

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 21, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.
PATRIOT ACADEMY**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mike Dockery, Quality Control Advisor for the County Commission Oversight Committee, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL FOCUS – DIRECTOR’S ART GALLERY AND TEACHERS’ OF THE YEAR

Sherry Finchum, Director of Federal Programs, Elementary Education and Accountability, introduced the winners of the Director’s Art Gallery for the third nine weeks. Each winner received a certificate and their art work framed. Winners were Dakota Harris, Jefferson Elementary Kindergarten, Josie Taylor, Jefferson Elementary First Grade, Hailey Potts, White Pine School Second Grade, Murphy McMillian, JCHS 10th Grade, Marina Oaks, JCHS 11th Grade and Sheri Ferguson, JCHS 12th Grade. Kim Tupps, JES Art Teacher, Miranda Lewis, White Pine Art Teacher, and Karen Bible, JCHS Art Teacher was also recognized.

Carol Baker, Director of Human Resources, introduced Craig Day, Jefferson Elementary Principal, who then recognized Amanda Lay from Jefferson Elementary as the Teacher of the Year for PK-4, Dominique Salaciak, Director of Secondary Education and Assessment, recognized Whitney Jacobsen from Jefferson Middle School as the Teacher of the Year for Grades 5-8 and Dr. Scott Walker recognized Dr. Tammy Bowlin from Jefferson County High School as the Teacher of the Year for Grades 9-12. Each teacher was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Jarnigan requested that Mike Dockery, Quality Control Advisor hired by the County Commission Oversight Committee to help oversee the restoration of Building 8, be added to Items for Discussion.

Approval of Agenda - continued

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Judy Cavanah, the board voted 6-0 to approve the agenda with the above addition.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion by Ralph Lowery and second by Judy Cavanah, the board voted 6-0 to approve the consent agenda items as submitted. (see attached)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mike Dockery, Quality Control Advisor, updated the board on his analysis and opinion of the renovation of Building 8. He stated that he was concerned over a few issues and had discussed his concerns with Rentenbach. He was concerned how slow the reinforcement rods were being installed in concrete blocks around the school. He had an issue with the lower roof of Building 8 being in such bad shape. His concern was that the west and north area of the roof was not included in the scope of work. He felt this was something that the County Commission and School Board needed to discuss. Mr. Dockery commented that he was very pleased with Rentenbach and the process they were going through. He stated that he would be making reports to the board on the progress of the program at all meetings.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION – DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

1. Each board member received a current copy of the financial reports.
2. Dr. Edmonds updated the board on the 2015-2016 school budget process. He stated that the budget process this year had been very slow. He went over correspondence from Maryanne Durski, Executive Director of the Office of Local Finance, stating that they had received a revised April BEP estimate. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that the revised estimate amount was \$32,933,000 compared to \$32,613,000 in the original estimate which was over \$300,000. The correspondence went on to say that the revision was made due to a problem with the query that pulled special education numbers which resulted in lower than expected special education ADM numbers in many districts and that issues still exist with regular career and technical and/or special education ADMs. Ms. Durski encouraged school systems to review the ADM numbers and continue to work towards reconciling local student information systems with EIS. Ms. Durski stated in her correspondence that it was possible that all districts' funding would change between now and final allocations in July and that the change could be positive or negative. She advised to continue to treat the revised April estimate as only an estimate of the BEP funding.

Items for Information – Budget - continued

Dr. Edmonds commented that it was hard to prepare a budget based on figures that were inaccurate. He stated that he would continue to wait for more information.

Dr. Edmonds informed the board that the Tennessee Department of Education, Jefferson County and the Follett/Aspen Teams were meeting on Wednesday to try to understand the discrepancies between Aspen SIS and EIS reporting. He reported that he would keep the board informed of the status of the progress.

Board member Potts made the motion that the budget revenue and expenses equal each other (zero balance) and that non-classified personnel receive the same percentage raise as the teachers. Board member Bradley seconded the motion.

Board member Potts suggested looking at the actual expenditures in 2014 in order to find the money to cover the non-classified raise. She commented that she didn't anticipate receiving money from the County Commission for the operating budget this coming year. She stated that she would prefer to see a good document to begin with to send to County Commission.

