

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 13, 2011

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 13, 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 Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction 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.

A reception to honor former Board Chair and trustee Ms. Ola H. Copeland was held at 6:00 PM prior to the regular meeting and a dedication ceremony was conducted at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. A number of family and friends attended the reception and program. Ms. Copeland was an advocate for children in the county and the learning center was renamed the Ola H. Copeland Community Learning Center.

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.

Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. McEntire made the motion to remove Item #6 (Request for Salary Increase) from the agenda. Mr. Garner seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion. Mr. Garner made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Bailey. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated May 2, 2011 were presented for approval. **Ms. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated May 9, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated May 23, 2011 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. Lee Goble, Drum Major at Gaffney High School, addressed trustees on behalf of the marching band. He requested that Mr. Norris be considered for employment again next year since the band program had been so successful under his leadership and the school would be hosting their first competition this summer. He also asked that if a replacement had to be hired that the replacement be allowed to shadow Mr. Norris for a year.

Approval of School Board Policies Section B – Second & Final Reading was the next item on the agenda. Trustees discussed the proposed policies at a called board meeting on May 2, 2011. The only change in the proposed policies was on to drop paragraph #3 under visit to school in policy BBA. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to delete paragraph #3 under visit to schools, seconded by Mr. Blackwell. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, Ms. Smith, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustee voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Crosby. The motion passed by majority vote.** Mr. Smith called for a motion on Second & Final Reading of the policies as amended. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve Section B of School Board Policies for Second & Final Reading as amended, seconded by Mr. Ellis. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, Ms. Smith, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustee abstained from voting on the motion: Mr. Crosby. The motion passed by majority vote.**

Approval of FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget was the next item on the agenda. The administration recommended approving the FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$58,816,239. This was the budget as presented at the workshop on June 6th. As requested by the board, the initial budget is absent furlough but does not include step increases. Five amendments will follow the initial vote. These will include 2 step increases, \$28,000 to help fund SRO vehicles, reinstatement of school supplies accounts, and a millage increase. This would leave a surplus of \$511,118 from anticipated revenues of \$59,327,357. **Mr. Garner made the motion to accept the basic FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget and to instruct the county treasurer to set the millage at 166.9 mills. Mrs. Harper seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Amendments to the FY 2011-2012 General Fund Budget. Amendment #1 – School Resource Officers Vehicles in the amount of \$28,000 for 7 vehicles at \$4,000 per vehicle. **Mr. Garner made the motion to table this amendment pending additional information regarding the contractual terms of the agreement and legal obligations to fund the 7 school resource officer vehicle. Mr. McEntire seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Blackwell,**

Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, Ms. Smith, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Crosby and Mr. Ellis. This item was tabled by majority vote.

Amendment #2 was the 1-year step increase for eligible employees in the amount of \$657,149 for salaries and retirement/FICA. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the 1-year step for eligible employees as presented by administration in the amount of \$657,149. Mr. Garner seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Amendment #3 was the 2-year step increase for eligible employees in the amount of \$610,678 for salaries and retirement/FICA. **Mr. Ellis made the motion to approve the 2-year step for eligible employees as presented by the administration in the amount of \$610,678. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Smith. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, Ms. Smith, and Mr. McEntire. The motion failed by majority vote.**

Amendment #4 was to reinstate per pupil funding in the amount of \$150,924. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to reinstate per pupil funding as recommended by the administration. The motion died for lack of a second.**

Amendment #5 – Millage increase was the final option to the budget. An increase in operational millage by two mills would result in an additional \$209,960 in revenue. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to increase millage by two mills. The motion died for lack of a second.**

Approval of 2011 – 2012 Tax Anticipation Note Resolution was the next item on the agenda. The board typically adopts a TAN to fund operations until tax revenues are received in January. The TAN will be paid back in May 2012. The administration recommended approval of the resolution for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$2.2 million. **Mr. Garner made the motion to adopt a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$2.2 million, as presented by the administration. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Annual General Obligation Bond Resolution. Trustees were asked to approve the annual general obligation bond resolution not to exceed more than \$5.15 million in general obligation bonds through the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organization (SCAGO) General Obligation Debt Program. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the annual general obligation bond resolution not to exceed more than \$5.15 million in general obligation bonds through the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organization (SCAGO) General Obligation Debt Program. Ms. Smith seconded the motion.** In discussion, trustees requested an update on the status of capital projects and the engineering study that was conducted on roofing projects. **The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. The following trustee voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. McEntire. The motion passed by majority vote.**

Superintendent's Report was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Taylor advised trustees that 2 charter schools are in the works at this time in Cherokee County. The founder of The Crenshaw Academy sent a letter stating that the school was not going to open, and that the district should not consider an extension. This was reported to trustees earlier this spring; however, the administration has been informed that Ms. Dunton was voted out of the position as Chairman of the Board, and the school may open this fall as originally planned. All contact with the new board has been informal and the district has not received official notification of the plans for opening. The district has been informed of a likely location, but the administration has not received information regarding student enrollment, transportation, lunch and breakfast programs, or finances. More recently, Ms. Dunton submitted a new Charter application to the Charter School Conference Committee for the A+ Charter School that would open in the fall of 2012. The review committee found 20+ citations, and it would be surprising if there will be any activity on this new application before next spring with a possible opening date of 2013.

Mr. Brock Heron presented the Financial Update. Revenues and transfers in through the end of April are approximately \$52.2 million; expenditures and transfers out total around \$45.3 million; the net positive difference is around \$5.9 million. The district has received the majority of tax money and 91.6% of state revenue for the year. The positive difference of \$5.9 million will continue to shrink as there will be ongoing salaries and other expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The district is on target with projections at this point. **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 Certified Personnel Recommendations. Dr. Taylor announced the following principal assignments: Mrs. Kathy Phillips – Northwest Elementary, Mr. Isaac Wallace - Draytonville Elementary, and Mr. Craig Bramlett - Blacksburg High School. He thanked Mrs. Cathy Bloise, Mrs. Janice Ford, and Mr. Jim Touchberry for their many years of service and wished them a long and rewarding retirement. He presented Certified Personnel Recommendations that required action by the board. Most of the personnel report is for information only, but there are 3 new teachers at GHS that require action and 3 individuals that taught last year on a letter of intent who are being extended contracts for 2011-2012. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. Taylor reminded trustees of upcoming events. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 8th, one day before the teachers return, and one week before students return. All schools and the district office will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Other Matters

Mr. McEntire had no comments for other matters.

Ms. Smith had no comments for other matters.

Mrs. Harper thanked principals for their years of service to the district.

Mr. Garner thanked principals for their years of service and wished them well in their retirement.

Mr. Bailey requested that the search for a new superintendent start immediately.

Mr. Blackwell echoed comments already made and said Ms. Copeland would have really appreciated the dedication ceremony and naming of the facility in her honor.

Mr. Ellis echoed comments already made and thanked the administration and staff for their hard work. He has a problem with moving an award winning principal out of a school to the district office and a year later not having a position for that individual.

Mr. Crosby congratulated the retirees and thanked them for their years of service. He thanked everyone who attended the dedication ceremony and for honoring Ms. Copeland in this manner.

Mr. Smith commended Ms. Copeland for her dedication and years of service on the school board. He also thanked principals for their years of service to the district.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Ellis made the motion, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.