

1

**Cumberland County Board of Education
Special Meeting
May 7, 2014**

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in special session on May 7, 2014, in the Central Services Board Room where the meeting was called to order by Chairman Tollett at the approximate hour of 6:00 pm. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Tollett, Bowman, Davis
Hutson, Stone, Schlafer
Janeway, Brewer, Hutson

ABSENT: (None)

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

In opening the meeting, Chairman Tollett stated that quite a bit of time had been spent on the textbook subject in the work session that was held prior to this meeting. He asked Mr. Andrews to give his recommendation on the adoption of the textbooks. Mr. Andrews stated that it is his recommendation that the Social Studies textbooks presented by the supervisor of instruction and the Social Studies textbook committee consisting of representatives from each school be adopted as presented.

At this time, Chairman Tollett stated that he wished to clarify that the decision that will be made tonight by the board of education does not commit them to buy these textbooks; it is a recommendation to honor the requirement of the State of Tennessee that these textbooks be adopted. The decision to buy will be a budgetary decision.

At this time, Stone made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Andrews that we follow the recommendation of the staff and the textbook selection committee and approve the adoption of the textbooks as presented to the board.

In answer to Schlafer's question about what has been done regarding an alternative action that he emailed to Mr. Andrews, Mr. Andrews stated that it was looked at by Dr. Wood and Ms. Graham. Since it is a budgetary matter, he and the board are not prepared to discuss that issue tonight. Schlafer stated that it would have to be discussed tonight if it were going to be considered as an option. If that option is not on the list submitted to the State, then it cannot be considered as an option.

Ms. Graham stated that she received the email this afternoon about 2:00 p.m. She called that company and the company told her they would not give her the information she asked for if we are not going to commit to buy the

textbooks from their company. The company further told Ms. Graham that a representative would come and give a presentation to the board, but the time element does not permit that. She further stated that this company is not on the State of Tennessee's adoption list of companies.

Davis asked if it would be possible to ask for a waiver for one year, which means using the books we have now for another year. Chairman Tollett stated that it is possible to request a waiver, but he thinks the textbook adoptions run in a cycle, and if we wait a year to adopt, then the books would necessarily be used for a one year shorter period of time.

Mr. Andrews stated that the State of Tennessee's Common Core testing has already been put off for a year, but it will be implemented in 2015/2016. In discussion, Brewer stated that if we ask and receive a waiver, then the money could be carried over until next year and added to the amount that could be spent for textbooks.

Dr. Wood stated that something must be adopted this year; a waiver won't allow another year to study the issue. A waiver says that the textbook committee does not like what is on the list, and they either want to recommend another book, or they want to stay with the current series. The waiver does not approve another year to make a decision; it just means we don't agree with the choices and we want something different or we want to keep what we have.

Chairman Tollett reiterated that the decision that is before the board tonight to adopt the textbooks as recommended by the textbook selection committee does not require the buying of the books. That decision will have to be made at a later date.

In further discussion, Janeway inquired of Schlafer what the company that he alluded to will have to do to get on the State of Tennessee's approved list for the purchase of textbooks. Schlafer answered that they will have hoops to jump through before being added to the list, but the company should know the requirements. He thinks the likelihood of them getting on the list is strong, but the question has to do with how quickly that can happen.

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

MOTION: Failed (3-yes, 6-no)

Chairman Tollett stated that since the recommendation did not pass, it is incumbent that another recommendation be made that can be passed by the board.

(One disk is marked as Exhibit #1)

A work session was scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st, 2014, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Stone made a motion to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE: All ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at the approximate hour of 7:15 pm)

Mr. Donald Andrews
Director of Schools

Dr. Charles Tollett
Chairman of the Board

I, Virgie Lotze, do hereby certify that I transcribed the proceedings of the special called meeting as per pages 1-3, and that I delivered said minutes to the office of the director of schools on May 19, 2014.

Virgie Lotze
Virgie Lotze
Notary Public at Large for
the State of Tennessee

(My commission expires 6-6-15)