The motion that the budget revenue and expenses equal each other (zero balance) and that non-classified personnel receive the same percentage raise as the teachers passed 6-0.

3. Each board member received a copy of the change order where the contractor's contingency had been decreased by \$350,000 at the request of the owner. Board member Potts questioned Dr. Edmonds as to what the change order was for and why the board had not approved the change order since the board was the owner. Dr. Edmonds responded that the change order was approved in May 2014 by the county finance director and himself. He stated that one of the goals of the renovation at the high school was to install the needed technology infrastructure, equipment and devices required to meet the needs of students and staff and to meet the increase in on line testing mandates from the state. He pointed out that they went from two computer labs when the renovation started to nine computer labs. Dr. Edmonds commented that the funding needed to be expanded in order to meet these objectives. He stated that there was not enough funds in the owner's contingency to accomplish that goal. He went over the owner's contingency and how it was used stating that \$650,000 was used for structural repairs that had not been anticipated, abate of asbestos in the amount of \$120,000, the board approved a change order of \$250,000 to add the fly space in the auditorium, \$115,000 went for new doors and hardware and \$35,000 to update the gym of which \$22,000 of that was for lights. Dr. Edmonds pointed out that \$160,000 remained in the owner's contingency and \$200,000 remained in the contractor's contingency making a total of

Items for Information – Change Order - continued

\$360,000. Dr. Edmonds commented that he felt confident that the project would be completed with the funds that are available. He further commented that he had followed the same procedure for change orders that had been followed the past four years with the building program. He pointed out that the mandate is for the finance director to sign the change order and he signs as director of schools to verify the change order. Dr. Edmonds stated that in his opinion he had followed the same procedure that had been followed. He commented that they had accomplished provisions in technology for the students and staff.

Board member Bradley expressed his concerns over why the board was not approving change orders if the board was the owner. Dr. Edmonds responded that he didn't think it was required for the board to approve that change order. He pointed out that the two change orders that the board did approve was a change in scope and the technology was included in the scope of the project but was expanded. Board member Bradley commented that \$350,000 was a lot of money to spend on technology and he felt the board should have been involved.

Vice Chairman Vines commented that the board had known this for a while and in his opinion this should have been brought up when it happened if it was such a big issue. Board member Cavanah commented that the board was told about the technology when they took the tour of the high school renovations. Board member Potts stated that the issue was not that technology was bought but the fact that the contractor's contingency was used. She commented that in her opinion the scope did change when they added the computer labs which were not in the original plan that the board approved. She pointed out that it was not carried out using correct procedure. Vice Chairman Vines stated that in his opinion the board knew about the technology project a year ago. Board member Potts stated for the record that she did not know. There was no more discussion.

4. Each board member received a copy of the 2014-2015 salary schedule as requested by board member Potts. Dr. Edmonds pointed out a four percent increase in the BEP for teacher compensation for the 2015-2016 school year but stated that it would be different than in the past. He stated that the local government did not have to match the percentage. He pointed out that it was the county commission's discretion as to whether or not there would be a local match since they already exceeded local match through maintenance of effort.

5. Each board member received a copy of the classification chart by job title for classified employees for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #13

Dr. Edmonds pointed out that amendment (#1) was needed to cover anticipated and actual cost for the year's end which included workman's compensation insurance, building and contents insurance and the Trustee's commission totaling \$78,685.

Upon motion by Anne Marie Potts and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 5-0 to approve General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #13 (#1) as stated above. Vice Chairman Vines abstained. (see attached)

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 6-0 to approve the remaining General Purpose Fund 141 Budget Amendment #13 (#2, 3 and 4) as submitted. (see attached)

Vice Chairman Vines requested that a breakdown of rates for the Trustee be made available at the next meeting.

