

**MINUTES**  
**DAVIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2011**

The Davie County Board of Education met a 6:00 pm, Tuesday, November 1, 2011 in the Board Room of Central Davie Education Center, 220 Campbell Road, Mocksville, NC.

Board Members Present:

Terry Renegar, Chairman  
Barbara Owens Vice-Chair  
Rick Ellis  
Chad Fuller  
Carol Livengood  
Steve Ridenhour

Others Present:

Dr. Darrin Hartness, Superintendent  
Jill Wilson, Board Attorney  
Deborah Smink, Finance Officer  
Jean Brickey, Recording Secretary

Chairman Renegar called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the same location.

Mr. Ridenhour made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

Chairman Renegar called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 Regular Meeting and the September 22 Called Meeting with the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Renegar noted a correction on page 7, second paragraph of the September 22 Joint Meeting, the vote on the motion by the Board of Commissioners to approve the agenda was 4-1 not 5-0. Mrs. Owens made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ridenhour to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 as presented and the corrected September 22, 2011 meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

Chairman Renegar reviewed the Board's Important Dates Calendar.

Superintendent Hartness formally introduced the new Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Wallace. He offered a bio of several key Central Office employees including Mr. Wallace; Butch Rooney, Chief Technology Officer; Noël Grady-Smith, Executive Director of Curriculum and Leadership Development and Deborah Smink, Chief Financial Officer. An update on the selection of a new high school principal to replace Mr. Wallace was given. Dr. Hartness reviewed his new organizational chart and elaborated on its structure.

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Superintendent Hartness reviewed Davie County Schools' ABC Report Card. He showed graphs containing state, federal and local funding sources comparing those with other districts in the State. Data on student performance, safe schools and quality teachers and administrators was also briefly reviewed. Dr. Hartness stated we can be very proud of our report card given where we are academically compared to the amount of funding received.

Dr. Hartness gave an update on the Request for Qualifications advertised for the Facilities Study and Renovations at Davie High School. The RFQ's are due by 2:00 pm on November 7. A Building and Grounds Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 9 for selection of architects to recommend to the full Board. The Committee will also review proposals from Fuller Architecture for the Cooleemee Renovation Project.

Superintendent Hartness reported he met with the President of the Davie County Little League and some of their Board members, NDMS Principal Jennifer Custer and her athletic director to discuss a partnership to share facilities. Dr. Hartness showed maps of different athletic field placements that are being considered and discussed by the Little League Board. He will meet with them again prior to the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting and bring any proposals to that meeting.

Dr. Hartness reported the Evergreen Financial Report included some recommendations regarding areas the school system and county government could possibly work together. He contacted the County Manager and a meeting was held to discuss possibilities including fueling county vehicles, GPS tracking software, technology purchasing, supplies and materials purchasing, contracted transportation, wireless surveillance systems and grant writing. Ideas that are being further researched and those which are not feasible were reviewed.

Superintendent Hartness reported that Mr. Wallace will be putting together a school calendar committee in the near future. He reviewed the current new legislation and how it will affect the school calendar next year. All 115 North Carolina school districts requested and were granted waivers for this school year. The law still has the provision for a waiver of the 185 day requirement and Dr. Hartness has discussed with other Superintendents and staff members the possibility of requesting another waiver for next year. The request must be submitted by November 15. He cited reasons to support the idea. He asked the Board's permission to discuss further with principals at staff meeting and to entertain the idea of requesting a waiver of the five additional instructional days for the 2012-2013 school year. The State Board will act upon waiver requests at their December Board meeting. Mrs. Livengood made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller, to authorize the superintendent to move for a calendar waiver if he feels that it is in the best interest for the school system. The motion carried 6-0.

Dr. Hartness reminded the Board and encouraged them to attend the robotics competition being held on Friday, November 5, at all three middle schools and the Veteran's Day program at Ellis Middle School on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 pm and Friday, November 5 at 8:30am where a live Skype to officers in Afghanistan will be held and was arranged by Senator Burr's office.

