

<b>Date</b>	<b>Kind of Meeting</b>	<b>Where Held</b>
April 19, 2010	Regular	Honeysuckle Middle School - Auditorium, 1665 Honeysuckle Road
<b>Presiding Officer</b>	<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish, Chairman	Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish, Chairman Mrs. Brenda Guilford, District 1 Mr. Franklin Jones, District 2 Mr. Charles Woodall, District 3 Mr. Jimmy Addison, District 4 Mr. Ben Armstrong, District 5 Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, District 6	

Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Mr. Franklin Jones led in prayer.

Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **School System News:**

Mr. Charles Woodall gave the School System News as follows:

1. Mrs. Vicki Davis, Principal at Highlands Elementary School reports the Knowledge Master Open team placed FIRST in the State of Alabama again. Team members included: Abby Stokes, Sydney Cobb, Caitlin Johnson, Kollar Varner, Joe Rutledge, Michael Houston, Makenzie Ney, Jessica Thornton, Pooja Parmar, Billy Jesswein, Trevor Wycoff, Ben Nelson, Jordan Beck, Gunnar Clayton, and Christian Cook. The Highlands SGA raised \$425 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association selling shamrocks. Thirty-four Highlands LinC students participated in the Elementary Science Olympiad Competition at Auburn University. Highlands had 17 "Top 10" finishes, and 6 students won medals. Counting students, parents, grandparents, and siblings, there were over 100 people at the competition representing Highlands. The Highlands Child Nutrition Program received a perfect score of 100 when the Health Department conducted a recent inspection.
2. Mrs. Debra Wright, Principal at Faine Elementary School reports: Wiregrass Black History honors students at Faine for Academic, Community and Athletic Achievements. Students attended a banquet at the Cultural Arts Center and met Congressman Bobby Bright and State Representative Lucy Baker along with several entertainment personalities. Mrs. Kristen Freeman, an outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Faine, won The Golden Apple Award. FACES sponsored the Standardized Testing Carnival for all students at Faine after Spring Break and the students had a ball! Mike Schmitz Automotive Group donated funds to assist with transportation for the Good Citizenship Luncheons. The students enjoyed dining at the Things and Wings restaurant.

### **Delegations:**

1. Mr. Jocquette Carroll acknowledged the following students for their participation in the Dothan Education Association Read Across America Contest:

#### **K-2 Poster Contest:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Caleb Anthony Davis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Cook
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Averie Kathryn Gilley	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Green
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kiersten Anderson	Kindergarten	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Peak
HM	Skylar Burkett	Kindergarten	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Peak
HM	Brant Besharse	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Cook

#### **3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster Contest:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jaylor Marie Ford	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Heard Magnet	Mrs. Landwerlen
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Khajah Burroughs	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Heard Magnet	Mrs. Landwerlen
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chloe Clemmons	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Heard Magnet	Mrs. Landwerlen
HM	Madison Vines	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Gilley
HM	Mya Anderson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Hidden Lake	Mrs. Gilley

#### **Middle School Poetry Contest:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Alexis Phelan	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Girard Middle	Mrs. Helms
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#### **High School Poetry Contest:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Shakera Colman	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dothan HS	Mrs. McCauley
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alexis Smith	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dothan HS	Mrs. McCauley
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hannah Ruth Gilley	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dothan HS	Mrs. Mendheim
HM	Alicia Duke	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dothan HS	Mrs. McCauley

Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish reminded the delegations they would have three minutes to speak.

1. Mr. Jude Rodgers, Ms. Dorothy Robbins and Mr. Stephen Tsukuda addressed the Board regarding their concerns on high school consolidation.
2. Mr. Scott Parsons addressed the Board regarding the VH1 Save the Music grant and his concern that if the music teachers are not retained they will pull the equipment. VH1 is aware of the financial difficulties that our Nation's school systems are dealing with. VH1 indicated if we could find a way to keep our existing teachers on staff the existing grants will remain in place for the coming year and that there is a letter of support on the way from their office reaffirming their support of DCS and their hope that we can work out a solution to help keep the existing grants in tack.

