

**LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

The Lumpkin County Board of Education met Monday September 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education meeting room, located at 56 Indian Drive.

Members Present:

Chairman Bobby Self, Vice Chair Jim McClure, Mera Turner, Lynn Sylvester, Craig Poore and Superintendent Dr. Rob Brown.

After a brief welcome Chairman Self called the meeting to order. Superintendent Brown gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Self reviewed the agenda and called for a motion to adopt. On a motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Ms. Sylvester the agenda was adopted. Motion carried.

Superintendent Brown reviewed the August Board minutes. On a motion by Ms. Turner and a second by Mr. Poore the minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Strategic Goal Area: Student Success

Testing Scores

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Mrs. Jennifer Moss, presented data from the most recent administration of Georgia Milestones in Lumpkin County. To preface her presentation, Mrs. Moss reminded the BOE that the Georgia Department of Education applied for a waiver in both July 2020 and again in February 2021 to waive high-stakes testing for Georgia students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both waiver applications from GaDOE to the US Department of Education were denied. Therefore, Georgia officials implemented guidance for the administration of the Georgia Milestones last year to include an extended administration window, changed the weight of EOCs from 20.00% to 0.01%, a suggestion that virtual students should not come into buildings for the sole purpose of testing if they feel uncomfortable, and most importantly, that the test results from the 2020-2021 school year cannot be used to make school-and-district level year-to-year comparisons because of the extenuating circumstances. Even with these flexibilities and disclaimers, Mrs. Moss presented data on Lumpkin County's performance in all areas compared to both Pioneer RESA and the state of Georgia.

For the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment, Lumpkin County was above the Pioneer RESA average and the state average in every grade level and subject area except for 5th Grade Mathematics. For Georgia Milestones End-of-Course Assessments, Lumpkin County was above the Pioneer RESA average and the state average in every EOC course except for 8th Grade Physical Science.

Strategic Goal Area: Parent and Community Engagement

Partner in Education

Director of Community Engagement, Jason Lemley, presented the September 2021 Partner in Education Award to Family Care Dahlonga. Three years ago, when Lindsay and Jeff Dowis were new to town, they

set up a meeting with Dr. Brown and our administrators in December 2018 to introduce themselves and to start a partnership with our district. Over the past couple years, Family Care Dahlonge has continued to be a partner to our school district, our families, and our community. In addition to their healthcare services provide to our community through primary care, urgent care, and COVID testing, Family Care Dahlonge signed on as an in-kind sponsor for our annual REACH 5K with Dr. Lindsay Dowis personally attending and offering first aid care during the event last year. Most recently, Dr. Dowis reached out to LCSS in hopes of sponsoring and partnering in a recycling effort in our schools. Expanding on the plastic bottle recycling program already active at LCHS with the Environmental Awareness Club, Family Care Dahlonge contributed the funds to build 15 additional recycling bins. Those recycling bins are currently being constructed by our LCMS AgEd students, with 8 being placed on the LCMS campus, 4 additional bins for LCHS, and 1 bin for each of the elementary cafeterias. Thank you, Family Care Dahlonge and Drs. Dowis and Dowis, for your dedication to the Lumpkin County School District. We appreciate your partnership, and we look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Community Participation

Two community members, Steven Scoggin and Martha Scoggin, signed up for the community participation portion of the September BOE meeting in reference to the Social Studies textbook adoption. Each community member addressed the Board for his/her allotted three minutes. Dr. Brown thanked Mr. and Mrs. Scoggin for their time, their investment, and their feedback.

Strategic Goal Area: Professional Excellence

Ideal Indian Awards

Amanda Bennett presented by Kennedy Ledford

Over the past few weeks I have been settling into my new role and I can attest that Mrs. Bennett has guided me every step of the way. I have asked her at least 100 questions and she always answers with a smile. Never too busy to help me. If she doesn't know the answer she finds someone who does. She has helped me after school hours with questions and concerns when she really didn't have to! I am so thankful for her and the help she has been to me. She is my ideal Indian.

