

April 20, 2009 Date	Regular Kind of Meeting	Teachers' Center Where Held	Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman Presiding Officer
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Members Present:

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, District 6
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, District 1
Mr. Franklin Jones, District 2
Ms. Gayla White, District 3
Dr. Hays McKay, District 5

Members Absent:

Mr. Jimmy Addison, District 4

The Chairman, Dr. Steve Stokes, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Franklin Jones led in prayer.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Gayla White read the Mission Statement of Dothan City Schools.

Ms. Gayla White gave the School System News stating Ms. Vernell Paul, Principal, Highlands Elementary School reports:

- LinC students participated in the: January 2009 Knowledge Master Open for 5th Grade ranking #2 in Alabama and #1 in Dothan City Schools and March 2009 Knowledge Master Open for 5th Grade ranking #2 in Alabama and #1 in Dothan City Schools.
- Highlands raised \$600.00 for the MDA Shamrock Sale!
- Students participated in the Win a School Uniform: K-1 Honorable Mention: Monet Mathson, Elementary - Special Prize for a Close 2nd Place: Jessica Thornton, Runner Up - Carolyn Ciercierski, Middle - Caitlin Perry and Devon Danzey. All students received a medal and the 2nd place winner will get a uniform.
- Read Across America community readers came to read on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss Birthday. Community readers were Marty Clark, Mary Zeron, Felicia Brackin, Allyson Morgan, Donna Storey, Delvick McKay, Teri Prim, and Taylor Barbaree.

Ms. Sheila Goodman addressed the Board expressing her concerns regarding the cheerleading tryouts at Northview High School on April 9, 2009 stating a score was left blank, one girl made cheerleader on crutches and another with laryngitis. Discussion was held regarding one girl being on crutches and another having laryngitis making the squad, using pictures for tryouts, score sheet with a missing score, the Administration and Sponsor have nothing to do with the judging process, once judged the score sheet is given to the accountant to tally, the missing score was optional, the judges choose the cheerleaders, there were four judges, if the student was given the full score on the item it would not have affected the outcome, Mr. Snell commending Ms. Davis for what she does, each judge should be instructed on what to do, if the child had received the maximum score allowed for that one event where she received no score it still would not have put her in the top 18, the bookkeeper is not going to catch it if it is left blank because it is an optional part of the routine, the judges are from outside of Dothan, this is every year when do we get it right and who is responsible for getting it right, pep squads, acrobatic teams, the issue is the way the cheerleading tryouts are held at Northview High School, the Board does not need to pick cheerleaders, we need a policy that is fair and we need to let the program work, accidents happen, other systems did it the same way these judges did they based it on pictures and performance from previous videos, you should not punish a child just because a child is injured, the Board's job is governess and we are not to micromanage anything but we need to make sure that the rules that are in place are followed, in the absence of a policy Ms. Davis did the right thing and followed prior protocol, Ms. Davis talked with the former Dothan High coach to find out how she had always done it, the pictures showed that the child can jump and she did go through tryouts and was not incapacitated, pictures have been used in Dothan City for years at both schools and were used in this situation and all policies and procedures were followed to the letter. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated I feel for certain that the cheerleading tryouts were not handled properly based on this information. Dr. Steve Stokes stated you need to make a motion to give guidance to both the high schools and let the Board consider that motion and vote on it. That is the way the process works and in defense of the high schools we have left it up to them, we did the constitution, we have outside judges come in to remove undue influence on the process and they are following whatever processes they follow. We need to give them more guidance and that is what the Board should do.

