

**Cumberland County Board of Education
Special Meeting
Selection of Superintendent
January 30, 2016 – 3:45 PM**

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Saturday, January 30, 2016, in the Central Services Board Room, where the meeting was called to order by Chairman Hassler at the approximate hour of 3:45 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT: Hassler, Stone, Blalock
Parris, Freitag, Janeway
Hutson, Patterson, Bowman

ABSENT: (None)

COUNSEL: Mr. Earl Patton

1. Call to Order - Mr. Don Hassler: (See above)

2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Don Hassler: After a moment of silence, Mr. Andrews led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda: (See Exhibit #1) Stone made and Parris seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented, as per Exhibit #1.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Stone (mover-yes)

Parris (seconder-yes)
Freitag (yes), Janeway (no)
Patterson (no), Hutson (no)
Bowman (no), Blalock yes
Chairman Hassler (yes)

MOTION: **Carried (5-yes, 4-no)**

4. *Superintendent Selection: Chairman Hassler asked each board member to use the paper ballot in front of them with all six names and check the candidate that they choose for superintendent of schools and sign the ballot and pass the signed ballots to Virgie. She will announce for whom each board member voted and Ms. Webb will mark the votes on the chalkboard.

VOTES FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: (See Exhibit #2)

- 1. Josh Stone for Janet Graham**
- 2. Don Hassler for Dan Schlafer**
- 3. David Bowman for Michelle England**
- 4. Jim Blalock for Michelle England**
- 5. Vivian Hutson for Michelle England**
- 6. Artie Patterson (no vote)**
- 7. Shirley Parris for Darrell Threet (Declared a conflict of interest)**
- 8. Richard Janeway (no vote)**
- 9. Jeff Freitag (no vote)**

(Continued on Page 2)

Votes: Ms. Michelle England – 3 votes
Mr. Dan Schlafer – 1 vote
Ms. Janet Graham - 1 vote
Mr. Darrell Threet – 1 vote
Ms. Patterson (no vote)
Mr. Janeway (no vote)
Mr. Freitag (no vote)

At this point in the meeting, Patterson moved and Freitag seconded a motion to reconsider the actions of the board in setting this special called meeting and set a later date for a special meeting. In explanation, she stated that the board members have heard from six very good candidates today and have gathered a lot of information; therefore, she thinks the board needs time to consider what they have learned today and have time to talk together without feeling that they are being rushed into making a decision. Freitag was in agreement with Patterson.

Stone commented that he agrees that all six candidates would do a good job, but he reminded everyone that there are twenty-two (22) other candidates that can be interviewed.

Parris stated that she understood that a person who voted to have the meeting today could not ask to reconsider the vote. Mr. Patton stated that Patterson abstained from voting to have the meeting today; therefore, number one, she can make a motion to reconsider, and, number two, while it was stated as a motion for reconsideration, it was made after the meeting was started; therefore, he would interpret the motion to be to terminate the meeting today or to table this issue for further discussion. (He thinks that was the intent of Patterson's motion.)

Bowman stated that he thinks the six that were interviewed today are the top-notch candidates to be considered, but if board members need more time to think about it, that time should be granted. He further stated that if the date is going to be reset, there needs to be in this motion a way to actually perform the task. He further stated that he thinks the board should vote, select the top two candidates, and the two top candidates should be voted on again.

Hutson agreed that the board has heard six great interviews today but since this is such an important decision, she thinks the board does need more time. She stated that she has looked at the other twenty-two (22) applications, and some of those people have moved from state to state a lot.

Stone asked to clarify the fact that he is not saying that any of the other twenty-two (22) candidates are any better than the six local candidates. What he is saying is that they should not be automatically dismissed because they don't reside in this county or state.

Patterson stated that, according to the policy manual, the board should have selected or agreed upon or talked about the selection procedure before the position was ever advertised. There are a series of things that were supposed to have already been done that were not done, according to Patterson. She thinks that mistake should be corrected. She is of the opinion that the only way the board can gain the respect of the community is to go by the policy manual. Chairman Hassler stated that Mr. Patton has participated in this process from the beginning and has approved all the actions of the board in this selection process, but if the board needs more time to work on this, he is not opposed to that.

In clarifying his "no vote", Janeway stated that he was elected to do the very best job and find the best candidate for the students and the teachers of Cumberland County. He thinks the six

candidates that have been interviewed are very good candidates, but he can't say they are the best since he has not interviewed any of the others.

Freitag stated that he agrees with Bowman – that if elimination is not put into the process, this could go on forever. After further discussion, Patterson rescinded her motion and Freitag rescinded his second to allow for an all-encompassing motion to be made.

After a further lengthy discussion, Janeway made and Parris seconded a motion to vote again since Mr. Stone's motion on Thursday night was to reach some kind of resolution in this matter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Janeway (mover-yes)

Parris (seconder-pass)
Freitag (no), Stone (no)
Hutson (no), Bowman (no)
Blalock (no), Patterson (pass)
Chairman Hassler (no)

MOTION: **Failed (1-yes, 2-pass, 6-no)**

After further discussion, Stone made and Bowman seconded a motion to adjourn after setting a date for a future special called meeting where there will be three items on the agenda – the first item, to decide whether the board wants to interview any of the non-local candidates; the second item will be to decide the method by which the board will vote on the local candidates; and the third item will be the actual vote and selection of a local superintendent of schools out of those local candidates if no outside candidates are interviewed.

(Before the vote was taken, February 2nd, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. was set for the next special called meeting.)

ROLL CALL VOTE: Stone (mover-yes)

Bowman (seconder-yes)
Freitag (yes), Janeway (yes)
Parris (yes), Hutson (yes)
Blalock (yes), Patterson (yes)
Chairman Hassler (yes)

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**

6. Closure/Adjourn: Stone made and Bowman seconded a motion to adjourn.

VOICE VOTE: All ayes

MOTION: **Carried unanimously**
(The meeting was adjourned at the approximate
Hour of 4:15 PM.

Mr. Donald Andrews
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Don Hassler
Chairman of the Board

(Continued on Page 4)

(Minutes of January 30, 2016 continued from Page 3)

I, Virgie Lotze, do hereby certify that I reported and transcribed the foregoing minutes and that I delivered said minutes to the office of the Superintendent of Schools on February 9, 2016.

Virgie Lotze

Virgie Lotze
Notary Public at Large for the
State of Tennessee

(My commission expires 6-4-19)

