

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

March 13, 2023

The Cherokee County School District Board of Trustees met in session on Monday, March 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, and Mr. Peter Wilkins. Administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Dana Fall, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carl Carpenter, 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 led everyone for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Board meeting agenda was the next item on the agenda. **Mr. Blackwell 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 February 13, 2023 was the next item on the agenda. Ms. Dawkins made the motion to approve Board meeting minutes dated February 13, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.

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

- **South Carolina Junior Scholar**
 - Belinda Dodgen – Blacksburg Middle School
 - Jason Proffitt – Blacksburg Middle School
 - Trevor Blanton – Gaffney Middle School
 - Grant Gardner – Gaffney Middle School
 - Kathryn Leskanic – Gaffney Middle School
 - Tyler Mauldin – Gaffney Middle School
 - Dhairya Patel – Gaffney Middle School
 - Madison Rice – Gaffney Middle School
 - Gavin Smith – Gaffney Middle School
 - Larissa Wilburn – Gaffney Middle School
 - Kaylee Holcombe – Ewing Middle School
 - Irelan Scruggs – Ewing Middle School

- Emily Sichette – Ewing Middle School
- Alyssa Smith – Ewing Middle School
- **Revolutionary War Notecard Artist Winners**
 - Jillian Pearson – Blacksburg Middle School
 - David Long – Gaffney Middle School
 - Lylah Lipscomb– Gaffney Middle School
 - Melany Flores-Aguilar – Gaffney Middle School
 - Tegan Ware – Gaffney Middle School
 - Kenia Medina – Gaffney Middle School
 - Madison Dawson – Gaffney Middle School
 - Kathryn Leskanic – Gaffney Middle School
 - Asher Rowen – Gaffney Middle School
 - Lesley Jimenez – Gaffney Middle School
- **Odyssey of the Mind**
 - Zachary Georgopoulos – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Antony Johnson – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Kensley Littlejohn – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Kennedy Harris – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Avaree Hill – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Timriyah Littlejohn – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Darzell Jefferies – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Amber Mooney – Coach
 - Casey Quinn – Coach
 - Sharon Hill – Coach
- **Blacksburg High School Athletics - Basketball**
 - Anna-Bella Foster - All-State
 - Bobby Rodgers – Coach of the Year Region 1 AA
- **Gaffney High School Athletics - Wrestling**
 - Clairia Hannon - State Champion
 - Anna Hanna – State Qualifier
 - Aaron Wilburn – Upper State Champion & State Runner-up
 - Mike Mabry – Upper State Champion
 - Drew Ellis – State Qualifier
 - Daunte Bond – State Qualifier
 - Trashun Tate – State Qualifier
 - Daniel Grellman - Coach
- **Crystal Apple Award Recognition**
 - Administrator – Tessie Bridges – Grassy Pond Elementary School
 - Certified – Madison Dunn – Gaffney High School
 - Classified – Julie Ruppe – BD Lee Elementary School
 - Substitute – Barbara White – District-Wide

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 – Second Reading was next on the agenda. Dr. Carpenter presented the second reading of the policy. He stated there were no revisions from the first reading. Mrs. Shackelford asked, “How will classrooms be covered during this time?” Dr. Carpenter stated, “The time will come from the planning period. Teachers may be requested to come back to the classroom, by law, if there is a shortage or a safety concern. If the budget allows we are considering a sub for each

school to help cover the time.” **Dr. Nix made the motion to approve the second reading. Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve. Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Corinth Elementary School presentation by Mrs. Tracy Allison, Principal, was the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Allison started with presenting the school history and student information. She gave a presentation of all staff members at the school. The school received a 48 Overall Rating School Average and is no longer identified as an ATSI school. She presented the schools’ mission statement, which was revised in the spring of 2022. She presented the iReady reading and math scores for the school and the plans in place to meet needs and to increase scores. The school has the following academic programs in place: My Avid, Second Step, MTSS, Future Forward, PBIS, STEAM, Gifted and Talented, and Duke Energy Science Night. The school provides attendance incentives and has an average daily rate of 95%. The Little Book House is located on school property for all kids to have access to free books to encourage students to read. Students participate in a school garden program to learn the process of growing their own food. The athletic programs available are First Tee, Zumba, Walk to School Day and Girls on the Run. Student Arts programs available are Honors Music and Honors Art, First Lego League, and a School House Coffee Shop operated by students, also are school features. The students participate in service projects during the year with March of Dimes, The Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Humane Society of Cherokee County, Peach Center Ministries. The programs available for community and family involvement with the school are Parent Teacher Organization, School Improvement Council, Good News Club, Back Pack Buddies, Guest Readers, 4H Club, Family Skate Night, Book Fairs, Parent Workshops, Grandparents Day and food trucks on site from various businesses in the community. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

The Human Resources and Student Services Update by Dr. Carl Carpenter and Mrs. Bessie Moreland was next on the agenda. The Human Resources Presentation was made by Dr. Carl Carpenter. Dr. Carpenter, Deputy Superintendent, provided the Trustees with a presentation on Human Resources. Dr. Carpenter provided updates from his team and the information they are responsible for assisting staff. He presented the key data for CERRA’s SC Annual Education Supply and Demand Reports. He provided a list of all the events and colleges they will be attending to recruit teachers. He discussed the top Teacher Retention Factors. He presented data comparing information for CCSD compared to Spartanburg District 2, Spartanburg District 3, Spartanburg District 7, York School District and Rock Hill School District. He presented data comparing the Teacher Retention, Teacher Survey Results on Student Engagement, School Report Card Teacher Data, Teacher Perception of School Safety, Teacher Compensation by District, Administrator Compensation by District, and Certified Vacancies Posted. He stated the three-year retention rate for CCSD is 91.1% and discussed the current retention strategies in place. He provided data for minority recruitment, minority retention, and retirement. The Student Services Presentation was made by Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland. Mrs. Westmoreland, Executive Director of Student Services, provided the Trustees with a presentation on Student Services. She discussed the State Indicators for Special Education: Graduation, Drop Out, ELA/Math, Discipline, LRE, LRE Preschool, Preschool Outcomes, Parent Involvement, Disproportionate Representation by Race, Disproportionate Representation by Disability, Evaluation timelines, Preschool Transition, Secondary Transition and Post-School Outcomes. She discussed scores for the following areas: CCSD Special Education Determination, Compliance Factor Scores, and Performance Factor Scores. The District score

