

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 14, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room at the District Administrative Office. A Public Hearing for the FY 2010-2011 General Fund Budget was held at 6:30 PM, prior to the regular meeting. 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 and Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish. News media present were Mr. Scott Powell - Gaffney Ledger, Mrs. Janet Spencer – Blacksburg Times, 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. Billy Blackwell called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and recognized the news media present. Mr. Smith led in the opening prayer.

An item needed to be added to the agenda – Selection Committee Recommendation for Head Football Coach & Athletic Director – Gaffney High School. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to add the item to the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of the Board Agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated May 10, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes/Budget Workshop dated June 1, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All 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. Mrs. Bagwell recognized Mary Bramlett Elementary School for having received a 2009-2010 Red Carpet Award. She also recognized Ben Childs, Director of Finance and the Finance Department for receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Presentation of Contracted Food Services was the next item on the agenda. Three representatives from Chartwells presented a proposal to outsource food services for the district. Chartwells operates over 4,000 schools in over 550 districts, including Spartanburg districts #1, #2, #3, #5, and #7. The [aren't company of Chartwells is Compass Group, headquartered in Charlotte. The food service provider focuses on three main components – employee transition, support, and training. They provide a holistic approach to serving and dining. A preview of Chartwells nutritional standards, menu variety, menu planning, use of locally grown produce, and balanced choices was presented. The district manager of operations reviewed the seamless transition plan that included operations, assessment of individual schools, repairs and new equipment, involvement in the community, marketing strategies, and nutritional programming. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Revised 2010-2011 School Calendar. The traditional calendar for the 2010-2011 school calendar has been revised to include Election Day, which is November 2, 2010. February 18, 2011 will be a regular school day for students and staff and an additional staff development day has been scheduled for May 27. This date will also be the final furlough day for employees. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the revised calendar as presented, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of FY 2010-2011 General Fund Budget was the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Bagwell read a statement as required by Section 6-1-80, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 amended, to advise the public of the following: (1) The General Fund Budget of Cherokee County School District No. 1 for the current fiscal year consists of revenues of \$62,189,569 and operating expenditures of \$62,189,569. (2) The proposed General Fund Budget of Cherokee County School District No. 1 for the fiscal year 2010-2011 consists of projected revenues of \$55,094,478 and estimated operating expenditures of \$56,094,478. In addition to the aforementioned revenues, \$1,000,000, as authorized, is projected to be transferred from the one cent sales tax fund to offset the deficit in the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget related to approximately \$2,251,517 in state budget shortfalls. (3) The proposed revenues for the fiscal year 2010-2011 General Fund Budget of Cherokee County School District No. 1 represent an 11.41% decrease in revenues from the General Fund Budget for the current fiscal year. (4) The General Fund Budget of the Cherokee County School District No. 1 for the current fiscal year includes ad valorem property taxes in the amount of \$16,377,160. The current fiscal year General Fund Budget mill levy is 166.9. (5) The Cherokee County School Board of Trustees estimates that an ad valorem property tax requirement of \$16,997,744 will be necessary to meet the revenues required by the fiscal year 2010-2011 General Fund Budget. The mill levy for the

fiscal year 2010-2011 General Fund Budget is projected to be **166.9**. Furthermore, be it resolved that on June 14, 2010, the Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees set the general fund millage rate for the 2010-2011 fiscal year at 166.9. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve the FY 2010-2011 General Fund Budget as presented with the option to include adjustments as needed, and to instruct the county treasurer to set the millage at 166.9 mills. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Auton, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crosby, Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. Mr. Ellis voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

Approval of 2010 – 2011 Tax Anticipation Note Resolution was the next item on the agenda. The board typically adopts a TAN to fund operations until tax revenues are received in January. The TAN will be paid back in May 2011. The administration recommended adopting the resolution for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$13.5 million. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to approve the resolution for a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed \$13.5 million, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of Annual General Obligation Bond Resolution was the next item on the agenda. The administration recommended approving the annual general obligation bond resolution not to exceed more than \$4.5 million in general obligation bonds through the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organization (SCAGO) General Obligation Debt Program. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the annual general obligation resolution not to exceed more than \$4.5 million, seconded by Mr. Crosby. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Middle School Code of Conduct. The code was reviewed by the middle school principals and changes made as applicable. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to approve the Middle School Code of Conduct, seconded by Mr. Crosby. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Student Handbook Information. Student handbook information, which includes School Board policies and accompanying administrative rules, was presented for information only. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the Middle School Code of Conduct, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Curriculum and Instruction Update. Dr. Redish updated trustees on both administrative services and instruction. The administration is in the process of completing needs assessment before the beginning of the year and the process of closing out school year 2009-2010 in finance as well as entering budget and payroll information for FY 2010-2011. **This item was presented for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Administrative Services Update. The General Fund has received 86% of the budgeted revenue for 2009. The General Fund has expended 68% of the budgeted expenditures. The ending fund balance as of April 30, 2010 is \$15,405,732. 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 \$50,895,659 has been received in one-cent sales tax revenue through April 2010. A total of \$40,946,032 has been paid as principal and interest on bond indebtedness through this same period. The Food Service budget had a positive ending cash balance of \$131,809 as of April 30, 2010. **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. Crosby. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Transportation Update. The administration is waiting for estimates to replace the VHS cameras on school buses with DVD cameras. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Maintenance Update. The administration is ready to present the bid proposals for the roofing engineer, the snow cleats, and the canopy at Blacksburg High School. Maintenance has begun the demolition at CCLC for Head Start and the project is proceeding smoothly. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Food Services. The RFP for contracted food services is being prepared to submit for bids. The administration hopes to bring closure on the RFP this week and submit it for bids. There are some repairs that are needed in the cafeteria at Luther Vaughan; however, no decision will be made on the repairs until the Board decides on contracted food services. Mr. Ellis said the room dividers at Grassy Pond were still not fixed. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

