

MOUNTAIN EDUCATION CENTER, INC.
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
In-Person Conference at the Lumpkin site
April 1, 2009

The Mountain Education Center, Inc. Governing Board met in a regular Governing Board in-person conferencing on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 3 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Mike Ballew – Superintendent, Pickens County
Dr. Richard Behrens – Superintendent, Towns County
Dr. Paul Shaw – Superintendent, White County
Mr. Barry Pritchett, Collaborative Board Member
Dr. Franklin Johnson, Collaborative Board Member
Mr. Mitchel Barrett – Superintendent/Principal, Mountain Education Center
Ms. Anita Middleton – Collaborative Board Member
Ms. Sherrie Whiten – Superintendent, Stephens County
Mr. Dewey Moye – Superintendent, Lumpkin County
Mr. Randy Parson – Superintendent, Gilmer County

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Shook, MEC Technology Director Andrea Hulseley, MEC Finance Director
Aundrea Wilson, MEC Personnel Director Carol Reid, MEC Administrative Assistant
Carol West, MEC Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Lewis McAfee – Superintendent, Union County
Mr. Mark Henson – Superintendent, Fannin County
Tighe Day-Lewis – Assist Principal/SPED Director

Dr. Richard Behrens welcomed Mr. Ben Bridges, Dr. Raiford Cantrell, and Mr. Charles Jenkins. He presented an engraved clock to the previous Governing Board members to thank them for all their hard and dedicated work. Mr. Tommy Stephens and Mr. Gary Steppe were unable to attend.

Dr. Richard Behrens called the meeting to order.

Mr. Mitchel Barrett gave the invocation and Dr. Richard Behrens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

ITEM I:

Motion by Mr. Dewey Moye, seconded by Mr. Franklin Johnson **to approve the agenda.**
Motion carried. All voted yes.

ITEM II:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, seconded by Mr. Barry Pritchett **to approve the March 11, 2009 Governing Board minutes.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

Old Business

ITEM III:

Motion by Dr. Paul Shaw, seconded by Mr. Randy Parson, **to approve the Expansion Application.** Motion carried. All voted yes

Financial Report

Andrea Hulsey, Director of Finance, gave a PowerPoint on where we stand now:

MEC growth, state funding, and proposed projects.

Projects with funding available:

- Funding of graduation coaches for all MEC sites
- Increased staffing to provide for optimal teacher/student ratios
- Establishment of an MEC site in Habersham County
- Elimination of participation fees in Fiscal year 2010
- Defrayment of energy and custodial costs for MEC sites
- Increased allotment for transportation costs
- Help collaborative counties with MEC site upkeep costs

Our plan for the future:

- Managing growth, improving educational programs and assisting our collaborative systems
- Preparing for FY 2010, proposed projects and proposed funding for projects
- Proposed Habersham County MEC site

Future considerations:

Fannin County site or Satellite site, Central Office, Storage space for financial and student records, facilities coordinator, MEC subdivisions.

Larry Shook explained FTE grew around 48% from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Mitchel Barrett reported we have a way to help each school system with growth. He proposes \$10,000 up from \$5,000 to help run buses for SY 2010.

ITEM IV:

Motion by Dr. Paul Shaw, seconded by Mr. Barry Pritchett **to approve to move forward on the proposed projects.**

ITEM V:

Motion by Mr. Franklin Johnson, seconded by Dr. Paul Shaw **to approve the March 2009 final financial report.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

New Business

Mr. Mitchel Barrett reviewed the revised changes approved by the law offices of Harben and Hartley to be made to the MEC Faculty Handbook, which includes Bereavement Leave, FMLA, care updates and Vacation Leave and holidays for 261-day employees.

ITEM VI:

Motion by Mr. Barry Pritchett, seconded by Dr. Paul Shaw **to approve revisions to the MEC Faculty Handbook.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

Information

The rapid growth of MECHS is presenting two main challenges at all four sites:

Capacity and space issues

Maximum site size to most effectively administer a quality program

Since Fall of 2007 the MECHS has grown from 484 FTE to 957 FTE which has double in Drop-out Recovery students. MEC is working on solutions with help from the collaborative counties giving space and opening a site in Habersham County. MEC's goal is to open the Habersham site by the second week in July.

Mr. Mitchel Barrett invited all Superintendents to attend MEC's three graduations:

MEC Gilmer/Union – FCHS Performing Arts Center, Thursday, May 28, at 7 pm.

MEC Stephens – Cornelia First Baptist Church Saturday, May 30 at 11:00 am.

MEC Lumpkin – Lumpkin County High School Saturday, May 30 at 3:30 pm.

ITEM VII:

Motion by Mr Dewey Moye, seconded by Mr. Barry Pritchett **to approved the 2009-10 MEC calendar.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

ITEM VIII:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, seconded by Mr. Dewey Moye **to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

ITEM IX:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, seconded by Mr. Franklin Johnson **to come out of Executive Session.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

ITEM X:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, seconded by Ms. Anita Middleton **to approve the hiring of the following personnel for the Mountain Education Center, Inc. upon completion of fingerprinting and criminal background checks.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

New Personnel:

1. Joni Whittemore – Hourly Math Teacher/Substitute, Gilmer site
2. Brian Martin – Parking Lot Attendant/Parapro, Gilmer site
3. Melinda Abercrombie – Hourly Math Teacher/Substitute, Gilmer site
4. Sandra Bennett – Hourly Teacher, Stephens site
5. Amy Williams – Hourly Teacher, Union site

ITEM VII:

Motion by Mr. Dewey Moye, seconded by Dr. Franklin Johnson **to adjourn the Governing Board meeting.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

Dr. Behrens, Governing Board Chairperson

Dr. Paul Shaw, Governing Board Secretary

MEC, Inc. Governing Board will meet Wednesday, May 13th Videoconference at 5 pm.