

OFFICIAL
MINUTES OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Blount County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the John P. Davis, Jr. boardroom at the Central Office.

Mr. David Murrell opened the meeting with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Raelynne Tipton.

Roll Call of the Board is as follows:

Mr. Chris Cantrell	Absent
Mr. Jim Compton	Present
Mr. Charles Finley	Present
Mr. Trevis Gardner	Present
Dr. Don McNelly	Present
Mr. Mike Treadway	Present
Mr. Rob Webb	Present

The clerk declared a quorum and Chairman Treadway called the meeting to order.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Dee Ann Martini addressed the Board regarding the budget.

REPORTS

1. Report from the Director of Schools

Mr. Britt stated the Department of Education had released state-wide achievement testing results for 2013. He also recognized Scott Kirkham, who has resigned, for his 14 years of service to Blount County Schools as Special Education Supervisor.

2. Personnel – Mr. David Murrell

The personnel report was accepted as presented.

3. Report from the Executive Committee

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve the consent agenda and agenda. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

1. Approval of Agenda for June 27, 2013, Regular Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes for May 30, 2013, Called Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes for June 6, 2013, Regular Meeting
4. Approval of recommended elementary school fee donation for 2013-2014
Dr. John Dalton
5. Approval of renewal of memorandum of understanding with Cherokee Health Services and expansion of program to elementary schools
Mrs. Mary Beth Blevins
6. Approval of Athletic Camps
 - A request from Bill Duncan, teacher at Heritage High School, to hold a Position Camp on July 17-19, 2013 at a cost of \$60.00 per camper
 - A request from Rick Howard, teacher at Heritage High School, to hold a Basketball Camp on July 15-16, 2013 at a cost of \$40.00 per camper
7. Approval of job description for Instructional Technology Trainer-Coach and Online Learning Coordinator
Mr. David Murrell
8. Approval of Non-Faculty, Paid Coaches
 - Brad Cochran-Football/Basketball-WBHS
 - Jordan Otis-Football-WBHS
 - Randall Davis-Football/Track-WBHS
 - Mikala Hill-Cheerleading-WBHS
 - Jim Millsaps-Girls'/Boys' Soccer-WBHS
 - Amber Young-Dance-WBHS
 - Keri Pigott-Bowling-WBHS
 - Micah Ballard-Boys' Basketball-WBHS
 - Joe Lee-Boys' Basketball-WBHS
 - Katrina Thaxton-Girls' Basketball-WBHS
 - Paul Donnell-Tennis-WBHS
 - Richard Hall-Wrestling-WBHS
 - Wanda DeWaard-Swimming-WBHS
 - Austin Plemons-Football-HHS
9. Approval of Chelsea Harmon as a non-paid, non-faculty dance coach at WBHS

AGENDA

1. TABLED 6/6/13-Discussion and possible action regarding Director of Schools contract Mr. Mike Treadway

Mr. Treadway made a motion to remove this item from the table. Dr. McNelly seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Treadway made a motion to renew Mr. Britt's contract effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 with the same compensation package he currently has (no increase). Roll Call vote was requested.

Mr. Compton	Yes
Mr. Finley	Yes
Mr. Gardner	Yes
Dr. McNelly	Yes
Mr. Treadway	Yes
Mr. Webb	Yes

After consideration Mr. Treadway stated he meant to extend Mr. Britt's contract through 2017. At this point he made a motion to void the previous action taken on agenda item #1. Mr. Webb seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Treadway then made a motion to renew Mr. Britt contract effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017 with the same compensation package he currently has (no increase). Mr. Finley seconded the motion. Verbal vote-all were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding Bid #2012-2231-Laptops
Dr. John Dalton

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve staff recommendations of Central Knox (low bid). Mr. Finley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Elevator Contract Bid Mr.
Gary Farmer

Dr. McNelly made a motion to approve Bid #2012-2241-United Elevator Service. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding 2013-2014 budget Mr.
Troy Logan

On June 20, 2013 the County Commission adopted an \$81,000,000 GPSF budget for FY 2013-14. This budget includes a 9 cents property tax rate from .99 to 1.08 which meets Maintenance of Effort. The original GPSF budget sent to County Commission was \$86,868,000. At the June 6, 2013 Board meeting, the Executive Committee presented three different budget scenarios for GPSF 141 one of which is listed below along with changes which have been incorporated into the budget. The Finance Committee recommends the following \$81,000,000 budget:

- This budget proposal would not include the Step Raise for certified employees. Instead the Finance Committee is recommending a compensation plan that involves a one-time bonus. The funds to be used are those generated through the BEP funding formula which the state requires to be paid in certified compensation. This proposal is pending Collaborative Conferencing.
- This budget proposal includes adding back one (1) elementary music teacher
- This budget proposal includes adding back one (1) elementary art (part-time) teacher
- This budget proposal includes adding back two (2) full-time and four (4) part-time TA positions in order to meet State and Federal mandated MOE spending requirements.

