

CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009 @ 5:00 P. M.
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

MEETING LOCATION:
CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
205 EDGEFIELD STREET
CALHOUN FALLS, SC 29628

CALL TO ORDER

Calhoun Falls Charter School Board met in a scheduled committee meeting with Chairman Keith Ashley presiding. Board members present were Michael Alewine, Bert Broadwell, Joseph Cade, Dale Gilchrist, Heather Hatchett, Horace Thomas and Peggy Lee Waters. Also present: Principal Deirdre McCullough, Assistant Principal Lori Lindler and Bill Moser of Kelley – Moser Consulting. Board member Michael V. Johnson was absent.

Mr. Ashley opened the meeting at 5:00 P. M. and asked Mr. Alewine to lead in prayer. Mr. Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Hatchett read the Mission Statement.

Mr. Ashley welcomed the visitors to the meeting and invited Benjy Sorrow to address the Board. Mr. Sorrow stated he wanted to speak to the Board concerning the relationship with the Booster Club. He stated they have worked hard to appropriate money for the sports program and feels the club should make the final decision on the hiring of the coaches. We need a committee composed of Booster Club and School Board members. The Booster Club needs to make the final decision if the hired teacher should coach or not. We need a committee from the Booster Club to confront the problems that arise during the year. We followed the chain of command and spoke to Mrs. McCullough for help. When she spoke to the AD he let

her know he didn't like taking orders. At that point she asked the Steering Committee for help, he stayed and we worked on. If the Board makes the decisions then what we do is lost time. We want a fair share of what is to be done with these coaches. I don't think its right for the Booster Club to work for the money but have no input. If a teacher is hired as a coach, and we pay that coach, there should be a Committee of Booster Club members and Board members to work out problems that may arise. All the paperwork involved in the Booster Club is lengthy, we are close to completion of the work on our 501 © 3. Mr. Sorrow stated he is disappointed the Club has no say so. He feels the club need not be involved in the interview process until the teacher is hired. We need about \$11,400.00 to pay coaches next year. Further stating he would love to stay on but without the support of the school he doesn't feel he can. Our kids want to play sports and without them our school won't survive. We have raised over \$70,000.00 this year. I haven't wanted to speak publicly about these problems because of fear of the media and I appreciate the opportunity to speak. Mr. Ashley stated he still does not understand what the Booster Club is seeking but believes Mrs. McCullough is capable of making good decisions. If she hires a teacher and the Booster Club does not approve of that teacher are you saying they should not be hired? Mr. Sorrow stated that is the way it should be. Mr. Broadwell stated he thought the Club had a part by sitting on the committee to interview. Mr. Cade stated he thinks Mr. Sorrow wants to be over the coaches. Mr. Cade stated there is no school that allows the Booster Club to run athletics. Mr. Sorrow responded by saying but we're a charter school. Mr. Cade stated we're a member of the High School League, the chain of command does not include the Booster Club, we must abide by their rules. Mr. Sorrow stated that is why I feel the Board should be the Booster Club. Mrs. Gilchrist stated the Board is not hiring, that's what the interview committee is for. Mrs. Gilchrist stated she had been late to the Booster Club meeting and asked Mr. Sorrow if this had been mentioned, if not, why? Mr. Sorrow stated there was no need to bring it up. Mrs. Gilchrist stated Mr. Sorrow is the president, it should have been mentioned. Mr. Sorrow stated if you are on