Beth Hawk presented by Principal Dr. Betsy Green

Beth is our lead special education teacher at Blackburn Elementary School and she did an outstanding job of leading her teachers through a most trying year last year. She helped teacher manage virtual learning and in person learning all at the same time, wrote amendments to IEPs for all the interesting situations that came p last year, and offered her suggestions to advice to some of our regular education teachers struggling with a few students. She remained positive and upbeat through last year and I know that is why her team of teachers remained positive. Recently, Mr. Froggatt was out for a couple of weeks with an illness and she stepped up to help me lead the school during this time. There was no job she wouldn't do and her desire and willingness to help fill in the gaps made BES run very smoothly. She is selfless and a true servant leader.

Staci Kiefaber presented by Molly Denham

Staci Kiefaber goes above and beyond to help her coworkers, especially brand new teachers. She will stay well over contracted hours, as well as come in on the weekend to make sure that her Kindergarten team has exactly what they need. This could include supplies, resources, planning, etc. On top of that, Mrs. Kiefaber has a deep love for helping her students. When you walk into her room, you can feel that her classroom is like a family. She puts great thought into her lessons and makes sure that students have

a connection to real life situations. She does not overwhelm them with worksheets, but rather engages them in hands on learning experiences. Mrs. Kiefaber is a model teacher to her peers and students. She deserves this award because she inspires me to be a great teacher and inspires her students to give their best effort. She is the difference between having a mediocre work environment and having a work environment that makes you want to come to school each day. She is a great asset to the Lumpkin County School System.

Rosa Grizzle, Ursula Luesing, Cami McCarty, Scott Mindenhall and Anna Roberts presented by Director of Student Services, Mrs. Kerri Whitmire

Dr. Rob Brown says, "Our school nurses have been tried and tested since the first day of school. In addition to doing all of the things that school nurses do each day, they have also been our go-to person at each school for COVID. This added challenge has only accentuated their capacity to perform at high levels and their desire to serve others. Our nurses are medical professionals who could easily gain employment with greater compensation in other arenas, but they remain committed to serving students in our schools. Their title may say nurse, but at heart, they are educators."

2021 Yale Educator Award

Principal of Lumpkin County High School, Mr. Billy Kirk, recognized two members of the LCHS faculty as recipients of the 2021 Yale Educator Award. Mr. Alan Hogan and Mr. Johnathan Mullins were recognized by the Yale University Office of Undergraduate Admissions as a recipient of the award. With 305 nominees representing 38 states and 17 countries, only 50 teachers and 21 counselors were selected for this award. We are incredibly proud of Mr. Hogan and Mr. Mullins for being two of those educators.

Strategic Goal Area: Operational & Organizational Excellence

Financial Reports:

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Shannon Christian, presented the most recent financial reports for Lumpkin County Schools. ESPLOST reports included a collection of \$439,121.78 for August, 2021. Mr. Christian also presented the General Fund Financial Statement for year ending June 2021. With 100% of the fiscal year complete, we collected 100% of anticipated revenues and spent 100% of anticipated expenditures, leaving LCSS with a balanced year end.

Mr. Christian also presented an FY22 budge update:

With 8% of the fiscal year complete, we are at a point where revenues are not coming in at this time.

Mr. Christian updated the Board of Education on the advertised RFP to local financial institutions for the purpose of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Mr. Christian presented the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 at 1.38% (Truist Bank) and asked for Board approval.

Board Approvals:

Intergovernmental Agreement:

Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Greg Trammell requested that the Board approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Lumpkin County for the Pine Tree Way property.

TAN:

Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Shannon Christian presented information to request the Board approve the Tax Anticipation Note.

Field Trip – FFA/FCCLA Camp

Field Trip request to attend a Region Rally September 9-10, 2021

Field Trip – FFA Georgia National Fairgrounds

Field Trip request to attend an overnight trip for a livestock show October 14-15, 2021

Field Trip – FFA National Convention

Field Trip request to attend an overnight out-of-state trip to Indianapolis, IN October 26-30, 2021

Field Trip – LCHS Wrestling Team

Field Trip request to attend an overnight out-of-state trip to Cleveland, TN December 17-19, 2021

On a motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Ms. Sylvester the Board voted to approve the above listed items under Board Approvals. Motion carried.

On a motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Ms. Turner the Board voted to return to the executive session that was held open from the earlier work session. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Turner and a second by Ms. Sylvester the Board voted to return to the meeting and close out the work session. Motion carried.

There being no further business on a motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Ms. Sylvester the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

Chairman Bobby Self

Superintendent Dr. Rob Brown