

# SCEA School Board Notes

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Brotherton, Calton, Houser, B. King

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** 2 parents and 2 students addressed the Board concerning school bus service in Woodwinds subdivision.

**REPORT FROM DIR. OF SCHOOLS:** Mr. Arwood said "We got off to an excellent start on the first day of school," announced 2 new Pre-K classes would be starting this year (@ Holston Elem. & Rock Springs Elem) and said 4 of 5 schools were no longer on the "Target List." He also called on Maintenance Supervisor Akard to give an update on Blountville Middle—all subflooring is down, the project is ahead of schedule, work should be completed by mid-October. Mr. Akard also told the Board that, due to the high daytime temperatures, the system's 1,200 air conditioners were somewhat stressed to keep the buildings cool &, with only 3 HVAC techs, the maintenance dept. had a 'priority grade level plan' for repairs if/when breakdowns happen.

**EXTENSION OF BUS SERVICE ON STUFFLE STREET/KINGSPORT:** Mr. Arwood reported the Board & Central Office staff had toured the area on a school bus & said "After the tour, Mr. Copas' (Transportation Supervisor) opinion (that it is unsafe to put buses in this area) has not changed." After discussion/consideration, the Board voted 5-2 against putting bus service in the subdivision but directed the Central Office to investigate alternative transportation options for the area.

**SUSPENSION OF DRUG TESTING POLICY:** Based on a memo from Chuck Cagle (TOSS Legal Counsel) and the opinion of Mr. Hull (Board Attorney) the Board voted 7-0 to suspend the Athletic Drug Testing until further notice. This action was based on a recently issued opinion of the TN State Attorney General. Attorney Cagle's memo also noted that he will be seeking approval of the Board of Directors of TOSS to submit a bill to rectify this situation by action from the TN Legislature early in its 2008 session.

**EXTENDED CONTRACT PROPOSAL FOR 2007-08:** The Board voted 7-0 approval to submit a plan to the State Dept. of Education for extended learning programs to assist at-risk students and/or potential school drop outs.

**UNITED WAY SPORTS PASS:** The Board voted 7-0 approval to continue the United Way sports passes. They are for 'home games & regular season only—excluding tournaments & varsity football home games.'

**BUDGET:** Mr. Arwood said "We're committed to the 5.25% staff pay increase."

**BOARD ATTORNEY'S CONTRACT:** The Board voted 7-0 approval for the 'first formal contract' for Board Attorney Pat Hull. The contract calls for compensation of \$97,400 per year which shall be paid in 12 monthly installments (the amount is based on the amount paid by the Board for legal representation over the past 5 year period, adjusted for inflation & providing for an increase for the 2007-08 fiscal year). The contract also calls for Board payment for Mr. Hull to attend 2 conferences sponsored by TSBA, yearly adjustments for cost of living & a monthly adjustment if the amount of time spent by the Attorney, based on hourly rates, exceeds the monthly regular pay by more than 10%.

**NEXT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:** Monday, Sept. 10, 6:30 PM.