2 committees it will create a problem. Dale stated no, it will not and you should have mentioned it last night. If I had you would not have allowed me to speak tonight. Mr. Sorrow stated when we had problems with Mr. Watkins you went to all Board members and told them what a problem it would create if we handled that problem but that problem should have been handled. Mrs. Gilchrist agreed but stated the problems he created should have been handled as well. Everyone has worked hard, but you and Coach Watkins were wrong and we have to remember we are doing this for the children. Mr. Ashley asked Mr. Sorrow if and when Mrs. McCullough makes her selection, do you want the Booster Club to vote on that person, if the club does not vote in favor are you saying that person will not be hired. Mrs. Gilchrist stated that is not in our By-Laws. Mr. Alewine asked what will you do if you do not agree with her next choice and that person does not fit for a teaching position. Mr. Sorrow stated if an individual wants to coach, Booster Club would give approval first, then the Board. Mr. Ashley stated he would not sit on the board without some type of governance over the school. Whoever is hired will represent the school whether we pay them or not. If you are saying you will skip over the Board completely, I will have a ninth say in this decision. Mr. Thomas stated he was President of the Booster Club for over 15 years and he never had anything to do with the coach, it should be Principal/Board decision whether the Booster Club has a voice. The Principal is responsible for all personnel. Mrs. Waters asked Mr. Sorrow what he would do if the Principal hires a coach the club does not like. Mrs. Gilchrist stated we need a teacher more than an Athletic Director. Mr. Sorrow stated you would get a representative from the Booster Club and the Board along with Mrs. McCullough. Mr. Ashley asked Mr. Thomas, don't we have that committee in place and aren't you on that committee. Mr. Thomas stated yes, I have been involved in one interview and do we have By-Laws concerning this. Mr. Ashley stated no. Mr. Thomas stated as Booster Club President he considered himself a helpmeet and worked as hard as he could to raise the funds to supply their needs. The coach just came in and told me what he needed. Mr. Ashley stated we should take Mr. Sorrow's information and discuss it in personnel and asked

Mr. Sorrow if there were no changes was he planning to step down. Mr. Sorrow stated he feels he has done a years work and now you are taking it and will hire and fire. This topic was discussed at a past Board Meeting but no one knew about it because it was not on the agenda. Mr. Ashley stated it was discussed in personnel, we voted on it as the chain of command. Mrs. Gilchrist stated this matter could have been settled earlier if you had come to the special called meeting. Mr. Sorrow stated he did not know about the meeting. Mr. Ashley stated when Coach Watkins decided to do his part there was no need to talk to Mr. Sorrow. Mr. Ashley stated the Board never met with Coach Watkins either because of a time issue but Mr. Cade and Mr. Johnson were present when Mrs. McCullough and Mr. Ashley spoke with Coach Watkins. Mr. Ashley thanked Mr. Sorrow for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ashley asked for a motion to approve the November minutes. Mr. Alewine made the motion and was seconded by Mrs. Hatchett. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cade abstained.

Mr. Alewine made a motion to approve the January minutes. Mr. Cade seconded the motion, there was no opposition.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Moser stated the first round of cuts, \$79.00 per student and the second was \$225.00 per student. It put us in the hole about \$2900.00, charter schools are hit harder with budget cuts. The cash flow is always an issue. Mrs. McCullough stated the P & I grant was sent in today. The line of credit will be available in March. Mr. Ashley asked if we will receive the same amount on the P & I next year. Mrs. McCullough stated it could be as much as \$350,000.00 next year. Mr. Ashley asked if we are limited on what we do with the P & I funds. Mr. Moser stated Dr. Barbara Neilson, Interim Superintendent is writing to legislatures and the District Board about this problem. Mr. Ashley stated he was looking over the last budget report and noticed there are several lines with money still there and asked, are we due a large amount of money I am not aware of? Mr. Moser stated every month

EFA funds, Title I funds come in but we haven't received the IDEA funds yet. Mrs. McCullough stated we have been approved on Title I. Mr. Ashley informed Mr. Moser the board discussed at the last meeting there are several line items, clubs, etc. we don't want touched until it is actually withdrawn. We feel as though we're taking money from the students. Mrs. McCullough stated we can use Title I for salaries, we need more teachers and Title I will provide these. Mr. Moser stated if there is another 7% cut he doesn't know what we will do. Mrs. McCullough stated Dr. Daniel said we should bring people to the Charter School rally on February 19 and we should make appointments with our legislators. She further stated we must inform people that charter schools are the way to conquer the budget crisis. Mr. Ashley if anyone had more questions for Mr. Moser. Mrs. McCullough mentioned we need to hire an auditor. Mr. Moser stated we should sign an engagement letter by the end of March with an auditing firm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. McCullough stated map testing will begin in about 2 weeks on math and english and she and Mrs. Lindler will go for more training on the following day. She stated she and Mrs. Lindler feel the middle college is the niche for CFSC, partnering with Technical schools. We think we may possibly be a hybrid school, which are a brick and mortar school as well as a virtual school. They can play sports as well. Mrs. McCullough stated she had been told a virtual school could save our school and we want to explore all of our options.

