

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
GREENE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5413 WEST KINGSHIGHWAY, PARAGOULD, AR 72450**



DATE: February 16, 2022

TIME: 5:30 pm

**GCT Administration Office
“Special Called”
School Board Meeting**

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Davis, Stephane	X	
Hitt, Curtis	X	
Laubach, Lora	X	
Roswell, Tim	X	
Snyder, Brad	X	
Thompson, Hardy	X	
Weatherford, Jason	X (left at 7:00)	

Others present: Mr. Gene Weeks, Superintendent; Mrs. Amy Lucius, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Scott Gerrish, Assistant Superintendent; Christi Sims, Administrative Assistant; Chad Jordan, High School Principal; and Dale Schenk, High School Assistant Principal.

Brad Snyder, Board President, called the **February 16, 2022 “Special Called” School Board Meeting** to order. At this time the board dealt with (2) student expulsion hearings. (5:30 pm)

Student #1 (Parents and student were present and requested a closed hearing.)

Motion #1

Moved by **Tim Roswell** and seconded by **Hardy Thompson** to accept the Administration’s recommendation for **approval for suspended expulsion** of a 10th grade student, with the last (5) digits of their student ID being **17504**, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, for violation of Rule 10, Page 126 of the High School Parent/Student Handbook.

Motion Carried, 7 to 0

Student #2 (Parents and student were present and requested a closed hearing.)

Motion #2

Moved by **Curtis Hitt** and seconded by **Tim Roswell** to accept the Administration’s recommendation for **approval for suspended expulsion** of a 10th grade student, with the last (5) digits of their student ID being **10160**, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, for violation of Rule 10, Page 126 of the High School Parent/Student Handbook.

Motion Carried, 7 to 0

At this time Mr. Weeks discussed the following items with the board:

Mr. Weeks stated that he would like to put a resolution together to do a design build and use Nabholz like we did with the Jr. High. We would probably use John Mixon as our architect and go through Nabholz so they could help us get everything bid out so we can start working on projects with the restructuring. We would also bring in Tim Cowan who did the football field to work as a consultant for us. Lora asked if we would be working with the Softball and Baseball coaches on the project design and Mr. Weeks said they are meeting with them on Monday. Mr. Weeks said if he was ok with it he would meet with those parties, get our attorney to draw up a design. Jason said one thing he questions is he doesn’t want us to rush into the plans we already have and maybe we need to do something a little different. Stephane said she agrees and that we need to focus on classrooms because teachers are sharing classrooms and giving up their prep time and that shouldn’t be happening. Jason said we have to make sure this is going to last us. Mr. Weeks said once we get these people on board then we can look at drawing different plans. He said if they wanted to go with less hardened area, and more classroom space that would be an option. Stephane said it is a hardship when you have to give up your classroom so someone else can use your classroom during your prep time, that shouldn’t be happening, we need classrooms. Mr. Weeks told the board they would need to make that decision. He said if we had to give up the hardened space to get people out of trailers, that is a decision the board would make. Hardy and Tim said we need to get rid of the trailers. Stephane said she believed there was a teacher having class on the Intermediate stage. Mr. Weeks said he has been wanting to get rid of portables and add a lot of classrooms. Curtis said something they would need to keep in mind is that a lot of people cast their votes based on the plan presented to them. Lora said that adding the hardened areas are adding classrooms too but the classrooms would just be in the hardened areas. Brad said we could build even more classrooms if we removed the hardened part and build even more. Mr. Weeks said the square foot cost goes way down when you build regular classrooms compared to hardened classrooms. Jason said he thought they needed to look at all their options. Mr. Weeks asked the board if they were comfortable with him meeting with all the people he mentioned and getting our attorney to write up a design build and they said yes. He said since we have used this company and architect in the past and were very please with them, he would like to stay with them.

The next item he discussed with the board was our banking services. Mr. Weeks told board members that we have been with Bancorp South for three years. Three years ago we sent our banking services out to bid and received 2.75 interest rate. It is coming up in March for us to rebid it. Mr. Weeks said we could talk to Bancorp South and try to negotiate a fixed rate or put it out to bid. He told the board we were with Centennial Bank before and were very pleased with them and then with Bancorp South. He told board members we made about \$280,000.00 in interest last year. Mr. Weeks said he was very comfortable with putting it out to bid. Hardy said to put it out to bid and other board members agreed.

Mr. Weeks said that our bonds were callable October 1 and we can recall them 90 days before that, which is the first week of July. He said you have to bid them 30 days before you close so that would be May 31 or June 1. Mr. Weeks said he would like to do a resolution so we could go ahead and start and pay our architects and design to get those people working. The resolution would allow us to reimburse the school when we get our money. We would reimburse out of operating, building fund, or special projects. The board said they were ok with that.