**Student and Staff Recognitions**

Mr. Wallace recognized Lynn Marrs as Davie County Schools' Principal of the Year. Steve Ridenhour presented her a certificate of achievement on behalf of the Board.

Mrs. Barbara Owens, President of the Davie County Retired School Personnel, and Association members Linda Barnette, Jeanne Foster and Linda Leonard presented the book, *The Voices of Experience*, developed by members of the DC Retired School Personnel and a copy of *The History of Davie County Schools* by Marie Roth to a representative from every school and the Central Office.

**Consent Agenda**

**School Improvement Plans** – Revisions to the Cooleemee Elementary Schools' and Davie County Early College High Schools' Improvement Plans were presented for approval.

**Board Policy-** The Automated External Defibrillator Policy, #6130, was presented for approval.

**Budget Amendments** – State Public School Fund and Capital Outlay Fund budget amendments were presented for approval. These amendments represent adjustments based on actual revenues and expenses.

**Personnel** – Personnel recommendations were submitted for Board approval for employment, reassignments, leaves of absence, resignations and substitute teachers.

Mr. Ridenhour made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Owens, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

**Audit Report**

Chairman Renegar stated all financial statements of governmental agencies are governed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. This year a new pronouncement, GASB 54, was initiated and approval is not optional for the Board. The purpose is to achieve conformity in the way fund balances are reported. Mr. Renegar affirmed that these financial statements will conform to GASB 54.

Mr. Aaron Patel of Rives & Associates, LLP presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Mr. Patel commended Mrs. Smink, the finance officer and the finance department for excellent record keeping and financial data. Mr. Patel reviewed the Independent Auditors Report on the financial statement. Davie County Schools received a clean opinion, the best that can be received. Mr. Patel provided a two year analytical report, comparing the 2010 school year and the 2011 school year and reviewed the data contained therein. Citing revenues and expenditures, Mr. Patel stated the School Board has done an excellent job in cutting cost compared to the previous year.

The fund balance portion of the two year analytical report was then reviewed. The general fund balance as of 6/30/2011 was just under \$5M, a \$2.8M increase from 2010. The change in fund balance was due to the Federal Grants Fund, just over \$7M received this fiscal year compared to just under \$4M from the previous year. The increase was ARRA funds associated with grants such as EduJobs, Race to the Top, etc. and those funds were used as

opposed to using general fund monies. Mr. Patel reported this was a common practice by School Boards across the state. As advised by the auditors and noted in earlier conversations, the School Board realizes they will have to use general fund balance in the 2011-2012 school year and beyond for increased expenditures. Many of the ARRA programs have expired or will be expiring and those funds will not be available for use on those programs.

Mr. Patel reviewed the fund balance data in the new format required by GASB 54. The Board may consider a new category of fund balance entitled "committed funds", for funds committed for certain projects or expenditures and can only be used for that appropriation.

The Child Nutrition fund balance was reviewed. The Child Nutrition department, a "for profit" entity, has done a good job in making money every year and increasing their fund balance.

Mr. Patel reiterated that they had an unqualified opinion or no material findings to the financial statements. Two opinions on the compliance with major federal and state awards were offered with no findings there as well. A third opinion on internal controls had one finding which was an accounting issue in the Child Nutrition Department. There was no misappropriation of funds but the need for all of the necessary closing journal entries to be posted in a timely manner and before the auditors begin their work. The issue was discussed in the meeting with staff and auditors and will be taken care of before next year end. The one finding from the previous school year regarding calculation of indirect cost by Child Nutrition was corrected this year.

Both Superintendent Hartness and Chairman Renegar thanked the staff for their diligence in doing more with less over the past several years.

#### **Public Address to the Board**

Mrs. Wilson reviewed the rules for citizens addressing the Board.

