

# **MINUTES BOARD MEETING**

**July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

At 7:00 p.m. on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Mr. Hartsfield convened a special meeting of the district Board of Education. Board members present were Ms. Compton, Mr. Frazier, Ms. Whitaker, Mr. Milner and Mr. Moore. Ms. White was absent. School administrative personnel present was Mr. Hayden, Mr. Webb, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Vincent, Ms. Davis, Ms. Anderson, and Ms. McNeal. The press was not in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Mr. Milner led in a prayer.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

Petition. Mr. Wilson attached a parent's request for petition to transfer a student. On a motion by Mr. Moore and a second by Ms. Compton, the board voted 6-0 on the petition to transfer a student.

School Improvement. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval of the attached 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan for use. Dee Davis gave a report. Ms. Davis presented the rules and regulations for the level 4 direct support from DESE. She explained if the district has less than 50% of students on grade level for reading, the district must have a school improvement plan. These documents will be monitored and reviewed and updated as needed. The plan has to be posted to the website by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Davis said the test scores are out and will be discussed in the August board meeting. Ms. Whitaker asked for a workday with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Principals to go over the School Improvement Plans for this year and next year. On a motion by Ms. Whitaker and a second by Mr. Milner, the board voted 6-0 on the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan.

Student Handbook. Mr. Wilson recommended the approval of the attached changes to the 2023-2024 Student Handbook. Kerri McNeal presented. Ms. McNeal presented the handbook and the changes. Ms. McNeal said that one clear backpack will be provided to each student. The principals will pass them out. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Compton asked about the female students and Ms. McNeal stated they can put a small cosmetic bag in the clear backpack. The clear backpacks help the security officers. Ms. Compton asked if they could bring purses and Ms. McNeal stated yes but it may be searched. She explained the arrival and dismissal times changed due to grade configurations (pg.19). The tardy policy was adjusted due to grade configurations (pg.20). Honor Graduates-this clears out some confusion requested by Mr. Webb and Dr. Strickland. It is the same policy, but it is now clearly written out (pg.32). Ms. Compton stated they had a parent that had questions and Mr. Webb stated that he talked to her. We are continuing the uniform policy-the length of shorts and skirts are now knee length, hoods cannot be worn inside the building, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will now wear red since they are moving to the Junior High (pg.37).

Changing offense for tobacco to align with DOJ's code of conduct (pg.35). Electronic devices-Elementary will not be allowed to use electronic devices and they do not need to be brought on campus at that level. Mr. Wilson asked if they could bring them and Ms. McNeal stated yes, but it needs to be turned off. The JR High and SR High can have electronic devices, but they cannot use them during the school day. Last year they were used to coordinate fights, drugs deals, film fights, and post untrue stories on social media (pg.46). Mr. Moore asked about the red and green zones. Ms. McNeal stated it was taken out because it was hard to police. It created more confusion than it helped. Mr. Webb agreed. Mr. Moore asked if they thought we would have more parents concerned because of the past shooting and Mr. Webb stated we are trying to keep students safe and the teachers will be on duty. Ms. Compton asked if students could use their phones at lunch and Ms. McNeal said no because a lot of things happen during lunch. Ms. Compton stated that if they can't use them during school hours, what is the difference between policies? Ms. McNeal stated the other one was red/green zones and it was too confusing and hard to monitor. Mr. Milner asked what would happen if a teacher wants them to use their phones. Mr. Webb stated if it is written in lesson plans or used for instructional purposes, than it would be allowed. Ms. McNeal mentioned they all have chrome books they could use. Mr. Webb said they started the students not being allowed to have phones during summer school and it was well received. Ms. McNeal said this is all about safety and Mr. Webb said there has been a lot of cyber bullying. Mr. Wilson said he worries about the kids using it during the time they are in the bathroom and we need to enforce what rules we set. Mr. Wilson said we are trying to have more instruction time and said they can use up until the bell rings like on the bus. The district hired behavior interventionist to help. Ms. Compton made a motion to table the policies to another meeting until she has time to read over since the policies were only received last night. No second-motion failed. Ms. Compton asked if there was a statue of time to receive information and Mr. Wilson said he would have to check on it. Ms. Whitaker seconded Ms. Compton motion with a 6-0 vote to approve all policies except the cell phone policy. A special board meeting will be called Monday to review the cell phone policy again.

#### PERSONNEL.

Mr. Wilson received a letter of resignation from Collin Branch, Cheryl Wade, and Karen Williams. On a motion by Mr. Milner and a second by Mr. Moore, the board voted 6-0 to accept the resignations.

Mr. Wilson recommended the board hire Ryan Acker as a Secondary Math Teacher, Yvonne Denton as a Special Ed. Teacher, Kassi Martin as a Secondary Social Studies Teacher, John Scroggins as a Special Ed Teacher, and Winston Southwell as a Secondary Business Ed. Teacher. On a motion by Ms. Compton and a second by Ms. Whitaker, the board voted 6-0 to accept the hiring recommendations.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

None

Respectfully submitted by, Mr. Wilson and Norma Walker.

Alan, Frazier.  
Board Secretary