

September 23, 2002

The Catawba County Board of Education met in regular session on September 23, 2002 at 5:30 p.m. at the County Schools' Administration Building with Chairman Betty Blackburn presiding. The following members were present: Mrs. Sherrill, Mrs. Butler, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Wyant and Mr. Biggerstaff. Also in attendance were Superintendent Ann Hart, Assistant Superintendents Stephen Hilton, Nancy Yount and Joyce Spencer, Finance Director Sondra Wolfe, Technology Director Terry Bledsoe, Construction Coordinator Ernest Williams, Testing and Accountability Director Joe Famulary along with Vickie Matthews from his department, Catawba Intermediate Principal Cynthia McKee, Karen Cale and Public Information/Grants Writer Sonya Gordon. Mr. McRee and Attorney Alex Williams were absent.

Allison Hilton represented *Hickory Daily Record* and Kathryn Wellin represented the *Charlotte Observer*. Al Mainess represented *WNNC*. Also in attendance were Tonya Self and Tim Jennings from the YMCA of Catawba Valley.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Wyant. Chairman Blackburn declared the minutes of August 28-29, 2002 and August 29, 2002 meetings approved. The Consent Agenda was amended by Superintendent Hart to add six additional field trips and New Business #8 – Funds to Hire Consulting Attorney Fees. After the amendment, the agenda was unanimously approved upon a motion by Mrs. Butler and seconded by Mrs. Sherrill.

**Public Hearing:**

Superintendent Hart conducted the public hearing phase of the meeting for comments concerning any agenda items. No person present wished to address the Board on any agenda item.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Hart began her report by recognizing the school system for receiving a Head Start Volunteer Award for outstanding volunteer service to the Head Start Program during 2001-2002. Other items of Superintendent Hart's report included:

- The speaker at the October 24, 2002 Annual YMCA Prayer Breakfast will be David Chadwick. He is the author of *The Twelve Leadership Principles of Dean Smith*, which is the basis of the character-based leadership seminars that the administrators in the district have been participating in.

- Catawba County Schools' International Newcomer Center will be sponsoring a Hmong Parent Meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the cafeteria at Lyle Creek Elementary School.

- The school system collected one hundred seventy-five pounds of school supplies in August as part of the School Tools Program through TV Channel 9 and Food Lion. One hundred needy students will be helped throughout the year.

- The Bandys High School Livestock Show Team won two first place ribbons and one-second place ribbon at the Caldwell County Open Beef Cattle Show in the Senior Heifer Open Division, Reserve Champion Ram and Reserve Champion Ewe. At the Junior Division Caldwell County Show, the team won first place in the Senior Heifer Division and in the Late Heifer Division, as well as Grand Champion Ram for the county. The junior team members also won Grand Champion Suffolk Ram and Grand Champion Suffolk Ewe at Hickory American Legion Fair's Show.

- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) recently congratulated Catawba County Schools for having all of the schools accredited. According to SACS, the school system is now considered a "Super System for Quality Schools" for its schools' accreditation accomplishments and continued successes in improving educational opportunities for the young people. Our elementary and middle schools are having their SACS verification visits on September 26, 2002.

- The regional NCSBA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25, 2002 in Wilkesboro. The meeting will begin with registration at 3:30 p.m. and the sessions will begin at 4:00 p.m.

- St. Stephens High School's Navy JROTC Unit won the inaugural annual Hickory Pre-Season Regional JROTC Drill Meet held in early September. The competition included five area JROTC high school teams competing against each other. Bunker Hill High School's team came in fourth place.

- All of Catawba County Schools' middle schools participated in Lenoir-Rhyne College's Public School Partnership last Saturday. Students enjoyed drama, music and athletic activities followed by a concert and meal. To "wrap up" the day's activities, participants attended the Lenoir-Rhyne versus Concord football game.

- On a sad note, Superintendent Hart informed the Board of two students' deaths; Catilyn Painter, a five year old that was served by the Preschool Department and Brittany Heafner, a

seventh grader from Mill Creek Middle School. Also, she gave an update on Attorney Alex Williams' condition.

•Superintendent Hart informed the Board that information has been submitted to Surry Insurance and currently is waiting to hear back from the company to determine which attorney will be handling the pending civil action.

