

MINUTES BOARD MEETING

July 13th, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

At 6:01 p.m. Mr. Hartsfield convened the regular meeting of the district Board of Education. Board members present were, Ms. White, Mr. Moore and Mr. Milner. Ms. Compton, Mr. Frazier, and Ms. Whitaker were absent. School administrative personnel present were Mr. Hayden, Mr. Webb, Ms. Merritt, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Anderson, and Ms. Davis. IC Murrell from the PB Commercial was in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Ms. White said a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved 4-0 on a motion by Mr. Moore and a second by Ms. Compton.

Financial Statement. The financial statement for the month of June was presented, reporting \$2,106,478.88 in revenue and expenditures of \$2,650,086.98 in the non-activity funds, leaving an ending balance of \$9,722,764.24. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Ms. White the board voted 4-0 to approve the financial report for the month of June.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson introduced Dee Davis as the new Assistant Superintendent and Suzette Anderson as the new Special Education Director. Ms. Davis thanked the board for the opportunity to come back to Watson Chapel. She wants to advocate for learning and for the teachers to try and help make a difference. Ms. Anderson stated she came out of retirement to come back and help WCSD out. She said she was going from a zebra to a wildcat. Mr. Wilson said the motto for the year is TEAM moving forward.

Resolution. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval for the attached resolution. Jack Truemper explained the second lien bonds process and explained the proceeds sheet. The goal was to sale bonds for \$4,000,000.00 and the district sold the bond for \$4,018,581.14. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Truemper to explain the districts assessment from local property taxes. Mr. Truemper said that assessment have increased over the past 5 years and that generates additional money that can be used to make payments for the new bond issue. Mr. Truemper thanked WCSD for their business and stated this was the first time without Ms. Boone and he talked about what a great asset she was to the district. Mr. Wilson stated that Stephens has done a good job and we got a great interest rate. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore, the board voted 4-0 on the bond resolution.

Fund Transfer. Mr. Wilson recommended the transfer from the operating to building fund for 2022-2023 in excess of 20%. Norma Walker explained the process of moving money to the building fund and transferring excess into the net legal balance. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore, the board voted 4-0 on the recommendation to transfer from the operating to the building fund.

Principals. The building principals gave a brief update. Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Cooper was absent, but Pre-K through 1st grade will be at Edgewood and it should be an easy transition for Pre-K students. Ms. Merritt stated it has been a busy summer. She stated Coleman was almost fully staffed. Staff development started in June for the Title I Sig Grant. They are working on unit planning and waiting on the ACT Aspire scores to see results from last year and they are expecting great gains. The new playground equipment was installed. She showed a book that Solution Tree wrote and Coleman was highlighted in the book. The book was listed as #1 educational book on Amazon. Mr. Vincent thanked the board for allowing him to lead the Junior High School. He thanked Mr. Hayden and his staff for getting things moved from the JR High to L.L. Owen which will house 6th through 8th grades. The playground equipment is being broken up and new equipment is being installed. He did unit plans with Mrs. Wilson and the JR High showed growth in assessments and he expects that to continue. Mr. Webb is looking forward to a great transition and they have already embraced the JR High teachers that are coming to the High School. He is working on lunch plans. He thanked the High School students and Mr. Hayden who have helped move things from the JR High. He stated they have plenty of planning in place and he thanked the board for the opportunity to serve.

Update. Mr. Hayden gave an update on the transition of reconfiguration. He stated they are working on the asphalt project at Coleman. The playground transition from Owen to Coleman is being done now. They are going to put basketball goals at the JR High and going to have soccer goals at Coleman and the JR High. They are adding barriers to the glass in the hallways at L.L. Owen. They are working on salvaging the intercom, maglocks, air conditioners, etc. at the old JR High. The sidewalks are being repaired at the High School. They are waxing floors on campuses and cleaning out the Special Services building. The intercom system at Coleman is underway and funded by the safety grant. Coach Little is working on the baseball field. We are going to work on the football field. Ms. White asked about the speakers at the football field. Mr. Hartsfield agreed and stated you cannot hear. Mr. Hayden said he would look into that. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Hayden for all of his hard work.

Facilities. Mr. Wilson gave a facilities update. He stated an asbestos abatement is going on at the JR High. They are currently getting bids for that. Baldwin and Shell will get bids to tear down the JR High. The gym will be later on as it is being used as storage and the old part of L.L. Owen will eventually be torn down. The extra money from the state partnership will be discussed at the meeting next week and he hopes to get help with the increased construction cost. He stated we have to stop the drop and have a positive attitude and we are moving forward. He thanked the board for their support on the new school.

Petition. Mr. Wilson attached a parent's request for petition to transfer a student. The parent filled out school choice to go to White Hall and White Hall denied them. They are

appealing to the state and they want the board to move forward with letting their child go to WHSD. Mr. Wilson recommended to table this to see what the state is going to do. On a motion by Ms. White and a second by Mr. Milner, the board voted 4-0 to table the petition for transfer.

Medicaid. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval of the attached Medicaid Billing Service Agreement. On a motion by Mr. Moore and a second by Mr. Milner, the board voted 4-0 to approve the service agreement.

Code of Conduct. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval of the attached 2023-2024 Code of Conduct. Mr. Wilson spoke with Kerri McNeal. He stated nothing has been changed except dates. Mr. Webb said this has started with DOJ and Ms. McNeal has worked hard on this to implement PBIS and what is needed by the DOJ. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore, the board voted 4-0 to approve new Code of Conduct.

Recruitment and Retention Plan. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval of the attached 2023-2024 Teacher & Admin. Recruitment & Retention Plan. He stated that every district has to do this. Kerri McNeal puts this together and does a great job. The district is trying to get out of the DOJ order and get unitary status. On a motion by Mr. Moore and a second by Ms. White, the board voted 4-0 to approve the recruitment and retention plan.

Additional Duties Salary Schedule. Mr. Wilson recommended the board adopt the attached updated additional duties salary schedule for the 2023-2024 school year. The Junior High Choir stipend was added. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Ms. White, the board voted 4-0 to approve the additional duties salary schedule.

PPC REPORT & CPPC

PPC. No report. Mr. Wilson stated they aren't as active in the summer.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Hooten's Football Classic kick off is at the Pine Bluff Country Club and Coach Moody will be attending. It will be a good kickoff for the year and we hope to have a great season.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Wilson recommended the board hire Sofia Batzos as an Elementary Teacher, Kanasha Carmickle as a Dyslexia Instructional Specialist, Katherine Hubanks as a Secondary Librarian, Sara James as the Asst. Superintendent and Special Services Secretary, Tonja Nesby as an Elementary Teacher, and LaResha Romes as a School Nurse. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore, the board voted 4-0 on the resignations and employment recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted by, Mr. Wilson and Ms. Walker.

Alan Frazier,
Board Secretary