**Approval of Agenda and Proposed Agenda Modifications:**

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Mr. Jimmy Addison to approve the Agenda and proposed modifications as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

**Action Items – Adoption of Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Mr. Ben Armstrong to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Minutes for the March 8, 2010 Special Board Meeting and March 22, 2010 Regular Board Meeting  
Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable/Payroll (See Attachment "A")

Child Nutrition Program: Monthly Financial Report and Monthly Menu

Bid(s): Canopy – Dothan High School

Installation of Chillers (5) Faine Elementary/Girard Elementary/Head Start/Kelly Springs  
Elementary/Montana Magnet

Project Updates

Donation(s)

Head Start Preschool Center: Corrective Action Plans from Federal Review Report and Overview of Findings  
Approval of Application for COLA Funds

Approval to Change Banks – Highlands Elementary School

**Superintendent Recommendations:**

Dr. Sam Nichols addressed the Board asking for their direction regarding consolidation of Dothan High School and Northview High School for the school year 2011-2012.

Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish stated each Board Member would make a few comments and then have discussion.

Mr. Franklin Jones stated he had no comment.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated I have received quite a few emails and most of the emails were for us not to consolidate the schools. My only concern is some of the reasoning that was given were students stated if I am at Northview I am proud of my school and want it to stay, students at both schools are proud of their schools, a lot of the reasons parents gave me were overcrowded classrooms. I am taking all of this into consideration. My job is to not just do what is right for Dothan City Schools but to listen to you. Regardless of what happens tonight I hear what you are saying and if I had to give a vote now I would base it on the calls, emails and conversations I received from people. I think the community will not be able to handle consolidation at this point. I am not saying consolidation would not be the answer but I think the community is not able to handle consolidation at this point based on information I have received from community members. That's where I stand at this point.

Mr. Charles Woodall stated I echo what Brenda has said. I am appreciative of all the emails and phone calls. I am really glad everybody has input on this. I do not think this is an issue that should be done without community input. What I have tried to reiterate to everyone is the budget cuts that we are going to be considering tonight and the next few meetings this is not going to be the end of it. Every indication that we get from Montgomery is that next year's cuts are going to be as bad or worse than what we are looking at this year. So we have to keep everything on the table looking forward. I am not a fan of consolidation. I am not a fan of any cut we have to do but the key is we have to do some cuts. We have got to get control of our finances and get to a point where moving forward anything we add back we know we can secure the funding to do it. So that is what I hope everybody understands that I have talked to. I am appreciative of all the comments I have gotten and just know moving forward we are going to try to do what is best for the children of Dothan. I have three in the system myself and I am concerned about them and concerned about their classmates, their teachers, all the way up the chain.

Mr. Chris Maddox stated you know the consolidation crowd or the anti-consolidation crowd I should say has been very vocal and has exercised their First Amendment rights to do that which I encourage completely as an attorney. I encourage both sides of the argument and the thing I keep stressing and want everybody to understand is to echo what Mr. Woodall just said is this issue is a financial issue. We are going to be charged as a Board with initially probably being required to cut somewhere in the \$5½ to \$6 million range for next school year. Now if we look at what has happened in the last two years to this School Board about three or four months after we make our decisions the Governor for the last two years in a row has come back to us and said guess what I am declaring proration and you have got to cut more out of your budget. So we have cut \$2 million and \$4 million respectively out of our budgets after we have already made decisions to go forward in a school year based on the budget we were told we were going to have initially. That is the problem with proration. We are told the early estimates for this year are going to be more like 7½%. My personal position is we probably need to cut more than \$5½ million because if we do not based on prior history of our State and the way it funds education we are going to be looking at proration again when the new Governor comes in November. If that happens, we potentially find ourselves in a situation as a Board where we are looking to possibly have to go to a bank and borrow money to make payroll for the teachers by the end of the year. Now, I am not standing up here saying I am for or against consolidation but what I am saying and what I will continue to say is it is a cold hard reality of the financial situation that we find ourselves in right now. We will not be consolidating the schools for next school year. I think everyone has figured that out by now. Quite frankly it cannot be done. We cannot plan it properly to get it done. Does that mean we are going to completely ignore the possibility for 2011-2012. We would be derelict in our duties as Board Members if we did that because if anybody has paid attention to the financial forecast for 2012 coming from Montgomery they are saying it is the end of the world financially. I am not saying that to cause panic but David Bronner, the State Retirement System Chief who is the financial guru of the State of Alabama, says he anticipates possibly losing \$750 million in the Education Trust Fund for 2012. That is a bona fide expert's opinion. If that happens you have not seen cuts like what we are about to cut. If that happens then we are staring consolidation in the face out of sheer necessity not because this School Board wants to do it, not because this School Board thinks it is necessarily a good idea, but because in any effort to save what little programs you will save with those kind of financial cuts that is the only chance you have. The young man from Northview High School mentioned in his public comments a while ago "cut every program you can just leave two schools". Is that really what we want to do? I mean, do we want to get to a point where we have English, Math, Science and Social Studies and then two hours of non-instructional time with 250 kids in a study hall. Because if that is what happens in 2012 and we have two schools and the units are split like they are being split that is what we are staring at as a possibility. So when this Board talks about looking at the financial possibility of what is coming at us we must consider every possibility and that includes the ones that are not popular with the public. I do not find any joy in saying that but I am telling you that if the projection for 2012 holds true we are all in trouble. Not just Dothan, every system in the State except for those systems like Hoover and Vestavia Hills. Those systems that have such a high millage rate. They take in more money locally than the State provides them. We do not work that way, we are the opposite, and we have a small minimum amount of millage so we are relying completely on what the State provides us to fund these children's education. I am glad it does not have to happen next year. Those of you who want two schools congratulations that's what is going to happen but understand unless there is some kind of serious solution to the financial problem we are facing it is a possibility for the next school year. That's all I want to keep stressing. This is a financial situation that we are having to look dead in the face.

