

CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2009, 5:00 P. M.
MINUTES FROM THE JULY 14, 2009 MEETING

MEETING LOCATION:
CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
205 EDGEFIELD STREET
CALHOUN FALLS, SC 29628

CALL TO ORDER

Calhoun Falls Charter School Board met in a scheduled meeting with Chairman Keith Ashley presiding. Board members present were Michael Alewine, Bert Broadwell, Joseph Cade, Horace Thomas and Peggy Lee Waters. Dale Gilchrist was late and Heather Hatchett and Michael V. Johnson were absent. Also present was Principal Deirdre McCullough, Assistant Principal Lori Lindler and Bill Moser of Kelley-Moser Consulting.

Mr. Ashley called the meeting to order at 5:04 P. M. and asked Mrs. McCullough to open the meeting in prayer. Mr. Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Mission Statement was read by Peggy Lee Waters.

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Bill Moser began by saying the teacher salaries fringe increase was received in June. This fund assists schools with teacher's salaries. He stated we finished the year without receiving our Title 1 and IDEA money. Mr. Moser stated our year ended with \$3837.32 in the bank and we have \$33,000.00 Title 1 expenses we haven't received. He stated we have \$50,000.00 due in invoices and we over spent \$4500.00 this year, with a 1.5 million budget. Mr. Moser stated that was not bad with 14% cuts. Mrs. McCullough reminded Mr. Moser there are 3 employees on payroll for July. Mr. Ashley asked how will we satisfy these invoices we have and informed Mr. Moser he did not have the name of the new chairman of the board. Mr. Moser stated there should have been some type of transition plan at the District office and none of the charter schools have received ARRA funds. Mr. Moser stated his firm handles the books for the Charter School Board and processed the checks before June 30 and no school received ARRA funds. Mr. Ashley asked if anyone had suggestions regarding the previous year. With no response Mr. Ashley stated we educated our kids for less than \$2500.00 per student and if the state cuts our budget they should do it for the next year. Mr. Ashley asked Mr. Moser if we are allowed to pay for the 501 C 3 application with the P & I grant, Mr. Moser answered, yes. Mr. Ashley asked if he is sure to which Mr. Moser answered, yes again. Mr. Moser stated the first audit can be paid

by the P & I grant also. Mr. Ashley asked if the fund raising line was corrected. Mr. Moser stated yes. Mrs. McCullough stated Mrs. Moser and Mrs. Hunnicutt had made those corrections. Mr. Ashley asked if Mr. Moser had taken out the \$1000.00 for the expenses of the banquet. Mr. Moser stated he will do his best to bring the break down for the fund raising to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ashley recognized Mr. Rickey Campbell who was present to offer fund raising ideas. He stated while living in Florida he worked for one of the wives of a member of the Lynard Skynard Band booking acts. Mr. Campbell stated he made connections all over the US and these acts are available for \$3500.00. Mr. Campbell asked if we have a monthly goal on fund raising, if not, we should have constant income. He stated one idea is a Fall Festival with crafts and games and asked about alumni donations. Mr. Campbell stated we need to attract people from out of town. Mr. Ashley asked how we would handle ticket sales. Mr. Campbell stated we can work through a radio station. Mr. Ashley stated Mr. Campbell had shared ideas on ways to make big money. Mr. Ashley stated he would love to have Mr. Campbell sit at the head of this committee. Mrs. McCullough stated a cook off in Iva had done well.

Mr. Ashley welcomed Mrs. Anna Edmunds, a faculty member, to the meeting and asked if she was present to address the Board. Mrs. Edmunds stated no.

Mr. Cade stated Kent Bryant was planning a gospel singing fund raiser and asked about a stage. Mr. Campbell stated it would be in our best interest to build a stage on wheels. Mrs. Hatchett stated people are paying \$200.00 for concert tickets. Mr. Ashley asked Mr. Cade the capacity for the football stadium, Mr. Cade stated 1500.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Alewine made a motion to approve the minutes of last month's meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Thomas, motion passed. Mr. Cade and Mrs. Hatchett abstained.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. McCullough stated all teachers are in place. CFCS will offer several new courses which are art, driver's education, public speaking, current events, strength and conditioning, anatomy and HOSA 2. Also, the hand book will list all AP courses available through the virtual schools. Mrs. McCullough further stated dual credit for math, probability and statistics and the ones which were offered last year. Also, an ACT and SAT prep class will be available. Mrs. McCullough stated we could offer one other position, chorus and band.

Mrs. McCullough stated we do have a need for a stipend for our teachers, which is payment for services. She stated our application includes merit pay which we need to discuss.

Mrs. McCullough stated she would like to recognize our students and teachers at each Board Meeting.

She also reported registration is August 10 for the middle school from 8 to 3 and August 11 for high school from 8 to 3. She noted school begins August 13 for teachers and August 18 for students.

