

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

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **CALLED BOARD MEETING**

**MAY 23, 2011**

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, May 23, 2011 at 6:30 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 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 and recognized the news media present. Mrs. Harper 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 Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Change in the 2010-2011 School Calendar. Due to widespread power outages as a result of inclement weather during the early morning hours of May 11<sup>th</sup>, all schools in Blacksburg and Luther Vaughan Elementary were cancelled for the day. The governor signed a bill in February 2011 authorizing the governing body of any school district of this state to waive up to five school days missed by students due to inclement weather during the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Taylor recommended the schools affected by the inclement weather not be required to make up this day. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the recommendation of the superintendent, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Alternative Program Proposal was the next item on the agenda. An overview of the Accelerated Learning Academy was presented at the called meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by discussion at later meetings of contract negotiations and definitive costs to implement the program. A number of questions were posed such as the displacement of teachers, enrollment specifics, transition back into traditional school settings, equipment and/or administrative support, and the timeframe to implement the program. Dr. Taylor withdrew his recommendation to negotiate a contract with The Citadel Group to outsource the program and continue the district run program for next year, making improvements in the assignment of teachers and expectations of the program. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The next item was Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget. The preliminary budget is based on the Senate Finance Committee version of the state budget with a base student cost (BSC) of \$1,788, which is higher than the current BSC of \$1,615. The projected student enrollment is 8,580. All general fund positions are the same as 2010–2011. Employees paid from the State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (Stimulus) will be shifted to the general fund, which equates to approximately \$1.1 million. A reduction in state funding of approximately \$470,000 will require the salaries/benefits of 75% of employees paid from State Technical Assistance Funds to be moved to the general fund. State retirement is increasing from 13.29% to 13.435% or an approximate increase of \$125,000. Health insurance is increasing 9% or an approximate increase of \$350,000. The increase in health insurance will not take effect until January 2012. The total projected revenue is \$58,044,709 and the total projected expenditures are \$58,320,922. The projected budget shortfall equates to \$276,313. The full Senate voted last Wednesday to raise the base student cost to \$1,959, which would bring an additional \$1.472 million in state revenue for the 2011–2012 school year. The following options were presented for consideration: reduce or eliminate furloughs – up to \$981,000; add a one-step increase to eligible employees - \$660,000; add a two-step increase for eligible employees – around \$1,320,000; move clerks to the secretary salary scale - \$93,000. Trustees received a list of available employees and positions; a list of certified positions currently filled by retirees, TERI ending, resignation, changes in enrollment, letter of agreement, or other; and a list of classified positions currently filled by retirees, resignation, transfer, etc. The administration asked for direction from trustees regarding the positions. Trustees discussed funding of the Adult Nursing Program and the possibility of charging tuition for out of county and/or out of state students, the principal trainee program, expanding the 4K program either by charging tuition or earmarking Federal funds (Title I) to fund the additional Montessori classes according to federal guidelines, multi-age grouping of students to reflect the true Montessori concept, incentives or stipends to recruit teachers for the alternative program for extended hours, on-line or virtual program availability, curriculum concerns, the pros and cons of academic coaches to support curriculum, the effectiveness of the literacy program, leasing vehicles for School Resource Officers and the drivers education program or purchasing a couple of vehicles using debt service funds, reduction in the number of teachers for drivers education and using a teacher assistant for study hall, available debt service funds, proposal for selling bonds in June, using debt service for the technology upgrades, procedure for posting positions in previous years, and posting all positions this year. It was the consensus of trustees that all available positions should be posted so anyone in the district could apply for transfer or change in current status. In addition, federal funds will also be earmarked to incorporate MAP testing again this year. The funds for MAP testing were eliminated from the budget last year as a cost savings measure. A budget workshop will be

scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed budget in detail. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

Technology Upgrades of approximately \$1 million need to be budgeted to replace the oldest computers in the district. The administration has identified \$676,230 available in funding from the state for building programs and recommended using this revenue source to help fund this project. The administration further recommended using debt service fund balance to pay for the remaining portion in the amount of \$323,770. The district could use \$325,000 of the debt service fund balance to issue debt to pay for the computers without an increase in debt service millage. The equipment will be purchased immediately so Information Management will be able to complete the majority of the installations this summer. Dr. Taylor recommended proceeding with the technology upgrades and proposed purchasing two vehicles for driver's education classes since the current vehicles have 100,000+ miles on them and would require costly repairs to maintain. The approximate cost to purchase two vehicles would be \$45,000. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve the recommendation of the superintendent, seconded by Mr. Garner. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. Mr. McEntire voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.**

School Board Policy Revisions - Section B – School Board Governance & Operations was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Taylor recommended the policy revisions be accepted for first reading approval. Trustees expressed concern regarding the language in Policy BBA regarding school visits by trustees. The statement regarding board member's visits to school will be amended for clarification purposes. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to adopt Section B as amended for first reading approval, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Garner made the motion, seconded by Mr. Blackwell. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.