

## MINUTES OF THE WISE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

January 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER:

Ted Thompson called the meeting to order.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Ted Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The late Dr. Jim Graham, former Wise County Schools Superintendent, and former J. J. Kelly High School Band Director Lucian Priode were recognized for their accomplishments and commitment to the students, parents and staff members of Wise County Schools. Coeburn High School Student Victoria Jordan sang the National Anthem.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The organizational meeting of the Wise County School Board was held on Monday, January 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m., in Conference Room A of the Education Center.

Dr. Perry conducted the election of the Board Chairman for the year 2009 and sought nominations from the Board for Chairman.

Vanessa Perry nominated Ted Thompson for chairman for the year 2009. Mike Mullins seconded the motion.

Mark Hutchinson nominated Barry Nelson for chairman for the year 2009. Betty Cornett seconded the motion.

Betty Cornett made a motion that nominations cease. Monty Salyer seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

Because of a series of tie votes, the Board was in unanimous agreement to proceed with item 7.2, School Highlights and Reports, and postpone further organizational efforts until after presentations were made to students.

### EDUCATIONAL REPORT/HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Green Roof Project at St. Paul High School

St. Paul High School Students Anna Carter, Morgan Scarberry, and Kayla Kennedy did a PowerPoint presentation on the Green Roof Project at St. Paul High School.

They explained that the green roof was:

- ❖ Vegetative
- ❖ Planned and built by students
- ❖ A watershed schematic
- ❖ Roof accessibility

In the presentation, the following benefits of a green roof were noted:

- ❖ Provides important environmental and human benefits by
  - Purifying the air
  - Acting as an eco-friendly insulation
  - Capturing runoff for repurposing
  - Reducing storm-water runoff
  - Providing aesthetic appeal

Various pictures showing the progress of the green roof were presented. The students reported that future plans were to repurpose the tractor shed into a gift shop and office. Funding in the amount of \$18,312.50 was received through team written grants.

Funding was received from the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Tennessee Valley Authority.

### Spelling Bee Contest Winners

Director of Elementary Education Carol Grace and Dr. Perry presented certificates to the winners of Wise County School's Annual Spelling Bee Contest:

<u>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Ali Qureshi (WPS)	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – J.D. Boggs (LFA)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Matthew Kennedy (WPS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Kaitlyn Stratton (LFA)
<u>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Sarah Burke (LFA)	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Josh Bolinsky (CMS)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Daniel Hollyfield (WCCS)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Alyssa Meade (LFA)
<u>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<u>BEST OF COUNTY</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Paishia Hillman (LFA)	Josh Bolinsky – (CMS)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Ashley Deel (CMS)	Ali Qureshi (WPS)

### Bullying Prevention Month

In recognition of January being designated as Bullying Prevention Month, Wise County Schools Violence Prevention Specialist/SAP Counselor Vicky Welch provided a summary of Wise County Schools' efforts to prevent bullying in Wise County Schools.

### Art

Dr. Perry related that Wise County Schools has several talented students throughout the division who possess a wide range of skills and that he wanted to take time to highlight some of the art produced by the students. He advised that various artwork was displayed in the tile area and asked Board Members to visit the exhibits that were on display. Recognized teachers involved in the process.

### John C. Harris Leadership Award

Dr. Perry recognized and presented a certificate to Powell Valley High School student Von Jessee for receiving the National Beta Club John C. Harris Leadership Award. He advised that only twenty-five students in the United States received this prestigious award.

### Return to Organizational Meeting

After various suggestions on how to proceed regarding the continued tie vote for electing a chairman, and after the fifteenth tied vote, Ted Thompson withdrew his name from consideration for Board Chairman resulting in a unanimous vote for Barry Nelson as Board Chairman. Newly elected Board Chairman Barry Nelson commended Ted Thompson for his past service and opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Phillip Bates nominated Mike Mullins for Vice-Chairman. Ted Thompson seconded the nomination.

Betty Cornett nominated Monty Salyer for Vice-Chairman. Mark Hutchinson seconded the motion.

On a roll-call vote, Mike Mullins was elected as Vice-Chairman with a 4/3 vote with one abstention. Because he was a nominee for Vice-Chairman, Monty Salyer abstained from voting.

### Robert's Rules of Order

Betty Cornett made a motion to adopt Robert's Rules of Order Simplified and Applied along with The Tie Vote. Ted Thompson seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

### BOARD ATTORNEY

Betty Cornett made a motion that Scott Mullins continue to be the Board Attorney and that he attend all meetings. Mike Mullins seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

### APPOINTMENTS – CLERK AND DEPTY CLERK

Dr. Perry requested that the Board appoint Judy Clawson as Clerk and Ron Vicars as Deputy Clerk for the calendar year 2009. Mark Hutchinson made a motion to appoint Judy Clawson as Clerk and Ron Vicars as Deputy Clerk for the calendar year 2009. Betty Cornett seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

### SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETING DATES/PROCEDURES

#### Schedule of Board Meetings

Betty Cornett made a motion to approve the proposed schedule of Board Meetings for the calendar year 2009, indicating one regular meeting on the second Monday of the month and a workshop session on the fourth Monday of the month. Ted Thompson seconded the motion and all members voted aye on a roll-call vote to approve the schedule as presented.

