

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

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**AUGUST 23, 2010**

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in called session on Monday, August 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. Board members present were Chair Mr. Donnie Smith, Vice Chair Mr. Ron Garner, Secretary Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Mr. Barry E. Bailey, Mr. Billy Blackwell, Mr. Mike A. Ellis, Mrs. Robin D. Harper, Mr. Christopher Alan McEntire, and Ms. Cheryll D. Smith. Administrators present were Interim Superintendent Mrs. Kim Bagwell, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish, and Interim Director of Finance Mr. Charlie Tillotson. Mrs. Andrea White with Duff Turner & White was also present. News media present were Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger, Mr. Tommy Martin – Cherokee Chronicle, Mrs. Janet Spencer – The Blacksburg Times, Fox Carolina News – Channel 21, WYFF – News Channel 4, and WSPA-TV – News Channel 7.

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 6:00 PM and recognized the news media present. Mr. Crosby led in the opening prayer.

Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Garner. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, Mr. McEntire, and Ms. Smith. The following trustee voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The next item on the agenda was Executive Session – Receive legal advice regarding pending & potential claims against the district and also regarding contractual and personnel matters. Mr. Smith called for a motion to go into executive session. **Mr. McEntire made the motion for the Board to enter executive session for the following purposes: to receive legal advice regarding pending and potential claims against the district, to discuss the employment of an employee, to discuss the appointment of an employee, and to discuss negotiations related to proposed contractual arrangements. Mr. Garner seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The executive session began at 6:08 PM and ended at 9:50 PM. Mr. Smith said the board had been in executive session and called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Bailey. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Mrs. Bagwell read a prepared statement regarding her career in education and her 27 years experience helping young adults in church and school. She stated she was willing to continue serving as interim superintendent until such time as the board could engage the services of a retired individual at which time she will assume the position of personnel director for the district. Mr. Smith thanked Mrs. Bagwell for her comments and called for a motion from the floor. **In light of Kim Bagwell's request that the Board immediately begin the search for a permanent superintendent, Mr. Garner moved that the Board immediately select a firm to conduct a search to locate a new Superintendent; he further moved that the Board direct the attorney for the school district to contact retired superintendents in order to find an individual who is willing to serve the district as an Interim Superintendent; and until such time as the Board has selected a retired superintendent to serve as Interim Superintendent, he moved that Mrs. Bagwell remain as Interim Superintendent and that once a new Interim Superintendent is in place, Mrs. Bagwell be reassigned to Director of Personnel in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the district and Mrs. Bagwell. Mr. Crosby seconded the motion.** Mr. Blackwell publicly apologized for putting Mrs. Bagwell in this position and said it was nothing more than a vendetta and he could not support it. Mr. Crosby agreed with Mr. Blackwell and stated Mrs. Bagwell has been placed in a tremendous position and has done a great job. Mrs. Harper said Mrs. Bagwell was a champion for the kids and this community. She apologized that she was placed in this position but it was nothing more than a personal vendetta and stated she was ashamed to be on the board. Mr. Garner said the motion made tonight had not changed much from the original motion made by Ms. Smith, which was to name Mrs. Bagwell Interim Superintendent and to begin an immediate search for a permanent superintendent, and this was never begun. Ms. Smith apologized to Mrs. Bagwell for being in this position and having to go through what she was going through. A number of questions and comments were posed by spectators that were present and Mr. Smith hit the gavel and called for a vote on the motion and second. **The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. McEntire made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. The motion passed by a majority vote.** The meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.