

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

MARCH 8, 2010

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, March 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, Mrs. Robin D. Harper, and Ms. Cheryll D. Smith. Administrators present were Acting Superintendent Mrs. Kim Bagwell, Director of Personnel Ms. Carlotta Redish, and Director of Finance Mr. Ben Childs. 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. Billy Blackwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and recognized the news media present. Mrs. Knowles 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. Smith made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Knowles. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Regular Board Minutes dated February 8, 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 February 22, 2010 were presented for approval. **Mrs. Knowles 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. Mr. Phillip Gibson addressed trustees regarding the importance of checks and balances, to represent the majority interests of their constituency, to ensure equality and fairness to all district employees, to uphold board policy and/or amend as necessary, to enforce policies equitably, to restore employee morale and encourage new ideas and personal expression, to take back responsibility for the overall operations of the district, and to remain focused on education.

The next item on the agenda was Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations. Mrs. Bagwell recognized Marlene Davis for being nominated for the South Carolina International Reading Association's "Administrator of the Year" award. She was honored at an awards breakfast on Saturday, February 20th during the annual SCIRA Conference at Myrtle Beach. Ben Childs and the Finance Department were also recognized for receiving the Certificate of Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2009 from the Association of School Business Officials. The Gaffney High School Basketball Team was also congratulated for being named State Champs for the 4th consecutive year and will be recognized by trustees at the next meeting in April.

The next item on the agenda was Curriculum and Instruction Update. In preparation for the district's Title III audit in April and as recommended by the S.C. School Boards Association, selective board policies have been updated to include appropriate nondiscrimination language relating to ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) students. The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has interpreted Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prohibit denial of equal access to education because of a student's limited-proficiency in English. Revisions were noted in red print. The administration requested approval of the following revisions as submitted: School Board Policy JBC – School Admissions, School Board Policy JBCB – Non-Resident Students, School Board Policy JBCC – School Choice Assignment, School Board Policy JBCE – Transfers and Withdrawals, School Board Policy JCB – Student Rights and Responsibilities, and School Board Policy JCE – Complaints and Grievances. **Mrs. Harper made the motion to approve the revisions as presented, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Emergency Procurement – Canopy Snow Guards. Trustees requested snow guards be installed on the canopy at the 9th grade academy in Blacksburg as a safety measure. It was also noted that snow guards should be installed at the Community Learning Center as well. The estimate to install snow guards on the 9th Grade Academy at Blacksburg High School is \$9,330 and the estimate to install snow guards at the Community Learning Center is \$17,908. The recommended funding source for these capital projects is debt service/capital projects. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to secure bids for the purchase and installation of the snow guards as presented and bring back to the board, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Gaffney High School Roof Repairs. A number of repairs need to be completed on the roof at Gaffney High School, including the auditorium, main gym, and commons areas. The maintenance department has attempted to repair the leaks but found that the roof system is failing in general due to the proper number of plies not being installed by the roofing contractor and inadequate amounts of asphalt used during installation. These facts were known and considered when the district settled with the bonding company. The estimated cost for these repairs is \$575,000. Three building fund balances have been identified as possible funding sources although only the Barnwell Funds are flexible. These are EIA, State building funds, and Barnwell Funds. The district could also spread the cost over two fiscal years and use debt service/capital projects funds from the 2010-2011 fiscal year bond sales as a funding source. The contract for the district's roofing engineer will expire at the end of the current year and can only be extended by the Board of Trustees due to the procurement code. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to secure bids for a roofing engineer, to determine the scope**

of work and associated costs to repair the leaks at Gaffney High School, and refer the bids and cost estimates to the Maintenance, Property & Grounds Committee for discussion and recommendation to the full board. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.

Approval of Outside Auditing Firm – Cline Brandt Kochenower was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Ben Kochenower presented the Comprehensive CAFR at the Board meeting January 11, 2010 and the Board needs to approve using this firm as the outside auditor for FY 2009-2010. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve using the auditing firm of Cline Brandt & Kochenower as the outside auditor for the district for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of Funding Flexibility for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 was the next item on the agenda. Trustees received a copy of the third quarter flexibility request to be submitted to the SC Department of Education. The administration requested approval of the movement of funds between funding strategies as required by the House Bill 3352 and Provisos 1.43 and 1A.41. The flexibility request was submitted to cover the budget cut that was announced in December. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion to approve the third quarter flexibility request as presented, seconded by Mrs. Harper. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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 61% of the budgeted revenue for 2009. The General Fund has expended 45% of the budgeted expenditures. The ending fund balance as of January 31, 2010 is \$14,584,358. 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 \$6,775 as of January 31, 2010. The report also included budgeted expenditures, encumbrances, and remaining balances on current building projects by location. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

