STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA STOKES COUNTY
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA SPECIAL SESSION MARCH 10, 2014

The Stokes County Board of Education met in a special session on Monday, March 10, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., at the Administrative Office in Danbury, North Carolina.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Sonya Cox, Chairperson; Mr. Mike Rogers, member; Mrs. Pat Messick, member and Ms. Becky Boles, member. Mr. Jamie Yontz, Vice-Chairman, was absent.

Administration Present: Mr. Ronnie Mendenhall, Superintendent; Mr. Tony George, Assistant Superintendent; Mrs. Ann Robertson, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Amy Nail, Director of K-5 Education; Mrs. Sarah Wood, Director of Media and Technology; Ms. Annette Johnson, County Athletic Director; Mr. David Burge, Executive Director of Operations; Mr. Brad Lankford, Director of Transportation; Ms. Ann Sliger, Director of Student Information/Student Reassignment; Ms. Melisa Jessup, Executive Director of Human Resources; Ms. Lanette Moore, Executive Director of Finance; Mr. Michael Sands, Director of Testing and Accountability; Ms. Karen Boles, Principal of Chestnut Grove Middle School; Mrs. Rhonda Jackson, Principal of Southeastern Stokes Middle School; Mr. Rick Menear, Principal of Piney Grove Middle School; Mr. Fred Johnson, School Board Attorney; and Nicholas Elmes, The Stokes News.

Mr. Mendenhall added Item G: Piney Grove's and Chestnut Grove's Desire to Make Change to A Day/B Day Schedule; and Item H: Affordable Health Care Act to the Discussion Agenda. He also added Item B: Renovation of Chestnut Grove Softball Complex and Item to the Action Agenda.

Good News:

Information was shared on the Good News recipient who will be honored at the March 17th board meeting.

Consent Agenda

Board members reviewed minutes from the work session of February 3, 2014 and the regular session of February 17, 2014; a fund raiser request; field trip requests, and a proposed revision to Policy 413 F5: Tuition for Discretionary Admissions. All of these items will be on the consent agenda for approval on March17, 2014.

Discussion Agenda

Discussion of Teacher Employment and Pay Raise Resolution:

Attorney Fred Johnson presented the following Resolution for board members to consider concerning teacher employment and pay raises.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 9.6(g) the 2013 Appropriations Act (2013 N.C. Session Laws c.360) requires public school superintendents to identify 25% of the teachers employed in their respective school districts for three (3) consecutive years who have demonstrated proficiency on the teacher evaluation instrument and to recommend to their respective boards of education that those teachers be offered an employment contract for a term of four (4) years with an annual pay increase of $500.00; and,

WHEREAS, teachers who accept such contract are deemed to have relinquished career status; and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has not provided to teachers or to boards of education assurance that it will allocate funds sufficient to honor the $500.00 annual pay increase; and,

WHEREAS, the manner of implementing that legislation and the constitutionality of certain provisions of that legislation, including specifically the required forfeiture of vested property rights, is subject to question; and,

WHEREAS, the effect of that legislation is to create divisiveness among teachers and a lack of uniformity in its implementation throughout North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the Stokes County Board of Education values its teachers and encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to develop an equitable plan to reward teachers for their dedication to excellence in education for all children.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Stokes County Board of Education requests the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal Section 9.6(g) of the 2013 Appropriations Act (2013 N.C. Session Laws c.360) and all other provisions of the Appropriations Act that eliminate career status for those teachers who earned career status prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stokes County Board of Education requests the General Assembly of North Carolina to appropriate to the public school districts of North Carolina the funds allocated in the State budget for the 25% contract offers as part of an equitable, effective and locally developed compensation plan that rewards teaching excellence and provides an incentive for retaining effective teachers.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2014.

Board members were in favor of the wording of this Resolution. It will be voted on at their March 17th Regular Session.