Mrs. McCullough reminded board members the school is in need of a defibulator, Mr. Alewine stated he checked on that a month ago and will do so again.

Mrs. Waters asked Mrs. McCullough about the asbestos and bleacher inspections. She stated she had just spoken with Mr. Moses Miller earlier in the day. He informed her he will be part of a consortium which will provide these services for \$600.00. They will see that we meet OSHA requirements by inspecting fire extinguishers and mold issues. They will make 2 guaranteed visits per year. The bleacher inspection is separate; Mrs. McCullough stated she has searched for the receipt from last year to get a contact number.

Mrs. McCullough stated she and Mrs. Lindler have been comparing our offerings to 2A schools and find we are offering the same courses. Mr. Alewine asked if there is something we could offer that others do not. Mrs. McCullough stated yes, one she looked into last year was culinary arts. She stated the best thing we have going for us now is the dual credit, students don't have to step off campus to earn those. Further stating neighboring districts offer these but students must travel to receive dual credit and must pay for these courses, our students do not pay. Mr. Alewine asked what we can do to get this information out to the public. Mr. McCullough stated Channel 7 will visit us tomorrow morning for a news segment. She informed board members she mentions this during every interview she has with the media or at speaking engagements. She stated her goal is to have papers work with us and noted the Index Journal does a good job for us; we want papers to publicize the good things we do.

Mrs. Waters asked if there was any word from Dela Howe. Mrs. McCullough answered no, and added she needs to speak with Mr. Ashley about scheduling a meeting with McCormick schools. McCormick is only accepting 20 students from Dela Howe due to budget cuts. Mr. Cade stated he thinks all middle school students are available. Mrs. McCullough stated we need to understand what we will be dealing with. These students have been kicked out of school and alternative school. She stated after speaking with Marcie Wideman she found it necessary to hire someone to be on site to provide services which would be an extra expense. Ms. Wideman informed Mrs. McCullough of the possibility of Dela Howe sending a person they have with the students. Mrs. Hatchett with Mental Health reminded Mrs. McCullough she is available free to the school and only needs to give her referrals and she can be at the school Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mr. Ashley asked Mrs. McCullough to follow up with Dela Howe through an appointment and let him know when.

Mr. Ashley stated Board had discussed having school policy on site and at meetings for referral purposes. Mrs. McCullough stated the policy will be provided to each student the first week of school.

Mr. Ashley asked what classes we are losing. Mrs. McCullough stated music and home economics. She further stated one of the teachers we budgeted would be brought in under contract at \$38,000.00 through the FACES Program, a foreign exchange program, with a 1 year contract.

Mr. Broadwell asked if the diplomas were corrected. Mrs. McCullough stated yes and the students had picked them up. Mrs. Hatchett asked if we had to pay for them. Mrs. McCullough answered, no.

Mr. Ashley stated he had done a re-cap of the figures for the banquet and the total came to \$7100.00. Mr. Ellison paid the check to the school so it had to run through the school account. He further stated we cleared \$6100.00, and the event was \$2000.00 less than last year. The donations did not come in on the night of the banquet as well as last year. The banquet can raise \$9000.00 to 10,000.00 each year if we work hard. Mrs. Waters stated she had been thinking of ways to up our sale of tickets next year. She stated each board member sending thank you notes to those who purchase from them would be a nice gesture. Also, if we could get the tickets earlier we could get more people attending by allowing them to purchase 1 ticket at a time. Mr. Ashley stated he felt it best to have the banquet the same week-end each year. Mr. Broadwell reminded the Board it was the third Saturday last year and all agreed that would be best. The forth Saturday falls too close to July 4.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Broadwell made a motion to appoint Rickey Campbell as Fund Raiser Chairman. Heather Hatchett seconded the motion. There was no opposition, no discussion, motion passed. Mr. Ashley stated we need at least 2 Board Members to sit on this committee. Mr. Ashley stated Cathy Payne has volunteered to help also.

Mr. Ashley introduced Ms. Michelle Herman of Elliott, Davis and Company who was present to discuss plans for the school audit. She stated we have to sign an engagement letter which is basically a contract and a second letter which states the Company is independent from the board. It also states the planning procedures. Mr. Ashley stated Mr. Moser suggested no salaried employees sit in on the meeting with the Auditor, therefore, Mrs. McCullough left the room. Mrs. Herman stated the firm will basically work with the Moser's and hope to begin in August. She stated there will be a team of accountants and the audit will take about a week. Mr. Ashley signed the paperwork for Ms. Herman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cade made a motion to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Mr. Alewine. There was no opposition, motion passed. Mr. Broadwell made a motion to approve the teachers and part time teacher for chorus/band and was seconded by Mr. Alewine. Motion passed with no opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Alewine made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Hatchett. With no opposition, motion passed.

Mr. Ashley adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Lee Waters