

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 23, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
PATRIOT ACADEMY**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anne Marie Potts who then asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Board members present were Chair Potts, Vice Chairman Bill Jarnigan, Randall Bradley, Judy Cavanah, Ralph Lowery, Jim Vines and Jonathan Rogers. Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools and Secretary to the Board, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Potts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Potts welcomed the JCHS Youth Leadership Class.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Board member Vines made the motion to void the Director of Schools' current contract ending June 30, 2014 and issue a new contract effective July 1, 2014 for four years. Vice Chairman Jarnigan seconded the motion.

Board member Vines commented that he thought Dr. Edmonds had done an excellent job dealing with the building program and bringing the school board together. He also stated that he liked the educational gains the school system had made under his leadership.

Board member Bradley commented that he agreed with Mr. Vines that the board had been brought together under Dr. Edmonds' leadership. Mr. Bradley pointed out that the majority of the board was up for re-election this year. He felt if new board members were elected, there may not be options regarding the contract for the new members to take. He pointed out that he did not have a problem with renewing the contract for four years but the board election was something he wanted everyone to be aware of. Chair Potts responded that there is a termination clause for both parties in the contract.

Board member Cavanah had some concerns over a four year contract and the possibility of an elected superintendent being brought back before the legislature. Chair Potts pointed out that if an elected superintendent came back in it would change every county. Ms. Cavanah requested that language be added to the contract if an elected superintendent was passed by the legislature. Chair Potts stated that it could be added to the contract.

Director's Contract - continued

Chair Potts recommended that the board vote on the motion on the floor and then have discussion with Dr. Edmonds regarding the language in the contract, have the board's attorney, Chuck Cagle, review the new contract and bring it back to the board for further discussion.

Dr. Edmonds stated that he appreciated the board looking at his contract. He commented that he was not concerned with a raise in pay but would like to maintain the status quo with salary and benefits. He commented that he would like to finish what had been started regarding the building program and salary schedules as well as undertake renovations and additions at White Pine School.

Chair Potts commented that one of the strongest assets that Dr. Edmonds has brought to the board and to the school system is his ability to unify everyone involved and direct and lead the principals and teachers with respect. Chair Potts also pointed out that he has a good relationship with county commission and has been a good leader.

Dr. Edmonds commented that he would be willing to remove the clause in the contract regarding the consideration for percentage raises and raises that teachers receive. He pointed out that when he was hired he kept his insurance that he had in lieu of the insurance package and accepted an annuity instead. He asked that in a new contract the annuity be equal to what benefits would be coming to him for insurance if he had accepted the insurance package. He pointed out that he would not ask for a raise for the next four years. Dr. Edmonds stated that he would like a four year contract that could not be preempted by an election because he needed some security and wanted to finish the job that he had started.

Board member Cavanah made an amendment to the motion for a two (2) year contract. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The original motion to void the Director of Schools current contract ending June 30, 2014 and issue a new contract effective July 1, 2014 for four years passed 6-1. Board member Cavanah opposed.

Dr. Edmonds thanked the board for their action. He stated that he would work hard every day to accomplish good things for the school system.

The contract will be on the February agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Potts added the JCHS Curriculum to the agenda. Board member Bradley requested that an update on insurance regarding the Building 8 roof collapse be added to the agenda.

The board unanimously approved the agenda with the above additions by consent.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items by consent. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Dr. Edmonds recognized the school board for their dedication and hard work as part of Tennessee School Board Week.
2. Each board member received a copy of the current financial reports.
3. Darrell Helton, County Finance Director, updated the board on potential revenue sources from taxes on mixed drinks and cigarettes. He stated that the school system is currently receiving taxes on mixed drinks from Jefferson City but not Dandridge. He stated that officials in Dandridge said they were exempt because they fell under the “premier destination resort” classification. He also stated that a portion of the cigarette tax in Tennessee was supposed to go to local schools. He commented that he still needed to do some additional research on that. Mr. Helton said he would give an update on both of the issues in February. Board member Vines requested that Mr. Helton check on trademarking mascots as additional funding as well.

Dr. Edmonds asked that Mr. Helton report on the breakdown of invoices paid from the insurance proceeds of the Building 8 roof collapse. He reported that they had received a total of \$99,500 from the insurance company and so far \$99,380.34 had been spent. Board member Bradley stated that he thought the insurance money was designated for replenishing supplies for the teachers that lost materials during the collapse. Mr. Helton stated that was part of it but it was also for building temporary spaces for classrooms that were displaced. He went over the list of paid invoices. Mr. Bradley pointed out that there were at least two (2) teachers who lost materials and personal items that had not been replaced. He asked that Mr. Helton check to see what claims had been turned in but had not been paid and report back to the board in February.

Items for Information – continued

Mr. Helton pointed out that the Dandridge Volunteer Fire Department had also been paid \$12,155 for their services when the roof collapsed which did not come from the \$99,500 insurance money but from another clause under the insurance.

4. Dr. Edmonds reported that the Collaboration Meeting had been re-scheduled for January 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Patriot Academy.

5. Nancy Ann France, JCHS Assistant Principal, reported on early graduation and why students were choosing to graduate early. She went over statistics for the last four years showing the 2012 year as having the most graduates totaling 124. There were 106 in 2010, 105 in 2011 and 90 in 2013. Ms. France stated that the decline in 2013 was probably due to more dual enrollment classes and an increase in AP classes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion

NEW BUSINESS

1. General Budget Amendment #8 and Federal Budget Amendment #8

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Jarnigan and second by Randall Bradley, the board unanimously approved General Budget Amendment #8 and Federal Budget Amendment #8 for the 2013-2014 school year as submitted. (see attached)

Chair Potts stated that if the amendments were denied she would like to see reversing journal entries.

2. Resolution No. 2014-10 – Declare Surplus Property – School Buses

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Vice Chairman Jarnigan, the board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-10 declaring as surplus property six (6) school buses with seventeen years of service and a 1998 Nissan Quest. (see attached)

3. TSBA 2014 Legislative Agenda

Chair Potts requested that the item be placed on the February work session agenda.

New Business - continued

4. Naming of Jefferson Middle School Gym after Johnny Reagan

Upon motion by Jim Vines and second by Jonathan Rogers, the board unanimously approved the request to name the Jefferson Middle School Gym after Johnny Reagan.

5. 2014-2015 JCHS Curriculum Guide

Nancy Ann France, JCHS Assistant Principal, presented the 2014-2015 JCHS Curriculum Guide and answered any questions from the board.

Upon motion by Randall Bradley and second by Ralph Lowery, the board unanimously approved the 2014-2015 JCHS Curriculum Guide as presented. (see attached)

6. Michael Phagan passed out an update on the renovations and additions to Jefferson County High School.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Anne Marie Potts, Chair

Dr. Charles Edmonds, Director of Schools &
Secretary to the Board

Date

Date