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

The next item on the agenda was FY 2010-2011 Budget Update. Trustees received a CD that included the budget guide, budget calendar, budget requests, base student cost, educational provisos, projected costs, personnel costs, and other data items regarding the budget. The CD included over 300 pages of information that pertained to the zero-based budget for 2010-2011. As of March 4th, no federal, state, or local revenue amounts had been determined. All revenue allocations are projections based upon the current year budget allocations with adjustments based upon prior history. A number of proposals, bills, and amendments are being discussed in the House and Senate that will impact the district's budget and revenues. Trustees received a breakdown of the numerous provisos that have been included and/or approved in subcommittees. The House Ways and Means Committee approved all provisos on February 24, 2010. Other bills

or provisos that could impact the budget are to freeze the index of taxpaying ability to 2009-2010 levels, closing of the TERI program as of July 1, 2010, and sun setting of the Education Oversight Committee (has been tabled). The House Ways and Means Committee voted to establish the based student cost at \$1,630, which equates to 1994-95 funding. This amount could change based upon 135th day enrollment, the total enrollment in the state, and the effect of charter school legislation. Several bills or provisos regarding charter schools have been introduced including allowing private schools to close for 24 hours to convert to a charter school, funding virtual charter school students at \$5,000 from state and local funding (funding will follow the student), and 100% funding for each charter student from federal, state, and local sources. The proposed FY 2010-2011 Budget projections, based on the breakdown of assumptions, was discussed at length by trustees. **This item was received for information only; no action was taken.**

Personnel Director Ms. Carlotta Redish presented Personnel Matters for consideration. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve personnel matters, seconded by Mrs. Auton. All trustees voted unanimously for personnel matters as presented.** Mrs. Bagwell requested additional time to review the administrative recommendations that were tabled previously to ensure budgetary restraints and program impact were considered before reassignment of current personnel were presented to trustees for approval.

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Mrs. Bagwell reminded trustees of upcoming events. Spring Break is scheduled for April 5-9, 2010. All schools and the district office will be closed for the break. The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, April 19, 2010. She will ask Coach Huff and the basketball team to attend the next board meeting so they can be recognized for the State Championship.

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.

Trustees were mailed information and instructions regarding the completion of the State Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interest form. The form has to be completed and filed within five (5) days of the April 15, 2010 deadline to avoid penalties for late filing. Forms can be completed on line or forms can be obtained from their Website.

Other Matters

Mr. Smith welcomed Mrs. Bagwell on board as Acting Superintendent.

Mr. Ellis congratulated Ms. Davis and Mr. Childs. He also welcomed Mrs. Bagwell on board.

Mrs. Harper welcomed Ms. Smith back from her recent illness and asked everyone to remember Mrs. Lemmonds in their prayers. She welcomed Mrs. Bagwell as Acting Superintendent and expressed confidence in her knowledge and ability to work with trustees.

Ms. Smith welcomed Mrs. Bagwell as Acting Superintendent. She congratulated Ms. Davis and the basketball team. She thanked everyone for their prayers during her illness and asked for

continued prayer as another cyst was found and while she has a long way to go, she will continue to fight this battle.

Mrs. Auton congratulated Ms. Davis and Mr. Childs for recent recognitions. She welcomed Ms. Smith back to the board. She welcomed Mrs. Bagwell on board and thanked her for her openness and discussion regarding the grim financial report. She asked that the index scale be reviewed as part of the budget process this year and the salaries of retired employees hired back by the district be revamped. She also asked that a Special Needs Committee meeting be scheduled to address stadium seating.

Mr. Bailey thanked Dr. James for the exceptional job done over the years with the budget. He thanked everyone for their jobs and well done efforts in spite of the board.

Mr. Crosby welcomed Ms. Smith back to the board. He congratulated those recognized at the meeting. He thanked the teachers, principals, and staff for their efforts in the district.

Mrs. Knowles welcomed Ms. Smith back to the board and welcomed Mrs. Bagwell as Acting Superintendent. She encouraged trustees to contact local legislators regarding the budget cuts and to fight for public education. She congratulated Ms. Davis and Mr. Childs for their recognitions. She thanked everyone for their hard work in the district.

Mr. Blackwell congratulated Ms. Davis and Mr. Childs for their recognitions. He apologized for not being able to attend the state championship basketball game due to a death in his family. He asked that everyone keep Ms. Smith in their prayers and his family as well. He thanked Mr. Childs for the budget update and said it was probably one of the most informative updates given trustees in spite of the grim outlook.

Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to adjourn. **Mrs. Knowles made the motion, seconded by Mr. Crosby. All trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.