Mr. Weeks said when he told the board he was retiring, he said one thing the new Superintendent would do is have more of a digital footprint. He said he has relied on the buildings and let them all have their own facebook page, Mrs. Lucius did Tech Connect, and he sent district wide emails. Mr. Weeks said that he, Mr. Gerrish and Mrs. Lucius met with a company named Aptigy who design websites and communications that puts information out there. He said that one text would end up on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Mr. Weeks said he thought we ran our website for about \$1,600.00 per year. This one would cost us \$30,000.00 for set up then \$17,000.00 per year. Hardy said this was not a luxury, it is a necessity. Mr. Gerrish said Aptigy is a company that many other districts use. Mr. Weeks said he did not want to move forward with it or put it on the agenda without giving them a heads up. Hardy asked how we tell them what we want done. Mr. Gerrish said they will sit down with them but first they capture everything we have on our current website and move it to their development software. They will then build our website and app interface, although it is the same company that other schools use, it will look unique. Mrs. Lucius said they would have to meet with our old developers because people are used to it and we want the icon to look the same. She said we would like to keep our same URL for our webpage. Hardy asked if these people would operate as consultants as to what we need to do or will they just do what we ask them to do. Mrs. Lucius said we will have people that load the content. Mr. Gerrish said they had some samples and they have templates where they will build it, but we will still be involved as to how we want it to look. Mr. Gerrish said he likes that is shares out responsibilities. For example, Dale will be High School Principal so he will have the ability to oversee the High School version of this web app. If High School teachers have something they want to post on the High School mobile app page, they would submit that to Dale. It will not go out on the feed until the principal looks at it and approves it. Mr. Weeks said he just needed the board to tell him to pursue this and they said yes. Brad asked if they were wanting to launch it in February and Mrs. Lucius said we can't launch in February. She said we could start the process but it really needs to be launched by July 1. Curtis asked if there were other companies and if we were comparing. Mr. Gerrish said yes, the company we use now deserves a shot at this. He said he would set up a meeting with Bluewall, the company we currently use, telling them we are shopping this service, want to amp it up, and ask them what they can do. Hardy said we needed to be blown away. Curtis asked about other schools that use Aptigy and Mrs. Lucius said she could get them a list of the schools who use it. Hardy said what ever we use needs to be really super good. Mr. Gerrish said part of the payment is for them to update it every two years and Mrs. Lucius said we could make changes every year.

At this time, Brad Snyder, dismissed the board to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. (7:07 pm)

Brad Snyder called the meeting back to order after executive session. (7:49 pm)

Motion #3

Moved by **Tim Roswell** and seconded by **Hardy Thompson** to accept the Administration’s recommendation for **approval of personnel as listed.**

Resignations

1. **Patty Hyde** - Resigns from her Assistant Child Nutrition Director position, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This is for retirement purposes.
2. **Teddy Wilkerson** - Resigns from his Bus Driving position and Paraprofessional position at Jr. High School, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This is for retirement purposes.
3. **Calvin Parnell** - Resigns from his Bus Driving position, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. This is for retirement purposes.
4. **Dana Wilson** - Resigns from her History Teaching position at Jr. High School, effective at the 2021-2022 school year. This is for retirement purposes.
5. **Kendra Kent** - Resigns from her 4th Grade Teaching position at Intermediate School, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Leave of Absence

1. **Marti Johnson** - Requests a Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 31-February 22, 2022.

Change of Assignment

1. **Megan Cloud** - Transfer from her current English Teaching position at High School to Spanish Teacher at High School, effective for the 2022-2023 school year. She will be placed on an ALP for Spanish.
2. **Courtney Patterson** - Transfer from her current Pre-AP English Teaching position at Jr. High School to Pre AP English Teacher at High School, effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. **Tammie Fletcher** - Transfer from her current Custodial position at Intermediate School to Custodian at Elementary School, effective February 7, 2022.

Contract Adjustment

1. **Madison Ritter** - Transfer from her current Co-Head/Co-Assistance Dance Team Sponsor position to Head Senior High Dance Team Sponsor, effective for the 2022-2023 school year. She will receive a stipend in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Classified Employment

1. **Jimmy Greenway** - Employ as a Custodian at Intermediate School, effective February 21, 2022. He will be placed on step 15 of the custodial salary schedule and contracted for 245 days.

Motion Carried, 6 to 0

With no other business to be addressed, **Brad Snyder adjourned** the meeting. (7:50 p.m.)

Board President

Board Secretary