•A general update on the budget was the last item of Superintendent Hart's report. There was approximately \$531,931.00 reduction in the state funding with anticipated additional reductions along with possible reductions in the local funding. Superintendent Hart emphasized that schools were not impacted by this reduction. At this time, only eighty percent of the budget has been distributed to schools. Distributions to the schools did include the additional one dollar per ADM for instructional materials, one dollar per ADM for school improvement and two dollars per ADM for library books, which were included in the base budget request. Once a final budget is approved, additional dollars will be distributed to the school. The budget will be submitted to the Board for approval at the October Board of Education meeting. The 2001-2002 Audit Report will be submitted to the Board for approval at the November Board of Education meeting. Superintendent Hart commended Finance Officer Wolfe and the finance department for their closely monitoring of the budget.

**The following Consent Agenda items were transacted:**

**Field Trip Requests and Camps:**

- \*St. Stephens High School FCCLA to Raleigh, NC, September 27-28, 2002
- \*Bunker Hill High School AFJROTC to Raleigh, NC, September 27-28, 2002
- \*Bandys High School Livestock Team to Raleigh, NC, October 16-20, 2002
- \*St. Stephens High School FCCLA to Atlanta, Georgia, November 15-17, 2002
- \*Mt. View Elementary School Sixth Grade to Hendersonville, NC, December 2-4, 2002
- \*St. Stephens High School Wrestling Team to Winston-Salem, NC, December 13-14, 2002
- \*St. Stephens High School Wrestling Team to Chapel Hill, NC, December 26-28, 2002
- \*Bunker Hill High School Chorus to Orlando, Florida, April 22-27, 2003

**Personnel Requests:**

\*employed certified employees Margaret Breazeale, Kelly Harris, Donald Hensley, Samuel Hovis, Janelle Miller, Michael Morettie, Leigh Sigmon, Kenneth Simmons and Faye Smith;

\*employed VIF employee Jesus Moran;

\*employed classified employees Christine Ehlert, Joe Franklin, Melissa Greene, Patty Howard, Pam Lackey, Geraldine Lowery, Amanda Phillips, Ann Scronce, Harold Shuford, Dawn Stanley and Mary Wright;

\*employed non-staff coaches Gayle Boyles, Thomas Hand and Gordon Osborne;

\*granted leave of absence to classified employee Cynthia Brown;

\*accepted the resignations of certified employees Renea Featherstone and Marissa Garst;

\*granted the retirement requests of certified employee Billie Jo Drum; and

\*accepted the resignations of classified employees Lillian Coulter, Sue Greene and Teresa York Dyson.

The Board was also furnished a listing of substitute teachers.

There being no questions or discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wyant and seconded by Mr. Huffman to approve the presented field trips and personnel requests. The motion carried.

**There were no items of old business to be transacted.**

**The following items of new business were then transacted:**

**NB#1:** Superintendent Hart and Testing and Accountability Director Joe Famulary presented the 2001-2002 Report on Student Performance. This user-friendly, comprehensive report on student performance enables school-based staff and central office staff make informed decisions about how to improve student achievement. The report is broken down into two parts: Part I being the Narrative section and Part II being the statistical information. Each school report puts all data in one place to present an overview of performance. Highlights were presented with the intent to give a full picture of the performance made by the students. The report will be located on the Catawba County Schools' web page. Superintendent Hart emphasized that this report gives a good handle of the status of the district. She then thanked Director Famulary and his staff for their dedicated work with this valuable report.

**NB#2:** Superintendent Hart presented the schools' request of school fund raising activities for the 2002-2003 school year. Board policy requires the Board to approve these activities, not the fundraisers sponsored by the PTA/Os or Booster Clubs. There being no discussion or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Biggerstaff to accept the requests submitted by the schools. Mrs. Sherrill seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

**NB#3:** Recommended members for the 2002-2003 Catawba County Schools' Advisory Council were presented by Chairman Blackburn. Mrs. Butler asked if a member's child should attend the school that the member was recommended for. Superintendent Hart answered by stating that the member had to reside in that school district. The child did not have to attend that school. The current board policy relating to selection of advisory council members will be reviewed. A motion was then made by Mrs. Butler to accept the names as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wyant with no opposition. Notification letters will be sent to the approved members.

**NB#4:** Superintendent Hart introduced Tim Jennings and Tonya Self from the YMCA of Catawba Valley. Mr. Jennings and Ms. Self presented to the Board a proposal for consideration of facility usage of a classroom at Lyle Creek Elementary School for expansion of a pre-school childcare. This childcare would be available for three and four year olds within the Lyle Creek and Oxford communities. The goal of the expansion would be to provide a quality childcare program that would enhance the developmental stages for elementary school readiness. Areas of focus development would include social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language. Operational hours would be the same as after-school hours with cost being comparable to other childcares. Currently, the YMCA child development centers maintain three-star ratings with the goal of being four-star by 2004. As long as space is available, all members felt this childcare would be a valuable asset to the system. Mrs. Butler made the motion to approve the Lyle Creek Preschool proposal as presented. Mr. Huffman seconded the motion with no opposition.

