday of the month and the Wednesday before the 3rd Thursday.

Mr. Barnes seconds.

Mrs. Wilkerson wanted to know why the individual committees not schedule their own meetings.

Mrs. Spencer stated so that the community would know when the meetings are scheduled.

7 – Yes 1 – No, Mrs. Wilkerson 1 – Pass, Mr. Redditt

Motion carries.

Ms. Pittman and Mr. Garrett volunteered for the Planning Committee.

17. Adjournment.

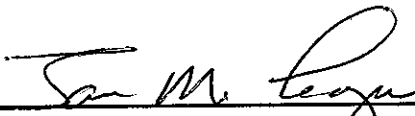
Mr. Barnes motions to adjourn.

Mr. Garrett seconds.

Approved: 12/13/12



Ronnie McCarty, School Board Chairman



James Teague, Superintendent

Submitted by: *Toni Pollet*