

CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2009 @ 5:00 P. M.
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Ashley called the meeting to order at 5:00 P. M. and asked Mr. Alewine to open the meeting in prayer. Mr. Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mission Statement was led by Mrs. Gilchrist.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Alewine made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Cade . Motion passed with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Johnson stated he had spoken to Mrs. McCullough about the MLK celebration. Also, during Open House he had visited Mrs. Patterson's room and found the stove was broken. He informed the committee he wrote a letter to Frigidaire asking for help. He stated he will do anything for the school.

Mr. Ashley thanked Mr. Johnson for his comments and asked for a copy of the letter he wrote to Frigidaire. Mr. Johnson stated there are many sources available. The community should continue to pull together by continuing the community meetings. Mr. Ashley agreed and Mrs. McCullough stated the letter was informative but asked Mr. Johnson to condense the letter to 1 page. Mr. Ashley thanked Mr. Johnson for his comments.

Mr. Floyd Tillman asked for a list of chores needed to take out to the community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Moser reported he is looking to put in place an Intervention Specialist/Assistant Principal whom yesterday was our Assistant Principal/Guidance Counselor. Further stating, we can move Mrs. Lindler from the General Fund and pay her with Title I Funds we will remove some strain from the General Fund budget. He also informed the committee the state has issued a 7% cut. Mr. Ashley stated he did not understand how the state can cut a budget during the year. Mr. Ashley asked Mr. Moser, as of today, it is speculation, we will have a 3% cut and when. Mr. Ashley stated we should be notified of something this important. Mrs. Lindler stated at least the Title I Funds are available.

Mr. Ashley stated we would be moving our account from Capital to First Citizens due to the fact we have the line of credit. Mrs. McCullough stated we would have had additional problems had we not had the line of credit. Mr. Thomas asked if the meeting packets could be available before the meeting. Mrs. McCullough stated we usually do have the packets ready but not for this meeting. Mr. Ashley stated boxes would be marked in the teachers lounge for the board and each member could pick up the information on the Monday before the meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. McCullough reported 33 seniors and juniors earned credit for English 101 last semester from PTC and during this semester they are in English 102. She also reported that she, Mrs. Lindler and Mrs. Hunnicutt had been introduced to the Heritage Abstinence education course. Mrs. McCullough stated she could not say

enough about the course, it's educational and interesting. It is not prevention, it is abstinence. The course has made a difference in preventing pregnancy. Students must have parental permission. Mrs. Lindler stated volunteers are still needed. Mrs. McCullough reported Wayne and Kathy Stevenson and a national speaker would be at the school on Friday, December 19 for faculty training. She stated the Title I funds would fund this training.

Mrs. McCullough also reported she had submitted demographic information for 3 grants, which are the SRO, CSX and 21st Century. The 21st Century grant is for after school programs .

Mrs. McCullough reported Mr. Evans has returned to the faculty to provide ISS. She stated this is huge for the school, it keeps kids in school for punishment rather than sending them home to do nothing. This will show them we are serious about behavior problems. She stated they do threaten to leave us, pick up transfer paperwork but usually all do return the next day. As of today, there are 231 students.

Mrs. McCullough stated she introduced the Service Learning Project on the day before the meeting. She stated some students complained saying they would transfer, but she does not believe they will, saying it will take affect. She reported she informed the students they need to give back, reminding them of all the community has done for them. She asked them to reach out to others, just as the Steering Committee had done by setting the example. The students are to serve 10 hours per year. Many students have already performed hours, helping move to prepare for the opening of this school year. Some students cleaned rooms for clubs. Mr. Alewine stated he had calls during the day from parents who said their children told them they would fail if they did not participate. Mrs. McCullough stated she had planned to incorporate this project and learned from Dr. Church it is a part of our application. She informed the board schools all over are including this in their curriculum. Mrs. McCullough stated a student asked her what happens if I do not participate, which she asked Dr. Church for advice and he advised her to give the students the summer to complete and if that fails he told her to tell the student to find another school. Mrs. McCullough stated she feels it is a sad day when students cannot give 10 hours to service learning when the community has come together for them. She stated she informed them their