was 86.11 and met the requirements. She discussed current Special Education Programs: Orton Gillingham Reading Program, Math U See, Credential Programs at BHS and GHS, Workers in Training, and Project Search. She discussed our current Mental Health Program. Our Mental Health Counselors in schools are provided by several different organizations: The Department of Mental Health, Regensis, Direct Hire, and other organizations. The available programs are Emotional Vaccines, Game Changer, and Youth Mental Health First Aid. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

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. Discussion of a settlement of a Legal Claim Subject to Attorney-Client privilege- JUUL Litigation MDL, was next on the agenda. Dr. Nix called for a motion to go into Executive Session. **Ms. Dawkins made a motion that the Board enter into Executive Session. Mrs. Gallman seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** The Executive Session began at 8:07 PM and ended at 9:32 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 discussion of a settlement of a Legal Claim Subject to Attorney-Client privilege- JUUL Litigation MDL. **Dr. Nix made the request to return to regular session. Mrs. Dawkins made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mrs. Shackelford. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

Mr. Sarratt made a motion to the Board Chairman to accept a settlement offer from JUUL Litigation MDL and to direct the Superintendent and the Board Attorneys at White and Story to execute the appropriate settlement documents. **Dr. Nix made the motion to approve. 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. Sarratt made a motion that the Board accept the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

COVID Update was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Fall said we are still monitoring the COVID data. He included a monthly report for February with the number of cases in the board packet. The numbers are down from the previous month. **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. This will be the last reminder. 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 March newsletter to each Trustee that contained valuable Board information for their review. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Dr. Fall shared that we will have Band recognition at the April board meeting. Dr. Fall also shared information he obtained regarding a current House Bill 3154 with the House Legislators. He asked the board members to review board policy BJ Board Legislative Program. He discussed the details of the bill, and stated it has been kept very quiet. The bill requires every county to be under one district for their county by 2025. The other bill proposed is projected to take effect in 2030. They are proposing Cherokee County will be combined with Spartanburg and Union School districts. He gave the board members the dates the legislators will be meeting to approve the bills. All the information is on the SCSBA website. He asked each member to review all the pending bills on the website. Billy Blackwell suggested the board should meet quarterly with legislators so we are informed of proposed laws or changes to laws. The board members discussed the upcoming Day at the Capitol event in April. They all agreed they need to attend the event to voice their concerns over proposed changes. Dr. Fall will update the board if he see any further changes or updates. He also reminded everyone of the Anne Frank Exhibit at Gaffney Middle School. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Announcements were the next items on the agenda.

Mr. Blackwell said, "We have a lot to work on discussions at the State Level. We have to start moving to set meetings, or we will have to accept the outcomes of the approved bills. We have to make sure they are keeping us updated and discussing with us."

Mr. Cash said, "I learned a lot at the School Board Association Conference meeting last month. I learned what the board should and should not do, what we are able to do and not able do in the chain of command. There are processes to handle each situation."

Mrs. Gallman said, "I also learned a lot at the State Conference. It was a very good conference. I appreciate all the presentations tonight were very good. I am sad Dr. Rose is leaving and wish her luck. I want to go to the Day at the Capitol Event on April 19." She said any of the members are welcome to ride with her. "We have to do something regarding the House Bills to get our legislators on board with us," she stated.

Mr. Sarratt said, "I want to thank everyone for the job they are doing. I wish Dr. Rose well. We have to talk to our legislators. We must make sure everything is beneficial for the kids. Thank you Dr. Fall, staff, custodians, bus drivers, and everyone who plays a part in the school district."


Mr. Wilkins said, "I enjoyed attending the conference. I received lots of knowledge. He said teachers, parents, and everyone just want to be heard. We need to listen to our teachers. He asked, "Can we set up a dinner or a meet and greet with our legislators in the next couple of weeks?" He quoted Ms. Weaver from the conference he attended that we only have one shot with kids. "They don't get a second chance at education," he said.

Mrs. Shackelford said, "I echo all your sentiments. Advocacy is one of the biggest roles we play and we are really missing the boat if we do not get in our legislators ears and let them know public education is very important. Dr. Rose, we will miss you so very much. We appreciate all you have done for us."

Ms. Dawkins said, "Thank you to everyone. I want to thank the Board. I want to especially thank Mr. Blackwell, Regional Director, thank you for your job. He is knowledgeable and has been in the game a long time and brings a lot to our school board. Thank you to all the board members for their hard work. We work well together and have our children's best interest at heart. We put our children first. Dr. Rose you, will be missed. We still have a couple more months with you. Thank you to each of you that work in our district."

Dr. Nix said, "The conference was a lot of information. I had to choose between very good sessions and select conferences that would apply to our district. Our district is unique. I agree with Mrs. Dawkins we still have more time with Dr. Rose. Dr. Fall, thank you for your leadership."

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 9:56 PM.



Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Jr., Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Dr. Mark Nix, Chairman