Discussion of Voucher Resolution:

Attorney Fred Johnson presented the following Resolution for board members to consider concerning vouchers.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 8.29 the 2013 Appropriations Act (2013 N.C. Session Laws c.360) establishes a school voucher program for attendance at nonpublic schools; and

WHEREAS, this program does not require participating nonpublic schools to provide students with the opportunity to receive a sound basic education, as required by the North Carolina Constitution; and

WHEREAS, this program does not require participating nonpublic schools to engage in nondiscriminatory admissions practices; and

WHEREAS, this program requires the State Board of Education to reduce funding to each local board of education in an amount equal to the local board's per pupil allocation for average daily membership multiplied by the number of students who have received vouchers and were enrolled in the local board's schools during the prior semester; and

WHEREAS, reducing funding to public schools to fund a nonpublic school voucher program, particularly in the wake of substantial cuts to public education funding during the previous five years, will significantly impair the ability of local boards of education to ensure that students have the opportunity to receive a sound basic education, as required by the North Carolina Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the voucher program created in the budget bill uses public funds for a non-public purpose, in violation of the North Carolina Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Stokes County Board of Education ***urges the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal Section 8.29 of the 2013 Appropriations Act (2013 N.C. Session Laws c.360)***.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2014.

Board members were in favor of the wording of this Resolution. It will be voted on at their March 17th Regular Session.

Discussion of Grandfathering ESL Students:

Michael Sands reported that Stokes County has 74 students identified as Limited English Proficient. These students are spread out across the county and the K-5 students receive services at Lawsonville Elementary, London Elementary, and Poplar Springs Elementary. The question that has been asked is if a child can continue to receive transportation to the school that has served them, once they place out of the program. Parents have concerns that their child has developed relationships with the students that are there. Many times these families have additional siblings that may be LEP eligible and their children would be at two locations. They have the option of applying for student transfers, but must provide their own transportation. That is where the dilemma comes in. We are providing transportation for our LEP students to these three alternate locations, but their ineligible siblings are not offered transportation in that manner.

Brad Lankford, Transportation Director, stated two years ago we had one LEP bus. That bus was eliminated due to budget restraints.

Michael Sands said currently these students have been riding the EC bus that serves that district. The issue with this is that now many of those buses are almost to capacity, if not to capacity, when we add the LEP students and their siblings to the transportation pattern.

Mrs. Messick stated we are trying to build the ESL population up at Poplar Springs Elementary School. The children start there in kindergarten and when they exit the program, we're asking them to go to another school where they don't have relationships. The parents and children are getting very upset. They don't know anybody there and they want to go to Poplar Springs. Poplar Springs does not mind, if they come. A lot of people in the ESL program have problems getting their children to Poplar Springs. Some of the parents are now saying they don't know if they're going to put their child in the ESL program, if they are going to have this hardship. Mrs. Messick asked if we could grandfather the 4th and 5th grade students who have been riding the bus anyway.

Michael Sands stated a student could exit the program at any point and time. There could be kindergarteners that exit the program.

Mrs. Messick shared information that had been provided by Eileen Carter, the ESL teacher at Poplar Springs Elementary. Mrs. Messick stated that Ms. Carter and she were asking if there is a way those students who had exited the program can still find a ride to Poplar Springs. Mrs. Messick stated there would only be about three or four students.

Michael Sands stated across the district there were about thirty-four students that exited the program. He thought there were five students that exited the program from Poplar Springs.

Mrs. Messick understood why the whole district was looked at, but there thought there were only concerns at Poplar Springs.

Michael Sands stated there would be additional issues in the other two districts, if those that could go to the ESL program in these two locations chose to. Those parents have opted not to participate in the program.

Mrs. Messick asked if it was unfeasible to reinstall the ESL bus and cross district lines. She added that district lines were crossed to go to Meadowbrook and the Early College.

Brad Lankford stated Meadowbrook Academy and Stokes Early College serve the whole county. EC buses cross district lines, because they take students to a specific service. A cost involved in putting a bus back on the road is about $2.00 a mile. Depending on the length of the route this bus could cost anywhere from $20,000 to $40,000 a year in actual costs. The system could take a potential hit to their budget efficiency rating. Adding buses without adding students could create a situation where the system is less efficient and the state budget rating would go down. Additional local monies would have to cover transportation costs.

Mr. Rogers stated we are providing transportation to serve LEP students and to continue to provide this service beyond the program is putting a burden on the rest of the taxpayers of Stokes County. Mr. Rogers added his feeling is once they are done with that they go back to their home school, unless parents want to provide transportation. It is not equitable for everyone's tax dollars to pay for the convenience of someone else.

Mrs. Cox stated she feels similar to Mr. Rogers. EC seats should go to the exceptional students that need them. Offering to let these students stay at Poplar Springs is a fair thing to do.

Michael Sands stated his only concern would be for those particular families who would be forced to have children at two separate elementary schools.

Mr. Rogers stated in that case the parent has the option of providing the transportation to keep their children together.

Discussion of Chestnut Grove's Proposed Community Book Exchange:

Principal Karen Boles of Chestnut Grove Middle School shared information on a community book exchange that is being proposed by EC teacher Nora Davis. This is a non-profit program that promotes reading by getting books to people who may not be able to get to their public libraries.

Mrs. Cox stated she liked the idea in general, especially if book exchange locations are accessible to large groups of people.

Board members gave their consensus to proceed with the program.

Discussion of Projects Update:

David Burge, Executive Director of Operations, provided the following projects update:

Southeastern Stokes Middle School:

- A commercial ice machine has been purchased that uses the remaining available funds from this project.

Poplar Springs Elementary School:

- Time Warner has a projected completion date of March 12 to extend the CATV cable line from Hwy 66 to Poplar Springs. Cable has already been run inside.
- A load of crusher run stone and a load of granite dust has been received.
- Four picnic tables have been purchased with the remaining available funds from this project.

Lawsonville Elementary School:

- Building is now complete.
- Final inspection of Pre-K Classroom has passed and they're finishing their move today into their new space. They will be operational in their new space starting tomorrow.
- Garanco will start renovation of current Pre-K Classroom into Guidance Office and ESL Classroom once move is complete.
- We're still waiting on land to dry so new septic lines can be put in.

- A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday for the new parking lot.
- Classroom furniture has been delivered and installed.

South Stokes High School:

- The roofing project is complete. The final inspection with Engineer Jerry Moorefield is scheduled for tomorrow.

Panic Alarm Systems:

- We hope to start that project this week. It has been delayed, because of the weather.

David Burge also reported that he and Brad Lankford had attended a drug and alcohol testing class for anyone with their CDL license. The way Stokes County Schools has been testing yellow and activity bus drivers does not meet Federal DOT guidelines. Mr. Burge has received proposals from two drug testing companies and is currently waiting on responses from two additional companies.

Mr. Rogers questioned who had patched holes in the South Stokes School parking lot and reported that they had come apart rapidly. Mr. Burge stated normally we contact DOT every summer with issues we have in parking lots.

Discussion of Inclement Weather Make-up Days:

Melisa Jessup, Executive Director of Human Resources, stated we were okay with make-up hours, until we get to February 14th. She proposed the following make-up options:

February 14 (Code C)	Make up Date: Monday, April 21
March 4 (Code A)	Make up Date: Monday, June 9
March 7 (Code A)	Make-up Date: Tuesday, June 10 (Early Dismissal)

Mr. Rogers asked how short we were time wise. Ann Sliger, Director of Student Information/Student Reassignment, stated there were only six schools that currently had time to the good. Times have been calculated to the minute and those schools with short time range from 9 hours 45 minutes to 55 minutes.

Melisa Jessup stated she had talked to the Governor's Office before coming to the meeting and they indicated the Governor is leaving it up to locals to make-up time. They are not going to make any changes to the way the law is written.

Mrs. Cox stated she thought it was pretty cut and dried and that every possible angle had been looked at. She asked what this did to the testing schedule at the end of the year.

Michael Sands, Director of Testing and Accountability, stated that every day the year is extended the testing is moved forward for elementary, middle and high schools. If two days are added, exams at the elementary schools would be pushed to the Wednesday, after the Memorial Day holiday. He felt this would be beneficial for the elementary and middle schools. June 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 would be exam days for

our high schools. Most high schools utilize those first four days as exam days and use the last day as their final day to make-up exams.

Mrs. Cox stated so adding that time in is a benefit to all grade levels.

Michael Sands stated the only school that it would technically hurt would be the Early College. We cannot move seniors exams forward any, because of the date Forsyth Tech has set as their graduation.

Mr. Rogers stated if we go fifteen minutes extra a day for the eight weeks left of schools we would make-up six hundred minutes or ten hours. The highest time short is nine hours and forty-five minutes.

Melisa Jessup responded that Meadowbrook Academy is short fifteen hours and five minutes. They have already extended their day ten minutes. She asked principals attending the board meeting to share what had been discussed at their last principals' meeting.

Principal Rick Menear stated the principals talked about getting instructional time in on April 21st. He added that it would be more beneficial for teachers and students to get instructional time in on that day.

Principal Rhonda. Jackson stated middle school students are already sitting in class sixty-five minutes. She did not see where you would be getting quality, if another five or ten minutes is added to that class period. . Mrs. Jackson said you'd be getting quantity in time, but she didn't see where quality would be improved. This would just be making time.

Mr. Rogers stated on June 9th and 10th you would not have students' focus. They are done.

Principal Karen Boles agreed with Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Menear. Chestnut Grove teachers want quality time in the classroom. If you give them fifteen minutes a day, it is not going to impact student learning like a day is.

Mr. Rogers stated Meadowbrook might need to add time to their day. At fifteen hours and five minutes they are almost four days short.

Mrs. Cox pointed out that Meadowbrook has always run on a different schedule than the rest of the schools.

Melisa Jessup stated the final day at Meadowbrook might have to be a full day, instead of a half of a day.

Mr. Rogers stated Meadowbrook would still be short and Administration needs to fix that.

Melisa Jessup stated next year we needed to take a look at our instructional hours and try to get more uniform across the district. Transportation impacts everybody from being the same, but with the calendar law it is difficult to try and work with this for all of our schools.

Mrs. Cox stated transportation issues are why the schedules are all so different. She pointed out that the recommendation being presented came with input from the principals and directors.

Mr. Rogers stated Administration needs to be given the authority to do something with Meadowbrook's schedule, because they are still short.

Mrs. Cox said the Board of Education would be meeting on Monday and Administration could look at it between now and then or board members could be polled. This will be on the action agenda on Monday.

Mr. Mendenhall stated the sooner this could be decided the better.

Melisa Jessup said parents and employees would like to know now, if board members would make that decision.

Mrs. Cox moved this item to the action agenda as Item C.

Discussion of Middle Schools' Desire to Change A Day/B Day Schedules:

Rick Menear, Principal of Piney Grove Middle School, stated Piney Grove's 6th graders are currently on an A Day/B Day schedule. Piney Grove's 7th and 8th graders are on a 9 week schedule for the electives of art, band, technology, and life skills. As an example, currently 6th graders are having art class on Monday and they won't go back to their art class again until Wednesday. He has discussed this with his elective teachers and unanimously all of them said they would love to also have sixth graders on a 9 week schedule. That change would allow elective teachers to see their students on an everyday basis. The students will still be seen the same amount of time, but would be seen 5 days a week instead of sometimes only 2 days a week. Inclement weather has thrown off their instruction and unanimously at Piney Grove all the elective teachers would like to go to a 9 week schedule.

Karen Boles, Principal at Chestnut Grove Middle School, stated this was something Chestnut Grove would like to do as well, because of it being more instructionally sound. One of the difficulties across the elective is if Monday was an A day and we missed Tuesday the kids can't keep up with whether it's A day or B day. We're three-quarters through the school year and the kids still struggle with that. The continuum of instruction is what is creating the hardship. When a teacher is meeting with a different group of students every other day, it is hard to see progress. It is a little more sensitive for elective teachers, because they realize that their students' progress is going to affect their Standard 6.

Karen Boles added that a concern at Chestnut Grove is their enrollment numbers and the band program. She did not want to see the band program suffer, because of an increase in numbers. Her band director's concern is that when the students see it is all or nothing, they might not elect to take band. Band students would only get band and PE versus non-band students getting to participate in the rest of the elective programs. Her band director also sees the positives in being able to see his students every day. His other issue is class size numbers. There would be roughly 50 kids per class versus his biggest class now being 30 kids.

Mrs. Messick expressed a concern that if a child comes into the 6th grade and selects band, they can only take band and PE and they can never take art or technology. She thought all students needed to

have technology and computer skills. The students will never be exposed to life skills or art. To never take any of those classes would have students feel locked in to just band and PE.

Rhonda Jackson, Principal of Southeastern Stokes Middle School, stated that's the way the schedule has been at Southeastern for several years. When students are recruited at the elementary level, they are told if band is selected their other elective is PE. There has not been any backlash from the community or parents about that. As far as technology is concerned, all teachers are teaching technology in their classrooms. Southeastern's 6th grade band students are not going through the wheel, but they are still getting the use of laptops and ipads. They are using technology with their own presentations. There are smartboards in the classrooms and the teachers are interacting with the kids that way. Mrs. Jackson felt the 6th grade band students are getting the technology piece that they need. They're all using PowerPoints, they're using Edmono, and in science classes they are making their own videos. Kids now are born with technology in their hand.

Mrs. Messick stated these students are not getting the keyboarding. Basic technology helps them learn to use all of the fingers in typing, instead of just the one finger. That's the good advantage. She asked if the band program at South Stokes had gotten smaller.

Mr. Rogers stated that it had, but that it was not entirely due to the A block/B block. All the other influences are options at the high school level.

Mrs. Messick said these students will never get an opportunity to take art, technology and life skills. They won't get to interact with any of the other students at middle school or at high school. They won't get a chance to be intergraded.

Rick Menear said in listening to Piney Grove's band director and to older students' thoughts on band it has to be a yearlong thing to master the instrument. Mrs. Messick responded that it is yearlong with an A/B schedule.

Rhonda Jackson stated it is yearlong, but it is not in a consistent manner. She is a little more understanding and a little more lenient, when a 6th grade child comes to her within the first two or three weeks of band and requests to be moved into the electives. This year after the Christmas break, four 6th grade students requested to move into band. They didn't like the electives. Now those four sixth graders are in band. They've missed a whole semester, but Southeastern's band teacher was willing to say yes, they can come right in. We're a little more understanding of choices and are willing to work with our 6th graders.

Karen Boles said another point she'd like to mention is that when students transfer within the county, it is difficult to schedule them, because our schedules are not consistent across the middle schools.

Mr. Rogers asked if it were possible to develop a schedule that gives the 6th graders the opportunity to spend the first nine weeks exploring the electives.

Michael Sands, Director of Testing and Accountability, responded that right now there is no MSL that has been designed for a three week course. If the students are in the course, we would have no option but to test for that particular course. The concern would be what the test covered and what's covered in a three week course would not match.

Executive Director of Finance Lanette Moore asked principals if their proposal maintained the current level of personnel.

Principals responded that it did and no additional personnel would be required.

Mrs. Cox stated Southeastern Middle School has already been doing this for a number of years. They haven't had a problem with it and it's working smoothly there. The other two schools just want to get on the same page. This is a school level decision and in her opinion should be made by the principals over the two schools. It is micromanaging for board members to tell them they can't explore that option.

Mr. Mendenhall agreed with Mrs. Cox. Principals run their schools and they should know what works, what doesn't work and what will be most effective.

Assistant Superintendent Tony George agreed.

Mrs. Messick stated she still felt it's a shame to not offer 6th graders an opportunity to find out what art, life skills and technology are about. If they decide they want to stay in band, that's great. A lot of smart students take band. She felt not giving the students an opportunity to see what those elective courses are like is a disservice to the students.

Board member Boles said our whole thing is to educate the child. That's not saying it is always convenient or always easy, but we want to give a child the opportunity to explore its own vast storehouse of talents and knowledge.

Mr. Rogers expressed a concern that 6th graders would be making a choice that is a three year decision.

Rhonda Jackson replied that it was not a three year decision. A student entering 7th grade who doesn't want to be in band anymore can join the wheel (electives) at that time.

Karen Boles added that because Chestnut Grove and Piney Grove are A day/B day they have to work by semesters. If all middle schools were on quarters, changes could be made quicker. If they discovered in the first nine weeks they're not interested in band, they would have three nine weeks to join the exploratory field. We have to be flexible and work with those students. We do kind of hold them to nine weeks or in sixth grade we hold them to a semester.

Mr. Mendenhall stated principals wanted to be upfront with the board and let them know what they were thinking. They wanted board members to know what their thought process was.

Mr. Rogers stated ultimately it's the principals' decision.

Mrs. Cox thanked the principals for sharing the information.

Discussion of Affordable Heath Care Act:

Executive Director of Finance Lanette Moore shared information on this agenda item with board members. The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010, but the school system's part as an employer was postponed until 2015. The information received is changing every day, but we currently have to do some things in this calendar year to get ready for 2015.

The school system has to decide who their full time employees are. Full time employees work an average of 30 plus hours per week or 130 hours per month. There are questions on how some categories of people, including substitutes and tutors, will fall. We do not have to offer insurance to volunteers. We are waiting on a determination on whether insurance has to be offered to coaches. Ms. Moore stated we are also currently waiting on guidance on what would happen with our retirees who are working.

The school board has to offer all eligible employees insurance. If mandates are not met, the Board of Education will be subject to a penalty. The penalty is decided, when one employee goes to the market.

This process begins with a measurement period that is considered a look-back period and has to be from three to twelve months. Ms. Moore recommended the school system's measurement period run from April 15, 2014 to October 14, 2014. During this time it will be determined what employees are eligible.

The administrative period of October 15, 2014 through December 31, 2014 will be used to review and enroll eligible people so their insurance deduction would come out of their December check for January coverage.

Stokes County Schools' stability period or coverage period would be from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. A full time eligible person who began working part time during this period would still have to have coverage for the entire year.

Ms. Moore stated another key area was that summer break could not be counted as zero hours worked. It has to be counted into the formula.

Mr. Rogers asked why we couldn't just figure out how to keep people from going over their hours. Stokes County Schools cannot afford to pay their health care.

Ms. Moore stated this has been discussed with principals and they are currently trying to monitor employees, until decisions are made. Principal concerns include the impact to students using different substitutes to prevent 30 plus hours per week, types of substitutes needed for special needs children, driving distance for substitutes to travel, quality and loyalty.

Ms. Moore said it was suggested the school system use a temporary service company to hire substitutes and/or to allow a certain number of substitutes to work more than 30 plus hours and provide insurance coverage to that group.

Mr. Rogers commented if insurance coverage is paid on a substitute they have to be willing to go to work regardless. They may be a substitute, because they like flexible hours.

Ms. Moore stated substitutes and tutors are now using Time Keeper to clock in and out. That is one way to help us track hours. She described software packages that will soon be looked at that can also help track employees' hours.

Mr. Rogers agreed that would help track substitutes that work in more than one school. He thought it would be board consensus that they did not want to pay someone's insurance. He thought the place we would get into trouble would be long term maternity leaves or long term care.

Ms. Moore stated we should be okay if they do not do a lot of other subbing.

She finished her presentation by saying substitutes and tutors that work 30 hours a week in the measuring period do not have the option to sign a waiver for the coverage.

Action Agenda

Approval of Resolution on Student Transfer Requests:

Mr. Rogers made a motion to approve the following resolution as presented. Motion was seconded by Ms. Boles. Motion passed 4-0, Yontz absent.

RESOLUTION

Stokes County Board of Education Policy 4130, Discretionary Admission, authorizes the Superintendent of the Stokes County Schools to approve or to deny requests for the admission and enrollment of students who are not domiciled in Stokes County. Policy 4130 includes criteria to be considered by the Superintendent in determining whether to grant or to deny such requests.

The Board of Education adopts this Resolution to establish further criteria for consideration by the Superintendent in making a decision whether to grant or to deny a request for admission and enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year of a student not domiciled in North Carolina.

Now, therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED that the following additional criteria shall be considered by the Superintendent in making a decision whether to grant or to deny a request for admission and enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year of a student not domiciled in North Carolina:

Unless otherwise required by applicable law or policy, a student domiciled in a state other than North Carolina shall not be admitted to the Stokes County Schools unless the student's parent (or other legal guardian) is an employee of the Stokes County Schools.

Approval of Renovation to Chestnut Grove Softball Complex:

County Athletic Director Annette Johnson shared pictures of a major wash problem at the Chestnut Grove softball complex. She reported that Ricky Goins, Maintenance Director, has looked at the problem and stated the students need to be kept away from that area. Chestnut Grove has been asked to move all of their games from there. Ms. Johnson stated this problem needs to be fixed immediately and can cost up to $10,000.00.

Assistant Superintendent Tony George stated it is an emergency. This problem needs to be fixed so the students can play their games there.

Lanette Moore, Executive Director of Finance, stated the board does not have money budgeted for this repair; however, leftover funds from the South Stokes roofing project could possibly be moved to this project.

Mr. Rogers made a motion to use the funding up to $10,000.00 with the board being notified what the low bids were. Ms. Boles seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0, Yontz absent.

Approval of Inclement Weather Make-up Days:

Mrs. Cox asked for a motion to approve proposed inclement weather make-up days.

Mr. Rogers offered a second scenario by adding five minutes to the school schedules that needed additional time to meet the 1,025 hour requirement. He stated Friday, June 6, would become a full day for testing and Monday, June 9, would become a half day for any necessary make-up testing. This would save money and all the exams would be in a one-week span. The last day of school would be on Friday, and the hour and day requirements have been met.

Mrs. Cox stated principals have already discussed this.

Melisa Jessup, Executive Director of Human Resources, said that was correct. Principals all signed a form that they preferred full day make-up as opposed to extending time. She added that some of the hourly employees, specifically Child Nutrition and bus drivers, would be impacted financially.

Mrs. Cox stated she needed a motion to approve the make-up days that had been provided to board members by Ms. Jessup.