### Superintendent's Designee

Dr. Perry asked that Greg Mullins be approved as his designee to act in his absence. Mike Mullins made a motion approve Greg Mullins to act in the Superintendent's absence. Vanessa Perry seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING, 6:00 P.M.**

Chairman Nelson called the regular board meeting to order.

### ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the clerk and all members were present.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vanessa Perry made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Phillip Bates seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Phillip Bates made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ted Thompson seconded the motion.

Betty Cornett inquired about bills payable, grounds service at CHS, in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Vicars explained that this was for work on drainage at the baseball field.

All members voted aye on the roll-call vote to approve the consent agenda.

Dr. Perry reiterated the purpose of the consent agenda items, and requested that if anyone had questions to call prior to the meeting. He said if there were questions or concerns that he would take the item out of consent items and place it as a discussion item.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mike Mullins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vanessa Perry seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

Betty Cornett asked that a change be made to page 83, to correct a typographical error and change the word of to or.

Vanessa Perry made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mike Mullins seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

#### WCEA REPORT:

WCEA President Ann Wade commended former Board Chairman Ted Thompson for his efforts in correcting the teacher salary scale for last year. Ms. Wade welcomed Betty Cornett back and thanked Dr. Perry for the information she received in the Board packet. She reported that the WCEA would be sending representatives to Richmond for Lobby Day. She stressed that with the state's current financial situation, it was very important that they go. She stated that the WCEA was looking forward to working with the Board and Dr. Perry in preparing the school budget. In regard to Policy GCL, she said she did not think there would be any problem as long as it was done consistently throughout the county.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chairman Nelson opened the floor for public comment and reminded anyone who was addressing the Board to address the chairman, to avoid personnel issues, and to adhere to the five-minute rule.

Pound resident Ronald Mullins voiced his concern regarding the school system's attendance policy relating to Saturday school. Mr. Mullins commented on several issues relating to the proposed school consolidation and asked the Board to tell them what they were planning to do. He asked if the schools had adopted the Universal or International Property Maintenance Code and if they had he was demanding that the schools be brought up to the code. He demanded that the School Board provide answers to his question.

Coeburn resident Sherry Meade commented that Coeburn High School's windows were so dilapidated and broken, and plumbing problems were unacceptable and posed a health risk to the children. Ms. Meade commented that it was disturbing that the only rooms with AC were the principals' office. She said that prisons were maintained and in better shape than our schools.

St. Paul resident Ann Gregory commended Dr. Perry for his stamina during the recent community forum meeting in St. Paul in which over 200 people attended. She said she was disappointed that only District 4 members were there. She distributed a copy of a column she did as Editor of *Clinch Valley Times* that referenced President-elect Obama's economic stimulus program called American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan. She said the focus of the plan was to provide funds for school modernization and construction projects. Ms. Gregory suggested that the school system consider renovation or revamped schools and take advantage of the stimulus package to achieve this.

Appalachia resident Marlene Bush commented that she felt Dr. Perry had been very patient and as honest as he could be. She said she knew that some Board Members had been working behind the scenes to get Norton to join Wise County Schools. She

asked when they would be told where the school sites would be located. Ms. Bush stated that Coeburn residents were beginning to recognize that they were not going to get a school in Coeburn.

Pound resident Harold Greear welcomed Ms. Cornett back. Mr. Greear referenced the proposed addition of Norton City Schools to Wise County Schools. He stated that this was in actuality initiating a regional educational system and that Wise County should look at inviting other counties to join. Mr. Greear stated that Pound would rather do consolidation with Clintwood instead of Wise and that people in Clintwood like the idea also. He said that if Norton was invited to join the county that Dickenson County should also be invited. He said the school system was opening the door to a regional school system and needed to contact all neighboring counties and see if they would like to join.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Staff Management Plan/Reduction in Force Policy

Dr. Perry advised that he anticipated state education funding the school system receives will take a reduction for the upcoming year and could continue to decline in the future. He reported that state proposed reductions include non-instructional personnel such as support staff to include teacher's aides and paraprofessionals. He stressed that the reduction in force policy was not being activated at this time. Dr. Perry said they needed to deal with the situation in a proactive manner instead of in a crisis manner. Dr. Perry related that it was also important to look at the school system's staff reduction policy as part of plans to consolidate because a significant amount of the savings would be directly related to staff reductions for teachers and principals. In response to questions regarding a time frame of several years, Dr. Perry stated that this was something that did not have to be done immediately and would probably be part of a staff management plan approved by the Board. Board Member Monty Salyer said he wanted to dispel rumors and provide some calm to employees because the county school system was planning to discuss consolidating with Norton City Schools. Mr. Salyer made a motion that in the event the Wise County School Board has the majority vote to allow a neighboring school division to join the Wise County School Division, and a reduction in force should occur, Wise County Schools should give priority and preference to all Wise County Schools employees employed at the time such an agreement would be made by both divisions.

Dr. Perry pointed out previous board preference was to have at least one month to ponder an issue before taking action.

Mr. Salyer apologized for taking the Board by surprise with his motion. He said the reduction in force policy involved the livelihoods of some 1800 people and this was very important to everyone. After further in-depth discussion including the understanding that workshop meetings were for discussion and not action, Mr. Salyer agreed to place his motion on the February 9 meeting agenda.

In reply to Mark Hutchinson's question if there would be any alternations in the SOLs from the state and if programs may be eliminated, Dr. Perry explained that it would not have an impact on the educational program and only involved non-professional personnel. Dr. Perry stated that there was no immediate need for this plan but he felt they needed to move forward with the development of such a plan to ensure ample time to create a plan that was well thought out, effective, efficient, and fair. He said this would enable the Board to take some time to think through the process, to give staff members time to provide input, and give staff members a clear idea of how they would reduce the work force when the consolidation process took place. He reiterated that although there was no immediate need for invoking this policy, he wanted to

make sure that the policy was adequately addressed to ensure it was within the legal requirements and to ensure that it met the needs of the division and its staff. He noted the importance that he was not looking at reducing staff positions for the upcoming school year but wanted to make sure that there was a revised policy that would meet the school system's needs if state funding was reduced more than what they were anticipating. He asked the Board to review the policy and provide any concerns or questions they may have relating to the policy and that he would be asking for approval at the February 9 Board Meeting.

#### Appalachia Elementary Gym

Dr. Perry advised that a number of proposals had been received for the Appalachia Elementary Gym and he felt there were several viable proposals for the construction. He noted that although there was interest in designing the proposed addition, the Board might want to think carefully before proceeding. He said he felt it would be of major concern for the school system to engage in a project of this nature when they were looking at potential financial reductions in the near future. He said he wanted to clarify the direction that the Board wanted to take before he proceeded with awarding the contract. He asked if they wanted to wait until they knew more about the budget or if they wanted to proceed now. Mark Hutchinson asked how they could have an issue over \$1 million for this project when they were considering \$100 million for consolidation. Mr. Hutchinson inquired if the Board of Supervisors would allow the school system to use lottery funds for the project. Dr. Perry noted that a small construction project such as the Appalachia Elementary School gym would likely be funded in a different way from large scale projects like the proposed high schools. He urged the Board to wait another month before voting and stated that another month would not delay them that much. He noted that the agenda had not indicated that any action would be taken at this Board meeting and noted that historically the Board had wanted time to study issues before voting. Barry Nelson asked about the possibility of folding this project into the high school projects to help accommodate the inclusion of the eight graders into the elementary school. Dr. Perry said this could be a possibility but if so, it may not be as immediate as some would like. Mark Hutchinson said he was not willing to wait and that sooner or later they were going to have to put this on the table and see if it was approved. Vanessa Perry pointed out that if architects moved forward with design work now, the development of consolidation plans, including the relocation of Appalachia's eight graders, could invalidate that work later on and that money would be wasted. She stressed that she was in support of the gym but that she wanted to make sure once it was done they got everything they needed. Dr. Perry agreed that if they waited to proceed with the work until high school plans progressed, the same firms designing and building the high schools could handle those efforts and money might be saved on materials through bulk ordering. Dr. Perry asked if they could consider this part as a discussion item and they could include this for a vote at the next regular Board Meeting on February 9. He said this would help to structure so that all the Board knew what was being voted on. Mr. Hutchinson agreed to wait until the February meeting and invited everyone to come and look at the current gym. Monty Salyer agreed that this was a necessary project and if consolidation went through, they had to be prepared to take care of the displaced 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### Policy GCL

Dr. Perry informed the Board that included in their packet was a copy of a draft policy that Mrs. Williams had developed regarding Policy GCL that had been discussed during the last two board meetings. He said the Board had been provided a history of the reimbursements made over the last several years. He noted the importance that a wide range of personnel had benefited from this program. He advised the draft policy

would be shared with the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee and he would provide the Board with any changes they recommended. He asked Board members to use the first draft as a resource to review thoughts from the Board and that he would present a recommendation for policy revision at the next meeting. He asked if there were any additions or comments before bringing it back to the Board for action. Dr. Perry asked for clarification if the policy was intended only for instructional personnel or if it went further. In response to availability of funds, Dr. Perry advised that approval would be based on the amount of money left over at the end of the year and that they would try to base the refund on a 50 percent basis. After further discussion, Dr. Perry advised that they would develop a policy and present for discussion at the workshop meeting and list as an action item for the next regular meeting.

