

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

MARCH 14, 2011

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. An executive session was conducted at 6:30 PM prior to the regular session. 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 Mr. Tim Gulla - 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. Mr. Blackwell led in the opening prayer.

An item needed to be added to the agenda - Change in the 2010-2011 School District Calendar. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to amend the agenda to include 9B for a Change in the 2010-2011 School District Calendar. Mr. Garner seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Executive Session - Certified Personnel Recommendations and Student Discipline Matter was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Smith called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss certified personnel recommendations from the superintendent and to receive information regarding a student discipline matter. **Mrs. Harper made the motion, seconded by Mr. McEntire. Trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 6:34 PM and ended at 7:02 PM. Mr. Smith said the board had been in executive session and called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mr. Garner made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Gaffney High School AFJROTC made the presentation of colors.

Regular Board Minutes dated February 14, 2011 were presented for approval. **Ms. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. McEntire. 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 Robert Follmar, a 5th grader at Northwest Elementary and Gracie Minor, an 8th grader at Ewing Middle, for being named State Superintendent Writing Award Winners. The topic for the writing essay was Technology, how it has changed our lives, the way we communicate, and if it should be an integral part of classroom instruction.

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 approve the superintendent's recommendation on the new certified hire and renewal of contracts of certified personnel by location, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion with the following exceptions: Mr. Blackwell abstained from voting on #208, Mr. Bailey abstained from voting on #81, Mr. McEntire abstained from voting on #159, and Mr. Smith abstained from voting on #101. No action was taken on the student discipline matter.**

Approval of School Board Policies – Section G – Personnel was the next item on the agenda. The Board conducted workshops on January 31st and February 28th to review and discuss the proposed changes to Section G of the Board Policy Manual. **Dr. Taylor recommended the policies be accepted for first reading approval. Mr. Blackwell made the motion to accept the policies for first reading, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Change in the 2010-2011 School District Calendar was the next agenda item. The administration received word late Friday afternoon that the governor had signed into law the Snow Day Forgiveness Bill. The bill provides that the governing body of any school district of this state may waive up to five school days missed by students due to inclement weather during the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Taylor recommended amending the calendar to exclude January 9, 10, 11, and 12 from regular school days and that the district not be required to make up these days. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve the recommendation of the superintendent, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Superintendent's Report was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Taylor asked trustees to consider making nominations or submitting resolutions to the South Carolina School Boards Association on SCSBA Officer/Board Nominations, Resolutions, and Changes to the SCSBA Constitution. The deadline for nominations for office/board is May 2, 2011. The deadline for proposals for the 2011-2012 resolutions is June 30, 2011. The deadline for the proposals for changes to the SCSBA Constitution is June 6, 2011. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

Financial Update - Mr. Brock Heron, Director of Finance, provided trustees with the monthly financial report and an update on the 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. Revenues and transfers in through the end of February are approximately \$40.7 million; expenditures and transfer out total around \$33.2; the net positive difference is around \$7.5 million. The District has received the majority of the specification work on the boilers and plans to issue an invitation to bid in the next few days. Once the bid process is complete and an award is made, 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. Stafford Engineering has begun the work on engineering the roofing specifications needed at Corinth Elementary, Draytonville Elementary, Gaffney Middle, Gaffney High, and Blacksburg Elementary. **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 Report was the next item on the agenda. Changes in the status of certified and classified personnel were listed on the agenda for information only.

Dr. Taylor convened a committee to discuss the request by Mr. Ray Head to use the football field at Gaffney Middle School for Little League Football and to waive the fees. The administration expressed appreciation to community members that volunteer their time to provide opportunities for the youth of Cherokee County. The Recreation League has a facility that has been used in recent years and is a much better maintained facility than the one at Gaffney Middle School. The superintendent recommended not to waive the fees since the fee structure in the policy manual is reasonable and there is a cost to maintain facilities. The fees are established to offset this cost. He recommended that no action be taken on Mr. Head's request to waive the fees. **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. All schools and the district office will be closed April 4-8 for Spring Break. The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, April 18, 2011.

Other Matters

Mr. Bailey congratulated the students who received awards and thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated the students who were recognized. He asked the administration to check other outside organizations using district facilities to ensure policy is being followed in those cases as well.

Mr. Ellis congratulated Robert and Gracie for being recognized at the meeting. He thanked teachers, principals, the superintendent, and other administrators for their efforts in the district.

Mr. Crosby congratulated the students recognized and thanked the staff for their hard work. He commended Mr. Heron and the finance department for a remarkable job on the finances.

Mr. Garner thanked the staff and congratulated the students who had excelled in writing.

Mr. McEntire appreciated the example the students are to others and thanked the faculty and staff.

Mrs. Harper echoed sentiments expressed and commended the students for the writing award.

Ms. Smith congratulated Robert and Gracie for receiving the writing award. She thanked principals and teachers for their efforts to educate our children. She thanked the board for coming together to work for the children of the district.

Mr. Smith congratulated the two students for rising above and coming to the top. He encouraged them to continue to excel. He thanked the administration for a good job on the finances. He asked the status of the new guards and canopy at Blacksburg High School.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Crosby made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.