

MINUTES

WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

September 2, 2009

A. Call to Order

The Williamson County Board of Education met in special called session on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, in the Carolyn Campbell Conference Room at the Administrative Complex. Chairman Pat Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Members Present .....12

D'Wayne Greer	1 <sup>st</sup> District	Susan Graham	7 <sup>th</sup> District
Janice Mills	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Pat Anderson	8 <sup>th</sup> District
Janine Moore	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Barry Watkins	9 <sup>th</sup> District
Tim McLaughlin	4 <sup>th</sup> District	Bill Peach	10 <sup>th</sup> District
Gary Anderson	5 <sup>th</sup> District	Mark Gregory	11 <sup>th</sup> District
Terry Leve	6 <sup>th</sup> District	James Bond	12 <sup>th</sup> District

Members Absent .....0

B. Unfinished Business

Director of Schools Search

Chairman Anderson thanked the community for its patience and support during the process which began last October to select a new Director of Schools and also thanked the staff, parents, students and Board for the hundreds of hours devoted to the effort.

Chairman Anderson expressed appreciation to Susan Graham and Barry Watkins who visited the district of Mr. Looney while she visited Mr. Dearden's district and also thanked Janine Moore who made multiple phone reference calls to the larger districts in which both candidates had previously served.

Those board members then briefly reported on their visits and phone reference checks for both candidates and responded to questions. There was further discussion about the positive qualities of both candidates.

Mark Gregory moved to offer a contract to Mike Looney from Butler County, Alabama, with special thanks to Dennis Dearden for his application with Williamson County. James Bond seconded the motion

Gary Anderson spoke about the two candidates, comparing the different strengths and styles of each man. Mr. Anderson characterized Dearden as following a steady course

with a more corporate style of leadership and management with Looney viewed as a mover and shaker with a more individual style of leadership and management. Mr. Anderson posed the question of which style would blend best with Williamson County.

Terry Leve agreed that both candidates were excellent and cautioned the Board about chasing away the second choice candidate if the first choice does not come about.

Barry Watkins moved to amend the motion and remove the statement of thanks to Mr. Dearden. Susan Graham seconded the motion.

After more discussion about the motion and the amendment, both were withdrawn.

Mark Gregory moved to make the first offer for the director of Williamson County Schools to Mike Looney of Butler County, Alabama. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

The Board voted by paper ballots, which were counted by Jason Golden and Carol Birdsong. Chairman Anderson asked that the results of the vote not be communicated outside of the meeting room until the next steps could be completed by the Board.

Chairman Anderson reported the vote on the motion to offer the contract to Mr. Looney:

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Susan Graham	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Janine Moore	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	No	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 11; No, 1; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Chairman Anderson moved the discussion to salary and reported the amount of \$186,000 in the budget for the position, noting that the amount was a cap. Moving expenses up to \$15,000 would be in addition to the salary cap.

There was discussion about the high salary amount being intended for an upper level, top tiered candidate, and board members expressed their views about offering that amount when the previous superintendent salary was a base of \$156,000. There was further discussion about the recommendation from Ray and Associates that the salary should be at least a 40% increase over the current salary being earned by the selected candidate. Chairman Anderson discussed how the amount of \$186,000 was sold to the county commission.

Terry Leve moved to offer \$168,000 as a base salary to Mr. Looney. James Bond seconded the motion.

Paper ballots were distributed and collected to be counted by Jason Golden and Carol Birdsong.

Chairman Anderson announced the voting results.

D'Wayne Greer	No	Susan Graham	No
Janice Mills	No	Pat Anderson	No
Janine Moore	No	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 7; No, 5; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Chairman Anderson recessed the meeting at 9:15 p.m. to allow her and Board Attorney Chuck Cagle to call Mr. Looney with the Board's offer.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting back into session at 9:35 p.m. and reported that Mr. Looney had agreed to the offer to enter into contract negotiations with the Board through Mr. Cagle.

Gary Anderson moved to select Mr. Looney by acclamation. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a voice vote.

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Cagle discussed items to be negotiated, including the contract length, vacation days, and automobile usage, adding that the Board would vote on the final contract.

Barry Watkins moved to thank Dennis Dearden for his application. Susan Graham seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a voice vote.

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried Unanimously.

Chairman Anderson stated that she would call Mr. Dearden, and she also thanked all of the individuals who presented themselves as candidates for the position of Director of Schools for Williamson County.

C. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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Patricia B. Anderson, Chairman

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Dr. David Heath, Interim Director of Schools