

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 18, 2011**

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. Board members present were Chair Mr. Donnie Smith, Vice Chair Ron Garner, Secretary Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Mr. Barry E. Bailey, Mr. Billy Blackwell, Mr. Mike A. Ellis, Mrs. Robin D. Harper, Mr. C. Alan McEntire, and Ms. Cheryll D. Smith. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Edgar C. Taylor, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish, Director of Personnel Dr. Page B. McCraw, and Director of Finance Mr. Brock Heron. News media present were Mrs. Janet Spencer – Blacksburg Times, Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger and Mr. Tommy Martin – Cherokee Chronicle.

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 30-40-80(d), as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, and agenda of this meeting: The Blacksburg Times, The Cherokee Chronicle, The Gaffney Ledger, the Shelby Star, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Radio Stations WEAC-AM and WFGN, WSPA-TV, WYFF-TV, and WSOC-TV.

Chair Mr. Donnie Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and recognized the news media present. Mr. Garner led in the opening prayer. The Gaffney High School AFJROTC made the presentation of colors.

Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated March 14, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. No one requested to address trustees according to policy.

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. Taylor recognized the Teachers of the Year for each school. Mrs. Lisa Blanton was also recognized as the District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Kim Camp was recognized as SCIRA Administrator of the Year 2010-2011. BD Lee School was recognized for earning 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the SC Odyssey of Mind State Tournament. Gaffney High School Students were recognized for being recognized in the Winthrop Media Freedom Essay Contest. Leanne Starnes was named First Place, Rupa Patel was named Third Place, and Joyland Jamison received Honorable Mention. Dr. Taylor recognized Taylor Covington from Ewing Middle School for being named a Duke TIP Scholar. He also presented Palmetto Gold & Silver Awards 2010-2011 to the following schools: Blacksburg High School – Palmetto Gold, Gaffney High School – Palmetto Gold, Corinth Elementary – Palmetto Silver, Draytonville Elementary - Palmetto Silver, Goucher Elementary - Palmetto Silver, and Northwest Elementary - Palmetto Silver.

School Board Policies – Section G – Personnel were presented for second reading approval and inclusion in the board policy manual. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve Section G - Personnel, seconded by Mr. Ellis.** In discussion, Dr. Taylor recommended deleting the five offenses in GBED – Tobacco-Free Schools/Staff as it is against the law to smoke on school grounds; therefore, policy should be in accordance with the law. **Mr. Garner made the motion to amend GBED, seconded by Ms. Smith.** After further discussion and questions regarding parliamentary procedure, **Mr. Crosby withdrew his first motion and Mr. Ellis withdrew his second of the first motion. Mr. Crosby then made the motion to approve School Board Policies Section G – Personnel as amended, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Report. Dr. Taylor reminded trustees of the deadline for nominations for office/board for SCSBA, the deadline for proposals for resolutions, and the deadline for proposals for changes to the SCSBA Constitution. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.** An update was given on the status of Crenshaw Charter School. The administration received a letter from Crenshaw Charter School indicating the school would apparently not open as planned in the fall and advised a new proposal would be presented this summer for the 2011-2012 school year. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.** Director of Finance Mr. Brock Heron provided a Financial Update through March 2011. Revenues and transfers in through the end of March are approximately \$42.9 million; expenditures and transfers out total around \$35.9 million; the net positive difference is approximately \$7.0 million. The district has received the majority of our tax money and 75% of our state revenue for the year. The district will also have ongoing salaries and other expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The positive difference will continue to shrink throughout the rest of the year. The district will not be able to draw down the proposed \$1 million in one-cent sales tax as projected to balance the budget for this year. The district had a surplus and not a deficit as projected during the budget process. The district will send out RIF's for boilers in local media and other building construction and management magazines. Dr. Redish advised trustees that the materials for the canopy at Blacksburg High School have been ordered and the work should be completed in 3-4 weeks, projected completion is May 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Taylor advised the energy education program was up and running and the initial cost avoidance summary reflects a savings of approximately \$843,000 for

the first eight months of the year. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.**

Ratification of Claims was the next item on the agenda. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.** The next item on the agenda was Personnel Report. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Executive Session – Certified Personnel Recommendations. Mr. Smith called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the employment status of a certified individual and to discuss certified recommendations. **Mr. McIntyre made the motion, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 7:35 PM and ended at 8:40 PM. Mr. Smith said the board had been in executive session to discuss certified administrative recommendations and declared the board back in regular session. He called on Dr. Taylor for a recommendation for Action as Needed from Executive Session. Dr. Taylor recommended the hiring of two certified employees. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to table the recommendation due to budgetary concerns, seconded by Mr. McIntyre. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Ellis, Mrs. Harper, and Mr. McIntyre. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Ms. Smith. The motion failed due to the lack of a majority vote. Mr. Crosby made the motion to accept the recommendation of the superintendent, seconded by Ms. Smith. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Ms. Smith. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Ellis, Mrs. Harper, and Mr. McIntyre. The motion passed by majority vote.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. Taylor reminded trustees of upcoming events. All schools and the District Office will be closed on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This date was scheduled as a snow make-up day; however, since the Board voted to forgive the days missed due to inclement weather, schools will be closed on this date. The board will conduct a workshop on Monday, April 25, 2011 to discuss revisions to Sections A & B of the school board policy manual. The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, May 9, 2011. It is hopeful the administration will have projected figures on this year's budget by this meeting. Retirees and Junior Scholars will be honored at a reception prior to this meeting. The reception will be held in the Commons Area at Gaffney High School.

The Adult Education Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the Gaffney High School Auditorium.

The dedication ceremony for the Ola H. Copeland Community Learning Center will be held on Monday, June 13, 2011. Dr. Paul Krohne from the South Carolina School Boards Association will be the keynote speaker and presenter. The dedication ceremony and a reception will be held at 6:00 PM prior to the regular scheduled board meeting.

#### **Other Matters**

Mr. Bailey congratulated the honorees and welcomed the two new employees on board.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated the Teachers of the Year and commended all the other honorees. He reiterated his position on the new hires due to budgetary concerns and felt the salaries could possibly be saved.

Mr. Ellis congratulated the Teachers of the Year and stated he agreed with Mr. Blackwell. People were promised pay raises two years ago when the district's budget status improved but still have not received increases. He thanked everyone for the jobs they do in the district.

Mr. Crosby thanked Dr. Taylor, the principals, administrators, Teachers of the Year, students and other honorees at the meeting for their leadership and success.

Mr. Garner congratulated the students, teachers, and principals for the recognitions. He encouraged the board to support the majority decision and work together for the district.

Mr. McEntire said he would support the board's decision although he was concerned about hiring administrators if teaching positions were cut and/or classroom numbers increased.

Mrs. Harper is proud to be part of a district receiving so many awards. She thanked the administration and teachers for their efforts. She will support the board's decision and said her vote was to protect teaching positions. She welcomed the new administrators to the district.

Ms. Smith congratulated the Teachers of the Year, the students recognized at the meeting, and the schools that received Palmetto Silver & Gold Awards. She said the board had to make hard decisions and needed to pull together for the benefit of students.

Mr. Smith congratulated the honorees and said the numerous recognitions in April meetings made it one of the best meetings every year.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Harper made the motion, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.