

**SUPPORT STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2008 – 8:30 A.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE**

Present were:

Tom Graves	Assistant Superintendent
Rocky Blevins	Transportation
Darlynn Chafin	Finance/Accounts Payable
Pat Frye	Secretary, Human Resource Department
Donna Gentry	School Nurse, Meadowview Elementary School
Emory Hale	Custodian, Abingdon High School
Mike Reynolds	Maintenance Department
Joyce Stevens	Cafeteria Manager, Abingdon Elementary School
Chris Warren	Secretary, Watauga Elementary School

Dr. Graves opened the meeting by welcoming the group. He asked if they had any questions or concerns. Responses were:

- Rocky Blevins: Everything is going well.
- Pat Frye: Everything is good in the Human Resource Department.
- Chris Warren: She is glad to be back to work.
- Donna Gentry: There is a lot of sickness at the schools, and they have had some cases of chicken pox. They have worked hard to implement the lice policy, but she feels they are seeing a lot of repeat cases and that the Department of Social Services could be more supportive.
- Joyce Stevens: Everything is good at Abingdon Elementary School.
- Darlynn Chafin: Everything is fine in Accounts Payable. She has been working to get the bills paid by the end of the year.

Dr. Graves expressed his appreciation to Ms. Chafin for being diligent in helping get an adjustment from the power company.

He also asked if there were other areas where savings could be had. Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Wilson suggested that a savings could be seen if the custodians stripped and waxed the main hall and entrance rather than the entire building.

- Emory Hale: He feels that idea would work well everywhere except in the computer labs where the casters on the chairs wear the wax down to the tile. It would be feasible to wax all other areas every three to four years.
- Mike Reynolds: He has been busy working on electrical problems and unstopping paper towels and other items from commodes.

Ms. Caudill talked to the group about the budget. The Governor released his budget proposal on December 17, which could negatively impact the school system by approximately \$3.5 million. The General Assembly still has to review the Governor's proposal, and the county has to make a determination of how much they will fund the schools' budget. Dr. Lee is in Richmond in a meeting

about the budget and will have more information when he returns. The 2009-2010 Budget will be tight, but we are optimistic that loss of personnel can be avoided except for vacant positions that may not be filled. The school budget is approximately \$84 million, and 80% of that is for salary and benefits. The additional 20% covers electricity, fuel, etc. It is anticipated we will be able to carry over some insurance savings next year.

Dr. Graves informed them that we are looking into having a company do energy audits throughout the county in order to save money.

- Another potential savings would be to look at the number of refrigerators in the schools. Many classrooms have them.
- Mr. Reynolds suggested having football games on Saturday to eliminate the need for lighting. We could also have the junior varsity and varsity games on the same day.

Dr. Graves said that athletic directors will have to take that into consideration when making schedules for next year.

He wished them all a Merry Christmas. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2009.