

Marked Tree Board of Education
Regular Monthly Meeting
October 21, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education met in a regular monthly meeting on October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. Members present were: Ms. Jessica Fernandez, Ms. Dana Ashcraft, and Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. Members absent: Ms. Vickie Green. President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting to order.

Media Notified.

I. DECLARE BOARD VACANCY:

President Jessica Fernandez declared a vacancy on the board resulting from the resignation of Bryan Parrish. Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion nominating Ryan Blankenship. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Fernandez. Motion passed.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms. Dana Ashcraft made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to approve Item II the minutes of the September 21, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting; approve Item III the financial statement presented by Superintendent Matt Wright; and Item VI designating Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. Chief Board Dispersing Officer and Superintendent Matt Wright Ex-Officio Financial Secretary. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. All voted in favor.

III. NEA FOOD BANK GRANT AWARD – INFORMATIONAL:

Superintendent Matt Wright informed board members that the district has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the NEA Food Bank and the Ms. Bennie Whitfield has agreed to oversee the food distribution to needy families in the community.

**IV. DISCUSS PROPOSED SALARY FUNDING FORMULA FOR 2021
LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

Superintendent Matt Wright reviewed the proposed salary funding formula for 2021 designed to help compensate school districts for the beginning teacher salary mandates. Under the proposal the district will be awarded additional funding of \$155,000 if proposal is passed.

V. CONSIDER ASBA VOTING DELEGATE:

Ms. Jessica Fernandez agreed to the appointment as ASBA Voting Delegate.

VI. CONSIDER MINORITY TEACHING/ADMIN RECRUITING PLAN:

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to approve the Minority Teaching/Admin Recruiting Plan with the agreement that Barbara Wilburn-Covington be recognized as an Administrator due to her position as Athletic Director. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dana Ashcraft. All voted in favor.

VII. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS:

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. left the meeting in order for the board to consider doing business with his company. Ms. Jessica Fernandez made a motion to accept the

recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to contract with Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. to do business with the district when the need arises due to the limited resources available in the area for an amount up to \$10,000. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan Blankenship. All voted in favor. Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. returned to the meeting.

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to do business with Adam Criswell for small projects. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Blankenship. All voted in favor.

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to do business with Kathy Johnson for her business known as Santa's North Pole. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dana Ashcraft. All voted in favor.

Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to do business with McCrary Lawn Service. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dana Ashcraft. All voted in favor.

VIII. COVID UPDATES:

Superintendent Matt Wright updated the board regarding COVID issues. He reported that during the first six (6) weeks of school there were 0 positive COVID cases in the district but that currently there are sixty (60) students in quarantine with 11 active positive students and 2 staff members. School was dismissed on October 8, 2020 due to COVID cases and Elementary returned to in person learning today and High School is scheduled to resume in person learning on Thursday, October 22, 2020. He announced that students have been participating in virtual learning during the shut down. Superintendent Matt Wright announced that he has been advised there are currently 155 active cases of COVID in Poinsett County and that the district has been designated as a Red Zone in the State meaning it is currently at the highest level of possible spread of COVID and that because of this designation and because of the fact that Friday night football opponent Hickory Ridge is also currently with that designation that after discussing the game with officials at ASU Red Wolves he felt it best that the game be cancelled.

IX. PRINCIPAL REPORT:

Superintendent Matt Wright reported that due to the pandemic and the fact that school has been on virtual learning for the past 2 weeks there was little news for the Principals to give a report of and that he had excused them from tonight's meeting. Superintendent Matt Wright did report that the football team is scheduled to play EPC October 30 and that was also designated as Homecoming week. He advised that the Governor has set guidelines to follow concerning homecoming and that in compliance with those guidelines there will not be a homecoming pep rally or parade and no observance of activities previously associated with homecoming. He reported that the students will be allowed to have their dress up days and that a homecoming royalty will be announced.

X. PERSONNEL:

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

President Jessica Fernandez called the meeting into Regular Session.

- a. Ms. Dana Ashcraft made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to hire LouAnn Blagg technology coordinator/JR Cheer/Instructional Facilitator for the remainder of 240 day contract with additional COVID duty. Motion was seconded by Ms. Dana Ashcraft. All voted in favor.
- b. Ms. Dana Ashcraft made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Matt Wright to add an additional COVID duty to contracts for the following employees:

Tosha Harris
Minnie Davis
Sara Armstrong
Rebekah Routon
Rachael Routon
Kelli Pierce
Leanda Key
Terri Clayton

Motion was seconded by Mr. Ira Lee Whitfield, Sr. The stipend will be retro active to August 24, 2020 and will be based on each employee's hourly rate of pay. All voted in favor.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS (from BOARD MEMBERS):

No other business was discussed.

President Jessica Fernandez adjourned the meeting.

Ms. Jessica Fernandez
Board President

Ms. Dana Ashcraft
Board Secretary