Mr. Jimmy Addison stated I cannot add anything to what Chris said. I certainly concur with everything he had to say and decisions are not easy. It is not going to get any better from what we have been told.

Mr. Ben Armstrong stated I am like Coach Addison echoing what everybody said down the line. It is pretty consistent the projections we are looking at which I have been told by individuals do not look at projections those are estimates. Unfortunately, in this business that is part of what we have been tasked to do is make the most educated guess we can make. I certainly do want to say I do not know if we want to leave here tonight with this looming out there and if we could take some type of action to move forward. I know we are not looking at next fall but maybe if we could set something up in a committee type structure. I have had a lot of people respond on both sides of the issue for two high schools and for consolidation. Certainly there is an anti-consolidation crowd as Mr. Maddox put it. My thoughts in just listening if we are afraid that 2011-2012 is going to bring a financial necessity or some need to look at a significant savings through consolidation Dr. Nichols, what would be the feasibility or the sustainability to appoint some type of committee getting parents from both schools. There are seven members of this Board including the Chairman. Why couldn't we appoint a parent from each high school, you and maybe a Board Member on that committee? Why can't we get the class president and the SGA president involved in that and look at not necessarily a discussion on are we pro or con consolidation but if the financial circumstances dictate a move to consolidate let's give these people that are here tonight and the people that have contacted us some direct input into the things they want to see in a consolidated high school to preserve some of the programs some of the extras. That is the fear that I have, if we do not do it what will we have to eliminate instead. Will we have two high schools with Math, Science, English, Social Studies and nothing else? Will we lose ROTC, yearbook, athletics, cheerleading? I don't think anybody thinks that is the best way. I think people want those things as part of the educational experience.

Dr. Sam Nichols stated I certainly think the Board this year is facing some pretty major cuts to the budget. Somewhere between \$5½ and \$6 million in that range and anytime that you cut that amount of money and especially in education when you have 85% of your budget allocated for salaries you are talking about personnel. Personnel represent services and opportunities we provide for children in this school system. I guess getting back to your question, could some committee be put together that would develop framework for consolidation in 2011-2012. The

answer to the question is yes if that is the pleasure of this Board and directs the Superintendent to move in that direction.