Community Forums

Dr. Perry advised that as the Board was aware, a series of community forums were conducted to discuss the issue of consolidation of our six high schools into three schools. He said he felt the forums were productive in that they allowed the community an opportunity to ask questions, to receive feedback on a range of topics, and to create some personal connections with each of the communities. He noted that the notes had been consolidated into a summary which had been e-mailed to the Board and would soon be available on the school system’s web site and that he planned to use this as the fact sheet for consolidation plans. He said he would begin to work on several of the questions that were currently unanswered and that he would post the response to each of the questions as they worked through these issues. He asked the Board to review the questions and responses and to contact him if they felt they were not in compliance with what the Board had decided at this point.

VGLA Testing

Dr. Perry stated that during the last meeting, a board member requested information concerning the number of students who were involved in the VGLA Testing. He noted that this was an alternative test to the standard SOL test for the students who are indentified as having special needs. The number of students taking the VGLA testing rose significantly last year because the state provided us with direction which seemed to allow the number of students who would be eligible for this type of testing. It would now seem that the state has modified that original stance and the interpretation for VGLA eligibility has become more rigid. He said they were working with the leadership team to ensure that they were meeting all state testing requirements and that they were placing students in the most appropriate testing environments. He said it was important to note that VGLA testing was an element that would need to be documented in the child’s individual education plan. He presented the following information:

	Math	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Writing	
Appalachia Elementary School	21	25	3	19	8	
Coeburn Middle School	24	7	0	7	0	
Coeburn Primary School	28	28	28	28	0	

JW Adams Combined School	15	16	0	4	7
LF Addington Middle School	30	23	0	23	8
Powell Valley Middle School	30	28	8	8	6
Powell Valley Primary School	5	4	1	1	0
St. Paul Elementary School	4	4	2	2	2
St. Paul High School	1	1	0	0	0
Wise Primary School	1	0	0	0	0

### Actuary Services

Mr. Vicars advised that they were required to conduct an actuary audit to evaluate the financial liability with any outstanding commitments made with past employees that would have an economic impact on the budget. He said all school divisions are required to conduct this audit and he did not anticipate any problems but he wanted to make sure the Board was aware of the project. He further stated that the county was also required to have the same audit and that the school system would join with them in the process. Mr. Vicars said he attended the Board of Supervisors' meeting on January 8, 2008 and presented to them a proposal on joint actuarial services. He told the Board that a professional services RFP would be advertised, upon approval by the board, to obtain the services of an actuary to successfully bring the school system to compliancy with the new financial reporting requirements by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The new standard will take effect this fiscal year. He said he thought that in jointly securing these services for both the school division and the county itself, it should bring about savings for both. He advised that he would ask the School Board's approval of this RFP at the February 9, 2009 meeting.

### Norton City Schools Conversation

Dr. Perry related that at the last meeting, he asked the Board for direction on how to proceed with the possible connection with the Norton City Schools as they moved through this consolidation process. He said the Board requested that the Norton City Schools make the first initial move as to demonstrate their level of interest. He said it was his understanding that there was a significant level of interest in creating some type of partnership between the Norton City Schools and the Wise County School Division. There are still a number of questions as to the nature of this relationship but clearly there is some interest. He said that the Norton City Schools would address this issue in open session at their January Board meeting which was being held at the same time that our meeting is being conducted. He recommended that they wait until they could determine the official level of interest that the Norton City Schools may have with creating a stronger partnership with our school division. Dr. Perry said this was an issue that they must approach in a deliberate and thoughtful manner but that he could see a number of potential benefits of creating stronger connections and relationships with the Norton City Schools. He said he thought the most important aspect of the conversation should focus on long-term goals and planning. A number of insignificant issues and small matters could severely inhibit our exploration of this relationship and it is critical that we keep our vision focused on what will be the best situation for all of our students. The current financial situation and a declining student enrollment will combine to create a number of challenges for us. Having the Norton City Schools combine with us (especially with the high school process) may provide us with several options of operating our schools more efficiently and effectively which will eventually provide a better educational experience for all students.

He recommended the Board wait and allow the Superintendent of the Norton City Schools to work with them to formulate the next steps in this process. Without question, we would need to expedite the process if this decision were to have any input on the selection of a site for any of the three new high schools.

Monty Salyer inquired about the questions provided by Norton City Schools and that he was assuming they didn't need to answer these questions until Norton City Schools officially approached Wise County Schools.

#### State of the District Report

Dr. Perry asked the Board to review the following information that he said would be included in the State of the District Report and to let him know if there was additional information that they would like included. He said he would like to present the information to the Board during the February work session.

1. Capital Improvement Plan
2. Progress on Six-Year Plan
3. Financial Report
4. Demographics of Each School
5. Highlights and Areas of Improvement for each School
6. New Programs and Positions
7. Academic Achievement
8. Legacy Ideas
9. Consolidation Update
10. Curriculum Report

He stressed that it was important to let him know if there were suggestions or recommendations.

#### Financial Update

Director of Business/Finance Ron Vicars related that the General Assembly goes into session on Wednesday. He said that by the time they went to the Legislative Conference, the crossover would already have occurred. He stated that although the entire state budget picture is not absolutely clear and a couple of modifications would probably be made as the legislature works through the cuts, it would appear that we are beginning to see how this shortfall will impact the school division. He provided the following as a quick summary of the Governor's proposals.

