

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

The Cherokee County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2009 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 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. Ms. Smith 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.**

Regular Board Minutes dated October 12, 2009 were presented for approval. **Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Ellis. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Called Board Minutes dated October 12, 2009 were presented for approval. **Mr. Crosby 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. Dr. James recognized the Gaffney High School ROTC for Exceeding Standards 2009 Headquarters AFJROTC Unit Evaluation on October 30, 2009. He also recognized Ewing Middle School 6th graders for their participation in the First in Math Computer Program.

Request from Cherokee Historical & Preservation Society was the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Jane Waters from the Historical Society called Roland Cabading to inquire if the school district had any kitchen equipment or supplies that could be donated to CHAPS. A copy of the outdated kitchen items not being used by the district was provided for consideration. After discussion of the matter, it was determined that these items could be included in the next auction conducted by the district. **Mr. Smith made the motion to schedule an auction for outdated equipment and/or furniture, publish the date(s) of the auction, allow CHAPS and any other organizations the opportunity to purchase the equipment/items, and donate any kitchen equipment not sold at auction to CHAPS. Mrs. Auton seconded the motion. All trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The next item on the agenda was Curriculum and Instruction Update. Dr. Sellars presented an overview of the Graduate Assistance Program. The administration began working on a plan to improve the graduation rate in Cherokee County in June 2009. The program involves working with individual students on attendance (including absences due to disciplinary action), academics and student health on a daily basis. Close monitoring of individualized education plans for students receiving special education services is also part of the plan. Based on identified needs in these areas, students at risk of not graduating from high school are identified, with highest priority placed on serving students that should graduate in 2010, which is based on their date of entry into 9th grade. A team at the district level reviews individual student information, meets with principals regularly, and offers assistance and resources regarding the implementation of the program. This may occur through credit recovery, virtual school, evening make-up at the learning center, etc. The district also provides make-up time for attendance at the learning center two evenings per week. Students that have not passed one or more areas of the high school exit exam participate in tutorials before administration of the exit exam. This program has been implemented in each high school. Trad Robinson presented the management system that he developed for this program. **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 11% of the budgeted revenue for 2009. The General Fund has expended 16% of the budgeted expenditures. The ending fund balance as of September 30, 2009 is \$1,597,326. 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 September 2009. 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 positive ending cash balance of \$43,448 as of September 30, 2009. **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.**

Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Mr. William A. Jones presented Personnel Matters for consideration. **Mrs. Auton made the motion to approve personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Ellis. All trustees voted unanimously for personnel matters as presented.**

The next item on the agenda was announcements. Dr. James reminded trustees of upcoming events. American Education Week is scheduled for November 15-20, 2009. Visitors should be expected between 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM. Trustees are encouraged to visit schools as your schedule permits. Thanksgiving Holidays are scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th through Friday, November 27th. All schools and the district office will be closed in observance of this special holiday. We hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday as we give thanks for our many blessings. The next scheduled board meeting is December 14th. A draft copy of the proposed dress code for professional staff was sent to trustees for review. This will be an agenda item at the meeting in December.

Other Matters

Mr. Smith commended trustees for working together for students. He asked why it was necessary for Booster Club monies to be reported to the district. Trustees were advised that the State requires more reporting of fund raising activities in schools and the district would be in violation of the law should all activities not be reported. Mr. Smith asked that the number of cafeteria workers in the schools be revisited as the budget improved.

Mr. Ellis congratulated Ewing Middle School and AFJROTC for receiving awards. He thanked everyone for their efforts in the district.

Mrs. Harper visited Mary Bramlett and was very impressed with the programs there and the involvement of staff and parents. She congratulated the honorees for their accomplishments. She is still receiving calls about smokers and asked the administration to reiterate this was a Federal law, not just a district requirement. She asked detailed information on out-of-school suspension and how the discipline policy affected extra-curricular activities.

Ms. Smith congratulated the honorees and wished Mr. Smith success in the election. She commended Mr. Robinson for developing the computer program that would track information for the graduate assistance program and thanked everyone for their hard work in the district.

Mrs. Knowles commended the AFJROTC for their accomplishment and thanked schools for the invitations to visit. She also asked about the policy on discipline, how it affects sports and other extracurricular activities, and what actions were taken by coaches if a student athlete was suspended.

Mr. Crosby congratulated the honorees and thanked all district personnel for their efforts. He asked if the trainer's position had been filled. The position is still posted on the district's web site but no applicants certified as athletic trainers have applied.

Mr. Bailey said the Veteran's Day program at Blacksburg High School would be postponed until Thursday, weather permitting. He stated trustees should not micromanage the administration and coaches.

Mrs. Auton offered condolences to the family of Paula Maret who recently died. She has also received calls about smoking and dipping on school grounds and asked that the policy be enforced. She stated the discipline code should be enforced equally for all students, even star athletes. She congratulated the honorees and welcomed Junior Leadership participants to the meeting. Mrs. Auton commended the administration for implementation of the graduate assistance program and thanked everyone for their hard work. She asked that the professional dress code be an agenda item at the next board meeting and agreed the board needed to revisit staffing in school cafeterias.

Mr. Blackwell thanked Junior Leadership for attending the meeting. He stated coaches should determine whether or not an athlete participates in sports once the suspended student returns to school.

Mr. Blackwell called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ellis. All trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:05

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