CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, September 17, 2020

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020 in the Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility, 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, Georgia. The meeting was conducted in person and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were: School Board Chair Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chair Kelly Poole; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and, Attorney Darrell Caudill.

Call to Order

The call to order by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Creekview HS student Brinn Dameron.

Kelly Poole shared remarks and a brief video about the importance for our community to complete the 2020 census.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's agenda (*7-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Clark Menard seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 20, 2020 School Board Meeting *(7-0 vote).*

Consent Agenda

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Mike Chapman seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public signed up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District High School Seniors Named 2021 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District's 2020 Volunteer of the Year Honorees

(Recognized)

A-3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District's Georgia PTA Reflections Winners

(Recognized)

***A-4. School Board Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Constitution Week**

(Approved)

B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS/STUDENT ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Member Comments:

- Congratulated CCSD 2020 Class for SAT scores that averaged higher than the Nation and the State of Georgia
- Thanked CCSD for pursuing grants that allow free meals for all students through December 2020
- Shared the School Board will continue to make their requests known in support of waivers for standardized testing which aligns with the GaDOE, and remarked the basic needs of students/teachers should come first before test taking
- Asked the Superintendent if CCSD plans to designate teachers as essential employees, and he responded that he did not feel it right to insist teachers report who had a contact risk but were non-symptomatic, thus becoming a potential health risk in the classroom.
- Expressed concerns regarding the hybrid model currently in place for three of our high schools:
    - Hybrid questioned as a desirable instructional delivery model
    - Hybrid raises issues with equitability when all schools not utilizing the same instructional delivery model
    - Hybrid can potentially negatively impact student grades

- The Superintendent was asked about the decision to move to a hybrid model for three of our high schools and he responded as follows:
    - We were close to closing schools completely and moving to a virtual model only as recommended by the Department of Public Health
    - Hybrid model allows affected schools the opportunity to quarantine students so they can get healthy
    - The model significantly reduces the number of students required to quarantine through contact tracing
    - This is a temporary solution, not permanent and not the preferred model when compared to the fulltime in-person instructional delivery model
- Congratulated the District in securing a lower interest rate for TAN than in previous years
- Remarked that we were the first major school district to open, and while there may have been some potholes along the way, very proud that most of our students are face to face.
- Commended the School Board for working together to keep students in schools

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of August 2020 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)**

(Approved)

E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

***F-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Monthly Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

(Approved)

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

***G-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Recommendations, Resignations, Terminations of Employment and Transfers for Certified and Classified Personnel**

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*** I-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. for October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021**

(Approved)

Informational Items:

- CCSD Safety and Security Enhancements (Centegix) Update
- Speed Detection Cameras
- Mountain Ed Charter HS Open House September 30 @ 1:30 p.m.
- New Leadership Coaching Endorsement
- Georgia General Assembly likely not convening this Fall in a special session

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Student Discipline Matter *(O.C.G.A.*

Section 20-2-757) and a Real Estate Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))* at 8:37 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

Upon return to open session, motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to Uphold the findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal Panel for Tribunal #20-174572 *(7-0 vote).*

Motion was made by John Harmon, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a real estate contract for the potential sale of property, denoted as 20-B, at an undisclosed location and amount *(7-0 vote).*

The School Board adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on Thursday, Sept 17. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

✓ To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)

____ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)

✓ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))

____ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))

____ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 17th day of September, 2020.

Renee Coleman

Sworn to and subscribed before
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: Dec. 6, 2021

RENEE COLEMAN NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES DECEMBER 06, 2021

Kyla Clower