

**CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BOARD MEETING**

February 13, 2023

The Cherokee County School District Board of Trustees met in session on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the District Office Boardroom. Board members present were Chair Dr. Mark Nix, Vice Chair Ms. Shanese Dawkins, Mr. Billy Blackwell, Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Mr. Cody Cash, Mrs. Carol Gallman, Mrs. Lynne Shackelford, Mrs. Crystal Shippy, and Mr. Peter Wilkins. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Dana Fall, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carl Carpenter, Executive Director of Finance Mrs. Sherri Morgan, Executive Director of Academics Dr. Meredith Rose, Executive Director of Student Services Mrs. Bessie D. Westmoreland, and Executive Director of Operations Mr. Todd Hughes. Media Present: Mr. Scott Powell from *The Gaffney Ledger* and Mr. Brock Hamrick of WZZQ.

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 30-40-80(d), as amended, the following media outlets have been notified of the time, date, and agenda of this meeting: *The Cherokee Chronicle*, *The Gaffney Ledger*, *The Shelby Star*, *The Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, radio Stations WZZQ-AM and WFGN, and television stations WSPA-TV, and WYFF4-TV.

Dr. Mark Nix called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He recognized the media members present, Mr. Scott Powell with *The Gaffney Ledger* and Mr. Brock Hamrick with WZZQ, and thanked them for coming. Dr. Nix recognized distinguished guest Mrs. Sandra Greene, a former board member. Dr. Nix led everyone for the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Nix requested a moment of silence for the memory of one of our students who passed this weekend.

Approval of the Board meeting agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mrs. Gallman made the motion to approve the Board meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Sarratt. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of the Board meeting minutes dated January 9, 2023 was the next item on the agenda. **Ms. Dawkins made the motion to approve Board meeting minutes dated January 9, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Honors/Accomplishments/Commendations were the next items on the agenda.

- **SC READY – Perfect Score**
 - Eliza Webster – Math – Corinth Elementary School
 - Grant Gardner – Math – Gaffney Middle School
- **District Spelling Bee Winners**
 - Dhairya Patel – Winner - Gaffney Middle School
 - Billion Rodgers – Runner-up – Grassy Pond Elementary School
- **Crystal Apple Recognition**
 - Administrator – Steven Spear – Luther Vaughan Elementary School
 - Certified – Ellen Owen – Gaffney Middle School
 - Classified – Chuck Greene – District Office
 - Substitute – Jennifer Norman – Gaffney Middle School

School Board Policy BCBI – Public Participation was the next item on the agenda. **No requests were made to speak in front of the Trustees for this meeting.**

The Model Policy for Unencumbered Time was next on the agenda. Dr. Fall informed the board they received a copy of policy in their packet. He stated, “The School Board Association has not sent out their policy yet. We have the regulations sent out by the state when the law passed. We have 90 days to complete. We had to get the first reading complete. Just be aware when the School Board Association comes out with their policy, there may be some changes to the first reading. One change I did compared to the state that I felt was important was Pre K through 12 instead of just elementary.” He felt it should not target just one group but felt it should be given to everyone. Mrs. Shackelford asked Dr. Carpenter, “How do you plan on staffing this time at schools?” Dr. Carpenter stated, “We are working with Dr. Fall and Curriculum and Instruction on schedules. We have a couple of months to get schedule in place.” Ms. Dawkins asked if the board would have a recap before the second reading. Dr. Fall stated, “It would be part of budget if it requires any additional personnel. We do not have a choice on this policy. It is a state law. The only difference is we can keep it elementary only.” **Dr. Nix made the motion to approve the first reading. Mrs. Shackelford made the motion to approve. Mr. Sarratt seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Blacksburg Middle School presentation by Mrs. Miranda Grigg, Principal, was the next item on the agenda. Due to illness, Mrs. Grigg was unable to attend and will present later. **No action was necessary.**

The review of the 2023-2024 Academic School Calendar Review Draft was next on the agenda. Dr. Fall stated Dr. Rose would discuss the calendar survey results. He said the last time we met you asked for input from staff and community. Dr. Rose stated, “We made the necessary changes to the options we discussed last time. We had information on the school website, social media, and the schools distributed the information. We had 1,717 surveys completed. Parents: 38%, Students: 9%, Employees: 40%, and Community members: 13%. Results of the survey were Option 1 – 42%, Option 2 – 44% and Option 3 – 14%. Dr. Rose stated option 2 was a more balanced calendar with 89 days in semester 1 and 91 days in semester 2. She stated option 1 was a less balanced calendar. Dr. Fall recommended calendar option 2 since it received the most votes and was the more balanced calendar for students. **Mr. Sarratt made the motion to approve Calendar Option 2 for the 2023/2024 academic school year. Ms. Dawkins seconded the motion. Dr. Nix asked if any discussion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Academic Presentation by Dr. Meredith Rose was next on the agenda. Dr. Rose, Executive Director of Academics, provided the Trustees with a presentation on Curriculum and Instruction that included 2022 SC Ready test scores, graduation rate, drop out rate, and college or career ready statistics. She discussed the I-Ready fall to winter growth for reading and math. She reported the report card rating for each school in the district. Dr. Rose reviewed the Instructional Framework currently in place, our AVID program, curriculum in place, and support programs. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

