**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**
**March 13, 2017**

The Caswell County Board of Education met with the Caswell County Board of Commissioners for a joint/social meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency/911 meeting room. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Donna Hudson, Mel Battle, Tracy Stanley, and Ross Gwynn. Others present include: Interim Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter. Board of Education members Vice Chair Sylvia Johnson and Betty Sartin were not in attendance.

Caswell County Board of Commissioners present include: Chairman Kenneth Travis, Vice Chair David Owen, William Carter, Rick McVey, Sterling Carter, Nathaniel Hall, and Jeremiah Jefferies. Others present include: County Manager Bryan Miller. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes for the Board of Education and Paula Seamster recorded minutes for the Board of Commissioners.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order and a moment of silence was observed. Immediately following a moment of silence introductions were made of those in attendance.

## II. Projected Budget Items

Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter reviewed plans for moving forward in reference to instructional needs, dropout rates and behavioral systems and support. Dr. Carter shared exciting plans for additional CTE courses including a fire fighter program and mentioned the overwhelming community support for local volunteer firemen. Animal science will also be added to the CTE program and Dr. Carter noted the support from PCC and the talk of an agricultural center within the county.

Other areas reviewed by Dr. Carter include:

- DPI is conducting a comprehensive needs assessment at the middle school along with a scheduled date for April for the high school.
- District wide code of conduct
- Areas for improvement/support system for the alternative program and the students
- Discussion with Caswell Family Medical Center and Danville Regional Foundation for support for behaviors with students at the alternative program
- Social worker for the school system is needed and will be requesting funding for this position. Dr. Carter also noted that the commissioners had deemed March as Social Worker month.
- Online courses and offering more electives to the students
- House Bill 13 was reviewed and expressed concerns regarding the funding if legislature continues to move forward. Concerns were noted regarding teacher pay for music/art/physical education and the flexibility of funding. Dr. Carter has reached out to Senator Woodard to offer his support. This could result in an additional $432,000 for the school system.
- Needs at schools included stipends and sign-on bonuses for our principals and teachers. We continue to lose quality teachers to surrounding districts.
- Custodial needs included approximately $57,000 for machinery to clean each schools bathrooms. Currently the school system has one machine and one is needed at each school.
- Chiller at Oakwood Elementary will be included in the budget.
- Mulch is needed at schools to meet requirements for the school system. ($30,000)
- Cafeteria upgrades and security issues were also included in needs for the school system.

Dr. Carter reviewed plans for the central office to consolidate to one building at the annex building. The Board of Education approved plans to move ahead earlier in the day at their regular meeting. The current central office site will be auxiliary services and will house the maintenance, transportation and child nutrition departments.

Dr. Carter expressed the need for a student services worker and would like this to be included in the budget.

Dr. Carter reviewed renovation of the high school and shared that a committee was formed to create a needs listing. The committee also traveled to visit other schools outside of the district. Plans are to request lottery funding and NC Compete funds for this project.

Commissioner Carter questioned where we are with the internet project? County Manager stated the equipment has been ordered by has not arrived. The FCC may need to take a closer look and this has been delayed until the end of March. Glen Knox is assigned to sales engineer. The range of the internet is now showing thirty miles.

Commissioners questioned the cable that was being installed from the school system. Dr. Carter shared that Technology Director David Useche submitted a grant proposal and the county is one of two in the nation to receive this grant. This will expand internet capabilities for our schools systems; however, the money is through an eRate program and is only allowed to be used for school systems.

Commissioner Carter questioned concerns regarding the Civic Center and the needs for seats, curtains, lighting. Dr. Carter noted that we are in process of receiving quotes for the seats. The inside lighting is being updated by the maintenance department. The seats will most likely be included as a budget request to the commissioners.

Commissioner Nate Hall questioned the academic improvement plan and expressed his concerns with the school system at length. Mr. Hall also expressed concern with the schools not having PTSA groups. It was stated that the only school that does not currently have these groups are the high school and one elementary school. Other Board of Education members expressed the difficulty in parent involvement and noted the reason this may occur. Other groups including booster clubs and alumni associations are very supportive at the high school level.

Commissioner Nate Hall continued to express his concerns with the school system at great length.

Commissioner David Owen discussed Senate Bill 234 and the appropriation of significant funding and shared this is for new school building projects. Dr. Carter responded that she will look into this.

Dr. Carter was asked to pick the areas that were most important. She responded that definitely stipends and sign on bonuses, a chiller at Oakwood and the need of a social worker. Dr. Carter shared she will include these along with other needed requests when submitting the budget information.

Commissioner Nate Hall questioned the need for an innovative high school versus an early college. Superintendent Dr. Carter responded that an early college would need to be located on two different sites and the innovative high school can use our current locations along with working with PCC who is next door. Dr. Carter plans to submit a letter of interest for an innovative high school in April and to investigate this program.

Commissioner Nate Hall expressed his concerns with not having certified teachers in the classroom. Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter shared the difficulty in finding certified teachers and shared that other counties offer larger supplements which entice them to go elsewhere. Lengthy discussion took place. Commissioner Sterling Carter offered his support for the school system and felt that substitutes should not be in the classroom for more than a month. Commissioner Sterling Carter questioned how many positions are currently being filled without a certified teacher. Dr. Carter will follow up with this answer to Commissioner Sterling Carter.

Commissioner Rick McVey expressed his concern on economic growth and how this may impact the county.

Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter noted that as a rule of thumb we try to keep three months of funding in the fund balance for contingency funds.

County Manager shared information regarding the commissioners funding and amounts given to the school system. Commissioner Nate Hall suggested a task force to talk with teachers and conduct an in-depth study to see what is important. Board of Education member Mel Battle shared information on a project within State Employee Credit Unions that build apartment housing for new teachers. The school system conducted a survey to see what interest there would be for Caswell and the results showed absolutely no interest.

County Manager Bryan Miller shared concerns with using the school facilities and noted that the old Dillard has a "no trespassing" sign. Superintendent Dr. Carter stated that all that is needed to use these facilities is to complete a community resource form for approval.

Board of Education member Mel Battle questioned when the budget information is due? County Manager Bryan Miller shared that packets have been sent out that outlines the process. The school system has not received their packet as of the time of this meeting.

## VI. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the joint social meeting at 7:40 p.m., Tracy Stanley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 27, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Whitley Administration Building.

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Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent