

Board of Education March 17, 2015 Meeting

The Bedford County Board of Education met in a Regular monthly session on March 17, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Building Board Room, 500 Madison Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Board members

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **OPENING REMARKS**
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2015 Board Meeting
 - B. Overnight and/or Out-of-State Trip Requests
 - 1. Cascade FBLA - State Conference - Chattanooga, TN
 - C. Textbook Committee Adoption Recommendations
- VI. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. SCOPE Delegation Reports
 - B. Pre-K Program - Betty Farrar
- VII. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. Building Program
 - B. February Financial Report
 - C. Budget Amendment #2
- VIII. **REPORT ITEMS**
 - A. Monthly Tax Analysis
 - B. Monthly Expenditures Report
 - C. Legislative Report
 - D. Executive Committee Report
 - 1. Declaration of Surplus Property - SCHS Annex
 - E. Superintendent's Report
- IX. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - A. Acknowledge School System Programs & Achievements
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

March 17, 2015

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Unofficial Minutes from February 24, 2015 Board Meeting

The February 2015 board meeting was rescheduled from the 17th to the 24th due to inclement weather conditions. The Board met in regular session on February 24 at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the Central Office Building Board Room located at 500 Madison Street in Shelbyville. Mr. Graham was absent. Mr. Cook was not present at start of the meeting, arriving at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Chairperson Martin recognized four of the six delegates to SCOPE who were in attendance (Austin Derryberry, Sarah Pierce, Micah Thompson and Morgan Jennings) and noted that Grace Murphy and Tyler Huff from Cascade were unable to attend due to ball games that had been rescheduled. The Chairperson then asked several members of Youth Leadership Bedford to stand and be recognized.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved by acclamation upon the motion to do so from Mrs. Neeley, seconded by Mrs. Parker.

PRESENTATIONS

SCOPE Delegation

SCOPE delegates met with Dr. Andrea Anderson prior to the start of the board meeting in order to go over what is expected of them at the event to be held March 9, 2015 at MTSU. Delegates were encouraged by board members to speak up, participate, and showcase their personality during the event.

RTI – Karen Scoggins & Carol Smith

Karen Scoggins, Assistant Superintendent, and Carol Smith, Elementary Instruction Supervisor gave a presentation (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) on RTI (Response to Intervention) and how it fits into the whole instructional picture.

Leadership and instructional stability are the two things wanted in the district wide approach to learning. These two goals will be achieved through professional

development, blended curriculum, quality assessments, Response to Intervention and Professional Learning Communities.

RTI encompasses high levels of learning for all students. It uses differentiated learning methods since all students learn in different ways. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) required that systems intervene for students who were not proficient however how that was accomplished was left up to the district or school. That is no longer an option in Tennessee, as RTI is mandated by the state.

In Bedford County, we are not concerned with various labels assigned a child. The goal is to get them what they need in order to move them to the next level and it doesn't matter if they are EL, Title I, SPED or any other designation. This program eliminates the need for a label.

A universal screener is used to identify students for tiers. The screener is given three times a year and is called AIMSweb. It meets all 18 points of criteria set by the state.

Mrs. Martin asked if the screener was given the same week as other testing. It is given the week after and taken alternate weeks during the two week testing window. The test takes about two minutes to give in each category but takes a little longer in the lower grades.

The screener is a "one on one" test, given verbally, and provides a snapshot of reading comprehension and math reasoning and calculation. Mrs. Martin asked if teachers had assistance during the screening. There are school wide teams trained and utilized for the screenings so as not to interrupt classroom instruction.

All third graders get Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) paid through federal funds. Educators will be moving to lexile scores (like a grade equivalency) and library books and other materials will move to lexile scores.

School teams are comprised of a screening team, Tier 1 instruction, an intervention team and Tier 2 instruction. There are a lot of different combinations at each school, depending on number of kids served. The district level RTI team went to each school and met on how this would look and what help and support could be provided.

Tier 1 is ELA Core Instruction and calls for 150 minutes with K-2 and 90 minutes with grades 3-9. ELA is English Language Arts and Core Instruction is the time spent teaching those subjects.

Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) are a simple test given to see if a student has mastered a skill and understand the concept. If not mastered, it must be re-taught.

Tier II is Target Intervention and calls for an additional 30 minutes of instruction for grades K-9 for the 25th percentile and below as determined by the universal screener. Tier II is for a minimum of 12 weeks before moving to Tier III.

RTI interventions need to be direct, explicit instruction and correctly targeted to the student's deficit area as determined by data. It must provide sufficient levels of challenge and repetition so the skill can be retained.

RTI is not a special education identification process or a means of finding learning disabilities. It is not for just struggling learners or only interventions. It is not doing things as they have always been done.

ELA Tier III strategic interventions are for an additional 30 minutes in grades K-9 and are more explicit and intensive than Tier II. Tier III encompasses a small percentage of students and is for a minimum of 15 weeks of intervention.

After all the intervention, if improvement is not being seen, there will be discussion of a referral to special education. All of the data taken to that point goes to a team who discuss whether to make a referral, however RTI is not a vehicle to get to special education. RTI is for getting students proficient and back to Tier I instruction and allows the system to move students to a higher level of learning.

Mrs. Neeley expressed concern as to whether the time requirements in RTI would cause students to fall behind and if children were staying after school. The RTI mandate cannot be reached during after school hours and must be done during the school day.

Principals have tweaked their schedules which has been a complicated puzzle. Superintendent Embry said that elementary principals have gotten good at getting their scheduling down and middle school is now dabbling in it and high school will be next. He added that this will be a huge learning shift with high school scheduling.

Mrs. Neeley asked if the core teacher was staying in the classroom while intervention is being done by support staff or if the classroom teacher is doing all they are already required in addition to RTI. There are six people on the team, including two classroom teachers, who divvy up students by their need, such as phonics or fluency.

(Mr. Cook arrives at approximately 6:10 p.m.)

Mrs. Neeley felt the board should give kudos to teachers managing to do this every day and this may help to understand where some of their frustrations are stemming from. She added her concern about teacher morale and all the requirements they face and that in her opinion the board will have to find more teachers or more money.

Mrs. Parker asked if parent volunteers could do this, however detailed training is required. Many parents do come in and work with children on skills, although some schools have very little parental participation.

Mrs. Neeley acknowledged that all the requirements for RTI were coming down from the state without funding, and said she was trying to get a handle on where the board needed to go for more help. Mrs. Scoggins said personnel, and more money for teacher's salaries. Teachers are being asked to do more and more and need to be paid for the job they are doing. Mrs. Scoggins said the schools are doing a beautiful job of what is best for kids.

Mr. Forsee asked for the percentage of students involved in RTI. Mrs. Scoggins responded that about 45% of students fall into the 25 and below mandate.

Mr. Forsee then asked what the number one foundational need is for the system. Sustained instructional stability with instructional staff was Mrs. Scoggins response. We are training teachers, keeping them for three years and then losing them to other systems due to money.

Mr. Forsee then asked what is the number one educational component that we are missing and Mrs. Scoggins answered that students are not coming to school ready, pointing out screening indicated that 70% of kindergartners did not come to school with a Brigance readiness score. Community involvement, building the literacy base and expanding Pre-K was then discussed.

Mr. Cook asked if there were plans to implement interventionists in our system as is being done in some other systems. Mrs. Scoggins said this topic was currently being discussed in study sessions but there are issues since it could not be funded totally through federal funds, or being for only Title I schools and if not offered to all schools would be supplanting, etc.

ACTION ITEMS

Request to Change 2014-15 School Year Calendar

Superintendent Embry requested changing a staff development day scheduled for February 27, be changed to a regular school day. ***Mr. Boutwell moved to approve the requested change. Mr. Forsee seconded his motion.***

The Superintendent explained that each school day has an extra 30 minutes that is stockpiled into 13 days. The state allows the system to use those days as snow days. As a system, we have chosen to use 5 of those days as teacher training days (staff development) which are totally separate from in-service days, so this leaves the system with 8 snow days. If not used, snow days are lost.

Currently there are only two snow days left and more inclement weather is forecast. Turning Friday into a regular instructional day gives us back one snow day for a total of three.

Mr. Forsee asked for an amendment to the original motion in order to grant the Superintendent authority to make adjustments to the calendar as needed, with consultation of the board chairperson, rather than requiring further board action. Mr. Boutwell accepted this amendment to his motion. The Board approved the amended motion by a vote of 8-0.

School Activity Funds Audit

Principal Responses to Audit

County Finance Director Robert Daniel confirmed that he had met with a few of the newer principals to go over corrective actions and now feels all principal responses to audit (see documents in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) are in order.

Superintendent Embry added that feedback he had received from those principals involved was positive and had been a good learning experience. Mr. Daniel said that county finance is always available to help anyone. ***Mrs. Neeley moved to approve the school activity funds audit and her motion was seconded by Dr. Anderson and approved unanimously.***

Mrs. Parker moved to approve principal responses to the audit and her motion was seconded by Mr. Crews. Mr. Cook requested that all make sure principals and office staff have the tools needed to be successful so as to not repeat same findings over and over. Mrs. Martin agreed and suggested that new personnel receive training. Robert Daniel stressed the responsibility of principals and their need to understand all processes. He has looked at getting an outside CPA to come in and give them some

additional insight. Superintendent Embry said it had also been discussed to bring someone in to do a refresher on school law and internal accounting during an administrative retreat. ***Motion to approve responses passed unanimously.***