Mr. Ben Armstrong stated do I need to frame a motion in that light. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated Mr. Armstrong could you make it a little clearer to us about who would be on this committee. Mr. Armstrong stated what I was saying is if we are going to have it it needs to be parents of those high school kids directly affected. I do not think in talking about consolidation we want a parent of only a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader on the committee. That is just my opinion; the majority of the Board may differ. Those parents that are going to be directly affected through reduced services or through logistical issues as far as commuting back and forth to school those are the people I would want to get the input from on how to make this work and how to make it work in a positive manner. Dr. Parrish asked how many are you talking about on the committee? Mr. Armstrong stated my suggestion is if there are seven of us why can't each of us appoint a member to that committee from each school because in my opinion it needs to be balanced between Dothan High and Northview. Mrs. Guilford stated so you are saying that each Board Member appoint a parent from each school which would probably be about 14? Mr. Armstrong stated that would be 14 parents. Mrs. Guilford stated and then students? Mr. Armstrong stated I mentioned class presidents and SGA presidents. I do not know how specific we want to be. No offense to the current class president, but I don't know if we want the current senior class president on there but those other students that will be in school next year and of course the year following. Mrs. Guilford stated if this is something that we are going to look at or try to put together I think it would be important to get somebody from the Dothan Ministerial Association and also IMA Association which is a group of ministers. Dr. Parrish stated I don't think there's anything wrong with the committee but the idea is, I don't think we need to have a million people on here, we need to limit it somehow. Mr. Chris Maddox stated just to clarify Mr. Armstrong you are talking about what would be considered more or less a contingency plan from a financial standpoint. Mr. Armstrong stated in my opinion, if we do not see financial improvement heading into 2011-2012 and if this is a decision we are going to make we want to get the input from these parents on what they would like to see out of this consolidated high school. Dr. Parrish stated we need to think about it, everybody in this room needs to understand one more time number one why and number two what's going on. Mr. Addison stated if we are going to form a committee I think we really need to take a look at who is on that committee because it is going to take teachers at the schools, Principals, the community and the students. I think that we need to really step back and make sure that we have input on an implementation plan if consolidation did occur. Again, as Ben said this is not a committee to look at whether consolidation is the right thing or not the right thing and it is not to say the Board is going to vote on consolidation or vote against consolidation. It is just the fact that if it has to happen then we are prepared or somewhat more prepared and we have had input from the community as far as the planning phase but the Administrators in those schools are the ones that will be implementing it and the teachers will be implementing it and it will be affecting the students. So again before I would say this is specifically who needs to be on that committee I think we need to take a step back and look at that or possibly ask the Superintendent to give us a recommendation on who he thinks would be instrumental on that committee to develop an implementation plan. Dr. Sam Nichols stated I just want to be clear about the scope of this work, is the Board suggesting that we develop a full implementation plan for 2011-2012 as a contingency plan based on financial needs. Dr. Parrish stated that is what I understand. Mr. Armstrong stated my thought is this is I would say along the lines of a contingency and if we get a \$20 million windfall between now and then, then we can take our plan and stick it up on a shelf to gather dust. Until we get to that point we just don't know what finances dictate. Dr. Nichols stated again I just want to make sure, are we talking about involving these parents to the point of looking at curriculum, looking at programs, looking at facilities, is that correct? Mr. Armstrong stated that would be my thought. Mr. Maddox stated I think Mr. Addison's point is appropriate there regarding the teachers and administrators, they are the experts in curriculum obviously along with our curriculum coordinators. I do not know if we can sit here and work through all this tonight, I am sure the public is interested to hear what the end result will be maybe we need to come back at the next Board meeting and address the specifics of the committee but I think it certainly needs some thought put into it so that nobody gets excluded. If it has to happen the key to any success of it working to me appears to be everybody having some input the parents, students, teachers, Principals and the Central Office people who are involved in that way. I think we need to make sure we do not accidentally exclude anybody from that list. Mr. Woodall stated in forming such a committee I know my charge to that committee would be let's look at the legitimate concerns that have been brought forth by those who are against consolidation even those that are for it have expressed some concerns about the process and everything like that. If we could put together a committee that will take one concern, the safety of the kids, having that many on campus, what is our plan for that, what about PASS, what are we going to do with kids that cannot behave or cannot be in that environment with other kids, what are we going to do about parking. If we could get that committee to look at those concerns I think that would go a long way getting us to the point that we could at least have a plan in place like Ben said if we need to use it we have it. If we do not need it we can just leave it on the shelf or whatever. If we can just address those concerns I think that committee would definitely be worthwhile. Dr. Nichols asked what would be the timeline on this. Mr. Armstrong stated I would not push it too far in the future as far as a time for them to give us something to review because we are not only going to have to take their feedback but analyze that and see what we need to do to make that work. We are going to have to work with the curriculum coordinator, Superintendent and facilities people and decide how all the pieces fit together, what the costs are to make the pieces fit together and then look and make sure of what the savings will be and consider the costs. Dr. Parrish stated if we go through proration again when will it be announced. Dr. Nichols stated the last proration was declared in September before the fiscal year started in October. The one prior to that I think came in December or January after the year started. Dr. Parrish stated it sounds like maybe August or the first of September. Dr. Nichols stated the fiscal year starts October 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Parrish stated we need to be ready if proration hits us again. Dr. Nichols asked when are you talking about having this study completed. I think it would be appropriate sometime around September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Ben Armstrong stated as far as information back to us

