

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
May 21, 2014**

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in the Central Services Office Board Room where the meeting was called to order by Chairman Tollett at the approximate hour of 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Tollett, Blalock, Brewer
Bowman, Hutson, Schlafer
Stone, Janeway
Rolf Weeks (PTA/PTO rep)

ABSENT: Davis

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

1. Call to Order: (See above)

2. Pledge to Flag/Moment of Silence: After a moment of silence, Hutson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call: (See above)

4. *Adoption of Social Studies Textbook: Immediately after Chairman Tollett declared the meeting in session, Bowman made a motion to approve the adoption of the Social Studies Textbook. In discussion, Brewer stated that she has already told the board about the emails she has received regarding this issue, and she appreciates those email. She read into the record one statement that was contained in one of the emails. "It's up to us at the county level to stand firm for our friends." She stated that our children are our number one priority, but when an issue gets to this level, the board cannot do anything about the issue; it is in the hands of the State of Tennessee. She stated that because of this, we need to start focusing on who we put in national political seats, state political seats, and everyone needs to pay attention. She further stated that as long as she lives, she will never just sit back and do nothing; she will be observant and

watch the state-level decisions on education and book adoptions. That's where we have to start changing things, because by the time it gets to the board, it is almost dictated by federal and state law about what can or cannot be done. She stated that she was taught by a high school teacher that sometimes you have to choose between the lesser of two evils. She stated that she had previously voted against the adoption, but because of the presentation given by the teachers tonight, she has changed her mind and will vote for the adoption as presented.

In further discussion, Schlafer stated that he was under the impression that another option would be discussed and later brought before the board to consider, which has not been done. (That is the first option with the company that contacted Schlafer with what they felt was a solution for the board regarding this issue.) Ms. Graham stated that the lady has been talked to about coming to speak here, and she is coming on Friday. However, U.S. History is what they have to offer.

Chairman Tollett stated that the answer to Schlafer's question is that yes, this has been looked into, but not to the extent of reconvening the committee and going back through everything that is involved. Further discussion was had about the issue.

Mr. Rolf Weeks spoke about the tough decision the board has to make because of the division and the lack of unity in the community. He stated that the needs of our children are being met by some of the greatest teachers he has seen in his forty years of experience. In response, Chairman Tollett stated that much of the controversy that we hear so much about centers on books that are not even on the State's list. Mr. Andrews thanked the committee of experts for the hard work and commitment they have shown in this process.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Chairman Tollett (yes)
 Janeway (yes), Brewer (yes)
 Stone (yes), Hutson (yes)
 Bowman (yes), Blalock (no)
 Schlafer (no)

MOTION: Passed (6-yes, 2-no)

(One (1) disk dated 5/21/2014 is marked as Exhibit 2)

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ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tollett declared the meeting adjourned.
(The meeting was adjourned as the
approximate hour of 5:55 p.m.)

Mr. Donald Andrews
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Charles Tollett
Chairman of the Board

I, Virgie Lotze, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing minutes and that I delivered said minutes to the office of the superintendent on May 30, 2014.

Virgie Lotze
Virgilene T. Lotze
Notary Public at Large for
the State of Tennessee



My commission expires 6-6-14)

Special Called Meeting - Textbook Adoption
May 21, 2014 5:30 PM
Central Services Board Room

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. *Adoption of Social Studies Textbook
5. Adjourn