- a. Establishing a SOQ support position cap based on 1 funded support position for every 4.03 funded SOQ instructional positions (this is a permanent change).
- b. Elimination of the School Construction Grants program
- c. Moving Lottery funded facility usage to instructional areas
- d. Elimination of the proposed 2% Teacher compensation supplement
- e. Language changes to allow school divisions to withdraw funds for capital projects to fund operational expenditure for FY2010 only
- f. Language change allowing any locality that met their required local effort for FY 2009 to carry over any remaining state funds into FY2010

From what we understand at this point, we will lose approximately \$165,000 from this year's budget. We will be able to assume this lose with little trouble to the budget. We will lose approximately \$3 million from the 2009 – 2010 school year which will be much more significant. Nearly \$1.2 million of this would be in capital construction

money which would simply delay some of our capital projects over the next few years. The remaining \$1.8 million will present us with a greater challenge. It is our hope that the Board of Supervisors will allow us to carry over surplus money from this year to help with the shortfall for next year. We will still be short some money and we will discuss how we will respond to these cuts during the budget process.

He provided a summary of Governor Kaine's proposed amendments to the 2008-2010 as provided in SUPTS MEMO 302.

#### High School Facility Construction Schedule

Dr. Perry said that in order to ensure that the wide variety of issues were addressed associated with the potential consolidation of the six high schools into three schools, it was critical that a schedule of events be developed. Without this timeline, Dr. Perry said it would be easy to miss key activities that must happen over the next several months which would provide the Board with the necessary information to make a final decision on how to proceed. He said he had created an initial time-line of some basic activities that must be addressed over the next six months. He further stated that he was hopeful that this timeline could be used as a framework to help guide conversations and actions over the next few months. Dr. Perry said he hoped they could have all of the necessary information collected and analyzed for the Board by the end of June to make a final decision on how to proceed with the consolidation process. He commented that this was an aggressive but realistic timeline as long as they remained focused and committed to collecting this information. The following draft timeline was provided to the Board for their review:

January	Select construction management group
January/February	Gather information and data concerning sites
February	Develop RFP for design/build company
February	Conduct public forums on potential site locations
March	Select design/build company and school sites
April	Begin design process and finalize infrastructure costs
May	Conduct public forums on designs
June	Conduct final vote on high school plans and present to Supervisors

Following the selection of a site for each of the high schools, Dr. Perry said the next major initiative would be the selection of a design and construction company. He recommended the Board adopt the design/build concept for these projects. Under this situation, the design team and the construction team would be within the same company. He said the design/build approach will enable the school system to secure a guaranteed price, expedite the process, eliminate some of the disconnects that were evident in the traditional approach, and enable them to conduct an "at-risk" approach to the project. Dr. Perry said this approach would fall under the PPEA process through which public entities could negotiate a single contract for design and construction. Monty Salyer stated that as Director of the Wise County Housing and Redevelopment Authority he had some bad experiences with the design/build approach. He said he had found it was good to have an independent architectural and engineering firm to look out for their interests and oversee construction in order to have a checks and balance system. Dr. Perry said this was the reason to have a construction management firm who could prevent those kinds of problems.

Dr. Perry noted that if funding cuts were permanent and they continued to lose money from the state, they were going to have some very difficult decisions to make in the future. He further noted that if they continued to have declining student enrollment they could not make up those shortfalls in revenue and he didn't think anyone needed

to be naïve as to what they could mean. He encouraged the Board, if humanly possible, to stick to the schedule he presented.

Dr. Perry said they also needed to move forward on creating the construction management committee. He advised that the committee would not meet until after they had selected the sites for the new high schools. He said at the workshop meeting on January 26 he would ask the Board to discuss the appointment of two board members who would be part of this committee. He said he would recommend that the construction management committee consist of the following:

1. Two school board members
2. One board of supervisor member
3. Leadership team (Jeff, Ron, Gene, Greg, Judy, Alice, Matt and Francis)
4. One teacher from each high school
5. One parent from each high school community
6. One representative from WCEA
7. Design/Construction representative

Dr. Perry assured the Board that the public would be ample opportunity to provide input and that if plans progressed on schedule, he would propose two more sets of community forums. Monty Salyer and Mark Hutchinson both said they hoped that the Board would listen to what the public had to say at the public forums and not already have their minds made up.

#### Education/Student Achievement Focus

Dr. Perry advised that as discussed at previous Board meetings, he wanted to create a strong focus for the school division to ensure we are allocating the necessary resources, staff, and financial assets to ensure we are addressing what we want to target. He provided the following topics and recommended the Board begin to think about creating a focus for the next several years:

1. Improve student achievement
2. Address the capital needs of the high schools
3. Create a coordinated and viable curriculum
4. Enhance and strengthen our early childhood program
5. Create a five-year capital improvement plan
6. Create a sense of teamwork, trust, and respect throughout the division
7. Create an exemplary technology program throughout the division
8. Create an exemplary gifted and talented program
9. Unify and strengthen our at-risk program
10. Strengthen and improve our relationships with UVA at Wise and MECC
11. Continue to maintain a safe school environment
12. Create an exemplary special education program

He noted that these topics were not in priority order and would require a great deal of work and attention and were intended to be a starting point for discussion. He said at the workshop meeting that they would focus in on these and he asked the Board for input.

