

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2019

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on May 13, 2019 in the Central Services Board Room where the meeting was called to order by Chairman Blalock at the approximate hour of 4:30 PM.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

COUNSEL:

1. Call to Order

2. Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Committee Minutes

4. MOU with Athletic Trainers

5. Other Discussion

6. Adjournment

Athletics Committee Meeting

April 17, 2019 4:30 PM

Central Services Board Room

The Athletics Committee met on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in the Central Services Board Room where Mr. Inman called the meeting to order at the approximate hour of 4:30 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRESENT:

Josh Stone, District 4

Stace Karge, District 9

Dean Patton, Athletic Director

Rebecca Wood, CAO

Jim Inman, District 1

Janet Graham, Director of School

Kacee Harris, CFO

- 1. Call to Order** – Mr. Jim Inman
- 2. Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Jim Inman
- 3. Nomination of a Committee Chairman**
Karge nominated Jim Inman.

VOICE VOTE: Karge(mover-yes)
Stone(secorder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

4. Mr. Scott Byrd – Proposal to Supply Athletic Trainers

Graham introduced Mr. Dean Patton, Athletic Director who is going to share a proposal from CMC regarding providing athletic trainers for our sports teams. Mr. Earl Patton, our attorney has looked at the proposal and we have sent it back to CMC and are waiting for them to look over and send back to us. Stone asked if this is for all sports. Graham answered, “No it is not all sports, contact sports” D. Patton said, “The trainer would be there for all football practices, all football games at home and away, home games every other sport and in the building during the last block of the day to provide for treatment injury. Inman asked about basketball? D. Patton replied, “Home games in every sport. Home and away for football.” Graham said that was always a concern for me as a principal, not having trainers on hand. Karge mentioned she thought there was someone from Benchmark. Graham said they were at SMHS. Inman mentioned Larry Meads and that he has volunteered his time over the years at CCHS. It was only during ball games. Stone said he has talked to some of coaches of non-football sports. Football gets more attention and for good reason, but they have always said, “We don’t have trainers or access to trainers.” Graham said we have had to, at times, rely on another team’s trainer. Stone said, “Would we love to have them at all the away games, sure but this is a start.” Graham said this is a gift to us right now with the expectation that eventually we would half the cost. Stone asked, “How far down the road is eventually?” D. Patton responded that the agreement is to service the rest of this year. The dates are not in place yet. They would see us through the summer. I have a verbal confirmation they would stay with us into next year. Stone mentioned we would need to know a cost for the budget. D. Patton said it was his understanding that this is a let us show you what we can do and negotiate from there. Stone asked if we could use any of our social health type grants for this? Graham stated she didn’t know, but it was something we could ask Marsha and explore that. Kacee is making a note and we will get with Marsha to see. It is not a huge amount of money, around \$44,000.00 which would two trainers for each high school. The committee agreed it is a fair amount for two full time trainers. Karge asked if they

would be available for other football games? D. Patton responded, "If it doesn't conflict. The younger kids games are usually the same time as practice. Karge asked, "What about the little kids?" D. Patton and Graham responded. The Jr. Jets are not us and wouldn't be a part of this agreement. D. Patton stated that the trainers would be at the facility during their games as they will be at the Varsity practices. Inman asked where the CCHS middle school practices. Stone commented they practice at Martin and Stone practices at Stone. Stone also commented he thought it was a good deal to get two trainers for \$44,000.00. Graham agreed it was doable. Inman asked when it would be finalized? Graham replied that we are waiting on CMC to get the revised contract. Graham mentioned they may want to approve the MOU or contract at a contract committee meeting. Harris said we need to go through the budget committee before presenting it to the board? Harris said the first budget meeting would be May 1st at 4:00. D. Patton said let me clarify that this MOU is for the temporary rest of the year and through the summer. If we get it signed as quick as possible we can start the trial run. Inman asked if we have time to get it on this month's board meeting? Stone said he didn't think this was the final document. D. Patton agreed that we are waiting on a response from CMC. Stone said we could put it on the agenda in case we do have it back by Thursday. Stone made a motion to add to the Regular board meeting agenda contingent on the chairlady's approval.

VOICE VOTE: Stone (mover-yes)
Karge (seconder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