moans and groans tell her something is lacking in their character. Character is what this school is about, not only education but also building character. Mrs. McCullough stated anything kids don't like, they twist it, she stated she learned that from her own children. She used the term, community service, which immediately turned them off. That term has a stigma, some of them have done community service. They think it is labor, I had to change the term to serving others. Mrs. McCullough stressed it is time to reach out to those who reached out to them. Group projects are allowed, the FCA did a food drive. The school receives papers from the Anderson Independent which students can distribute to the home bound or nursing homes. Mr. Ashley or teachers can find them work to do around the school. Churches are a good place to volunteer as well. Mrs. Gilchrist asked who will keep the records for the students. Mrs. McCullough stated the parent or adult supervisor is responsible for signing a log book. Mrs. Lindler stated she has received transcripts with service learning credits on them. Mrs. Hatchett stated it builds better citizens for tomorrow. McCullough stated the application states there are 4 service projects per year and said she has spoken to the students about this project on many occasions. Many students earned their credit during the Fall for the Falls. They will receive incentives through Title I for rewards. Mrs. McCullough stated she would like to raise the bar next year, increase the hours and give medals. Service learning is where education is heading. Mrs. Lindler stated this benefits the student on his/her college resume. A 9th grader can start now and build a great resume by their senior year. Mrs. McCullough stated her eldest has entered college and each application they completed asked for service learning.

Mrs. McCullough stated the board must soon establish a failure policy for the middle school students.

Mrs. Hatchett asked when the map testing would begin. Mrs. McCullough stated the faculty must be trained and she received the call today to schedule the training at the school.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ashley stated the board raised 713.00 on the fireworks.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ashley stated the community meetings are overdue and he has been asked several times about continuing them. The meetings help keep the community energized.

Mrs. McCullough stated she had attended the region meeting today and Vick Lollis informed her he will send her a letter saying we will get back in the region for all sports next year except football. Football will be guaranteed for the fall of 2010.

Mrs. Gilchrist asked when she would accept applications. Mrs. McCullough stated she had already received about 5 applications and with the need for a math teacher she will submit an ad this week. Mrs. McCullough stated she hopes the community understands there has to be a slot open for a coach. We cannot make a position for a coach. We hope to find a coach who will be a part of the faculty, if not, we will go outside of that. Mr. Broadwell stated he thought the school had nothing to do with athletics. Mr. Cade stated according to the High School League, the Principal is over the Athletic Director and all coaches. Mr. Ashley stated finding a coach is a large job. Mr. Broadwell stated people tell him Benjy Sorrow is hiring the coach. We need for everyone to be aware of the chain of command, the hiring will be done by the Principal. Mrs. McCullough stated Mr. Sorrow has never told her whom to hire. Mr. Ashley stated he did not think the board approved anyone Mrs. McCullough hired last year. Mr. Cade stated yes, we did, because of the time frame, she hired them and the Steering Committee approved all of them at one time.

Mr. Ashley asked for discussion on the date and time for the community meeting. It was scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at 3:00.

Mrs. Gilchrist asked if anyone knew anything about the fund raiser planned for January 24. There was little information anyone had on the fund raiser.

Mr. Ashley asked for discussion on possible fund raisers:

Mr. Johnson suggested a carnival held during the Town Wide Yard Sale.

Mr. Ashley suggested selling granite steps to make a walkway of excellence. He also stated he would soon have tickets ready to sell for a Walmart card give away.

Mr. Johnson also stated he and Mr. Alewine may have a pre-order sale on whole barbeque pork roasts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Alewine made a motion to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Mr. Cade. Motion passed with no opposition.

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Thomas asked if there was a way to let people know ahead how long they may have to wait after Executive Session. Mrs. Waters stated she had informed Mr. O'Shields the meeting would run long. Mr. Alewine made a motion to pay Mr. O'Shields the remainder of what is owed to him, not exceeding 5,000.00. He was seconded by Mr. Thomas, motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McCullough stated she had expelled 2 students for the remainder of the year. Further stating, they had worked with the students in every way, even writing contracts but nothing seemed to work. She stated it is sad, the parents want them in school but some students do not want to be in school.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Alewine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed with no opposition.

Mr. Ashley adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Lee Waters