Monty Salyer said that they did not want any child in an unsafe situation and did not want the elementary and middle schools to fall into the same conditions that the high schools had. Dr. Perry stressed that there were a lot of good people in this county and that they had to get focused. He said he would also get input from the PAC and SAC committees.

#### Curriculum Development

Dr. Perry noted that Matt Hurt would assume the primary leadership for the program and would work closely with Carol Grace and Gene Rowland and would involve building level administrators, teachers, and parents in the process. He asked Mr. Hurt to present information concerning curriculum development for Wise County Schools. Mr. Hurt advised that Wise County Schools would embark on a curriculum development project in January. The goal of the project was to synthesize and revise/improve resources already available from within the division, from the Department of Education, and from other divisions across the state. These resources will be made available to all teachers, so that each teacher would not have to recreate the wheel in each classroom each year. The division leadership team will lead the project with help from principals and teachers. Teams of teachers will be assembled to select and revise materials to be included. All teachers will be given the opportunity to review this body of work and provide input before adoption of curricular materials. This project will eventually result in pacing guides, lesson plans, and technology-rich curricular resources which will be posted in an online format for all teachers to access. He noted that one of the primary objectives should be focused on improving student achievement. Before this objective can be accomplished, Mr. Hurt said there must be a comprehensive, coordinated and viable curriculum that would be the focus of our efforts. He said the process will soon begin to develop a K – 12 curriculum that would be the framework of the instructional program and that the existing curriculum and the state standards will be used to create a Wise County Curriculum that would go beyond the minimum standards to provide students with a rigorous curriculum. He said he hoped to have a draft copy of the K – 12 curriculum by the end of the school year so that it could be refined during the summer. He related that although this was an extremely ambitious process he thought that they could accomplish this objective by using existing curriculum and the framework as a basis for their efforts. Dr. Perry noted that updates would be provided to the Board as they progressed through the process. He said they would use board meetings to discuss this process and to keep the Board informed of their efforts and allow the Board to provide any initial input. He said he was very appreciative to Mr. Hurt, Mr. Rowland, and Ms. Grace for their efforts in this process.

Mark Hutchinson asked why Appalachia did not have any 8<sup>th</sup> graders who took the VGLA. Mr. Hurt replied that the IEP committee did not feel they had anyone who qualified. Dr. Perry noted that the information would be provided to all Board Members.

#### Division Technology Plan

Dr. Perry advised that a draft copy of the Wise County Technology Plan was included in the Board packet. He noted that the plan was not complete at this time but the basic framework for the plan was in place. He said he hoped that the Board would approve this plan at the next meeting and that Mr. Hurt would be available to answer any questions that the Board may have concerning this plan. Dr. Perry said he would bring this back to the Board at the February meeting.

Mike Mullins inquired where they were on the school security system. Dr. Perry stated that this information was provided as item 11.1 as an informational item. He said if they wanted to discuss this he could ask that it be moved from information to discussion.

#### ACTION: Employment

Monty Salyer made a motion to approve the personnel list as requested by the administration. Mike Mullins seconded the motion, and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

## Financial Reports

Dr. stated that as they discussed in the last meeting, he wanted to recommend that the Board allow the leadership team to provide the Board with financial records that are one month in the rear and to authorize the financial department to pay all legitimate bills during the monthly billing cycle. He advised that currently the Board is provided with two sets of financial reports which include the monthly fund report and the bills payable. The current process creates four primary issues for us. First, the production of these reports does not coincide with our regular financial reporting and it creates extra work for our financial department and it consumes valuable time. Second, the monthly fund report is not as accurate as we would like for it to be because we have not had the opportunity to reconcile it with the monthly statements because of the timing of the board meetings. Third, a number of businesses have expressed a concern to us, and some have refused to conduct business with us, because of the way that monthly payments are made. Fourth, Virginia Statute requires us to make payment on all executed invoices unless they are somehow illegal and this requirement may supersede Board approval anyway. It would help to improve efficiency and effectiveness of our staff and the Board will still have the opportunity to review all bills that have been paid and to review the monthly fund report. Approval of this change would constitute the primary changes:

1. The monthly fund report would be a more accurate and reconciled report which would be for the month prior to the Board meeting. For example, if this change were to be approved – we would provide the monthly fund report for the month of January during the February meeting.

2. The bills payable would be presented and would be approved as a matter of record and not for approval as payment. We do not see this as a major issue because few, if any, of our bills payable have ever been denied and we have a statutory requirement to pay these bills anyway.