Ms. Boles stated money wise we are trying to save all we can. As far as extending time to the day, the principals would rather make-up the day.

After further discussion, Mr. Mendenhall stated Mrs. Cox had made a motion on the recommendation shared by Ms. Jessup. He asked if there was a second and no second was made.

Mr. Rogers suggested tabling this agenda item until their March 17th meeting.

Ms. Boles agreed that it should be tabled.

Mrs. Cox stated the point is there is not a better option. It is the option that the Directors who are paid to give the Board of Education advice have given. It is the direction that the principals want to go.

Mr. Rogers stated there was a reason board members vote and that vote is for board members to decide based on influence and input. He said if Mrs. Cox wanted a motion that he would make a motion to add the amount of time to cover the first day and that June 9th be a half day for make-up testing.

Michael Sands, Director of Testing and Accountability, stated elementary and middle schools would still need to be in school on that day for attendance purposes.

Mrs. Messick asked if it was too late to add time on to the school day to get hours in.

Ms. Jessup stated that minutes could still be added to the day.

After further discussion, Mrs. Cox said the principals all recommend going in a block. They are the instructionally leaders of their schools. They know better than we do. The principals and teachers know best instructionally and they do not want to add more time to the day to make this up. They want to do it in a whole block of time and we're just talking about saving a half day by adding five minutes. It just does not seem like it is worth it.

Mr. Rogers stated he was under the view that board members were elected to represent the taxpayers and everybody in Stokes County. They have to look at it from all perspectives.

Mrs. Cox said the educationally sound perspective is a pretty good perspective to look at it from.

Assistant Superintendent Tony George stated Sandy Ridge and Lawsonville schools are eight and nine hours short. Their parents have contacted him and have not been happy with time being added to the day. If board members add more time, he felt they would be adding more complaints.

After further discussion, Mrs. Cox asked if there were a second to Mike's motion.

Ms. Boles seconded the motion. Motion failed with a 2-2 vote, Yontz absent.

Mrs. Messick made a motion to go with the recommendation of the make-up days that had been given to board members. Mrs. Cox seconded this motion. Motion failed 2-2, Yontz absent.

This item was tabled. Action will be taken on March 17, 2014.

The Board of Education scheduled the following meetings:

Regular Session	March 17, 2014	6:00 PM	Chestnut Grove Middle School, King
Board Retreat	April 5, 2014	8:30 AM	Forsyth Tech, King

Information and Announcements

Mr. Mendenhall reported Stokes County Schools is up for their five year accreditation process. The process will be in the fall of 2014, but meetings will begin this spring. Mrs. Amy Nail will be heading the committee up. He asked if a board member would volunteer to serve on the advanced accreditation committee. Mrs. Messick stated that she would like to serve on the committee.

Fund raising requests that do not require board approval were shared with board members for their information.

At 11:53 a.m., Mr. Mendenhall asked for a motion to return to closed session as allowed by NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(6). Mrs. Messick made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Boles. Motion passed 4-0, Yontz absent.

[Closed Session]

At 12:38 p.m., Mrs. Messick made a motion to return to open session. Motion was seconded by Ms. Boles and approved 3-0, Yontz and Rogers absent.

Mr. Johnson asked for a motion to amend the reassignment transfer from to include a statement regarding whether or not an out-of-county child has been identified as an exceptional child and requesting a copy of the current IEP for that child. Mrs. Messick made a motion to do the amendment. Ms. Boles seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0, Yontz and Rogers absent.

Lawsonville Elementary Project:

Mr. Mendenhall reminded board members that when the Lawsonville Elementary project was started, County Manager Rick Morris contacted us about the commissioners wanting to know if we wanted to use left over money towards other projects. We have recently received emails from Darlene Bullins about this.

Mr. Johnson stated they want a commitment from the board that if there are left over monies from the Lawsonville project they will use them for other needs. If they allocated the funds to the school board for the Lawsonville project, the commissioners would have to determine if there are monies left over what this board could do with them. That is what they have said they will do.

Mr. Mendenhall stated at this point we do not know how much money is going to be left over and we have emailed Darlene Bullins that. We still have the sewage, the water, and the parking lot to be completed.

Mrs. Cox stated we need to see what kind of money is left over.

Mr. Johnson stated at this point and time we do not anticipate any surplus.

Mrs. Messick made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Ms. Boles.

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Secretary Chairman