

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2011

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, February 14, 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 McCraw, and Interim Director of Finance Mr. Brock Heron. News media present were Mrs. Janet Spencer – Blacksburg Times and Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger.

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. Ms. Smith 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. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated December 13, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Ellis made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. McEntire. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated December 14, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated January 31, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Ray Head, representing Gaffney Little League Football, requested to address trustees about the possibility of using the middle school football field for the Little League Program and having the fees waived to use the field. Approximately 650 children are involved in the Little League Program at present. Mr. Head expressed concern that the program will be adversely affected since the Recreation Department plans to increase their rates for participation as well as increase the percentage of concession sales the league provides to the department. Since a number of questions were raised such as liability, conflict of schedules, maintenance of grounds, and costs, the administration will meet with an ad hoc committee to discuss details of the program. Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Garner and Dr. Taylor will serve on the ad hoc committee along with other individuals to discuss the program in more detail.

Phyllis Tate and Anthony Davis also requested to address trustees in public participation. Attorney Fletcher Smith spoke on their behalf regarding the Granard Middle School Beta Club Program and the fact their son is serving as co-president instead of president. Mr. Smith said the student who won the election should be allowed to serve independently and there should be a process in place to prevent this from occurring. Since this is a personnel matter, Mr. Smith said this would need to be discussed in executive session at a later date.

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. Taylor recognized the GHS Competitive Cheerleading Squad for being named 2010 Region III AAAA Champions and 2010 AAAA Upper State Champions. The Gaffney High School Competitive Cheerleading Squad then performed a special cheer for board appreciation month. Gaffney High School was recognized for receiving the Magna Cum Laude Award for Improvement of SAT scores and the Cum Laude Award for Improvement of ACT scores from the State Department of Education. Dr. Taylor recognized 7 teachers for having accomplished National Board Certification. The district has 45 teachers who are National Board Certified. Dr. Taylor recognized the Board for their service as trustees for the district. Mr. Willie C. Crosby was recognized for serving as a School Board Trustee for 15 years and awarded a pin from South Carolina School Boards Association. The final recognition was third, second, and first place winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Art & Essay Contest.

Report from the Ad Hoc Naming Facilities Committee was the next item on the agenda. A committee was formed to name the Cherokee County Community Learning Center in June 2008 prior to the school opening in August of that year. The board discussed naming the facility in honor of Ms. Ola H. Copeland, former board chair and trustee; however, policy does not allow consideration of such a request until after the individual has been deceased two years. The issue was discussed at a recent board meeting and referred to an ad hoc committee for consideration. The Ad Hoc Committee met Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Committee members present were Chair Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Ms. Cheryll D. Smith, Dr. Carlotta Redish, Mrs. Lisa Hannon, Mrs. Tina Sparks, Mr. Donnie Littlejohn, and student Zaria Brown. Superintendent Dr. Edgar C. Taylor and Associate Superintendent Dr. Carlotta Redish were also present.

The committee recommended changing the name of the learning center to the Ola H. Copeland Community Learning Center. The only expense would be to change the outside signage, which would be at a minimal cost. Most of the current lettering could be re-used and the masonry department at Cherokee Technology Center could remove and re-attach the lettering. Mr. Smith called for a vote on the committee's recommendation. **Trustees voted unanimously for the recommendation.**

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Amended 2010-2011 School Year Calendar. The administration recommended revising the school year calendar to include 2 additional snow/make-up days. State law requires three make-up days to be built into the calendar. The additional 2 days would be May 30th and June 3rd with an optional workday on Saturday, June 4th. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the recommendation of administration, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of Proposed 2011-2012 School Year Calendar was the next item on the agenda. The superintendent met with a committee comprised of administrators, principals, teachers, and staff personnel to develop the 2011-2012 School Year Calendar. The administration hopes to build a calendar this year without furlough days if possible. Dr. Taylor recommended approval of the calendar as presented. **Ms. Smith made the motion to approve the proposed 2011-2012 School Year Calendar, seconded by Mr. McEntire. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Superintendent's Report was the next item on the agenda. There are some principals who are interested in the year-round calendar again and Dr. Taylor asked for direction from trustees on this matter. The year-round calendar was supported by a written grant initially and principals are aware they would not receive additional funding other than regular pupil allotment should they elect to go to a year-round calendar. Trustees questioned whether or not the program was beneficial as far as improvement in test scores were concerned and whether all schools should be on the same calendar schedule. The administration will investigate the pros and cons of a year-round calendar and bring the information back to trustees for consideration.

Financial Update – Finance Director Brock Heron provided the monthly financial report and an update on the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. Local revenues from the County Treasurer's Office now reflect the majority of real property collections as well as vehicle collections, delinquent tax collections, and other miscellaneous amounts. The district has also received 90% of the tier one reimbursement for residential property tax relief reimbursements from the state. 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. While there is no spending freeze in place, schools and operating departments operate conservatively in their spending of state and local funds. The District borrowed \$7,500,000 of those funds against the TAN borrowing limit of \$13,308,000

and anticipates repaying those funds by the end of this month. Carolina Engineering Services continues to work 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 the school buildings. The other primary energy grant project remaining involves replacement of control systems in several schools. Johnson Controls has begun this project completion is anticipated in the early part of this year. An additional component of that project includes energy education resources made available to staff and students over the coming year. The District is installing snow breaks on the roofs at Blacksburg High School in order to prevent future damage to the roof canopy. The breaks will be installed at a point after there is 48 consecutive hours of above freezing temperatures. Mr. Heron is working long hours to prepare the comprehensive audit. Representatives from the outside auditing firm have begun the audit in the district at this time. Next year's budget will be a difficult year since there is a rumor of a 15% reduction from the State and all districts will lose the stimulus monies, which will also impact funding. There is also the possibility of a charter school that will begin operation next year in the county. Local funds may be required to follow students who are enrolled in charter schools whether indie or outside the county. This could have a major effect on funding and there will be some tough decisions to be made this year. **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.**

Reciprocal Agreement with Limestone College was the next reported item. Dr. Walt Griffin, President of Limestone College, submitted a letter to the district in reference to the corner lot property. The legal opinion provided by Andrea White with Duff White & Turner indicated that it was not necessary to deed the corner lot property to Limestone College in order to solidify the pool usage agreement with the college. After lengthy discussion on the matter, Mr. Garner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harper and then withdrew his motion after discussion on having the property appraised. **Mr. Garner then made the motion to have the property appraised, deed the corner lot property to Limestone College with the understanding that the College would pay for any legal requirements to transfer the deed, and with the understanding that the school district would have permanent and forever swimming rights to any and all swimming facilities provided for or by the college. Mr. McEntire seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mrs. Harper and Ms. Smith. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

Comprehensive Food Service Audit was the next item reported. Trustees received a copy of the comprehensive food service audit that was conducted in November 2010. The audit recommended a Food Service Director be hired by the district, commodities be purchased in bulk, and have the same menu district-wide. It was noted that food service lost approximately \$140,000 last year as opposed to the \$750,000 originally quoted. There are a number of variables that have affected the food service budget such as indirect costs, allowable fringe benefits, and over-staffing. It was the consensus of trustees to schedule a workshop Monday, February 21st to discuss the audit in detail, staffing, age and condition of equipment, staffing needs and food costs, nutritional requirements, and options to use contracted food services. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

Certified Personnel Report was the next item on the agenda. Recent personnel changes for certified and classified personnel were listed on the agenda. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. Taylor reminded trustees of upcoming events. The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, March 14, 2011. The Board has scheduled a workshop on policy revisions for Monday, February 28, 2011. The Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22nd at Broad River Electric's Auditorium. Governor Nikki Haley is the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased from the chamber. The deadline to reserve tickets is February 15th.

Trustees are reminded to complete the State Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) report no later than April 15, 2011. Each filer is required to file the report electronically. The web site is <http://ethics.sc.gov>.

The South Carolina School Boards Association will sponsor 2dac (Two Days at the Capitol) on March 16th and April 27th at the Capital City Club in Columbia. Registration is \$40 per person and included continental breakfast and buffet lunch. March 16th is the date that Cherokee County is scheduled to attend. If you are interested in attending, please advise Mrs. Lemmonds so registration can be completed on-line. The registration deadline is March 7th for the March 16th event.

Other Matters

Ms. Smith congratulated Gaffney High School and the students for achievements. She thanked everyone for their hard work. She thanked Dr. Taylor and Dr. Redish and the board for coming together.

Mr. McEntire thanked everyone for the gifts. He said the district needed to do what was right for the corner property near Limestone College and correct and legal issues involved. He said the property was probably not worth \$5,000 and the district would benefit in the long run by having access to the pool. He appreciates the teachers, principals, faculty and staff and commended parents and students for their recognitions.

Mrs. Harper said the district needed to know the value of the property and have a 1099 for the property. She is excited that Limestone Learning Center will be named in honor of Ms. Copeland and regretted none of her family members were present tonight. She thanked Dr. Taylor and Dr. Redish for doing a good job. She is anxious to know the outcome of the district audit.

Mr. Garner thanked everyone for their support of the board. He congratulated those who received awards at the meeting tonight and congratulated the parents for their support of the educational process. Parents are the key to success.

Mr. Crosby commended those receiving awards and said it was the first time anyone had cheered for the board. He said it was important to keep parents involved in the educational process and keep students in school. He thanked the administration, teachers, principals, and other staff for their hard work in the district.

Mr. Ellis agreed that no one had cheered for the board before. He thanked everyone for the gifts and commended those who were recognized at the meeting. He is proud to be a trustee for the school district.

Mr. Blackwell commended those who received awards. He hopes that as the budget is developed, cuts are made to other programs or other areas instead of cutting classroom teachers. He hopes classroom numbers are not adversely affected by budget cuts. He thanked the schools for the gifts.

Page -7-
Board Minutes
February 14, 2011

Mr. Bailey expressed the same sentiments, appreciated the gifts, and appreciated the employees in the district.

Mr. Smith congratulated those who received awards and recognitions at the meeting. It is a long, tedious process to achieve National Board Certification and he commended those teachers recognized tonight. He believes parents should be involved in the education process and that they are the key to success.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Harper made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Mr. Donnie Lee Smith, Chairman

sl

Follow Up Items from Meeting February 14, 2011

1. Ad Hoc Committee – discuss Little League football - use of Gaffney Middle School
Billy B, Ron G, & Dr. Taylor
2. Executive Session – Granard Middle School Beta Club Issue
3. Adjust 2010-2011 Calendar to include May 30th & June 3rd as makeup days
June 4th will be optional work day
4. Year-round calendar pros & cons
5. Charter school legislation to Ron Garner
6. Corner Lot Property @ Limestone College – get appraised – notify college
7. Food Service Audit – workshop February 21st – food???
- 8.