

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 1, 2019

6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mark Blevins, Nancy Brown, Charles VonCannon, Austin Jaynes,
Ginger Holdren, Gary Bailey and Robin McKamey
ABSENT: Sonja Culler
CALL TO ORDER: Robin McKamey, Chairwoman
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

- Approval of Agenda: On motion by Mark Blevins, seconded by Austin Jaynes the meeting's agenda was approved by voice roll call vote,
- Approval of Minutes: On motion by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Gary Bailey the minutes of the February meeting were approved by voice roll call vote. A "pass" vote was noted from Commissioner VonCannon.
- Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Ward stated the school's budget process had started in February and would be presented to the Budget Committee in late April. He said the School Department was committed to submitting a balanced budget but before providing specifics, further discussion with the School Board was necessary. He informed the committee the next School Board meeting was Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at the central office at 5:30. He stated the TCAP testing window started April 15, 2019 and the high school graduation dates were May 20th and 21st

Dr. Ward related to the committee, the School Board had voted to name the Hampton High School Field House in honor of Larry Shoun, recently deceased, for his service, commitment and generous donations to Carter County during his lifetime.

Due to the recent flooding rains, Dr. Ward stated the creek behind Happy Valley Elementary that runs by the ball fields had carried a lot of water and debris which created a large man-made dam. He said when the dam filled with water it was forced straight up covering the fields. He told the committee the insurance had been approved and a contractor would start replacing the fence and begin the groundwork to get the field back in shape as soon as this week, weather permitting.

Dr. Ward stated funds from the ½-cent sales tax referendum designated solely for Capital Projects would primarily be used this year for roof repairs to Valley Forge Elementary, Hampton Elementary and Cloudland High School and to install a handicapped ramp at the front entrance of Happy Valley Middle School. He said there was roof repairs totaling \$338,815.

Dr. Ward informed the committee a grant had been applied for a summer literacy “boot camp” program working with Niswonger’s as a funding agent and ETSU as a participating agent to work with elementary, preschool and kindergarten age children.

Dr. Ward stated the lunch and literacy program would continue this year and be advertised weeks before books, a book bus and lunches began showing up in neighborhoods.

Dr. Ward informed the committee there had been ninety (90) less students enrolled this year and working with this year’s budget the BEP per head count had been plugged in to consider making up for this loss. When asked by Charles VonCannon, Dr. Ward confirmed a loss of \$7,200 in state assistance for each student. Dr. Ward also confirmed a trend in physical/mental needs for special education programs as well as a growth in the need for mental health counselors.

Gary Bailey informed the committee a new PA system had been installed in the central office and Hampton Elementary.

- Old Business: A field trip to visit Cloudland Elementary, Cloudland High School and Little Milligan was set for Monday, April 8, 2019, at 10:30 A.M.
- New Business: None
- Comments: Mark Blevins stated the walkway and canopy at Unaka was much needed and now installed. School Board Member Keith Bowers expressed his appreciation for the interest the Education Committee showed in the school system. School Board Member Danny Ward stated the School Board had a hard task in the next few months regarding their

budget and asked for the committee's consideration when they were presented with why and where cuts may have to be made.

On motion by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Austin Jaynes the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

Robin McKamey, Chairwoman