3. The leadership team would pay bills only for those expenses that are included within the approved budget. Any financial obligations outside of the approved budget, or outside of the normal operating expenses, require us to gain prior approval from the Board before any payment is made. For example, the purchase of a bus (that is within the approved budget and capital improvement plan) has already been approved by the Board and would not require a second approval during a regular meeting. The bills payable would show this expense but would not require board approval the second time. A boiler that became dysfunctional and had to be replaced (that is not within the budget and has not been approved) would require Board approval.

Dr. Perry said these changes would help provide a more accurate financial record, would allow more efficiency in administering bills payable, and would create a better business environment with some of our vendors. It is important to note that the Board is still approving and reviewing all financial records.

Vanessa Perry made a motion to approve allowing the leadership team to provide the Board with financial records that were one month in the rear and to authorize the financial department to pay all legitimate bills during the monthly billing cycle. Phillip Bates seconded the motion, and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

## Construction Management Services

Dr. Perry advised that on December 30, Mr. Vicars, Ms. Cornett, and he interviewed six construction management service companies and were fortunate in that several of

these companies would have been an excellent choice for the school system's needs. He recommended to the Board to go into closed session for further discussion.

### INFORMATION:

#### Security

Dr. Perry advised that at the last meeting, the Board directed him to provide information on the security systems associated with the schools within the division. All schools have access to some type of security cameras within the building. In some of schools, the coverage of the security cameras is limited but all buildings have access to some surveillance. Four schools have access to electronic doors which prevents visitors from coming into the building without the permission of the office. These schools include Wise Primary, Powell Valley Primary, Coeburn Primary and Coeburn High School. Mike Mullins noted some concerns at the WCCTC regarding some recent vandalism. Greg Mullins verified that the WCCTC was included and that in the event a building was closed, they could move the equipment. In regard to the timeline involved, Matt Hurt said he was hoping to have the plans completed in the next two weeks and would then need to go out for bids and then start the application process. He said this would probably have to be done over the summer months because of SOLs, etc.

#### Beginning Teachers

At the last meeting, Dr. Perry noted that the Board directed him to provide information concerning efforts to assist the beginning teachers. The following information was provided as a summary of what Wise County Schools do to help beginning teachers to be successful:

All new teachers to Wise County Public Schools participate in a New Teacher Orientation that is held before the first teacher workday. The new teacher orientation is organized by the human resource department and is presented by the superintendent and the central office directors. At the orientation, the superintendent provides the welcome and opening message and each director shares information with the new teachers regarding their department. They also give advice and insight into the experiences they may have during their first year of employment. The new teachers are given a copy of Harry Wong's book The First Days of School and participate in a workshop that addresses the main concepts of the book. A lunch is then provided by the WCEA. After the lunch, the new teachers complete their required paperwork and are fingerprinted. On the first workday at the home school, each new teacher is assigned a mentor teacher. The principal and department chair are instrumental in choosing a mentor that will provide the new teacher with the support, encouragement and knowledge essential to having a successful first year. Throughout the school year, workshops are provided for the new teachers to promote a successful year. During the 2008-2009 school year the following workshops are scheduled:

*Action Based Learning*-presented by Ms. Mary Alice Clay

*Bullying Intervention*-presented by Ms. Vicky Welch

*Technology in the Classroom*-presented by the Technology Department

#### Inter-Board Meetings

Dr. Perry advised that the first Inter-Board meeting would be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15 at the central office. The school board members will consist of Mr. Thompson and Mr. Nelson. The board of supervisors members will consist of Mr. Adkins and Mrs. Kilgore. The meeting will be open to the public, no public comment will be allowed, Mrs. Clawson will keep a record of the meeting which will be shared with both boards, it will be posted as a meeting in case other school board members attend, and it will be understood that the meeting is designed primarily for a

sharing of ideas and that no official action can be taken. Other board members are welcome to attend. The agenda items will include the following topics:

1. Discussion of the purpose of the meetings and meeting procedures/logistics
2. Timeline on construction schedule
3. Preconstruction cost sharing
4. State financial summary and possibility of carry-over money

### Good News

Many positive things are occurring within the district on a daily basis. Please celebrate and acknowledge the following successes:

1. Cindy Bates and Jerrie Adams attended the OCALI NATTAP International Autism Conference in Columbus, Ohio on November 19-21. We were honored to be selected as one of only two school systems participating on the Virginia Department of Education's State Autism Team.
2. The Wise Kiwanis Club donated \$500 to Debbie Green's class for her students to participate in Special Olympics.
3. Brenda Lee and Joyce Addington participated in a pandemic flu exercise at the Wise County Health Department on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> along with representatives from several community agencies. This is an exercise "designed to provide community partners an opportunity to test plans and response strategies with regard to an influenza pandemic."
4. The school nurses participated in the Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS) course on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Education Center. This training will enable school nurses to develop skills in providing care to children in acute cardiac/ pulmonary distress. Please check out the American Heart Association website for more information. The school nurses will be having their regular meeting on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Education Center.
5. The PERT Student Selection Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. at the Wise County Career Technical Center. The Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT) Program is a collaborative program jointly funded and administered through the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) and operated from the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC). The PERT Program, distinguished as the only program of its kind nationally, is highly successful as evidenced by both individual client outcomes as well as its overall systemic impact on transition planning at the local level and resulting employment and independent living outcomes for persons served. Teachers bring completed applications of students they wish to refer to PERT and decide which of our students could benefit the most from the vocational assessment and training they will receive during the two week period at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.
6. Gene Collins, Susan Mullins, and Mary Gale Pennscott attended the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists Fall 2008 Southwest Regional Workshop on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Abingdon. The topics were *Pediatric Neuropsychology: Assessment and Intervention* and *Supporting the Social Skills Development of Students with Asperger Syndrome*. These workshops linked the role of the school psychologist to addressing the needs of students in the school setting. This was particularly helpful information in their effort towards functioning as a resource to the teachers in the schools they serve.
7. Jerrie Adams has been invited to become a member of the Virginia Tech T/TAC and Radford University T/TAC Advisory Committee. As a member of the advisory committee, she will be updated on some of the services

