

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

**April 17, 2023**

The Cherokee County School District Board of Trustees met in session on Monday, April 17, 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 Academics Dr. Meredith Rose, Executive Director of Student Services Mrs. Bessie D. Westmoreland, Executive Director of Finance Sherri Morgan, 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. Sarratt made the motion to approve the Board meeting agenda, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

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

- **Blacksburg High School Band**
  - Jackson Lipe – SC All-State Jazz Ensemble
- **Blacksburg High School Winter Guard**
  - Sierra Margarita – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Ryan Nicole Wolford – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Ivonne Razo – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Isabella Chapman-Miller – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Maddy Satterwhite – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Anna LaFrancis – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Hayden Joy Wright – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
  - Cindy Earley – SC Band Directors Association State Championship
- **Gaffney Middle School Band**
  - Huntley Gray – SC Band Directors Association All-State Band

- **Gaffney High School Band**
  - Sarah Gray – SC Band Directors Association All-State Band
- **Blacksburg High School HOSA**
  - Paris Mayes - SC HOSA State Reporter
  - Hayley Clemens – HOSA State Leadership Conference = Fourth Place – Medical Law and Ethics
- **Arts Expo Contest Winners**
  - Jackie Huerto – Gaffney Middle School – Cover Design Winner
  - Amaya Wright – Gaffney Middle School – Second Place Winner
  - Zoey Rhinehart – Gaffney High School – Third Place Winner
- **Gaffney High School**
  - Stephanie Ooley – Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award
- **Crystal Apple Award Recognition**
  - Administrator – Karen Henderson – DO/ Blacksburg Elementary School – Interim Administrator
  - Certified – Brooke McAfee – Blacksburg High School
  - Substitute – Jeff George – Gaffney Middle School
  - Classified – Michelle Poole – District Office, Accounts Payable Specialist

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 Legislative Budget Update was the next on the agenda.** Dr. Fall said, “There are not a lot of changes in the budget legislation at this point. The State Budget has not been finalized. The State is proposing a teacher increase of \$2,500 per cell plus a step increase. It will be about a six to nine percent pay increase. The bus driver pay will increase. The teacher supply check will increase from \$300 to \$350. The Parental Bill action could possibly happen this year instead of next year. The Senate start their debate this week on some issues. There is a 1% increase on retirement and 3.7% increase on employer cost of PEBA health.” **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

The Blacksburg High School presentation by Mr. Michael J. Mullinax, Principal, was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Mullinax started with student presentations from the different programs in the school. HOSA presenters were Paris Mayes, Jartasia Thompson, and Kasey Smith. The AP Art/School Culture presenter was Jemiah Davidson. The School Leadership Team/Avid presenters were Levi Strain and Brily Chambers. The band presenter was Jackson Lipe. The Guard presenter was Maddy Satterwhite. The Boys Club/Blacksonian presenter was Grayson Hurley. The Chorus Presenters were Jemiah Davidson, Kacey Smith, and Corasia Smith. Mr. Mullinax finished the presentation with information regarding the schools’ AP success stories, The College and Career Readiness information, the faculty and staff, student leaders, Giving Back, athletics, band, guard, and student life. **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 was next on the agenda. Dr. Nix called for a motion to go into Executive Session. **Mrs. Gallman made a motion that the Board enter into Executive Session. Mr. Sarratt seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** The Executive Session began at 7:03 PM and ended at 9:02 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. **Dr. Nix made the request to return to regular session. Mrs. Shackelford made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Sarratt. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

Dr. Fall asked Director of Operations Todd Hughes to discuss an emergency repair needed at the Gaffney High School football stadium. The repairs needed are on the home side and the away side. The proposed work will be completed in three phases. This is an urgent safety matter and needs to be addressed immediately. Dr. Fall recommends permission from the board to use the fund balance money to pay for the repairs. The total estimate for all repairs is \$333,700. **Dr. Nix made the motion to proceed with the emergency repairs. Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve, and Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Ms. Shanese Dawkins made a motion to uphold the administration decision concerning a recent action brought before the board. Mrs. Gallman seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

The Cherokee County School District Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Sub Recipient Risk Assessment was next on the agenda under the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Fall discussed the ten areas the audit. Dr. Fall said, "The risk score for our district was 9. The cutoff for the low risk category is 18. This is a very good score for our district." **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Personnel recommendations was the next item on the agenda under the Superintendent's Report. **Mrs. Shackelford made a motion that the Board accept the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendation, seconded by Dr. Nix. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The SC Department of Revenue Audit was next on the agenda under the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Fall said, "The District had a positive audit. Mrs. Morgan and her team had daily requests from the state regarding the penny sales tax for the 2014-2022 term." **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Dr. Fall announced the district had passed the Cognia Accreditation. He is very proud of the team. He thanked the team for their hard work and team dedication. **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 information for Board Members regarding a conference through SCSBA. The School Law Conference will be August 26-27, 2023. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Dr. Fall reminded Board Members of the Day at the Capitol event on April 19, 2023. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Announcements were the next items on the agenda.

Mr. Blackwell said, "Everyone is doing a good job. It is good to hear audits are favorable. The audits are tied to our scores and are very important."

Mr. Cash did not have a comment.

Mrs. Gallman said, "I am so proud of Blacksburg. Mr. Mullinax did a great presentation. I love seeing all the students speak on behalf of the school. It was a good meeting."

Mr. Sarratt said, "Mr. Mullinax did a very good job with his presentation. He showed us the great things going on with the kids. I am very impressed; good job."

Mr. Wilkins did not have comment.


Mrs. Shippy did not have a comment.

Mrs. Shackelford said, "I am always impressed by the number of honors and student recognitions we have at the meetings. Congratulations to Sherri and her team on the audits. Kudos to you. The Blacksburg presentation was terrific from Mr. Mullinax, and I enjoyed the student participation."

Ms. Dawkins said, "Keep working together and being respectful of each other. We have to move forward and give our children the very best education we can give."

Dr. Nix said, "I enjoyed the presentation. I enjoyed seeing my Alma Mata. I enjoyed the chorus and wished they had finished the song. It was a good night. Overall great work by the district. Dr. Fall, Mrs. Morgan, Dr. Rose, and everyone: thank you for what you are doing. Thank you to the media. "

Dr. Nix called for a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Dawkins made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.



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Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Jr., Secretary

APPROVED BY:



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Dr. Mark Nix, Chairman