

Marked Tree Board of Education  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
July 20, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in a regular monthly meeting on July 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Building. Members present were: Mr. Bryan Parrish, Ms. Jessica Fernandez, Ms. Vickie Green. Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Jr. and Ms. Dana Ashcraft joined meeting via internet. President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting to order.

Media Notified.

**I. FINANCIAL PRESENTATION – MARSHALL HUGHES:**

Mr. Michael Dobb of First Security Beardsley gave an annual financial overview for the district. He stated that the current millage of 39.5 mills is ½ mill above the state average. Mr. Dobb stated that for every mill collected \$42,499.63 should be collected by the District. Mr. Dobb reported that the district has a principal outstanding bonded debt of \$7,190,000.00. He stated that the payment for FY21 on that bonded debt to be \$305,778. The district has short term finances of \$44,863. Bonded debt assistance will cease FY23. He projected the minimum foundation funding for FY20 to be \$2,211,052, ALE to be \$20,345.066, ELL to be \$1,760.00, ESA funding to be \$419,890, Professional Development funds to be \$12,734.97 bonded debt assistance 15,229.46 and \$31,686.27 in declining enrollment funding. The wealth index for the district is 42.16%. He pointed out that there will be \$385,582 less funding available for FY21 versus FY20. \$202,000 of that decrease represents the increase in the bond payment and \$177,456.92 less declining enrollment funding. He stated that the overall financial picture looks really solid and stable but that declining enrollment is a challenge for the majority of the districts. The bond payment will be returning to normal in FY21 and the bonded debt assistance is coming to an end in the next few years. The great unknown is the affect that COVIC-19 will have on the districts. He was not making a recommendation but simply pointing out a potential opportunity in the event that the district needs project money from a bond stand point that the district could net \$885,000 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> lien bond or a new mill could net an additional \$655,000.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to approve Item 1 the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting Item 2 the financial report, Item 7 Policy Changes and Item 8 Handbook Changes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Vickie Green. All voted in favor.

**III. UPDATE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO BUILDING FUND:**

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to amend the requested transfer to the building fund to add up to an additional \$69,500. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan Parrish. All voted in favor.

**IV. LEGAL TRANSFER:**

Ms. Dana Ashcraft made a motion to approve the request for legal transfer of Cierra Tacker. There was no second to the motion and motion failed.

**V. CONSIDER CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH JOHN MIXON:**

Ms. Vickie Green made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to enter into a contract with John Mixon in preparing bids for the gym roof project and protecting or possibly replacing the gym floor as part of the project. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan Parrish. All voted in favor.

**VI. CONSIDER CHANGES TO CALENDAR:**

Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to approve the attached FY21 Calendar reflecting the required start date mandated by the governor and to declare an emergency in adopting the calendar without the necessity of a formal vote by the PPC. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.

**VII. UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS/IMPACTON SCHOOL:**

Superintendent Matt Wright announced that Thursday, July 23, 2020 SRs are scheduled to hold their graduation ceremony at the football field weather permitting.

Superintendent Matt Wright announced that all schools are going to be responsible for all contact tracing. There will be a required social distancing of 6' for no more than 15 min through out the entire day. If the district receives call that someone tested positive the district is required to be able to go back and list everyone who had contact with that person. In order to fulfill this mandate there will be seating charts everywhere students go such as cafeteria, buses, and classrooms. On buses every student K thru 12 including the bus driver will be required to wear masks with family members seated in the same seat. There will be a zero tolerance policy. If it is not raining or if it is not 30 degrees outside the bus windows will be down during the route.

On the first day of school each student will be given 3 cloth masks. Bus drivers will use foggers to sanitize every bus before and after each route.

The district is offering two different options for education: (1) In person face to face with the possibility of temporary closures or (2) full-time virtual learning 100% stay at home. If a parent commits to the virtual program their student will be required to stay in that program for 9 weeks.

All teachers have 2 weeks of virtual lessons prepared and their goal is to have one month virtual lessons prepared. Presently there are 8 students signed up for virtual learning. Lincoln Learning is our online learning partner they will provide the curriculum and assignments. Our part is to ensure that every item is graded and entered into the grade book.

Upon entering the building every student will have their temperature taken and if they have fever they will be placed in a holding room and parents will be called for pickup. No person other than faculty and students will be allowed in the building at any time. As a safety precaution parents will no longer be allowed to come inside and eat with the

students. Students will be asked to bring water bottles because they cannot use the water fountains. We have installed a touch free environment in the new building where a student can refill their water bottles. In the way of cleaning we have a chemical that will kill the coronavirus in 1 minute and it is EPA approved. We will use different microfiber clothes for each classroom and the same is true for mops. When students enter the room they will be required to use germX that is installed on the wall of every classroom and teachers will spray and wipe down desks after each use. It has been recommended that classroom doors remain open. Every student K thru 12 will be required to wear mask when transitioning in the building or where social distancing is not possible.

**VIII. PERSONNEL:**

President Jessica Fernandez. called the meeting into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting into Regular Session.

- a. Mr. Bryan Parrish. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to accept the resignation of Louann Blagg effective June 30, 2020. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dana Ashcraft. All voted in favor.
- b. Mr. Bryan Parrish made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to accept the resignation of Tanisha Gray effective immediately. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.
- c. Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to hire Desha Lewis as Elementary teacher. Motion was seconded by Ms. Vickie Green. All voted in favor.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Matt Wright discussed EPC's failure to notify him in a timely manner of students requesting to school choice from Marked Tree to EPC and his intents are to require that the timeline be upheld.

President Jessica Fernandez adjourned the meeting.

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Jessica Fernandez  
Board President

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Ms. Vickie Green  
Board Secretary