Wheel Tax Falls and Commission Meets \$1.6M MOE					\$81,000,000
# Cut					
SUBMITTED - Total FY 2013-2014 Budget Approp Request				Positions	
Layoff #	\$86,868,000				
Personnel & Benefits					
Eliminate 7 Elementary (K-5) Teacher Positions	7.0	0			
					\$(432,194)
Eliminate 7 Middle (6-8) Teacher Positions	7.0	0			\$(432,194)
Eliminate 7 High (9-12) Teacher Positions	7.0	0			\$(432,194)
Eliminate 1 ELOC-Alternative School Teacher Positions		1.0	0		
					\$(84,224)
Eliminate 1 Elem (K-5) PE Position	1.0	0			\$(46,500)
Eliminate 1 Guidance Counselor Position	1.0	0			\$(58,171)
Eliminate 1 Psychologist Position	1.0	1			\$(23,306)
Eliminate 1 Elementary Assistant Principal Position		1.0	0		\$(87,969)
Eliminate Summer Contract Days for Guidance Counselors					\$(27,000)
Eliminate 48 PT RE TA Positions	48.0	42			\$(360,285)
Cut all TA's from 190 Day Contract to 177 Day Contract					\$(200,012)
Eliminate 2 FT and 4 PT RE TA Positions	6.0	0			\$(109,694)
Eliminate 2 FT Custodian Positions	2.0	0			\$(72,267)

Eliminate 3 FT Maintenance Positions	3.0	0	\$(166,744)
Eliminate 1 Central Office Position	1.0	0	\$(31,800)
Cut Compensation (Classified and Est \$ Above State Reqmt)			
(1,084,480)			
Freeze All Salaries for Supervisors & School Administrators			
\$(85,569)			
Other Compensation and Benefits Adjustments			\$(204,000)
Cut Board of Education Member Fees			\$(4,200)
Eliminate Increases in Athletic Supplements			\$(240,000)
Eliminate All Elementary Athletic & Yearbook Supplements			
\$(31,219)			
Cut Supplements for 2 HS Head Football Coaches			\$(2,153)
Cut 5% of All Other Athletic Supplements in MS & HS			\$(22,987)

Operating Costs

Eliminate 5 Days RE Bus Transportation			\$(85,000)
Textbooks - New			\$(898,000)
Library Books - New			\$(100,000)
Technology - New			\$(350,000)
Regular Ed Support Travel & Other Contracted Services			
\$(20,300)			
Vocational Education Support Supplies			\$(1,000)
Postage			\$(1,000)
Utilities			\$(204,039)
Facilities Operations (72610)			\$(6,000)
Maintenance Operations (72620)			\$(36,500)
Capital Outlay - Comm Eq & HVAC Eq (76100)			\$(86,000)
Add: AED's Annual Parts Replacements			\$3,500
Add: Internet Access and Band-Width			\$9,000
Add: Unemployment Benefits for Layoffs			\$120,000
Add: Reimburse Food Service Annual Charges			\$6,000
Add: Other			\$43,700
Less: Other			\$(23,200)

AMENDED - TOTAL FY 2013-2014 FUND 141 APPROP BUDGET 86.0
43 \$81,000,000

Total FY 2013-2014 State Revenues for Technology Investments
\$590,000

Total FY 2013-2014 Increase Local Revenues - MOE Requirement
\$1,600,000

Total FY 2013-2014 Increase Local Revenues - Wheel Tax

\$

-

Total FY 2013-2014 All Other Revenues

\$78,810,000

TOTAL FY 2013-2014 FUND 141 REVENUE BUDGET

\$81,000,000

\$ (0.00)

Mr. Treadway made a motion to approve the General Purpose School Fund 141 budget for FY 2013-2014 of \$81,000,00 as presented by the Budget Committee. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion.

Mr. Compton made an amendment to increase the sales tax to 3.7% (est. \$314,000) plus add back the \$120,000 for unemployment benefits for layoffs to fund the 42 part-time TA positions (\$360,285) that were scheduled to be cut. (There would be no layoffs). He also included in his motion that as the year goes along any of those part-time TAs who resign or retire, those positions would be open, and stay open all year and at the end of the year those positions would be eliminated. Mr. Finley seconded the amendment. Roll Call vote is as follows:

Mr. Finley	Yes
Mr. Gardner	Yes
Dr. McNelly	Yes
Mr. Treadway	Yes
Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Compton	Yes

Amendment carried.