Approval Federal Purpose Fund 142 Budget Amendment #13 and Food Service Budget Amendment #4

Upon motion by Vice Chairman Vines and second by Randall Bradley, the board voted 6-0 to approve Federal Purpose Fund 142 Budget Amendment and Food Service Budget Amendment #4 as submitted. (see attached)

2. Approval – Math Textbook Adoption and Waiver

Upon motion by Judy Cavanah and second by Vice Chairman Vines, the board voted 6-0 to approve the math textbook adoption and approved the report of local adoption of textbooks not on contract. (see attached)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2015-2016 School Calendar

Upon motion by Judy Cavanah and second by Ralph Lowery, the board voted 6-0 to approve the 2015-2016 school calendar as submitted. (see attached)

Unfinished Business - continued

2. Remaining Balance at Patriot Academy - \$117,878.34

Dr. Edmonds passed out a Resolution for the board's consideration regarding the return and request for the use of remaining funds previously appropriated by the Jefferson County Commission to the Board of Education. Dr. Edmonds recommended that the board consider returning \$108,878.34 to the County Commission and request that the funds be approved for use in paving at Jefferson County High School. He pointed out that \$9,000 of the remaining balance of \$117,878.34 would be used toward paving of the curb at Patriot Academy.

Board member Bradley made the motion to take \$9,000 from the \$117,878.34 remaining balance at Patriot Academy to use toward paving of the curb at Patriot Academy. Vice Chairman Vines seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Vines asked if there was any way to get \$9,000 for the curb paving at Patriot Academy from another source in order to return the entire amount of \$117,878.34 to county commission. Dr. Edmonds commented that they would try to find the \$9,000 from another source.

Vice Chairman Vines made the motion to return the total remaining balance of \$117,878.34 to the County Commission. Board member Potts seconded the motion.

There was some discussion from board member Potts regarding her concerns that County Commission may not return the money. Ms. Potts questioned if the Resolution was necessary in order to pave the parking lot at Jefferson County High School. Dr. Edmonds commented that he was concerned about using the funds for another campus when it was designated for the Patriot Academy even though the school was considered a 9-12 high school. Dr. Edmonds commented that he would support Ms. Potts suggestion.

Board member Potts commented that there was still some funds left in capital projects. She suggested taking that money, add it and ask the county commission in a Resolution for changes to capital projects and the remaining balance for Patriot Academy in order to use it for paving so the board did not have to go to county commission two different times. Dr. Edmonds commented that it was a good idea.

Vice Chairman Vines made the motion to postpone his motion until the next board meeting to return the total remaining balance of \$117,878.34 to the County Commission. Board member Potts seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-1. Chairman Jarnigan abstained.

Unfinished Business – continued

3. Elementary Basketball Proposal

Vice Chairman Vines made the motion to have the elementary basketball games played in the schools that can accommodate a basketball game and not at Field of Dreams as stated in the proposal. The motion died for lack of a second.

Board member Bradley made the motion to adopt the elementary basketball proposal as submitted for one (1) year and evaluate the program at the end of that year in order to decide to continue the program or not. Vice Chairman Vines seconded the motion.

Board member Cavanah asked if the school system's insurance would cover the Field of Dreams location. Dr. Edmonds commented that it would. Chairman Jarnigan asked who would receive the \$40 fee that the students had to pay. A representative of the proposal commented that it would be used to purchase uniforms for the players. He stated the proceeds from concessions and gate fees would be used to purchase uniforms for players who could not afford the cost of a uniform. He further stated any money left at the end of the year would go to Field of Dreams. Chairman Jarnigan had some concerns regarding referees and who would be used for that. The representative stated that they would be using real referees and not students.

The motion to adopt the elementary basketball proposal as submitted for one (1) year and to evaluate the program at the end of that year in order to decide to continue the program or not passed 4-1-0. Board members Bradley, Vines, Cavanah and Lowery voted for the motion, board member Potts voted against and Chairman Jarnigan abstained.

4. White Pine School

Each board member received a lunch schedule for all schools. There was no more discussion.

5. Chairman Jarnigan reminded the board that there would be a Board Policy Committee Meeting on May 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

6. Chairman Jarnigan requested that plans begin for an Open House at JCHS prior to the beginning of school starting for the 2015-2016 school year.

7. Dr. Scott Walker gave a brief update of the recent SACS accreditation process. He commented that JCHS had been given a score far above the average for other high schools

Unfinished Business – SACS - continued

worldwide. He commented that he was very proud of the school and they were moving in the right direction.

8. Chairman Jarnigan set a called meeting for April 30, 2015 if budget information was available. The meeting would be at the Patriot Academy at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Bill Jarnigan, Chairman

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

Date

Date