

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 19, 2010**

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 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, Mrs. Robin D. Harper, and Ms. Cheryll D. Smith. Administrators present were Acting Superintendent Mrs. Kim Bagwell, Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish, and Director of Finance Mr. Ben Childs. News media present were Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger and Mr. Tommy Martin – Cherokee Chronicle. Mrs. Andrea White and Mr. David Duff from Duff Turner & White, Attorneys, LLC were also present.

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 Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated March 1, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated March 8, 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.**

Called Board Minutes dated March 18, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated March 23, 2010 were presented for approval. **Ms. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

School Board Policy BCBI - Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Brandy Cook requested to address trustees regarding the cell phone policy; however, she did not attend the meeting. Fire Chief Nathan Ellis and Mike Scruggs presented a proposal regarding the former National Guard Armory on behalf of Mr. Tommy Kennedy, who initially requested to address trustees. The City of Gaffney, fire department, and emergency services is interested in a partnership with the school district to use the old National Guard Armory as a fire safety training center. Permanent props would need to be installed for training purposes in the gym area and classroom space made available for instructional purposes. The fire department would apply for both State and Federal grants to pay for any necessary renovations. The City Administrator and City Council would need to meet with district officials to discuss ownership, renovations, building use, etc. After discussion on the matter, **Mr. Smith made the motion to instruct the superintendent to meet with the City Administrator to discuss the proposal in more detail and bring information back to the Board. Mrs. Auton seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Mrs. Bagwell recognized the Gaffney High School Varsity Basketball Team for winning the State 4A Championship for 2010. This is the fifth time Gaffney High School has won the State Championship and the fourth time since 2003. BD Lee Elementary School was recognized for being named an Honor School for Exemplary Reading at the SCIRA Conference in February 2010. BD Lee Elementary was also recognized as a SSOC (State School of Character) in March 2010. Mrs. Jefferies and four other staff members were publicly recognized and acknowledged at the State House for receiving the State of Character Award by Representative Dennis Moss. Mrs. Bagwell congratulated Draytonville Elementary, Northwest Elementary, and Cherokee Technology Center for receiving Palmetto Silver & Gold Awards for general performance and Draytonville Elementary, Northwest Elementary, Blacksburg High, and Gaffney High schools for receiving continuing growth Palmetto Silver Awards. The schools will be officially recognized once the flags and certificates are received.

Executive Session – Personnel Matters was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to go into executive session to receive legal counsel from the attorney regarding personnel matters. **Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 7:25 PM and ended at 9:40 PM. Mr. Blackwell said the board had been in executive session to receive legal counsel from the attorney regarding personnel matters and called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Mr. Blackwell called for a motion from the floor. **Mr. Smith made the motion to authorize the superintendent to seek reconsideration of the court's decision in the Brown vs. Cherokee County School District case and appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary. Mr. Crosby seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Curriculum and Instruction Update. Dr. Redish advised trustees of the upcoming exam schedule, the Title III audit on April 29<sup>th</sup>, pre-school registration this week, that a team of principals will see PBIS in Oconee County Schools, upcoming proposals for bids and the process to pre-qualify roofing engineers, the trial of whole meal food service at three schools, preparations for the summer food service program, plan for the food safety program that will be implemented in 2010-2011, and the upcoming food service system audit this week in the district. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.**

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 72% of the budgeted revenue for 2009. The General Fund has expended 53% of the budgeted expenditures. The ending fund balance as of February 28, 2010 is \$12,976,804. 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 February 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 \$8,518 as of February 28, 2010. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

Mr. Childs also reviewed the FY 2010-2011 Budget Update. It is possible that the district will receive an additional 2%-5% budget cut in May 2010. The approximate impact of another budget cut would be \$261,000 for each percentage or an estimated \$1.3 million for a 5% cut. The district may be required to obtain a larger TAN this year to provide a cushion for operations since monies from the State have not been received on a timely basis. The flexibility bill requires districts to post expenditures over \$100.00. These expenditures should be posted by the end of June for May. The administration has scrutinized every budget account and program to reduce expenditures. There have been over 150 laws passed since 1995 that impact funding this year. The net result of budget cuts already is approximately \$6 million. The base student cost is based on 1995 figures a \$1,630 per student and could be reduced even further. A budget workshop will be scheduled in the near future. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