Mr. Compton made an amendment that a request for \$898,000 for textbooks be submitted to County Commission for funding based upon Public Chapter #305. Mr. Treadway stated this amendment was not in order at this time with regards to the budget. He stated the Budget Committee was determining what items meet the new law's specifications. No action was taken.

Mr. Compton made an amendment the remaining \$74,000 be used to fund two part-time positions (two blocks a day) at a cost of \$20,000 each for an auto mechanics teacher at WBHS and a computer science teacher at HHS. Mr. Finley seconded the amendment. After discussion, Mr. Compton revised his amendment to state that \$20,000 be used to fund a part-time auto mechanics teacher at WBHS and \$54,000 be used to fund a full-time computer science teacher at HHS. Mr. Finley seconded this revised amendment. Roll Call vote is as follows:

Mr. Gardner	No
Dr. McNelly	Yes
Mr. Treadway	No
Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Compton	Yes
Mr. Finley	Yes

Amendment passed 4/2.

Mr. Gardner cautioned the Board they were treading on dangerous ground. He stated the Board had hired a Director to run the school system and they maybe micromanaging his responsibilities. Mr. Treadway also stressed these changes will be based on approval from County Commission at their regular meeting on July 18th.

The Board also discussed salary compensation for classified personnel. Mr. Logan stated it would cost approximately \$250,000 to fund a step raise for classified employees. After discussion the Board agreed to revisit this item at a future date.

Roll Call vote on the motion as amended:

Dr. McNelly	Yes
Mr. Treadway	No
Mr. Webb	Yes
Mr. Compton	Yes
Mr. Finley	Yes
Mr. Gardner	No

Motion passed as amended 4/2.

There were no Comments from the Blount County Education Association

There were no Committee Reports

There were no Comments from the Community Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

- Mr. Gardner stated the Board adopted a budget too conservative for the students in Blount County. He stated the children who do not vote in five, ten, fifteen years will not thank us for having a conservative budget and a bare

minimum state requirement education because they will be competing with jobs everywhere from the City of Maryville to Japan, to around the world. We are competing with other communities with our school graduates. He stated they won't thank us and the community leaders won't thank us. Mr. Gardner also stated that to attract business industry to the area with our education system is one of the variables that we can control to attract those jobs. Likewise, those incumbent employers will not thank us for putting the absolute minimum in our education system when they have to take the county residents and educate them to get them ready for the jobs.

- Mr. Compton stated the State of Tennessee is 44th in funding for education. Blount County was 70 in the State of Tennessee last year. With this budget we will be less than 70 this year. Our teachers do an outstanding job. All the staff does an outstanding job. We are asked to put a world class school system out there on third world funding. It is impossible to do with the funding we have. Blount County has to support the school system.

- Dr. McNelly stated a lot of people think we are dining on caviar, but we are not, we have peanut butter. He invited any of the critics to come and sit in a classroom and see what is going on.

- Mr. Webb stated when he is having a stressful day; he likes to go to a school for lunch and watch. He stated we have some amazing staff in our system. Mr. Webb stated one thing that is disheartening to him is that we have first class staff, who are very dedicated to their jobs, and we see other systems go after them. We don't have the resources we need to adequately take care of our staff. He stated we are all in this together looking out for the students. Mr. Webb thanked Mr. Treadway, Mr. Britt, and Mr. Logan for their hard work.

- Mr. Britt stated one of the great determining factors of how well a school system is performing is looking at their student performance results. That is what it is all about; maximizing the academic potential of every student in a safe and personalized environment. One of the great things about the school system we get to come to work in each and every day, is the Blount County Schools continues to function above the state average. We continue to do that on a per pupil expenditure that is below the state average. Mr. Britt stated he thought that was the best bargain in the State of Tennessee and maybe one of the best in the nation. He stated we are maximizing our dollars here and he appreciates the Board and how much they care about our schools and providing our students a first rate education. He stated we are going to face the brutal facts of our present reality with the unwavering belief that we are going to prevail in providing our students the very best education that we can. The great thing about our principals, teachers, staff, central office staff, everyone picks up them self by the boot straps and moves on to maximize everything that they can, to provide the very best that we can, for our students. That is exactly what we are going to do this year.

Mr. Webb made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. All were

in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Treadway, Chairman

Mr. Rob Britt, Secretary