Federal Amendments

FTTT - Betty Thames explained that this FTTT amendment (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) was adjusting in order to expend funds. Money must be designated by June 30 and expended by July 1. Adjustments are moving money from one fund to another such as from staff development to substitutes and from supplies and materials to technology. There will be several more adjustments in order to expend all of this last year of FTTT funds. ***Upon the motion and second of Cook and Neeley, the FTTT amendment was approved by a vote of 8-0.***

Title I, Part A - This amendment (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) is to move \$5,000 from one line of medical insurance to another medical insurance line. ***Mrs. Parker moved for approval and was seconded by Mr. Forsee. The Title I, Part A amendment passed by unanimous vote.***

142-IDEA B - This amendment (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) is a standard amendment moving monies between lines for clean-up and to cover unpredicted expenditures and was ***approved unanimously upon the motion and second of Neeley and Parker.***

January Financial Report

Robert Daniel reviewed in detail the January Monthly Financial Report (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file) noting that revenues were on target. Mr. Forsee asked for a review of committed fund balance to point out that much is being asked of the board with limited resources and it requires a team effort of the entire county.

There was discussion about budgeting as realistically as possible. Better fund balance numbers will be available at next month's meeting.

Mr. Boutwell said he would be interested in seeing a breakdown of expenditures mandated by law as opposed to what is discretionary. Approximately 80% of the budget goes to salaries and benefits, leaving not much to work with. Mr. Boutwell feel that at some point more money will be needed and there will be pushback from somewhere and he would like to document there is very little wiggle room in the budget.

Mrs. Neeley said that often what happens is someone will look at a line item, not having studied or understanding federal guidelines which mandate how that money must be spent, and often pushback from the public comes from that misconception.

The January Monthly Financial Report was approved unanimously upon the motion and second of Boutwell and Neeley.

REPORT ITEMS

Monthly Tax Analysis

Mr. Daniel reviewed the monthly tax analysis (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file). The Chairperson asked Mr. Daniel to explain to the audience how sales and property tax work, in order to illustrate dependence on the economy of the county. She then encouraged everyone to buy locally as often as possible.

Monthly Expenditures Report

There was nothing unusual in the monthly expenditures report (see document in February 24, 2015 board meeting file). Mr. Daniel did note that his office and child nutrition are working with information from other systems about how to code differently and avoid so many outstanding purchase orders, so next month that number may drop.

Legislative Report

Diane Neeley gave a legislative update, noting that the filing deadline for legislation was February 12. She noted a Tennessee bill on teacher evaluations as one to watch and also NSBA's amended version of the federal Student Success Act.

Executive Committee Report

Chairperson Martin reported having received declarations of surplus property from Thomas Magnet, Southside Elementary and Community High.

Mrs. Martin recognized the following dates of interest:

March 9 – SCOPE

March 12 – Mini-Retreat in the Central Office from 5-9

March 17 – Next school board meeting to be held in the Central Office

The Chairperson encouraged members to attend the upcoming NSBA convention in Nashville.

Mrs. Martin asked for a joint study session to be held between the Board and Commission within the next two weeks. Superintendent Embry suggested waiting until after the mini-retreat is held.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported that the second annual job fair would be held May 2nd from 9am-12pm in the cafeteria of SCHS.

Tentative dates for graduation, pending any changes resulting from inclement weather/snow days, should be May 15 for Community and May 16 for SCHS and Cascade.

ACT testing for all juniors is to be held this coming Tuesday, barring inclement weather.

OTHER BUSINESS

Acknowledge School System Programs & Achievements

As a former Vi-Queen herself, Mrs. Martin is celebrating back to back district championships for the Community girls' basketball program and looking forward to the state tournament. She recognized Sarah Pierce, in attendance for SCOPE introductions, as Player of the Year and MVP of the district tournament.

Glenn Forsee wished to thank Principal Reita Vaughn of Southside Elementary for allowing the pastor and his church to partner with the school to secure a grant from Rural Compassion Ministries, which is part of the Convoy of Hope in Springfield, Missouri. The grant provided a brand new pair of shoes, donated by an anonymous shoe manufacturer, to every student and staff member of the school. Approximately 450 pairs, valued at \$23,000, were distributed.

Diane Neeley gave an update on Tyler Bean, son of Liberty kindergarten teacher Angie Bean and gave kudos to the school for all they have been doing for the Bean family.

Dr. Anderson reported that Thomas Magnet would be holding their annual Chinese Gala on March 5th.

Mrs. Martin concluded by noting that Community's drama students were again partnering with students from Eagleville on a high school musical.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the motion of Mr. Forsee, the Board adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m.