

**CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 5:00 P. M.**

**Charter School Library**

**205 Edgefield Street**

**Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday, November 20, 2014**

**PRESENT:**

Chairman Keith Ashley, Michael Brandt, George Morrow, Rebekah Parnell, Mike McMinn, Bill Scott, Rena Rhodes and Horace Thomas were all in attendance. Also, present was Martha McMinn, Deirdre McCullough, Terri Hall and Lori Lindler.

**ABSENT:**

Kaye Hicks was absent.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Ashley called the meeting to order at 5:01 P. M.

**INVOCATION:**

Mrs. Parnell gave the invocation.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:**

Chairperson Ashley stated the agenda is compliant with the Freedom of Information Act.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Brandt made motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Rev. McMinn. Motion passed unanimously.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mrs. Lindler read the Mission Statement.

Chairman Ashley swore in Mr. George Morrow as a member of the CFCS School Board for School Years 2014-2016.

**Election of Board Officers:**

Rev. McMinn nominated Mr. Keith Ashley for Board Chair. There were no further nominations and Mr. Ashley was elected by acclamation. Discussion followed regarding vice-chair. Mr. Thomas, who previously served in this position, was nominated but had not arrived at meeting at that point. The decision was made to put vice-chair on hold until he arrived to accept or decline the nomination. Mr. Ashley asked for nominations for Secretary. No nominations were made. Rena Rhodes stated that with assistance, due to other time consuming commitments at various times of the year, she would agree to serve in that position if there were no other volunteers. Mrs. Lindler had previously agreed to assist and Mr. Ashley stated that his wife would also assist with recording minutes, preparing documents etc. Having no other nominations or volunteers, Ms Rhodes was also elected by acclamation.

**BUDGET REPORT:**

Mrs. Martha McMinn presented the updated budget. She stated that our current accountant, Ms Robyn Verdery, is in the process of reconciling our financial statements and working to get a clear picture of what we have and what we have spent. Chairman Ashley asked about a \$139,500 rental listed in the budget. This is the fair market value of the building being donated by the town. Ms McMinn explained why this was in the budget and how it is written in as revenue and spent out of expense....basically a wash out, not actual money coming in as revenue. Chairman Ashley also asked about the property tax charged on a public institution. Ms McMinn proposed that it was probably taxes on fixed assets such as buses, equipment. Chairman Ashley is going to ask County Council about these taxes and seek cancellation of the current taxes and reimbursement for past taxes paid. Chairman Ashley asked for motion to accept the budget. Mr. Brandt made such a motion. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Chairman Ashley asked for discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

There was no one present for public comment.

**APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:**

Minutes for two special meetings were presented: September 17 and October 8. Mr. Brandt made the motion to accept minutes of both meetings. Rev. McMinn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Mrs. McCullough provided an email from the district office stating that CFCS has been recognized as a Title 1 Reward School for the second time. She informed the board about someone doing a dissertation on Title 1 reward schools wanting to come to Calhoun Falls as we are the only charter school that has received that honor.

Mrs. Lindler gave a presentation and provided an informational packet on school report cards. She stated that we are held accountable federally (ESEA) in middle school by performance on PASS test, percent tested in ELA and Math and scores in all four subject areas. High School held accountable in HSAP, which is going to be replaced, EOC scores, number of students tested and graduation rate. The absolute and growth rating middle school for 2013-2014 is Average. For the high school, absolute rating is Excellent and growth rating Good. The federal accountability score for the middle school is 84.5 and the high school score was 98.1 for an average of 87. Mrs. McCullough stated that no middle school in the state received an absolute rating of Excellent or Good.

Mrs. Hall presented a PowerPoint on state mandated testing. She explained how changes have been made in recent years regarding testing. She touched on former standards in each subject area that have been replaced with Common Core standards. These will be in place for one year while legislature is drawing up new standards. She explained how we are now graded on a growth matrix which is a "moving target". She stated that we are now "going to be tested on a test we don't know what is." We do know that future tests will be increased in vigor. She further explained that HSAP testing is no longer high stakes because diplomas are not attached to pass or fail of the test because of new legislature decisions. This will present an issue of keeping students motivated to do best on test. Another change coming will be going from paper/pencil test to online. The PowerPoint included many graphs/data showing how CFCS scored by grade and subject area and compared to other area schools. Ms. McCullough stated that sixth grade scores typically drop. Ms Hall listed strategies in place including remediation,

enrichment, focus groups, study island, MAP testing, piloting a program called iReady, conferences with students, ICU no zero policy. Chairman Ashley asked if we still had ISS program. Ms McCullough stated that we do twice per week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms Rhodes stated that an item of new business is to address the problem of heating the gym. A study last year done by SCE&G found that the gym was being heated entirely by heat strips and suggested a new propane system to heat the area. A discussion was held on various ways to deal with the problem: Rev. McMinn asked about turning the heat on based on temperature outside. Mr. Brandt suggested running a kerosene heater before athletic events. Mrs. Lindler proposed moving various classes to other locations on cold days. Chairman Ashley proposed that heat should not be turned on in the gym for now and all classroom thermostats should be set no higher than 68 degrees.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Brandt made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contractual issue. Rev. McMinn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mrs. Parnell made motion to come out of Executive Session; she was seconded by Mr. Brandt. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brandt made motion to approve the following budget cuts: One full time custodian, one ICU/ISS Instructor, one part-time cafeteria worker, after school program, instructional staff development, furlough of 3 days for all staff. Mr. Morrow seconded the motion. Discussion ensued on the effect of cutting the after school program would have on academic performance. Ms. McCullough and Ms. Lindler stated that teachers are available even without the actual after-school program. Mrs. McCullough stated that she would rather keep the support teachers as opposed to the after school program if a cut has to be made. The vote was unanimous and motion carried.

Ms. Rhodes asked about hiring Ms. Martha McMinn to do part time ELA remediation and part time Internal Financial Control. Ms McCullough stated that she had been receiving sub pay for

her time in the classroom. Rev. McMinn asked if someone already on staff could teach those 3 remediation classes. He asked if perhaps Mrs. Hall could fill in that position. Mrs. McCullough stated that she would be qualified if she accepted that position. She said she didn't know if she would want to do it a whole year as that would be like asking her (Ms. McCullough) to teach an English class or Lori (Ms. Lindler) math. She said she would fill in if there was a desperate need, but we didn't need a sub in there because there is a purpose and goal for the class. Mrs. Parnell stated that perhaps Ms Hall would do it until we "get through the storm" so that we could use what we have instead of pulling in new people. Ms. McCullough said she has done that for two years, so she did not see her saying no. Mrs Parnell stated she would be the easiest one to go in there as she knows all the material. Ms. McCullough reiterated that she would not want to just bring in a sub for that class. Ms. McCullough also stated that Ms. Hall has a plan for just one math and one ELA teacher. Rev. McMinn asked Ms McCullough if she would talk to Mrs. Hall about teaching the class and she said that she would. Mr. Brandt asked if we needed to make a motion regarding the heat situation. Chairman Ashley said that would be a movement by management not a motion by the board. Ms. McCullough said she had already informed the athletic director and PE teacher and instructed them not to turn on the heat in the gym. Rev. McMinn discussed the expectations for Ms. McMinn's position in regard to time and effort on her part.

Chairman Ashley asked Horace Thomas if he accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. He declined and nominated Rebekah Parnell, who declined. Mr. Thomas then nominated Mr. Brandt for the position. He accepted the nomination and was elected unopposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Thomas made motion to adjourn the meeting, she was seconded by Rev. McMinn, all were in favor.

Chairman Ashley adjourned the meeting at 9:04 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rena Rhodes