

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, October 11, 2010 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. Christopher 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 Interim Director of Finance Mr. Charlie Tillotson. News media present were Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger, Mr. Tommy Martin - Cherokee Chronicle, and Mrs. Janet Spencer - Spartanburg Herald-Journal.

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. Mr. Crosby 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. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated September 20, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Blackwell. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Jay McCraw presented a proposal from Cherokee Athletics to implement a middle school baseball program. The program would include all middle schools in Gaffney and Blacksburg with each middle school having a team. The teams would participate in a 10-12 game schedule with practices and games scheduled at the recreation complex. Eligibility and game competition would be in accordance to SCHSL regulations and requirements. Cherokee Athletics would provide volunteer coaches who would be under the supervision of high school coaches; however, the district would be responsible to pay any applicable supplement to coaches. The Pony League would organize and fund the entire program and only sanctioned umpires would officiate at the games. There would be a gate fee of \$3.00 and concessions provided to offset the expense of the

program. The program is designed to increase participation and build the baseball program for athletes up to 18 years of age. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to direct the administration to meet with coaches and principals to discuss the program and bring back a proposal to the board in November. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. Taylor recognized Sean Presley, a 5th grader @ Limestone-Central, for coordinating a Blanket Drive for Peachtree Ministries. The school collected a total of 197 new and slightly used blankets that will be donated to this community outreach program.

The next item on the agenda was Delegates to Delegate Assembly. Mr. Smith called for a motion to approve Cheryll Smith as the district's representative at the 2010 SCSBA Legislative Delegate Assembly in December as a delegate with 3 voting privileges and Alan McEntire as the alternate with 3 voting privileges in the event Ms. Smith is unable to attend. **Mr. Garner made the motion, seconded by Mr. Crosby. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Energy Education Program was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Taylor recommended that the district reactivate the contract with Energy Education and continue the program in an effort to reduce energy usage, realize additional cost savings, and identify pro-active measures to prevent future mold or air quality issues. The district would have to renew a software license with a third party to track usage, but this information is gathered anyway and reported to the state. There would be no additional staff costs as current maintenance personnel have been identified to serve as energy managers and the company will train the individuals for free. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Report. Dr. Taylor recommended that the board meeting in January be rescheduled since the regular scheduled meeting January 10th would be the first day of school after 3 weeks break for Christmas and furlough of all district employees. All schools and the district office will be closed on Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday. It was the consensus of trustees to re-schedule the board meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

The administration reviewed enrollment figures in all elementary schools and determined some first grade classrooms were above the desired number for this grade level. Dr. Taylor recommended adding a first grade classroom to Northwest, Draytonville, and Grassy Pond elementary schools using Title I or Title II monies as the funding source. The classes can be filled this week with certified substitutes and a permanent teacher should be in place by the end of next week. He also recommended hiring interventionists at \$25 per hour to provide assistance with reading instruction and other needed remediation using Title I as the funding source. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

Trustees were informed a team from the State Department Food and Nutrition division will audit food service operations, including staff, equipment, and finances the third week in November. The administration should have a full report from the audit by the first of January. Dr. Taylor also addressed inequities in the salary of substitute cafeteria workers and recommended a temporary administrative measure to pay substitute cafeteria workers on the regular scale once they have served at least 20 consecutive days for the same worker and once the regular employee has exhausted all of his or her sick leave. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

Dr. Taylor provided trustees a financial update. The administration is seeking input from a mechanical engineer regarding bid specifications for replacement of boilers at several schools. This will result in a delay of the bids; however, the administration was able to secure a delay in the reimbursement process so this work can be done during Christmas holidays, Spring break, or during the summer when students are not in school. The administration has not received any more news on the forensic audit; however, the independent auditor for the district has requested that a questionnaire be submitted to a number of district employees, volunteers, and the school board. The purpose of the questionnaire is to seek information on any and all business dealings of the district and should address any questions or concerns to the general populace regarding financial dealings of the district. Any individual receiving this questionnaire should return the information directly to the auditor. **This item was presented for information only; no action was required.**

School Board Policy Manual Update was the next item on the agenda. The district contracted with SCSBA in 2002 to review and update all policies to the new code in addition to placing the policy manual on-line. However, the process to review district board policy and adopt the new code was not completed within the initial contract period. The administration received a quote from SCSBA in the amount of \$3,500 over a two-year period to begin the review process again and update the school district board policy manual to the new code. Dr. Taylor recommended proceeding with the update post haste since the manual has not been updated since 1994, some policies may not be in compliance with revised statutes and laws, and Cherokee County is one of the few districts in South Carolina not operating under the new code. **Mr. McEntire made the motion to begin the review process again according to the terms discussed (\$875.00 per semester), seconded by Ms. Smith. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Ratification of Claims was the next item on the agenda. **This item was received for information only; no action was required.**

The next item on the agenda was Personnel Matters for consideration. **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. The next scheduled board meeting is November 8, 2010. 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 was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Bailey commended Sean Presley and Limestone-Central for the blanket drive and thanked the administration for their efforts.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated Sean Presley for the blanket drive. He asked if cafeteria operators now serving in the capacity of cafeteria managers were receiving manager pay. Dr. Taylor will research details on the proposal and make a recommendation to trustees.

Mr. Crosby echoed comments already made and thanked everyone for their hard work and efforts in the district.

Mr. Ellis congratulated Sean Presley and expressed appreciation for everyone doing a good job.

Mr. Garner commended Sean Presley and the success of the blanket drive. He thanked school principals, administration, and Dr. Taylor for being proactive and addressing issues to enhance education in the district and ensure fairness to all employees.

Mr. McEntire commended Sean Presley for the blanket drive, support of the community, and efforts to help those less fortunate. He thanked the employees of the school district for their efforts and hard work.

Mrs. Harper commended Sean Presley and the students/faculty at Limestone-Central for their community support. She commended Ms. Davis and the staff/faculty at Gaffney High School for the excellent Homecoming program and game and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Ms. Smith congratulated Sean Presley and the caring efforts of the Limestone-Central staff and students to make the world a better place. She thanked principals, the administration, and staff for their efforts.

Mr. Smith thanked the administration for the quick and pro-active response to issues and concerns of trustees. He expressed pride and appreciation for the efforts of students to help those less fortunate.

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Crosby made the motion, seconded by Mr. Garner. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.