**Randy McDaniel, Sr.** – addressed the Board regarding DCS Facilities. Mr. McDaniel cited the NC Statue that he feels the most important, 115C-47 Powers and Duties Generally of the Board of Education. He spoke to four of those duties: provide an adequate school system; assure appropriate class size determined by the NC General Assembly; produce school improvement plans and to encourage programs of successful transition between middle and high school. He reported that Iredell-Statesville School Board has a School Board Improvement Plan to make themselves better and hopes the Davie County School Board will do the same. He reviewed the three goals of the Iredell-Statesville School Board Plan. Mr. McDaniel believes the money being spent on a facility study would be better spent in the schools.

**James Kowles of Farmington** – addressed the Board regarding budget priorities. Mr. Kowles applauded the Superintendent for finding an Assistant Superintendent in house and for working with the Board of Commissioners on the Evergreen Audit issues. He asked if

Dr. Hartness' new organizational chart included any of the recommendations from the Evergreen Audit and if not, why not. He requested an update on the high school renovations and the \$5M from the county – what is it doing and where is it going? He spoke in favor of zero based budgeting and setting priorities. Mr. Kowles would like the Board to develop a policy in regard to fund balance and to work with the commissioners to sublease the land above the school for recreational options.

**Eddie Leagans, 1001 Pudding Ridge Road, Mocksville, NC** – addressed the Board regarding the School System. He applauded the School Board for the work they do in making informed decisions which affect everyone in Davie County. Mr. Leagans attended the joint meeting on September 22 of the BOE and BOC and was disappointed that the Board did not get good answers to their thought provoking questions. Mr. Leagans urged the Board to hang onto the land [Farmington Road] for a school. He informed the Board of 60+ acres that has been donated for a park three miles from that site and work is in progress to secure funding. He was pleased to learn Dr. Hartness is working with the Little League and feels that will be a win-win situation for the whole county. He pleaded with the Board to not give up on the idea of a second high school. He believes the county needs it for economic development and it would be a positive influence.

**Rachel Helm, off of Pudding Ridge, Farmington, Mocksville** – addressed the Board regarding the school system and budget. Ms. Helms said it was good to hear about the November 7 and 9 plans for renovation of the sites. In an effort for transparency, she urged the Board to put up any recommendations or controversy regarding those renovations. She believes it is positive that we have lower class sizes, higher scores and a minus \$400 per pupil expenditures and still have higher test scores. Ms. Helm believes the questions put to the Board of Commissioners should have been answered by the Board of Education and she felt it was disrespectful to the Commissioners in the way it was done. In regard to the park, Ms. Helms feels it could be a park for those who don't do sports and have walking trails, a dog park and feels if we have the money to build a park, why not? She likes the transparency of hearing the audit.

#### **Committee/Staff Reports**

**Finance** – Mrs. Smink reviewed the Donations Report as of November 1, 2011 and highlighted larger contributions. She reviewed the process of prepayment of Teachers, 10 Month Clerical Support and 10 Month Custodians due to HB 720 (Session Law 2011-379), School and Teacher Paperwork Reduction Act. One of the provisions eliminates the prepayment of teacher salaries beginning the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**Board Policies** – Under separate cover, Board members received Board policy updates recommended by the North Carolina School Boards Association. Dr. Hartness asked Board members to review the revisions and call him with any questions. These policies will be presented in December for Board approval.

**Board Comments** – All Board members offered congratulatory, condolences and closing comments.

**Closed Session** – Mr. Fuller made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellis, to go into closed session to consider confidential personnel information protected under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6), FERPA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, NCGS 115C-402 and to consult with their attorney to preserve the attorney client privilege as provided in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion carried 6-0. The Board went into closed session at 7:45 pm.

Following closed session, Mrs. Livengood made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to accept Dr. Hartness' recommendation for the Exceptional Children's Director position. The motion carried 6-0.

Having no further business, Mr. Ridenhour made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to adjourn. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting concluded at 8:16 pm.

  
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Terry Renegar, Chairman

  
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Dr. Darrin Hartness, Secretary

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