

MOUNTAIN EDUCATION CENTER, INC.
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
In-Person Conference at the Union site
January 14, 2009

The Mountain Education Center, Inc. Governing Board met in a regular Governing Board in-person conferencing on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Randy Parson-Superintendent, Gilmer County
Mr. Mike Ballew-Superintendent, Pickens County
Ms. Sherrie Whiten for Mr. Gary Steppe, Superintendent, Stephens County
Dr. Richard Behrens-Superintendent, Towns County
Dr. Lewis McAfee-Superintendent, Union County
Ms. Debra Seabolt for Dr. Paul Shaw-Superintendent, White County
Mr. Barry Pritchett, Collaborative Board Member
Mr. Dewey Moye-Superintendent Lumpkin County
Ms. Anita Middleton, Collaborative Board Member
Mr. Mitchel Barrett-Superintendent/Principal, Mountain Education Center
Mr. Mark Henson-Superintendent Fannin County

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tighe Day-Lewis, MEC Assistant Principal/SPED Director	Will Craig, Graduation Coach
Debbie Day-Lewis, Student Service Director	Brad Barnes, Software
Carol Reid, MEC Administrative Assistant	Rebecca Wilkie, Graduation Coach
Larry Shook, MEC Technology Director	Andrea Hulsey, MEC Finance Director

WELCOME:

Ms. Sherrie Whiten- Interim Superintendent, Stephens County
Ms. Melinda Jacox, Glynn County School System
Mr. Ervin Easterwood, Pickens Board of Education member

Dr. Richard Behrens called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Mark Henson gave the invocation and Dr. Richard Behrens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM I:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, second by Mr. Barry Pritchett, after the removal of the Executive session on the agenda, **to approve the agenda.**
Motion carried. All voted yes.

ITEM II:

Motion by Mr. Barry Pritchett, second by Mr. Dewey Moye **to approve the December 10, 2008 Governing Board minutes.**
Motion carried. All voted yes.

Financial Report

Andrea Hulsey, Director of Finance discussed the financial report and two budget amendments approved by the Governing Board at the December Board meeting. This budget comparison includes a built in anticipated 2% austerity reduction and as of December 31, 2008, we are 1% under budget based on having completed 50% of the fiscal year. This can be directly attributed to aggressive cost cutting in anticipation of future state funding cuts.

ITEM III:

Motion by Mr. Mike Ballew, second by Mr. Gary Steppe **to approve the December's final financial report.**

Motion carried. All voted yes.

Information

Dr. Behrens explained Worker's Compensation Insurance finally realizes MEC is a school and we should expect a payment refund soon.

He also passed out a State of Georgia's budget report FY2010 with the Governor's recommendations for line item funding.

Ms. Rebecca Wilkie made a presentation on a Virtual School Proposal. She discussed advantages and disadvantages. A few advantages are: Keeping pace with virtual school trend nationwide, solves some transportation issues, students work any time of day, and increase FTE. Based on the presentation, the board members asked Rebecca to give a report at the next Board meeting on the progress on an experimental MEC Virtual School.

ITEM IV:

Motion by Mr. Dewey Moye, second by Mr. Mike Ballew **to approve an experimental virtual school.** Motion carried. All voted yes.

Ms. Debbie Day-Lewis's presentation on Application for MECHS Affiliation explained how school systems in the state could become part of the MEC. The procedure is (1) Submit application with required documentation, (2) Review of application by committee: superintendent or designee, finance director, technology director, curriculum chairperson, site directors (minimum two), (3) Negotiate agreement/consensus with system, (4) recommendation presented to governing board. A draft application was presented for comments and recommendations. The board will vote on a final draft at a future meeting.

ITEM V:

Motion by Mr. Dewey Moye, second by Mr. Mark Henson **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. Karol Renee' Crawford - Parapro, Gilmer site**

ITEM VI:

Motion by Mr. Dewey Moye, second by Mr. Mark Henson **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, February 11th via videoconference at 5 pm.