There was discussion about a student wanting to register who was coming from an alternative school. Mr. Ashley stated we need to seek advice from Dr. Daniel. Mr. Alewine asked are you sure we have to accept him. Mrs. McCullough stated no, because we did not get legal counsel. Mrs. McCullough stated she has not done anymore interviews. Mr. Alewine asked if the helmets have been sent off. No one present knew. Mrs. Gilchrist stated she had been told Barry Jacks stated he will get 30 of our students next year. Mrs. McCullough and Mrs. Lindler stated they have not

heard about it but they will schedule a meeting with the 5th graders from John C.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ashley stated we will have a raffle at the Yard Sale for a 410 rifle and Mrs. Hatchett is making the tickets. He hopes to get those out before the next meeting. Mr. Ashley asked how much we should sell them for. Mr.

Alewine stated he thought we should sell \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

Mr. Ashley asked Mrs. Lindler about the progress of the 501 C 3, saying she had forms from Mr. Moser. He asked if the auditor could complete it for us.

Mr. Broadwell asked Mrs. Waters to get in touch with Greene and Company.

Mr. Ashley reminded everyone of the charter school rally in Columbia next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ashley mentioned the cell phone issue which was discussed at the community meeting saying we cannot search all 230 kids. We will be responsible for the phone if we take them. We have a good policy and I would hate to ban phones, there will always be kids who disobey. Mrs. Hatchett stated she does like for kids to have phones in case of emergency. We should just enforce our policy and be fair to everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Alewine made a motion to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Mr. Cade. Motion passed.

Mr. Ashley stated board approval is needed for several coaches. Mrs. Gilchrist made a motion to approve Junior Rudder as softball coach and was seconded by Mr. Thomas, motion passed. Mrs. Hatchett made a motion to approve Casey Rudder as softball coach and was seconded by Mrs. Waters, motion passed. Mrs. Waters made a motion to approve Rosa Turman and was seconded by Mr. Alewine, there was no opposition. Mr. Cade abstained

from each one of these recommendations. Each of these coaches is approved provided pass of background checks which is paid by the coach.

Mr. Alewine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mrs. Hatchett. Motion passed.

Mr. Ashley adjourned the meeting at 8:06 P. M.

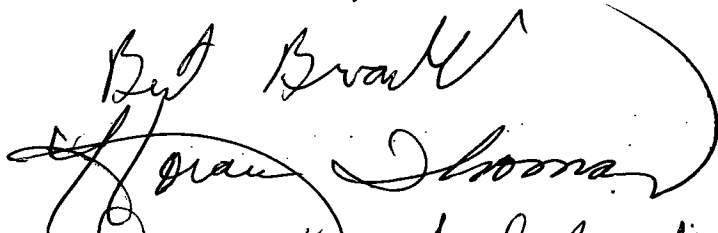
Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lee Waters



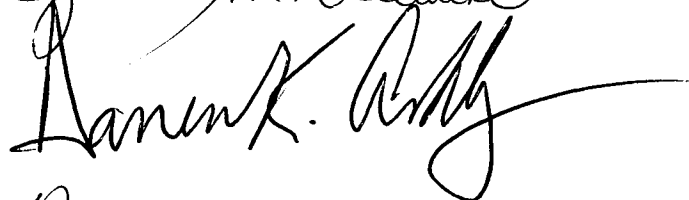
Board signatures 3/10/09

By Brock



Dale K. Selhurst

James M. Alewine



Peggy Lee Waters