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

Dr. Carlotta Redish presented Personnel Matters for consideration. The administration addressed questions regarding specific personnel matters that were posed by trustees. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve personnel matters, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Auton, Mr. Bailey (who asked to reclude himself from voting on one transfer from Limestone-Central to Blacksburg Elementary), Mr. Crosby, Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. Mr. Ellis voted in opposition to the motion (objecting to one principal re-assignment to the district office). The motion passed by a majority vote.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Mrs. Bagwell reminded trustees of upcoming events. The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Advanced Placement exams will be administered May 10-13<sup>th</sup>. PASS testing is scheduled for May 11-21<sup>st</sup>. Senior exams will be administered on May 17-20<sup>th</sup>. Underclassmate exams will be administered May 24-27<sup>th</sup>. The last day for students is May 27<sup>th</sup>. The last day for teachers is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Blacksburg High School graduation is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Gaffney High School graduation is scheduled at 8:00 PM. Memorial Day Holiday is scheduled for Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. All school and the district office will be closed on this date.

Summer work hours will be scheduled from June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. This will allow for an additional two weekends where savings will be realized district-wide. Summer work hours will be 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday. All schools and the district office will be closed on Fridays beginning June 4<sup>th</sup> and ending August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Bagwell reviewed the number of furlough days that will be implemented for school year 2010-2011 and stated the days were based on the length of the individual's contract or the number of days the employee worked. Some hourly workers, such as those working less than 190 days, will not be affected by the furlough. The impact of the furloughed days will be pro-rated in employee's checks to minimize impact. There has been no action at the State level to reduce the number of days students are required to attend school; however, it is possible the district may return to one traditional calendar instead of having a year-round and a traditional calendar. Mrs. Bagwell distributed a sample contract drafted by the attorney that utilized use of district facilities by the Cherokee Recreation Department. She also distributed a draft copy of the organizational chart outlining the duties and responsibilities of district office personnel.

### **Other Matters**

Ms. Smith congratulated the schools and individuals for recent accomplishments. She asked for continued prayers as she would be having additional surgery on May 18<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to remain positive and upbeat despite the current economic situation and continue working for the benefit of children.

Mrs. Harper congratulated those recognized at the meeting and commended all employees for their continued efforts to facilitate good things happening in the schools. The budget process will be difficult this year due to all the State cuts but she was optimistic that the situation will improve in time. She encouraged trustees to contact local representatives and ask them to repeal Act 388 and fight for public education.

Mr. Ellis echoed sentiments already expressed and congratulated those being recognized at the meeting tonight.

Mr. Smith asked the status of the canopy at Blacksburg high School. Dr. Redish advised that Mr. Burchstead had assured it would be completed very soon.

Mrs. Knowles echoed comments already expressed. She has received numerous phone calls and appreciates the positive attitudes expressed in the fact district officials were trying to keep employees working during these difficult economic times. The Board made decisions based on what was in the best interest of children as well as district employees.

Mr. Crosby congratulated the schools receiving honors. He thanked all district employees for their efforts and stated their hard work was appreciated.

Mr. Bailey congratulated the schools recognized at the board meeting and requested that the budget workshop not be scheduled on a Thursday or Friday. He thanked everyone for their efforts in the district.

Mrs. Auton welcomed Mrs. Lemmonds back. She congratulated the schools recognized at the meeting. She asked trustees to contact legislators regarding the disparity between the salaries of North Carolina retirees as opposed to those from South Carolina. She thanked employees for their efforts and for a job well done.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated the honorees and echoed the same sentiments already expressed. He asked everyone to remember the families of students and employees who suffered tragic losses this weekend in the district and the upstate. He encouraged principals and other staff members to attend the budget workshop and provide any ideas or suggestions that would help the district during this budget crisis. The Board does not want anyone to lose his/her job in the district and they are open to any suggestions that would help in this process.

Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Crosby made the motion, seconded by Mr. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 10:26 PM.