

# **Obion County Board of Education**

## **Special Called Session**

### **Board Retreat**

**March 27, 2009**

The Obion County Board of Education met in a special called session on March 27, 2009 at the Obion County Public Library. Board Chairman, Roger Williams, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Huss called the roll. Mr. Roger Williams, Mr. Jimmy Smith, Mr. Glynn Giffin, Ms. Diane Sanderson, Mr. Brian Rainey, Mr. David Lamb, and Ms. Susan Williams were present. Seven members were present. There was a quorum.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The special called Session/Board Retreat presented the Board with an opportunity to receive updates on the following items of business:

- Mr. Huss' presentation/overview of Obion County Schools as prepared for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Quality Assurance Review Team
- Ms. Terri Pike's Reading Recovery Presentation/Update
- Ms. Nancy Hamilton, Ms. Mary Lynn Dodson, and Mr. Dale Hollowell's High School Updates on graduation rates, ACT Prep, Gateway/End of Course Testing, Freshman Academy, Credit Recovery, Summer Remediation, Peer Tutoring, Dual Enrollment, and Inclusion Programs
- Ms. Lesa Scillion's Middle School/Title Update on Math, Teacher Value Added, Social Studies, ThinkLink, and Teacher Mentoring
- Ms. Vikki Stevenson and Ms. Mary Lynn Dodson's Elementary Update on Pre-K, LEAP, ESL, and Inclusion Programs
- Ms. Heather Kendall's Update on Coordinated School Health

- All School Principals' Update on What Our Schools Are Doing to Get Better

No action was required by the Board on the above items. During discussions, the Board was informed that, due to the ailing economy, the Reading Recovery/Balanced Literacy Initiative would not be implemented as scheduled due to the second phase of the BEP 2.0 funds not being budgeted as originally projected by the State. However, the Board was advised that a portion of new ARRA Stimulus funds could be used to put these programs in place with the understanding that recurring expenses, such as teacher salaries and benefits, would have to be absorbed in the System's General Purpose Budget in Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The Board expressed its desire for all avenues to be explored to fully implement the Reading Recovery/Balanced Literacy Initiative as soon as possible and practical.

*Director of Schools Annual Evaluation* - The final item of business on the agenda was the Director of Schools annual evaluation. Board members recently completed their individual evaluations of Mr. Huss' job performance and gave him an overall approval rating of 89.66% this year which reflected an increase from the 2008 rating of 82.68% and the 2007 rating of 80.58%. The evaluation form was in a two part section, with the first section requesting a rating scale of 1 to 5 on a total of 40 (forty) separate questions pertaining to his performance in seven areas: relationship with the Board; community relationships; staff and personnel relationships; educational leadership; business and finance; personal qualities; and strategic planning skills. The second section of the evaluation included six questions which rated Mr. Huss' performance in support of the goals of the Obion County Board of Education.

Within the evaluation, Board members noted areas of strength and areas of possible improvement. Notable strengths include his dedication to the education of Obion County children; effective staff development; leadership ability; communication skills; open-minded to new ideas from staff and Board; knowledgeable of current trends and issues in education; organizational skills; development of good implementation procedures for Board policies; dedication to

the pursuit of excellence in education; and good character. Areas of possible improvement included increased promotion of good things happening in the schools; better visibility in the schools and in public; community involvement outside the school system; development of public/private partnerships that will benefit the students; and ensuring a strong agricultural program in the schools.

No official action was taken on Mr. Huss' contract. However, Board Chairman Roger Williams stated that a discussion of extending his contract is on the agenda for the next regular school board meeting in April.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

The evaluation of Mr. Huss was recorded and stored as an electronic copy.

The minutes were taken and typed by Diane Terry.

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Roger Williams, Chairman

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David W. Huss, Director of Schools