Discussion continued regarding micromanaging, making a motion that we will not allow video or pictures to be used in the future in selection of the cheerleaders, we can put a committee together or we can formulate some rules and guidelines, the policy was looked at last year and major modifications were made to the constitution removing the GPA requirements and removing financial requirements, taking parent concerns too lightly and let the parents be present. Dr. Sam Nichols stated I really do not think it will be a problem to have open tryouts. The judges would be up front and the audience would be in the back certainly withholding comments. Dr. Steve Stokes stated it needs to be a policy and we need to vote on it as a Board. We need to have a proposal and a chance to study it and vote on it. We do not need to retroactively go back and try to change these tryouts because if you do you have other parents and children that are disappointed. So whatever you do it needs to be done for all students. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated if all of them are missing a score then it needs to be changed. We might need to have a whole new tryout because something went wrong. The judges were instructed wrong or something went wrong. Dr. Steve Stokes stated you would need a motion or vote by the Board to redo the tryouts. That would be my interpretation of the way the constitution is currently written. Mr. Franklin Jones asked for an opportunity to study this and find out what things are passed down by word of mouth and put it in writing if we are going to use it. It is not a policy if it is passed down by word of mouth. He further stated I do not think we ought to make the ones who are qualified do it all over again. I do not agree with that. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated we are going to think about it, we are not ready to vote on anything tonight. Dr. Steve Stokes stated the Board will give some thought to it and then next month if there is any action that the Board feels it should take we will have a motion and a second and discuss it. Discussion continued regarding who is able to see the scores. Mrs. Allyson Morgan stated it violates privacy laws, if a parent wants to get those scores from Mr. Snell the parent is welcome to and if she wants to take them to Mrs. Guilford or any Board Member or anybody in this community they are welcome to do that but we cannot provide those scores. The Administrator gets them in a file and they are at Northview. It is just like ACT records and graduation exam records there is confidentiality. Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked if the Superintendent is able to see them. Dr. Sam Nichols stated I have never asked to see them. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated if you had 30 girls tryout and each girl is given a number there is a number the names are not given would that be available to a Board Member. Dr. Sam Nichols stated yes, if that will resolve this issue we will look and see. We already know the 18 that have been identified to be on the squad. Ms. Gayla White asked can you ask Mr. Segrest what his recommendation is on confidentiality and privacy issues. Mrs. Julie Turner addressed the Board stating she was the Coach at Dothan High School for 13 years, every year something that we did not have in writing came up you cannot plan for everything. I am also registered to Coach on the Alabama Cheerleading Association and I have judged for UAB, other colleges and many high schools and for kids who are injured they will allow pictures depending on the policy and from this point forward we probably do need a policy. At UAB you could have a picture but jumps could not make or break a girl in making it in cheerleading. Also, parents can see everybody's scores but it is not going to do any good because it is a bunch of numbers. Across the state squads for colleges and high schools are allowing pictures and past performances. Some schools if a girl has been cheering for three years will take her score from the last year and put it in and if it comes within that 18 they take that girl. Just because the girl hurts herself she should not have to miss her senior year cheerleading or junior year. What Ms. Davis did is right in line with what other schools did colleges and high schools. Discussion was held regarding the number of members on a squad, the Constitution says you can only have 16 but if a girl is 2 points away go ahead and take them because the whole goal is to have more students involved in this program, 16 is more affordable and also gives you 4 building groups. Mrs. Brenda Guilford thanked Mrs. Turner and asked to hear from Ms. Davis. Ms. Davis stated she agreed with Mrs. Turner and consulted with other people and other schools as well. You cannot prevent this child from trying out because she injured herself. That would be a discrimination issue. She further stated it is her first year and she did the best she could with what policies were already in place and worked all year long with the program. You cannot prepare for everything, like those that occurred. Ms. Davis stated she followed procedures.

Mr. Gene Kearley addressed the Board stating he is a parent of a Northview student, on the Northview Booster Club and on the Spirit Committee for the Weight Training and Sports Enhancement Facility at Northview High School. Discussion was held regarding location, male/female facility, as many sports and cheerleading as possible, not just football/baseball, costs and procedures that need to be followed, when it is all done it will be the Board's building, confidence from the Board to use the site, and soil borings and a survey need to be done on the site. Dr. Nichols stated he would like to Agenda it for the May 4th Board meeting to approve for this group to move forward with as soon as they fulfill what they have to do.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked Ms. Loftin to research information about the effects of Pre-K on performance through high school. She further stated she attended a conference on the effects of Pre-K on students as far as high school dropouts. Oklahoma has 94% of children in Pre-K and their study showed the children were better prepared for school and performed better on standardized tests, less frequently assigned to Special Education or retention, better attendance rates and were less likely to drop out. Sally Howell said she would be glad to come do a workshop. Ms. Loftin stated she would get with Mrs. Guilford after tonight and get the information from her.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Ms. Gayla White to approve the Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Minute(s): April 6, 2009 – Special Board Meeting
Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable/Payrolls (See Attachment "A")
Child Nutrition Program – Monthly Financial Report
Project Updates
Donation(s)
Employee Dress Code Policy – Co-Owned Strategic Plan, Section 5.20 (See Attachment "B")

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda including the Addendum.

Mr. Franklin Jones made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to approve the Personnel Agenda with Addendum as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "C")

Dr. Dell Goodwin stated the Employee Dress Code would not be implemented until the beginning of next school year which would be July 1, 2009.

Mr. Mike Manuel gave a Budget Update reviewing the General Fund Balance Comparison, Local Revenue Comparison, General Fund Revenues FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009, Analysis of General Fund Expenditures FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 and General Fund Recap. (See Attachment "D")

Mrs. Allyson Morgan stated Dr. Steve Broome, Consultant with SREB, will be here on May 18th to give a short presentation on their work and the work they are doing with us. Mrs. Morgan introduced Ms. Sara Munn and Ms. Christina Johnson who gave an update on the 9th Grade Academy progress and accomplishments. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Steve Stokes stated the Board would meet on May 4th.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to adjourn. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

APPROVED: May 18, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary