

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, November 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. An Executive Session was conducted at 6:15 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, and Mr. C. Alan McEntire. Ms. Cheryll D. Smith was unable to attend. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Edgar C. Taylor, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish, and Interim Director of Finance Mr. Charlie Tillotson. 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 6:15 PM. Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. Garner made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Executive Session – Legal Update and Personnel Recommendation was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Smith called for a motion to go into executive session to receive a legal update from the attorney and to discuss a personnel recommendation from the superintendent. **Mr. McEntire made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bailey. Trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 6:18 PM and ended at 7:04 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. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Gaffney High School AFJROTC made the presentation of colors. Mr. Smith led in the opening prayer and recognized the news media present.

Regular Board Minutes dated October 11, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was School Board Policy Manual Update. Trustees voted unanimously on October 11, 2010 to begin the policy review process to update the district's School Board Policy manual. Mrs. Pat Kinsey, Policy Director with the South Carolina School Board Association, reviewed the timeline and process to revise the policy manual. The consensus of the board was to review policies through roundtable discussions. The administration will confirm dates and times for the workshops. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. Taylor recognized the 2010 Veterans Essays winners and presented a certificate to Jayden Woods - Luther Vaughan, A. J. Blanton – Corinth Elementary, Ethan Fowler - Blacksburg Middle, and Taylor Covington - Ewing Middle. Jayden Woods was recognized but not present at the meeting. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Bailey Humphries with the Cherokee County Council updated trustees on the status of the county airport. Mrs. Tosha Cottrell thanked trustees that assisted her in resolving a conflict regarding athletics and encouraged communication regarding participation. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Report. The three new first grades are all doing well and the transitions were handled very smoothly. One new teacher was hired and two teachers in other positions in the district were transferred. The administration has no plans to fill either of the vacated positions in an effort to save money from this year's expenditures. Dr. Taylor proposed that the district hire staff members that are eligible to participate in the South Carolina Retirement System (non-retirees) whenever practical; however, exceptions to this directive could be made when the following circumstances apply:

1. **An extensive search has been done for the position in question and an appropriate candidate has not been found.** Normally this provision would not apply until June 30th of the hiring year. Certification areas with low numbers of available candidates may require the district to act prior to June 30th in order to ensure that critical positions are filled.
2. **Particular skills beyond certification are needed to do a job effectively.** An example would be an award winning coach, band director, or a particularly skilled principal in a difficult school.
3. **A person has been informally promised multiple-year employment** assuming that things go well. An example would be a recent coach that discussed a mutually beneficial five-year contract.

In no case could any employment arrangements be made without the expressed consent of the superintendent who should establish a committee to review recommendation of retirees.

This review committee should include one associate superintendent or assistant superintendent and the Human Resources Director. Others may be included at the discretion of the superintendent. In the event that it is determined that the hiring of a particular retiree is in the best interest of the district, a letter of agreement (not a contract) will be issued. Examples of critical needs areas are media specialists, guidance counselors, special education teachers/psychologists, Math, Science, dual Foreign Language, middle school teachers (a highly qualified status required), and early childhood teaching positions. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The administration selected Stafford Consulting Engineers on a limited basis to look at five schools and make recommendations on roof repairs and/or replacement. The schools identified by the 2004 survey and recent roof problems are Blacksburg Primary, Corinth, Draytonville, Gaffney Middle, and Gaffney High School. The estimated cost for the limited engineering service should be approximately \$5,000. Once the initial report is received, a more educated decision can be made on how to proceed. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

Three firms submitted proposals on the Superintendent Search, South Carolina School Boards Association, BWP, and Ray & Associates. All are very good choices and Dr. Taylor recommended that trustees take action on this item. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to proceed with the Superintendent's Search and to use the South Carolina School Boards Association in this endeavor. Mr. Crosby 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 Mrs. Harper. Mr. McEntire voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The administration met with principals, coaches, and then with the Recreation League regarding middle school baseball. The course of action recommended from meetings with these individuals was presented for information; however, the administration did not recommend proceeding with district sponsored middle school baseball this year due to projected start-up cost of \$30,000, not including additional cost to offer softball to avoid a Title 9 violation. After lengthy discussion on this matter, **Mr. Garner made the motion to table this item and allow the administration to research this matter further. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bailey, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Crosby, Mr. Smith, Mr. Garner, and Mr. McEntire. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Blackwell and Mrs. Harper. The motion passed by majority vote.**

Dr. Taylor advised trustees that a team from the State Department Food & Nutrition Department will be in the district next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. A report from the team and recommendations should be received by the January 2011 Board meeting. He also updated trustees on actions taken to correct some salary discrepancies in food service. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

Interim Finance Director Charlie Tillotson provided a financial update for the district. State revenues for EFA and other State reimbursements continue to track consistently with the annual projections. Salaries, fringe benefits, and operating expenses continue to run evenly with budget projections for the full year. Schools and departments are operating conservatively in their spending of state and local funds. The District has borrowed \$ 7,500,000 against the TAN borrowing limit of \$13,308,000. Peak borrowing to finance cash flow this fall will be below that maximum level available. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.** Ratification of Claims was presented for information only; no action was required.

Personnel Recommendations was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Taylor recommended hiring Mr. Brock Heron as Director of Finance, effective November 10, 2010. **Mr. Garner made the motion, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion. The other personnel items were presented for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. Taylor thanked Mr. Tillotson for serving as Interim Finance Director and reminded trustees of upcoming events. The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, December 13, 2010. All schools and the district office will be closed November 24-26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

American Education Week is scheduled for November 14-20, 2010. Trustees are encouraged to visit the schools during this special emphasis week. Visitors should be expected between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM.

Other Matters

Ms. Smith was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Mr. McEntire had no comments for other matters.

Mrs. Harper congratulated the honorees and thanked employees for their hard work. She thanked Mr. Tillotson for serving as Interim Finance Director and welcomed Mr. Heron on board.

Mr. Garner welcomed Mr. Heron to the district. He thanked the students for their Veterans Day essays and veterans for their service to the country. He asked that trustees schedule work sessions and sit around the table to discuss policies, priorities, and establish goals for the district.

Mr. Crosby requested that the issue of honoring former board member Ms. Ola Copeland be an agenda item since Ms. Copeland has been deceased for two years now. He thanked administrators, teachers, and staff for their hard work. He thanked Blacksburg Middle School for the program and luncheon honoring veterans.

Mr. Ellis thanked everyone for their hard work. He thanked Mr. Tillotson for serving as Interim Finance Director and welcomed Mr. Heron on board.

Mr. Blackwell echoed comments made by other trustees. He thanked Mr. Tillotson for serving as Interim Finance Director and welcomed Mr. Heron on board.

Mr. Bailey thanked everyone for their hard work, Mr. Tillotson for serving as Interim Finance Director, and welcomed Mr. Heron on board. He asked that the leaks at Blacksburg Primary School also be checked by the roofing engineers.

Mr. Smith thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their hard work.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Crosby made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellis. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Mr. Donnie Lee Smith, Chairman

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Follow Up Items from Meeting November 8, 2010

1. Schedule workshop for board policy review – start with Section G (Jan 31)
2. Called Board meeting November 29th ? Begin superintendent search
3. Agenda item – schedule board workshops for 4th Monday of month to discuss issues such as TERI, organizational chart, supt. search, policies, goals & expectations, budget Board meeting schedule.....workshops on 4th Monday
4. Update on audit –preliminary forensic audit items – agenda item – Mr. Blackwell
5. Middle School Baseball – research bill from Recreation Dept.
6. Naming of Facilities – revisit Ola Copeland memorial, Tim Phillips
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