

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 13, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. An executive session was held at 6:30 PM prior to the Board meeting. 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, 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 6:30 PM. Approval of the Board Agenda was the first item on the agenda. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Executive Session – Superintendent Search was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Smith called for a motion to go into executive session. **Mr. McEntire made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mr. McEntire, and Ms. Smith. Mrs. Harper voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.** The executive session began at 6:31PM and ended at 7:08 PM. Mr. Smith said the board had been in executive session to discuss the superintendent search process. He called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Action as Needed from Executive Session was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Smith called for a motion from the floor. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to continue the services of Dr. Taylor as superintendent for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Garner seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mr. McEntire, and Ms. Smith. The following trustees voted in opposition of the motion: Mr. Blackwell and Mrs. Harper. The motion passed by majority vote.**

Mr. Smith called the regular board meeting to order and recognized the news media present. Mr. Crosby led in the opening prayer. The Gaffney High School AFJROTC made the presentation of colors.

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. Taylor recognized the faculty and staff from Mary Bramlett Elementary for receiving a Red Carpet Award for 2010. Dr. Taylor also recognized the faculty and staff at BD Lee Elementary for being recognized by the State Board of Education and Superintendent Jim Rex as a school of promise.

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

Regular Board Minutes dated November 8, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of Revised District Organizational Chart was the next item on the agenda. After lengthy discussion on the revisions, **Mr. McEntire made the motion to approve the organizational chart as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mr. McEntire, and Ms. Smith. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell and Mrs. Harper. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The next item on the agenda was Naming of Facilities. Mr. Crosby asked that trustees revisit naming of facilities since policy requires that the individual be deceased for two years before naming a facility can be considered. Former School Board Trustees Ms. Ola Copeland has been deceased more than two years now. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to name the learning center in honor of Ms. Copeland, seconded by Ms. Smith.** After discussion regarding changing the name a prior committee recommended, naming a program at the facility in her honor, and unknown cost projections to change signage, and other minor concerns, Mr. Crosby withdrew his motion and this item was referred to committee. The administration will compose an ad hoc committee to discuss this item in more detail and secure cost information on naming of facilities. Both Mr. Crosby and Ms. Smith will serve on this committee. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

Board Meeting Dates was the next item on the agenda. Trustees voted to conduct monthly board meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month and to schedule called board meetings, committee meetings, or workshops on the 4th Monday of the month. This is the current policy and procedure that has been in place since March 2008. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was Property at Former Limestone Learning Center. Mr. Ellis requested the status of the corner lot near the former Limestone Learning Center and the agreement between Limestone College and the District for use of the swimming pool by the district's swim team. The agreement is renewable every five (5) years. The consensus of the board was to have the corner property appraised, determine the intent of the college regarding use of the property, to contact other individuals/groups previously interested in the property, and report this information back to trustees. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

Dr. Taylor provided updates on several items during his superintendent report.

Director of Finance Mr. Brock Heron provided trustees with the monthly financial report and an update on the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. Local revenues claimed from the County Treasurer's Office for the first part of this fiscal year reflect only vehicle collections, delinquent tax collections, and other miscellaneous amounts. Those claims represent a relatively minor portion of annual local tax collections. Local real estate revenues as well as 90% of the tier one reimbursement for residential property tax relief reimbursements from the state are received in December and January. Tier three reimbursements are distributed to the district on a monthly basis from October to July. State revenues for EFA and other State reimbursements continue to trend consistently with the annual projections. Salaries, fringe benefits, and operating expenses continue to run evenly with budget projections for the full year. The District has borrowed \$7,500,000 of those funds against the TAN borrowing limit of \$13,308,000. At this time, the district does not anticipate having to borrow any further from the TAN program for this fiscal year. The State Energy Office has granted the District an extension to complete replacement boiler installations at four (4) schools. Carolina Engineering Services is working with the District to review and revise the specifications for bidding purposes. Those projects will be scheduled to be completed during spring 2011 after outside temperatures have moderated to allow the work to be done without impact on comfort levels in school buildings. The other primary energy grant project remaining involves replacement of control systems in several schools. Johnson Controls has begun this project with completion anticipated in the early part of 2011. An additional component of that project includes energy education resources made available to staff and students over the coming year. Stafford Consulting Engineers will be assisting the District in reviewing and updating its 2004 roof survey as part of the professional services procurement. The initial scope of service will focus on surveying and providing recommendations for five (5) schools that have been targeted as a first tier of review: Corinth, Draytonville, Gaffney Middle, Gaffney High, and Blacksburg Elementary. The installation of replacement cameras is complete. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

Ratification of Claims was the next item on the agenda. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.** Personnel Recommendations were listed on the agenda. Since changes in the status of classified personnel do not require Board approval, **this item was received for information only; no action was required.** Dr. Taylor reviewed the process for hiring the Gaffney High School Football Coach and/or Athletic Director. The principal and most of the community seem to be quite pleased with Coach Huff and Coach Jones in these positions; however, since the positions were made interim last spring, the understanding was that both positions would be posted in early January so viable candidates

could apply and be interviewed prior to commitments being made to other districts. It was the consensus of the board for this matter to be handled administratively since supplemental positions did not require board approval. The superintendent then informed the board that the positions would be continued without posting.

The C&I Department, under the direction of Mrs. Bagwell, is continuing to work on revising the district grading policy. Once complete, we will recommend a policy change to the board for approval. This should happen by the February meeting. GHS had a visit by a High Schools That Work team last week. The team made several commendations and a few recommendations. The most impressive recommendation involved a positive working relationship between students and staff. The full report should be ready after the first of the year. The report from the school food service audit should be in before the next board meeting. Title II, Title III and Title VI plans have been approved by the SDE.

The next item on the agenda was announcements. The Health Fair will be sponsored by Upstate Carolina Medical Center. It will be held at GHS on January 14, 2010, from 7:30 AM -11:00 AM. The next scheduled Board meeting is Tuesday, January 18, 2010. All schools and the district office will be closed for Christmas Break December 20th through December 31st and for furlough January 3rd through January 7th. The Board has scheduled a workshop on policy revisions for Monday, January 31, 2011. A copy of the proposed policy revisions on Section G was mailed to trustees for review during Christmas Break.

Other Matters

Ms. Smith congratulated BD Lee for being named a School of Promise. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Mr. McEntire stated the South Carolina School Boards Association would not charge the district any fees for the superintendent search thus far by keeping Dr. Taylor on board for another year. The district will use their services for the future superintendent search.

Mrs. Harper congratulated Mary Bramlett and BD Lee schools for their recent recognitions.

Mr. Garner also congratulated the schools and thanked all staff for doing a good job.

Mr. Crosby thanked the faculty and staff at the schools for their efforts and commended their recognitions. He thanked everyone for working and doing a good job in the district. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Ellis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked employees for their hard work. He asked that the administration look at lights for the tennis courts and fields at Blacksburg at night.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated the schools for their recent accomplishments and extended support to Dr. Taylor and the school district. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Bailey echoed the same comments and congratulated Dr. Taylor on his contract extension.

Mr. Smith expressed confidence in Dr. Taylor's leadership and in the board's decisions to provide stability and forward movement in the district. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dr. Taylor thanked trustees for their support and pledged to do his best for the district.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

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