The next item on the agenda was Recommendation from Selection Committee – Head Football Coach & Athletic Director – Gaffney High School. A total of 12 applications were received for the positions; however, the committee did not conduct interviews. A preliminary search committee met on Monday, June 7th to review applications. The final selection committee met on Thursday, June 10th to discuss the top candidates. It was the consensus of the committee to recommend Dan Jones as Interim Head Football Coach and Mark Huff as Interim Athletic Director for the 2010-2011 school year. The stipend for Head Football Coach is \$16,000 and the stipend for Athletic Director is \$12,000. The administration will not fill Dan Jones' coaching position. The district will also realize a savings by not filling the Assistant Athletic Director position. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the recommendation of the search committees, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Associate Superintendent for Administrative Services & Instruction Dr. Carlotta Redish presented Personnel Matters for consideration. **Mr. Crosby made the motion to approve personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Bailey.** In discussion, trustees were advised that the salary of all retired teachers or administrators rehired this year will be at the 5-year experience level. All of the positions were posted and working retirees had the opportunity to apply for the positions. A number of the retirees are critical needs areas at the high school level. The principal trainee job was not posted. Mr. Bailey questioned the fairness of hiring the head football coach for five years and then changing his salary significantly after only 3 years with the

district. The district does not have a choice in re-hiring North Carolina retirees since they are certified employees. Any employee that comes off TERI after January 2011 will not be rehired by the district. **All trustees voted unanimously for personnel matters as presented.**

Executive Session – Contractual Matter was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter and to receive a legal update from the attorney. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously to go into executive session.** The executive session began at 9:40 PM and ended at 10:50 PM. Mr. Blackwell said the board had been in executive session to discuss a contractual matter, receive a legal update from the attorney, and called for a motion to return to regular session. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** Mrs. Bagwell recommended the following voluntary administrative positions to effectively operate in the best interest of children: Mrs. Jean Brewington to Curriculum Specialist at Mary Bramlett, Blacksburg Elementary, and Luther Vaughn Elementary; Ms. Ashley Clary to Principal at Grassy Pond Elementary; Mrs. Deborah Hamrick to Principal at Blacksburg Primary School; Mrs. Janice Keller to Principal at Goucher Elementary School; Mrs. Rita Martin to Principal at Blacksburg Elementary School; and Mrs. Shirley Sealy to Principal at Gaffney Middle School. Mr. Blackwell called for a motion from the floor. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve the administrative changes, seconded by Mr. Smith. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Auton, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Crosby, Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ellis, and Ms. Smith. Mrs. Harper voted in opposition. The motion passed by a majority vote.**

Mr. Smith made the motion to deny the request of an employee to be heard by the Board of Trustees in connection with a grievance the employee has filed. Mr. Crosby seconded the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Auton, Mr. Crosby, Mrs. Knowles, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Harper, and Ms. Smith. The following trustees voted in opposition to the motion: Mr. Bailey and Mr. Ellis. The motion passed by majority vote.

Ms. Smith made the motion to appoint Kim Bagwell as Interim Superintendent for the 2010-2011 school year upon the terms agreed to by all parties, and further that the board immediately begin a search for a permanent superintendent. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Mrs. Bagwell reminded trustees of upcoming events. All schools and the district office will be closed in observance of July 4th holiday on Thursday, July 1st. All schools and the district office will be closed from July 1st to July 12th. Monday (5th) through Thursday (8th) will be furlough days for administrators and vacation or personal days for classified employees. Summer hours will be observed from June 1 through August 6th. The next scheduled Board meeting is Monday, August 16th.

Since the hour was so late, Mr. Smith made the motion to forgo other matters, seconded by Ms. Smith. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.

Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 11:01 PM.

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