**NB#5:** Assistant Superintendent Hilton presented the revised proposed Eight Year Long Range Facility Plan for 2002-2011. The development of the facility plan came as a result of a request from the County Commissioners for a plan to address school construction needs over an eight-year period. The initial proposal was discussed at the August Board Retreat with input and revisions being made by the Board at that time. Revisions included: Phase II of the Fred T. Foard High School project in budget year one; land acquisition for an elementary school in the Banoak/Blackburn area in budget year four; and the construction of new elementary schools for the St. Stephens and Banoak/Blackburn areas in budget years four-five and six-seven. Order of construction would be based on needs in the areas. Presented construction cost represented a 5.5% total increase for plan years one through eight due to inflation. Mr. Wyant made the motion to approve the presented revised Eight Year Long Range Facility Plan. Mrs. Sherrill seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

**NB#6:** As a result of discussion at the August Board Retreat, Assistant Superintendent Hilton presented to members four options for Catawba Intermediate attendance district. He reviewed each option containing 2003-2004 projected enrollment and capacity numbers. The options were as follows:

Option 1: All sixth graders from the Oxford Elementary School attendance district would remain at Oxford Elementary School. Sixth graders from Sherrills Ford Elementary, Claremont Elementary and those sixth graders from Balls Creek Elementary Schools who are in the Mill Creek Middle/Bandys High Schools' attendance area would attend Catawba Intermediate. Sixth graders from Maiden Elementary and Balls Creek Elementary Schools who are in the Tuttle Middle/Maiden High attendance area would attend Tuttle Middle School. If this option is chosen, there is available classroom space at Catawba Intermediate. This option would increase enrollment.

Option 2: All sixth graders from Oxford Elementary and Claremont Elementary Schools would remain at home schools. Sixth graders from Balls Creek Elementary School (Mill Creek Middle/Bandys High Schools' attendance area) and Sherrills Ford Elementary School would attend Catawba Intermediate. Sixth graders from Maiden Elementary and Balls Creek Elementary Schools who are in the Tuttle Middle/Maiden High Schools' attendance area would attend Tuttle Middle School.

Option 3: Same as Option 2, except sixth graders from Oxford Elementary and Claremont Elementary Schools would attend Oxford Elementary School.

Option 4: Same as Option 2, except for minor change of school district lines between Claremont Elementary and Oxford Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Butler made the motion to approve on first reading Option 1 for Catawba Intermediate attendance district with Mr. Biggerstaff seconding the motion. All members were in favor of the motion. Information will be made available to staff, students and parents for additional input. Option 1 will be brought back to the Board at the October meeting for second reading.

**NB#7:** The 2002-2005 School Improvement Plans were presented to the Board on September 9 and 10. Assistant Superintendent Yount distributed waiver requests and discussed the requests. Mr. Huffman made the motion to approve the 2002-2005 School Improvement Plans and waivers excluding the local requests of Claremont Elementary School and Oxford

Elementary School. Mrs. Sherrill seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The Board commended Superintendent Hart and the schools for the outstanding plans.

**NB#8:** Due to Attorney Alex Williams' illness, Superintendent Hart asked for authorization from the Board to contact attorneys for consulting fees dealing with general school law issues and property issues. Her recommendations included Chris Campbell from Asheville, Gill Meadowbrooks from Charlotte and Terry Taylor from Hickory. Procedures for civil actions will first be handled through Surry Insurance. Mrs. Sherrill made the motion to grant the authorization to Superintendent Hart, as she deems necessary. Mrs. Butler seconded the motion with no opposition.

**Public Comments:**

Superintendent Hart conducted the public comments section of the agenda at which time no person present desired to address the Board.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wyant and seconded by Mrs. Sherrill, the Board unanimously went into closed session for the purpose of discussing information that is privileged, confidential or not a public record under federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) North Carolina G.S.143-318.11(a)(1).

**CLOSED SESSION (Separate minutes for closed session are prepared and kept confidential.)**

The Board returned to open session with a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Biggerstaff with no opposition.

There being no other items of business to be conducted, Chairman Blackburn declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Betty C. Blackburn, Chairman

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Ann Y. Hart, Secretary

