

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

**May 8, 2023**

The Cherokee County School District Board of Trustees met in session on Monday, May 8, 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 the 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. **Ms. Dawkins made the motion to approve the Board meeting agenda, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Approval of the Board meeting minutes dated April 17, 2023, was the next item on the agenda. Mrs. Gallman made the motion to approve Board meeting minutes dated April 17, 2023, seconded by Mr. Sarratt. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Approval of the Board meeting minutes dated April 24, 2023, was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve Board meeting minutes dated April 24, 2023, seconded by Mr. Cash. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

- **Special Olympic Award Winners**
  - Zyon Pugh – Luther Vaughan Elementary
  - Garrett Chelowa – Gaffney Middle School
  - Sheroid Camp – Gaffney High School
- **Gaffney High School**
  - Jeremiah Greene – SC STEM College Signee
  - Madison Kenneth – AVID Summer Institute Speaker

- **Scholar Academy Graduates**
  - Kaylee Blanton
  - Abigail Mace
  - Andrew Mathis
  - Alanah McCluney
  - Caitlin Hines
  - Kolby Turner
  - Emma Womack
  - Karson Womack
- **Cherokee Early College Graduates**
  - Joao Duarte
  - Alan Marroquin
  - Kensley Parker
  - Breanna Russell
- **Cherokee County Robotics Competition**
  - Northwest Elementary - Inspiration Award
  - Gaffney Middle School – Teamwork Award
  - Limestone Central Elementary – Rising Star Award
  - Luther Vaughan Elementary – Perseverance Award
  - BD Lee Elementary – Research Award
  - Blacksburg Elementary – Innovative Solution Award
  - Grassy Pond Elementary – Presentation Award
  - Corinth Elementary – Mechanical Design Award
  - Draytonville Elementary – Programming Award
  - Northwest Elementary – Robot Performance Award
  - Grand Champion: Grassy Pond Elementary
- **Crystal Apple Award Recognition**
  - Administrator – Mitch Miller – District Office
  - Certified – Tara McCurry – Ewing Middle School
  - Substitute – Jaymie Dobbins – Gaffney High School
  - Classified – Sharon Earls – Blacksburg Middle School

School Board Policy BCBI – Public Participation was the next item on the agenda.

Reverend Kerwin A. Wray requested to speak in front of the Trustees for this meeting. Rev. Wray is a Know2 Neighborhood Ambassador. He requested to speak about his support for the millage increase to benefit our schools and teachers. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

**Board Policy Review was the next on the agenda.** Dr. Carpenter presented four new policies for the first reading and gave an update to the Use of Metal Detectors.

- Policy GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff – First Reading
- Policy GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff – First Reading
- Policy DGD – Credit Card Use – First Reading
- Policy KFD – Clear Bag Use at District Events – First Reading
- Administrative Rule JIHC – R – Use of Metal Detectors – Information Only

**Mrs. Gallman made the motion to approve the first reading of Policy GCQE, seconded by Mr. Sarratt. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Mrs. Shackelford made the motion to approve the first reading of Policy GDQC, seconded by Mrs. Shippy. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Ms. Dawkins made the motion to approve the first reading of Policy DGD, seconded by Mrs. Shackelford. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Ms. Dawkins made the motion to approve the first reading of Policy KFD, seconded by Mr. Cash. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

The Gaffney High School presentation by Dr. Eric Blanton, Principal, was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Blanton began his presentation by describing the Pride and Tradition of Gaffney High School. He discussed the year one transition with staff and students. He shared information for College and Career Ready, AVID, and TRIO. He discussed programs the school participates in to assist with student growth and MTSS incentives. He provided photos of the facility and landscape enhancements made to the campus. He talked about student life and athletics. The presentation concluded with students discussing different programs at the school and the impacts these have made on their lives. Students participating were Tre' Smith, Mallory Garcia, Miles Norris, Kensley Parker, and Moriah Little. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

A Discipline Policy Presentation by Mr. Isaac Wallace, Coordinator of Attendance, Truancy, and Discipline, was next on the agenda. The first proposed change was to the tardy policy for middle and high school Students. The second proposed change was to the fight policy for middle school students only. The third proposed change was for incorrigible behavior for middle and high school students. The fourth proposed change was for alcohol possession for middle and high school students. The fifth proposed change is to add a policy for cell phone violations at the middle school. **Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve all of the proposed changes to the discipline policy, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of the 2023/2024 Capital Projects – Board Approval Requested was the next item on the agenda. After an open discussion, **Mrs. Shackelford made the motion to approve the 2023/2024 Capital Projects Budget, seconded by Mr. Wilkins. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Approval of the 2023/2024 General Fund Budget – Board Approval Requested was the next item on the agenda. After an open discussion, the board agreed to add step 24 to all certified and classified pay scales. The board did not approve the new proposed Administrator Pay Scale or the remaining FTE requests in the budget. **Mr. Sarratt made the motion to approve the 2023/2024 General Fund Budget, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

Millage Increase for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 – Board Approval Requested was the next item on the agenda. A copy of the millage increase options was included in the Trustees' General Fund packet. After an open discussion, **Mr. Sarratt made the motion to approve a 13.5 millage rate for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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. **Ms. Dawkins made a motion that the Board enter into Executive Session, and Mr. Cash seconded the motion. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.** The Executive Session began at 8:40 PM and ended at 9:40 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. Ms. Dawkins made the motion to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Wilkins. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

**Mr. Blackwell made a motion to direct the administration to file a formal complaint with the South Carolina Department of Education against Employee A and Employee B for Breach of Contract, seconded by Mr. Sarratt. Mrs. Gallman recused from voting for Employee B. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

**Mr. Sarratt made a motion to sustain the Superintendent's decision to suspend Employee C for three days without pay, seconded by Mrs. Gallman. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

Personnel recommendations was the next item on the agenda under the Superintendent's Report. **Mrs. Gallman made a motion that the Board accept the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendation Version 1, seconded by Mr. Blackwell. Trustees voted unanimously for the motion.**

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

Dr. Fall reminded Board Members of the Adult Education Graduation on Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 pm. **This was presented for information only; no action was necessary.**

Announcements were the next items on the agenda.

Mr. Blackwell did not have a comment.

Mr. Cash did not have a comment.

Mrs. Gallman said, "Special Olympics was great. I attended the Spring Fling at I2 with my grandchildren, and it was an amazing event. It was student-led, so please make sure you attend next year. I also want to highlight Madison Kenneth on her invitation to be a speaker at the AVID Summer Institute. It was a great presentation tonight from Dr. Blanton and the students."

Mr. Sarratt said, "Thank you to everyone for the job you are doing. It is our job to move our county forward for our kids. We have to have the funds in order for that to happen. "

Mr. Wilkins did not have a comment.


Mrs. Shippy did not have a comment.

Mrs. Shackelford said, "I enjoyed the presentation from Dr. Blanton tonight. The AVID numbers blow my mind that they have 100% college acceptance and receiving scholarships. Congratulations to those who received awards."

Ms. Dawkins said, "Thank you to Reverend Wray for your call to duty. For us as a Board, we have to do better for all our kids. Hopefully what we did here tonight with the millage increase, guarantees us that our teachers, professionals, and administrators will get us on the road to making changes. I look forward to seeing a great change in the Cherokee County School District."

Dr. Nix said, "Thank you to everyone for your time and efforts and your sincere meaning and intent for our school district and our students."

Dr. Nix called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Sarratt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.



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Mr. Johnny Sarratt, Jr., Secretary

APPROVED BY:



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Dr. Mark Nix, Chairman