to review I have no problem with that date. Mr. Charles Woodall stated it also helps us if we see financially that we are going to have to do it. The money that is available for construction of classrooms will go away at some point. That money will be available now and will fall in that timeframe as well. Mr. Manuel stated the money has to be spent by December 16, 2012, 100%. Mr. Ben Armstrong stated Mr. Maddox said something about bringing it back next week. I have no problem with a motion based on what I said but the rest of you said you might want to make some changes to mine. Dr. Parrish said the motion will be to form the committee.

Mr. Ben Armstrong made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to form a committee.

Mr. Chris Maddox stated to be clear Mr. Armstrong state your motion.

Mr. Ben Armstrong made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to ask the Superintendent to form a committee made up of parents of Dothan High and Northview High students, class presidents, SGA presidents and others to be decided by the Board to develop a plan for implementation of consolidation of the two high schools into one for fall 2011.

Mr. Chris Maddox stated you did not say in your motion Mr. Armstrong that it was any kind of contingency plan in the event consolidation becomes a necessity because of the financial situation. I would like to add that amendment to the motion.

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Mr. Ben Armstrong to amend the motion to reflect it as a contingency plan in the event that consolidation becomes a necessity because of the financial situation including what you said (to ask the Superintendent to form a committee made up of parents of Dothan High and Northview High students, class presidents, SGA presidents and others to be decided by the Board to develop a plan for implementation of consolidation of the two high schools into one for fall 2011) but also to amend it to include teachers, principals or any Central Office personnel that would be the experts in curriculum. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated she did not get a clear understanding of the amendment. Mr. Chris Maddox stated my amendment serves two purposes, number 1 to make sure that the plan for consolidation is only implemented in the event that it becomes a financial necessity and number 2 that the committees that are formed to help come up with this plan in the event this becomes necessary the committees would include not only the parents that are chosen and the students from the respective high schools as Mr. Armstrong stated in his motion but also includes certain teaching staff and administrators and central office personnel who would be deemed to be experts in curriculum matters.

Mr. Mike Manuel gave a Budget Update reviewing the General Fund Balance Comparison FY2006-FY2010, Local Revenue Comparison FY2007-FY2010, General Fund Revenues FY2007-FY2010, Analysis of General Fund Expenditures FY2007-FY2010 and General Fund Recap. (See Attachment "B")

#### **Personnel Services:**

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda and Addendum.

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Mr. Chris Maddox to approve the Personnel Agenda and Addendum as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "C")

Discussion was held regarding the parental involvement specialist position, probationary employees being terminated at this meeting, the position being paid for out of General Funds not Federal Funds, supplements being terminated each year, employees being hired in a position for this year only or for temporary positions, supplements are done from year to year and done again in June or July, some of the supplements missing are Administrative supplements that are part of the salary, head football coach and athletic director for each high school are not on here, there are 130 terminations most of which were hired for this year only, 50 are through ARA, IDEA or Title I monies, and some can apply again once the Board decides what will be cut for next year and the non-probationary employees are placed.

#### **Executive Session for Student Hearing:**

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Mr. Jimmy Addison to adjourn into an Executive Session for a student hearing as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish reconvened the meeting into Regular Session stating no action was taken in Executive Session.

Dr. Sam Nichols recommended that student number 40343 be expelled from Dothan City Schools for one year.

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Mr. Charles Woodall to accept the Superintendent's recommendation (that student number 40343 be expelled from Dothan City Schools for one year). The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

**Board Comments:**

Dr. Sam Nichols called for a Special meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. with the location yet to be determined.

The Board will also meet on the following dates as stated on the approved Agenda:

Monday, May 17, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, June 7, 2010 – Special Board Meeting  
Monday, June 21, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Mr. Ben Armstrong to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, Woodall, Maddox, Parrish, Addison, Armstrong. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED: May 17, 2010

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Dr. Harry Wayne Parrish, Chairman

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Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary