

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE GALAX CITY SCHOOL BOARD HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE GALAX HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY. PRESENT: MR. RAYMOND E. KOHL-CHAIRMAN; DR. JAMES G. ADAMS, VICE-CHAIRMAN; F. STEWART MERDIAN, HELEN O. KYLE, W. LARRY SPANGLER, MEMBERS; BILL H. STURGILL, DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT; REBECCA W. CARDWELL, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT; KARA D. GRAHAM, CLERK OF THE BOARD.

School administrators in attendance were Frances Turpin, Bill Sutherland, Jeff Sharpe, Justin Iroler, Derrick Spence, Kristie Legg, and Matthew Cornett. Others in attendance were students, teachers, and a member of the press.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Kohl called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATIONS

VSBA Academy Awards

Mr. Sturgill presented the following VSBA Academy Awards:

Mr. Merdian – VSBA Award of Recognition

Mrs. Kyle – VSBA Award of Excellence

Mr. Spangler – VSBA Award of Honor

Dr. Adams – VSBA Award of Recognition

Mr. Kohl – VSBA Award of Distinction

Focus on Instruction – Galax High School – English Department

Mr. Iroler stated that the English department at Galax High School has been working to improve the school's SOL writing scores. Mr. Iroler noted that over the past three years that the division has had some concern over the writing scores. During this time period, only 45 percent of school divisions met the 75 percent benchmark on the writing SOL. David Fant, Chairman of the English department at Galax High School, stated in order to improve the writing test scores; teachers for every subject are incorporating writing projects into their curriculum. The projects are assigned each quarter and the completed writing projects are placed into a student portfolio that follows the student into each grade level. Mr. Iroler and Mr. Fant expressed their appreciation to the Galax High School staff for their efforts in helping to improve the writing scores.

Community Participation

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE BY MRS. KYLE AND SECONDED BY DR. ADAMS THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (Items on the consent agenda include minutes of the

regular session held September 13, 2016, minutes of the special session held September 14, 2016, minutes of the special session held September 20, 2016, minutes of the special session held October 4, 2016, September payroll report, September electricity use report, September substitute report, October listing of bills.)

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

- Mr. Sturgill expressed his appreciation to the English department for their presentation and their work to improve the writing test scores.
- The division recently received a grant that will provide funds to update the security camera systems at Galax High School and Galax Middle School. The grant is for a total of \$100,000 of which 20% is from a local match.
- Mr. Sturgill stated that the division recently received a donation of \$1,000.00 from Jeff Johnson Chevrolet.
- Pam Key was the winner of the September fitness incentive program. All employees that participated in the program in September were entered into a drawing for the prize. Prized will be awarded each month to employees that participate and meet the designated requirements. A grand prize will be awarded in May 2017.
- Mr. Sturgill noted that all of the fall sports for the eighth grade teams have finished and basketball has started. Mr. Sturgill stated that a large number of students are trying out for the eighth grade boys and girls teams.
- Mr. Sturgill stated that the number of students participating in the first intersession for the year was up from the previous session. There continues to be a tremendous interest in the intersession program from students, teachers, and the community. The enrichment and remediation programs that are offered during the intersession week are having a positive impact on test scores.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of FY2016 School Activity Fund Audit

MOTION MADE BY DR. ADAMS AND SECONDED BY MRS. KYLE THAT THE FY2016 SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND AUDIT BE APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Overnight Trip(s)

MOTION MADE BY MR. SPANGLER AND SECONDED BY MR. MERDIAN THAT THE OVERNIGHT TRIPS BE APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The overnight trips are as follows:

1. Girls' Golf State Qualifier-Jonesville, VA-October 17-18, 2016
4 Students, 4 Chaperones (A. Horton, T. Neff, S. Hill, G. Laird)
Transportation: School Van
Projected Cost To: Student – \$0
School – \$300 Lodging (GHS Athletics)
Division – Transportation Expenses

2. GHS Band Spring Trip-Pigeon Forge, TN-March 30-April 1, 2017
 TBD # Students, TBD Chaperones (based on number of students)
 Transportation: School Buses
 Project Cost To: Student - \$350.00 All Inclusive (student fundraisers)
 School - \$0
 Division – Transportation Expenses

Building Project

Mr. Sturgill stated that on Friday, November 11, 2016 he will be meeting with three of the architectural firms that presented proposals for the Galax Elementary School renovation project. During this meeting, the firms will be given more detailed specifications and directions in regard to the scope of the project. The firms will be asked to make another presentation to the Board at a later date incorporating the more detailed specifications.

Board Reports

- Mr. Merdian stated that the Athletic Committee met recently and had a discussion regarding the remapping of the VHSL districts. The committee also discussed the turf project for the Galax High School football field, a facility for wrestling, baseball, and softball.
- The School and Community Relations Committee will hold an Arts Extravaganza at Galax High School on Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. The Galax High School Chorus and the one-act play will have performances during the extravaganza. The committee will also have a booth at the Downtown Halloween Bash on October 31, 2016.

PERSONNEL

Closed Meeting

MOTION MADE BY DR. ADAMS AND SECONDED BY MR. MERDIAN THAT THE BOARD CONVENE INTO CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3711(A)(1) TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT, RE-APPOINTMENT, RESIGNATION, RETIREMENT, AND LEAVE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD.

Reconvene Open Meeting

MOTION MADE BY MR. SPANGLER AND SECONDED BY MRS. KYLE THAT THE BOARD RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Certification of Closed Meeting

MOTION MADE BY DR. ADAMS AND SECONDED BY MR. MERDIAN THAT THE BOARD ADOPT "A RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2016" PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3712(D) OF THE "VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT". ROLL CALL VOTE: KOHL-AYE, ADAMS-AYE, MERDIAN-AYE, KYLE-AYE, SPANGLER-AYE.

