

**SUMNER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES - JANUARY 17, 2006**

Call to Order

The January 17, 2006, regular meeting of the Sumner County Board of Education was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Ronnie Stubblefield. The meeting was held in the Board Meeting Room of the District Central Office, located at 695 E. Main Street in Gallatin. Board members Ken Becker, Will Duncan, Nancy Roth, and Ronnie Stubblefield were present. Mary Ralph Bradley and Randy Stamps were absent at the time of roll call. Director of Schools Benny Bills and Attorney Jim Fuqua were present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDAS

A. Mr. Duncan moved and Ms. Roth seconded approval of the *Consent Agenda* as presented. The motion passed 4-0. *(on file in Minute Book)*

B. Mr. Becker moved and Ms. Roth seconded approval of the *Regular Agenda*. The motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Mr. Becker moved and Ms. Roth seconded approval and adoption of the draft minutes from the Board's December 13, 2005, Regular Meeting, with a reference to General Sessions Court changed to Chancery Court, and with the meeting being adjourned by Vice-Chairman Becker. The minutes, with the noted corrections, were approved 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS / HEARING OF DELEGATIONS

A. SCEA President Manny Lopez had no comments.

C. District Internal Auditor Rachel Nichols recognized schools, bookkeepers, and principals who received perfect activity fund audits for the 2004-05 school year. Thirty-four of 42 schools were honored. *(list on file in Minute Book)*

MATTERS INVOLVING COUNSEL

A. The Board and Director met in Executive Session with Attorney Fuqua.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARD

Board members reported that the Wessington Place Elementary School staff has been very complimentary of the Director and his staff for their support of the school during the illness and passing of principal George Whitten. Mr. Whitten was remembered for his many contributions to the school and its community.

Mr. Becker asked Mr. Fuqua to research the district's liability as it relates to parents transporting students to school activities.

A. Board members acknowledged the *Executive Committee Report* dated Jan. 17, 2006.

B. Chairman Stubblefield summarized the Board's evaluation of Director Bills. *(Summary filed in Minute Book, originals on file in Board Secretary's Office)*

C. This item deferred for one week to allow a Board recess.

D. Mr. Becker moved and Ms. Roth seconded approval of a draft resolution provided by the Tenn. School Boards Association urging the General Assembly to defeat legislation calling for a return to elected superintendents. The motion failed to receive the four votes needed for approval, with Mr. Becker, Ms. Roth, and Chairman Stubblefield voting aye, and Mr. Duncan voting nay.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Director Bills commended the faculty, staff, students, and parents at Wessington Place Elementary School for the way they have handled the illness and passing of Mr. Whitten.

B. Board members acknowledged the *Approved Field Trips Report* dated Jan. 17, 2006, and principals' responses to findings in the *2004-05 School Activity Fund Audit*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board members acknowledged the *Phase III Building Program Financial Report* dated Dec. 30, 2005.

B. 1. Board members expressed concerns about a proposed County Commission resolution giving the Commission final approval of many aspects of the proposed Continuing Growth Building Program.

2. Mr. Duncan moved and Mr. Becker seconded approval of a 4.7 percent architectural fee from Johnson and Bailey Architects for the new Station Camp Elementary School. The motion passed 4-0. Johnson and Bailey was chosen for the project by a 5-0 vote at the Board's May 17, 2005 meeting.

3. Mr. Becker moved and Ms. Roth seconded authorization for the Director and staff to move forward with steps that could lead to the purchase of 15.8 acres of land on S. Russell Street in Portland for a new elementary school at a cost of \$225,000 and 21 acres on College Street in Portland for a new middle school at a cost of \$210,000, with options to be secured for both sites to allow for geological and other testing.

The motion passed 4-0. The Director will provide a final recommendation to the Board concerning possible purchase of the parcels when testing is completed. Consideration of property for an addition to Oakmont Elementary School will take place following the receipt of additional information when the Board reconvenes this meeting in one week.

C. Mr. Becker moved and Mr. Duncan seconded approval of an amendment to the 2005-06 General Purpose School Fund Budget dated Jan. 10, 2006. The motion was approved 4-0.

D. Mr. Duncan moved and Ms. Roth seconded approval of revised Board Policy CD, *Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, and Retaliation*, on final reading. The motion passed 4-0.

The arrival of Mr. Stamps was noted by Chairman Stubblefield.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Assistant Director of Schools for Instruction Judy Wheeler explained proposed changes for the secondary curriculum beginning with the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Becker moved and Mr. Duncan seconded approval of the *2006-07 Secondary Curriculum Coordination Guide for High Schools Utilizing Block Scheduling*. The motion passed 5-0. (*on file in the Instruction Department*)

B. Mr. Stamps moved and Mr. Duncan seconded approval for the construction of a wall at Walton Ferry Elementary School to separate the music classroom from a fourth grade room. The rooms are currently separated by a partition. The motion passed 5-0.

C. Mr. Duncan moved and Mr. Stamps seconded the following: approval of the low base bid and Alternate #1 from Jolly Roofing for the White House High Annex re-roofing project in the amount of \$278,777; and the rejection of bids for the Guild Elementary School re-roofing project due to all bids exceeding available funds, with specifications to be modified and the project re-bid at a later date. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Stamps apologized to the Board for being late due to unforeseen work commitments in Nashville. Mr. Stamps reported that Ms. Bradley was absent from the meeting due to deteriorating weather conditions.

Mr. Stamps moved and Ms. Roth seconded that the meeting stand in recess until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at which time remaining items on the agenda will be completed. The motion passed 5-0, and the meeting was recessed at 9:24 p.m.

The Jan. 17, 2006, regular meeting of the Sumner County Board of Education was reconvened at 7 p.m. on Jan. 24, 2006, by Chairman Ronnie Stubblefield. All Board members were present, along with Director of Schools Benny Bills.

Mr. Stamps moved and Ms. Roth seconded authorization for the Board Chairman to negotiate a new contract with Director of Schools Benny Bills, which then will be considered by the Board. The new contract will replace and possibly extend beyond any time remaining on the Director's current contract. The motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Stamps moved and Mr. Becker seconded authorization for the Executive Committee to attempt a renegotiation of the purchase price for land adjacent to Oakmont Elementary School and investigate other alternatives for adding to the school without the need for additional property. The motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Stamps moved and Ms. Roth seconded a motion for the Director to investigate the possibility of the County Commission funding alterations to the Board meeting room that were made necessary when the Commission voted to increase the Board's size to 11 members. The motion passed 5-1, with Mr. Duncan voting nay.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon completion of the agenda, Chairman Stubblefield declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Approved: 2/21/06

Benny Bills, Director of Schools

Ronnie Stubblefield, Board Chairman