T/TAC provides and she will be providing feedback on specific regional issues.

8. The Special Ed. Chairpersons' met on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Education Center. The team reviewed the pending Virginia State Special Education Regulations and the Wise County IEP Manual which will be an online resource for teachers. Each school designates a chairperson to attend the meeting every 6 weeks and the Chairperson is responsible for returning to their school to share information with their administrators and other staff members.
9. The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Education Center. The committee meets 4 times per school year to share information concerning the special education program. Betty Cornett serves as the school board representative on the advisory committee. The students in the Duds and Dough program provided the snacks.
10. The Christmas party for our students with severe disabilities will be held in the cafeteria of the Alternative Education Center on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> since it had to be rescheduled due to snow. David Hampton is a wonderful Santa who presents the gifts to the children. Community businesses and organizations help to sponsor the party. School board member, Phillip Bates, is a fabulous DJ and the children love to sing and dance. This is a great way to enjoy the Christmas season!
11. The Duds and Dough program has been invited to do a presentation for the Virginia Transition Forum 2009 held in Norfolk, Virginia on March 16-18. All 10 students will be presenting at the workshop on their school program under the direction of their teacher, Pam Roberts, and paraprofessionals, Deneen and Ashley. Duds and Dough is a post graduate program serving students with significant disabilities ages 18-22 by providing on-site training in a school-based business. Students work for two years in the business and then have the opportunity to work in the community under the supervision of a job coach the third year. Students operate a school-based consignment shop (Duds) and catering service (Dough). The consignment shop is open to the public. The catering service is limited to workshops at the Education Center.

**CLOSED MEETING:** (Personnel/Legal/Home Schooling/Religious Exemption)

Monty Salyer made a motion that pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, the board convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion, consideration or interview of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, resignation or retirement of specific public officers, which is authorized by Section 2.2-3711(1) of the Code of Virginia; discussion of consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the School Board, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(3) of the Code of Virginia; the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business (Home Schooling/Religious Exemption), as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(4), of the Code of Virginia.

The second was by Phillip Bates and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

**OPEN MEETING:**

Phillip Bates made the motion to return to an open meeting; the second was by Mike Mullins and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.



**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING:**

WHEREAS, the Wise County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, SECTION 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wise County School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

VOTE:

AYES: 8

NAYS: 0

**PERSONNEL**

On a motion made by Mike Mullins and seconded by Mark Hutchinson, all Board Members, with the exception of Monty Salyer, voted to approve a finance director contract as recommended by the superintendent. Mr. Salyer voted no.

**Home Schooling**

On a motion made by Ted Thompson and seconded by Phillip Bates, all Board Members voted to approve Home Schooling for Student #0109-1; and Religious Exemption for Student #0109-2.

**NEW ITEMS:**

There were none noted.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Betty Cornett thanked everyone for all the kindness showed to her during her recent illness. She congratulated Mr. Thompson for being chairman last year and that she felt he did a good job. She congratulated Mr. Nelson and Mr. Mullins for being elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. She said she was looking forward to a busy and productive year. Ms. Cornett said she was glad that they were going to have workshop meetings and she hoped it would cut down on the load.

Vaness Perry welcomed Betty Cornett back and sent condolences to the Graham family. She thanked Ted Thompson for serving as chairman last year and congratulated Barry Nelson and Mike Mullins for being elected chairman and vice-chairman.

Mike Mullins thanked the staff for staying up so late and working with them.

Mark Hutchinson asked the clerk to e-mail a reminder to him regarding the special called meeting.

Barry Nelson welcomed Betty Cornett back. He noted that he had the privilege of presenting awards at recent DECA competition at MECC. He commended the participants for doing an excellent job.

Betty Cornett reminded the Clerk to post the Special Called Meeting on January 19, 6:00 p.m., for discussion of sites and Construction Control. She thanked Dr. Perry for the Board packet and related that she studied it in-depth.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vanessa Perry made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Phillip Bates seconded the motion and all members voted aye on the roll-call vote.

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Barry D. Nelson, Chairman

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Judy C. Clawson, Clerk of the Board