

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

MAY 9, 2011

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium at Gaffney High School. 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 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. 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. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated April 18, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated April 25, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Ellis. 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 District Retirees. The total number of employees retiring this year is 33, representing 774 years of service. A total of 714 years were served in the district. Fifteen of the retirees are teachers, which represent a total of 406 years teaching experience. The next group recognized was Junior Scholars. There were a total of 50 Junior Scholars this year, with 23 of the students from Granard Middle School. Three Blacksburg Middle School Band Students were recognized for their accomplishments in the Region Band. Nicholas Dixon received one of the highest honors being selected as 1st Chair Trumpet - Junior Symphonic Band. Alex Hampton was selected as 8th Chair Trumpet - Junior Symphonic Band, and Maya Ferguson as 3rd Chair Clarinet - Junior Symphonic Band. The final group recognized was the Wellness Program Weight Loss Competition Winners. The individual who lost the largest percentage of weight was Mitch Rice. The school team who lost the largest percentage of weight was Cherokee Technology Center.

School Board Policies Section A – Foundations & Basic Commitments – Second reading Approval was the next item on the agenda. The superintendent recommended approval of these policies. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve second and final reading of School Board Policies Section A, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Accelerated Learning Academy Proposal was the next item on the agenda. The board was presented an overview of the Accelerated Learning Academy on May 2nd. The non-traditional learning environment addresses the needs of students who have been unable to succeed in a traditional middle and high school. The program would be based on a per pupil cost but would be within the budgeted expense for the operation of the current alternative program. Trustees discussed having definitive costs to privatize the program, displacement of teachers, enrollment specifics and transition back into traditional school settings, equipment and food service requirements, administrative and/or secretarial support, and the timeframe to implement the program. **Mr. McEntire made the motion to table this item pending projected contract costs and additional details on the program as discussed. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Request to Broadcast 2011 Gaffney High School Varsity Football was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Dennis Fowler has officially requested exclusive authorization to broadcast the 2011 Gaffney High School Varsity football schedule through Fowler Broadcast Communications Sports/WZZQ on 104.3 FM. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Reimbursement of Teacher School Supply Monies. Dr. Taylor provided two alternatives for consideration and advised trustees that it would be difficult to meet the letter of the law on reimbursements for expenditures at this point in the year. The first alternate was to wait until next fall and consider adding a district amount to the state allocation. The second alternate was to give each qualified employee an extra pay check for \$275 this month since all employees were furloughed at least five days this year. The cost to give each teacher \$275 would be \$174,350 plus \$13,338 for the district's FICA match or a total of \$187,688. **Mr. Garner made the motion to give teachers a check for \$275.00 as reimbursement for school supplies, seconded by Mr. McEntire. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Report. Mr. Brock Heron provided a Financial Update through April 2011. Revenues and transfers in through the end of April are approximately \$48.3 million; expenditures and transfers out total around \$40.7 million; the net positive difference is around \$7.6 million. The district has received the majority of tax money and 87% of state revenue for the year; however, this positive difference will continue to shrink since the district will have ongoing salaries and other expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The administration will present proposals to the Board next month for the sale of bonds to cover debt service and capital project needs for 2011–2012 and for the sale of tax anticipation notes (TAN) for the 2011–2012 fiscal year. The net interest for the 2010–2011 TAN was \$11,190.02 on the \$7,000,000 borrowed (effective interest rate of around 0.379%). The boiler bids will be opened this week and the district is currently advertising for maintenance and custodial supplies. The canopy at Blacksburg High is scheduled to be installed this weekend. **This item was received 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. Dr. Taylor recommended hiring two certified personnel and terminating one certified employee. **Mr. McEntire made the motion to approve the recommendation of the superintendent, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Other recent personnel changes did not require Board approval and were received for information only.

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. Taylor reminded trustees of upcoming events. The board will meet in called session on Monday, May 23rd at **6:30 PM** to discuss four agenda items. Trustees were asked to review the proposed revisions to Section B of the school board policy manual prior to this meeting. The Adult High School Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the Gaffney High School Auditorium. All schools and the district office will be closed on May 30 in observation of the Memorial Day Holiday. Blacksburg High School graduation is scheduled on Thursday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM. Gaffney High School graduation is scheduled at 8:00 PM.

The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, June 13, 2011. 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. Dr. Taylor informed trustees that the district would begin the summer schedule on June 13th. He also informed trustees that State PASS testing began today.

Other Matters

Mr. Bailey congratulated all the honorees recognized at the meeting.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated the honorees recognized at the meeting and commended the number of Junior Scholars.

Mr. Ellis congratulated the honorees, thanked the teachers for their years of service, and said the retirees would be missed.

Mr. Crosby thanked the retired teachers for their years of service and encouraged them to enjoy their retirement. He commended the students for their good work and thanked principals, administrators, and teachers for doing a wonderful job in the district.

Mr. Garner congratulated the retirees, the students who were recognized, and thanked teachers and administrators for doing a good job.

Mrs. Harper thanked food service for the dinner and the Blacksburg Treble Ensemble for the music. She congratulated the Junior Scholars and thanked the retirees for their years of service.

Mr. McEntire thanked the staff, food service for serving, the students, and teachers. He appreciates the hard work and efforts of everyone in the district.

Ms. Smith congratulated the Junior Scholars, especially for the large number at Granard Middle School. She thanked the retirees for making the school district a better place to work, and thanked administrators and staff for what they do in the district.

Mr. Smith echoed the comments already made and thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Harper made the motion, seconded by Mr. McEntire. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.