An Executive Session with Personnel Matters for the purpose of discussing the employment, discipline or release of an employee or employees of the District, Contractual Matters, and student discipline was next on the agenda. The Receipt of legal advice covered by the attorney-client privilege related to the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale of property. Dr. Nix called for a motion to go into Executive Session. **Ms. Dawkins made a motion that the Board enter into Executive Session for Personnel Matters. Mrs. Gallman seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** The Executive Session began at 6:59 PM and ended at 8:04 PM. Dr. Nix said the Board had been in Executive Session for Personnel Matters for the purpose of discussing the employment, discipline or release of an employee or employees of the District, Contractual Matters, and student discipline. The receipt of legal advice covered by the attorney-client privilege related to the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale of property was also discussed. **Dr. Nix made the request to return to regular session. Mr. Sarratt made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Action as needed from Executive Session was the next item on the agenda.

Mrs. Gallman made a request to the Board Chairman: "I move the board adopt a resolution to dispose of Goucher Elementary, as it is no longer needed to meet the needs of our district endeavors." **Dr. Nix made the motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Wilkins seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Ms. Dawkins made a request to the Board Chairman to accept Charter School Advancement LLC's offer to purchase Goucher Elementary and directed the Chairman to execute all necessary closing documents on its behalf. **Dr. Nix made the motion to approve the sale. Mr. Wilkins seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Mr. Wilkins requested the Board grant authority to the Superintendent and District Legal Counsel to negotiate a short-term lease for Charter School Advancement LLC for Goucher Elementary for the time prior to closing for the Charter School Advancement LLC. **Dr. Nix made the motion to approve the short-term lease. Ms. Dawkins and Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Superintendent's Report was the next item on the agenda.

Personnel recommendations were the next items on the agenda under the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Nix called for a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations. Mr. Cash recused himself of the vote for transfer item #2 due to family association. **Mr. Sarratt made a motion that the Board accept the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendation, seconded by Mr. Blackwell. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

RFP for Referendum was next item on the agenda. Dr. Fall wanted to inform the board and the community we are moving forward with the referendum. He said the next step is an RFP. He stated the RFP would be posted tomorrow. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) Reminder – Due March 30, 2023. Dr. Fall reminded each board member this is due by March 30, 2023. He wants to make sure everyone is in compliance. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

The Board Newsletter was the next item under the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Fall provided the February newsletter to each Trustee that contains valuable Board information for their review. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Announcements were the next items on the agenda. Dr. Fall shared that each board member had a copy of the agenda for the upcoming conference. He told them there was a digital app they could download on the SCSBA site if they preferred it digitally. Also included was a copy of the reimbursement form. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Mr. Blackwell said everyone was doing a good job and to keep up the good work.

Mr. Cash stated he visited Draytonville this morning and enjoyed his visit. He was excited to be there with the faculty, staff and students. He really enjoyed the visit.

Mrs. Gallman stated she loves the board meeting when the ROTC comes through to present. Our ROTC program has always been one of the top 100 programs in the nation. She stated, "They do a great job."

Mr. Sarratt stated he enjoyed his visit at Gaffney High School with Dr. Blanton. He saw a much improved school. He stated Dr. Blanton is doing a great job. He said people are going above and beyond to make it better for our children, and he appreciates them all.

Mr. Wilkins thanked Dr. Rose for her presentation and information. He wished congratulations to Steven Spear for his Crystal Apple Award. They were classmates in school. He stated for everyone to keep up the good work.

Mrs. Shippy said she is appreciative to the schools who are having programs in observance of Black History month. In observance of Black History Month, she wanted to highlight Amanda Gorman. She is the youngest inaugural poet in history at the age of 22. She stated Gorman captivated the world when she read her poem, 'The Hill We Climb', at the inauguration of President Joe Biden. She said her thoughts are prayers are with the Davis family, the young man who lost his life: "I cannot reiterate how important our children are to us. We are thinking of them."

Mrs. Shackelford said she appreciated Dr. Rose's presentation. She said it was very data heavy, and she liked all the information: "Our district does a great job with programs. The strategies are good across the board." She said her middle schooler uses them, and they are very effective. She had the opportunity to visit Blacksburg Primary across the river. She said it is a beautiful school: "Blacksburg Primary is a great school with lots of energy." She really enjoyed the visit. She thanked them for having her at the school.

Ms. Dawkins wanted to thank the Institute of Innovation for hosting her for Board Appreciation month. She visited all the classrooms. She was amazed. It is not the traditional vocational school from the past. She spoke with teachers in construction, masonry, law enforcement, information technology, and engineering. She encourages all students to attend if they can work into their schedule. There is something for everyone. She stated, "Skills knowledge equals career readiness." She received a manicure, a stepping-stone, and a cake from the culinary arts students. It was amazing. She said Mr. Smith and Mr. Hale are doing an amazing job. She thanked the BHS HOSA for her cards. She stated "Prayers for the Davis family." They are in her district, and she will be visiting them.

Dr. Nix thanked Student Services for the gifts tonight. He stated, "The Institute of innovation prepares students for work or college." He enjoyed the enthusiasm about the school tonight: "We will make students who are good productive citizens in our community."

Dr. Nix called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Sarratt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wilkins. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.



Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Jr., Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Dr. Mark Nix, Chairman