5. Discussion of Athletic Manual

Inman said first of all does this committee have anything to do with writing or changing this document or is this document yours to take care of and we just make suggestions? Patton said, "This is the board's document and any changes go through the board." Inman stated, "The main concern that I have and the reason I wanted to call a meeting is about the eligibility reports. We had a situation with a young man and that report was turned in when it was supposed to, a week before but that didn't give you enough time to catch it. I think we need to back the reports up and I think a temporary report should be turned in when they start doing their work-outs or spring try-outs. About a week or week and a half after they get started they need to get that report turned in to you. That would give you enough time to..." Wood suggested, "You could call it preliminary." Patton mentioned a working eligibility. Stone commented they could turn in the final version a week ahead. Inman stated, "That would give you an opportunity to look at it and we wouldn't have had this problem." Karge agreed, "The last thing we want is for a kid to be practicing all summer long and then have that happen." Stone asked Inman if he had a suggestion for the wording? Inman responded, "Not really." Stone inquired, "Let me see if I understand this correctly? The one thing that caused it to be identified this year versus previous years is that the report you asked for had the school name on there and that hadn't been on the form before. Even in the policy it doesn't ask for the school name, but it makes sense that it would be. Patton agreed it had not been on the form but it does mention rules and that you have to play for the school you are enrolled for. I can't check that unless they put it on the eligibility form. I added that column. Stone asked, "Do we need to add it to the manual?" Graham suggested we say "To be eligible students must have their names, birth dates, and school to them prior to the first practice." Inman quizzed Patton, "How do the eligibility reports come to you? Does each school send them to you?" Stone said it couldn't be zoned school, but school of attendance, because they may be going to a school out of zone. Graham said it would be school of attendance because if they are approved to be at Martin they would play for CCHS Middle schools. Patton stated, "We do have a rule if you transfer schools and are out of zone, you are without a bonafide change of residence, you are ineligible for twelve months from the last date of participation. Patton gave an example of the scenario. The committee discussed the rule and how it affects the student and different scenarios of changing schools and teams. Stone recommended we remove the bonafide change of address portion of this sentence. Graham suggested, "If a student is required to return to their

zoned school due to out of zone overcrowding issues.” Karge suggested, “If such a student transfers to a different school except in the event of a bonafide change of residence. The student will be ineligible.” Stone suggested, “Students who change schools for any other reason than bonafide change of address or due to zoning decisions. They would not be eligible.” Patton stated, “It sounds so much better if you put it in a positive, this is how you get to change instead of all the reasons you cannot change.” The committee discussed the wording. Stone said it would almost be better to strike #2 and include it in #1, shape #1 to include the intent of what we are talking about now. It already talks about a bonafide change of address, Number two if solely for the students who are granted out of zone requests. Graham mentioned we could add a d. that say they would be eligible to play in the event that a student’s transfer was due to the zoning decisions made by the district. Eliminate number two. The committee decided this would be the best change. Stone asked Inman if he has worked on wording for that? Inman said he had not. Stone mentioned the wording include; to be eligible students must have their names, birthdates and school of attendance submitted to each coach or principal prior to the first practice. Inman said the kids are going to have their names to the coach, I’m talking about the coach needs to report the eligibility to the Athletic Director and keep it updated with changes as soon as they happen. The committee discussed the past issues and how to avoid them in the future. Stone said they have tryouts in the spring for basketball, they may be added in the fall, but update as they are added to the team. Inman said, “This doesn’t affect basketball as much as the middle school programs. The middle school program is where they have to gather all the information. We need to concentrate on the middle school program and make sure we don’t have the same problem as before.” Stone stated, “It’s easier for private school kids to get lost in the shuffle.” Graham suggested that they gather all the information at the first appearance at practice and that would include practice within five days. Stone said, In theory that kid could practice five days before he is told he is not eligible. Inman mentioned we need a space on the report for information on a physical. Stone expressed concern regarding the timing of the required physical and sometimes it is required more than once during the year. Inman said they must be done after April 15th. Stone said his son tried out for basketball before April 15th and was required to have a physical and then had to have another one before the season started. Patton said that is a TSSAA rule. It is not our rule. The committee discussed the TSSAA rule and we must follow this rule. Graham asked if the committee wanted us to make the changes and present it to the board at the April 24th meeting? Patton asked if the committee would be interested in having our own teams in middle school having the same dead period as the high school. Currently it is not in there. If we put it in there then everyone would be observing the same dates as the high school. Stone asked what the dates are? Patton responded the last week of June and the first week of July, which is a two-week period. The committee discussed this and how it can affect family vacations. The committee agreed it would be a good thing to make this change in the manual. Patton said the middle school teams follow the dead period. This would only affect the elementary sports. Inman made a motion to add the elementary athletics to the dead period.

VOICE VOTE: Inman (mover-yes)
Karge (seconder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

6. Other Discussion

Patton asked for guidance in situations where someone asks him to say grant a hardship. Patton follows the policy and that is not good enough, they want to talk to someone above him. The committee talked about the process and how to handle it. High schools must follow TSSAA rules. There are steps to that; the principal has to make a recommendation, then it goes to TSSAA. Graham mentioned Patton has a good judgment and will be fair. Stone stated, “It should go to the Athletic Director, Director of Schools, then the whole board. Stone said, “This committee has no authority.” Inman stated, “If we wanted to add another layer in there and have it come to us, for us to decide to send it to the whole board or not.”

Stone said, "But if we say no, then they are going to request it go to the whole board." Stone added, "Every grievance process ends up at the full board. Then the board decides if they want to hear it or not. There have been some cases where we have said, No, we do not want to hear about it." Karge asked, "How many of these cases do we have?" Patton replied, "About two a year." Karge said, "I agree with Mr. Inman, because you will get a parent who will want to go over your head." The committee discussed how that is normally the case and Patton just wanted clarification how the committee would like him to handle it. The committee discussed what is a hardship and Patton clarified it is an unforeseeable or unavoidable.

7. Adjournment

VOICE VOTE: Stone(mover-yes)
Karge (seconder-yes)
All Ayes

MOTION: Carried unanimously

Mrs. Janet Graham
Director of Schools

Mr. Jim Inman
Chairman of Athletics Committee

Jane Franklin
Executive Assistant for the Director of Schools and BOE