

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. Board members present were Chair Mr. Billy Blackwell, Vice Chair Mr. Donnie Lee Smith, Secretary Mrs. Amanda Knowles, Mrs. Lindley H. Auton, Mr. Barry E. Bailey, Mr. Willie J. Crosby, Mr. Mike A. Ellis, and Mrs. Robin D. Harper. Ms. Cheryll D. Smith was unable to attend due to illness. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. William B. James, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Linda C. Sellars, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Mr. William A. Jones, and Director of Finance Mr. Ben Childs. News media present were Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger 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. Billy Blackwell 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. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Crosby. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated January 11, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated January 14, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Ellis. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. The individual who requested to address trustees according to policy did not attend the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Dr. James recognized National Board Certified Teachers Jill Hanna and Susan Wilson. He also recognized Corinth Elementary School student Sydney Allen and Ewing Middle School student Brittany Guthrie for winning the District State Superintendent's Writing Award for 2010.

The next item on the agenda was Curriculum and Instruction Update. The administration presented the 2010-2011 School Calendar for Traditional and Year-Round Schools for approval. Recommendations from the schools were solicited and used where possible and principals have reviewed the calendars as well. There could be changes made to the calendar by the General Assembly or State Department based on current discussions by legislators. The first day for teachers on the traditional calendar is August 11th. The first day for students on the traditional calendar is August 16th. The first day for teachers on the year-round calendar is July 5th. The first day for students on the year-round calendar is July 8th. The last day for students on both calendars is May 26th and the last day for teachers on both calendars is May 27th. Graduation has been scheduled for May 26th. The annual employee health fair is scheduled for January 14th. Testing dates are scheduled according to State Department guidelines. Parent conferences, staff development days, and holidays are scheduled. Students will make up days missed due to inclement weather on staff development days, Memorial Day, and/or on days added to the end of the school year. Teacher make-up days will be added to the end of the school year. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the traditional and year-round calendars for 2010–2011 as proposed. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Dr. Sellars presented a summary of performance data including attendance rate, graduation rate, test score improvements, and an update on adequate yearly progress.

The next item on the agenda was Executive Session – Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the superintendent's annual evaluation. **Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 7:12 PM and ended at 8:35 PM. Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mrs. Auton made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Mr. Blackwell said the evaluation was incomplete at this time. **This item was received for information only; the committee required no action.**

Report from the Personnel Committee was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Billy Blackwell, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, presented a report from the committee meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. The only item on the agenda was Executive Session – Contractual Matter. The committee received legal counsel from the attorney regarding a contractual matter. **This item was received for information only; the committee required no action.**

The next item on the agenda was Administrative Services Update. Director of Finance Mr. Ben Childs presented the Monthly Financial Update. The General Fund has received 43% of the budgeted revenue for 2009. The General Fund has expended 38% of the budgeted expenditures. The ending fund balance as of December 31, 2009 is \$7,306,352. This figure includes year-to-date revenue, transfers from State/Federal funds less year-to-date expenditures and transfers to other programs. The preliminary projected fund balance as of June 30, 2010 is \$4,703,134. A total of \$47,343,459 has been received in one-cent sales tax revenue through January 2010. A

total of \$37,030,344 has been paid as principal and interest on bond indebtedness through this same period. The Food Service budget had a negative ending cash balance of \$369,557 as of January 2010. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

Ratification of Claims was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve claims, seconded by Mr. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Mr. William A. Jones presented Personnel Matters for consideration. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to table the administrative level recommendations up to the “for information only” classified recommendations and refer this item to the Personnel Committee for further discussion. Mrs. Harper seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Auton, Mr. Crosby, Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Blackwell, and Mrs. Harper. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Ellis, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Bailey. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The next item on the agenda was FY 2010-2011 Budget Update. Trustees received copies of the budget development calendar, budgeting guide, and program costs for elementary, middle, and all high schools. The administration has not received concrete figures from the State and there are several variables that may impact funding such as contract reductions, charter schools, and flexibility of funds. This is a zero-based budget year and all programs will be reviewed. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. James reminded trustees of upcoming events. The day missed due to inclement weather on February 1st will be made up on the staff development day scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010. All students and staff will attend on a regular schedule on this date. The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, March 8th.

Day at the Capitol is scheduled for April 22, 2010 for Cherokee County. The cost is \$40 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Trustees who are interested in attending Day at the Capitol this year should advise Mrs. Lemmonds so registration can be completed.

Other Matters

Mrs. Auton congratulated the National Board Certified teachers and the students who were named district writing award winners. She requested a list of all current employees with administrative degrees. She asked for a copy of the study published regarding the effect National Board Certified teachers had on student improvement and asked if the district tracked this in the district. She again requested a copy of the stadium seating grid from Brumbach Stadium and the new Gaffney High School Stadium as soon as possible.

Mr. Bailey said the canopy on the 9th Grade Academy at Blacksburg High needed to be re-designed due to safety issues. He said the canopy could collapse due to the weight of snow and questioned the design and how it could be repaired. He thanked everyone for the jobs they do in the district.

Mr. Crosby congratulated the individuals recognized at the meeting. He asked if report cards were sent home by students if they were not picked up by parents on parent conference days. He asked the status of the *Grow Your Own Leaders* program. The district has a principal trainee at Blacksburg Elementary and Mary Bramlett. No one has been placed in the trainee program at Alma or Luther Vaughan and there has not been a lot of administrative turnover in the past five years.

Mrs. Knowles congratulated those receiving awards at the board meeting. She echoed comments already expressed and asked everyone to pray for Ms. Smith.

Mr. Smith said the canopy at the 9th Grade Academy in Blacksburg was a serious safety issue and was mentioned last year as well.

Mr. Ellis congratulated those recognized at the meeting.

Mrs. Harper congratulated the National Board Certified teachers and the two student award winners. She congratulated the schools that made AYP and thanked everyone for their efforts to motivate and educate children.

Ms. Smith was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Blackwell visited Ms. Smith this morning and reported that she looked very good and appreciated everyone's thoughts and prayers. He asked about the water problem at Corinth and has it would be corrected. He also said Room #112 was having trouble with the heating system and asked that this be checked. He also echoed comments made by other trustees.

Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Auton made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Mrs. Amanda Knowles, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Mr. Billy Blackwell, Chairman

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