CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, March 18, 2021

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

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021 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 Robert Rechsteiner; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Clark Menard and Kelly Poole; Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and, Attorney Tom Roach.

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 River Ridge HS student Simran Patel.

Ms. Cromer also initiated a moment of silence in honor/memory of the shooting victims in Cherokee County and Atlanta earlier in the week.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Patsy Jordan, who recognized the 2021 Cherokee County Educational Foundation Alumni of the Year honorees, Carolyn Turner and the Honorable Jackson Harris.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (*7-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Mike Chapman seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the February 11, 2021 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. School Board Recognition of CCSD Overall Winners of 2021 Support Staff Employees of the Year Awards

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2021 Media Specialist of the Year: Amanda Graves of E.T. Booth Middle School

(Recognized)

A-3. School Board Recognition of River Ridge High School Senior Riley Herrick -- Georgia Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest Winner

(Recognized)

A-4. School Board Recognition of Creekland Middle School Seventh-grader Abigail Moore -- Third-place Winner in the National Humanities Bee

(Recognized)

A-5. School Board Recognition of the Girls and Boys Middle School Basketball County Champions

(Recognized)

A-6. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association County Champions

(Recognized)

A-7. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions

(Recognized)

A-8. School Board Recognition of School Board Members During School Board Member Appreciation Week

(Recognized)

***A-9. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of the Partnership Agreement with Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame "**

(Approved)

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

School Board Member Comments:

- Highlighted the importance of CCSD's successful continuation of annual events and competitions such as the Spelling Bee, Support Staff Employee of the Year, Media Specialist of the Year and other virtual recognition events occurring this year
- Expressed gratitude for the detail contained in the Five-Year Facility Plan and excitement relative to proposed CCSD projects outlined by the plan
- USDA Grant for student meals is being extended nationwide to families through September 2021
    - Special thanks to the Office of Financial Management and the School Nutrition Department for coordinating these meal distributions
- Success of Vaccination Event that served more than 2,300 CCSD employees
    - Gratitude extended to the Office of School Operations (particularly school nurses), Georgia National Guard and the North Georgia Health Department for partnering to coordinate this two-day event
- Commented about the recent School Board luncheon at Creekland MS and the enthusiasm and dedication that the administrative team exhibits. Also noted were District administrator's plans for utilizing the 125 additional allotments to address learning interventions in the coming school year.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of February 2021 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of FY2021 Budget Amendment I**

(Approved)

E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

***E-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

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

(Approved)

***F-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt the Georgia Department of Education Resolution Indicating Approval of the School District's Five-Year Facility Plan for 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 SY2021-22 Attendance Area Map Correction**

(Approved)

- **Executive Session**
  -- Personnel Matter

Superintendent Comments:

- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of five Assistant Principals: Clark Creek ES Jonathan Hall and Susan Selover, Creekview HS Chuck Wilson, Liberty ES Rad Dixon and Mill Creek MS Paul Jones
- Recognized the SY2021-22 appointment of Mountain Road Principal Erica Morrie
- Recognized the SY2021-22 appointment of Administrators on Assignment Cecelia Lewis, Student Services (DEI) and Ashley McElmore, Title I
- Recognized 10 new Assistant Principal assignments for SY2021-22
- Recognized the School Board and their vision and dedication to the stakeholders of CCSD

Informational Items:

- Updated plans for High School Graduation Ceremonies as follows:
    - In-person ceremonies at FBCW following traditional schedule;
    - It will be a ticketed event, with each graduate provided up to four tickets;
    - Additional information forthcoming from Principals.
- Prom and End-of-Year Events:
    - High Schools will offer a senior-centric social celebration to be held on school campus;
    - All CCSD schools will hold various end-of-year activities that adhere to social distance guidelines;
    - Principals will communicate additional details in the near future;
    - Maintaining a goal of keeping our communities healthy so COVID-19 does not impact critical AP and end-of-year testing and graduation ceremonies.
- AP Honors and HS Graduation Rates:
    - Exams passage rate leads the Metro area and continues to exceed National and State averages;
    - Rigor of these courses prepares students for college;
    - AP Academic Pathway completers have 99.7 graduation rate.
- Digital Learning Model Options for SY2021-2022 outlined with the following details:
    - Grades K-5 students will have the same model as in SY2020-21;
    - Grades 3-5 will be the same model as in SY2020-21, however students may have more than one teacher for different content areas;
    - Grades 6-12 will be an improved version of the current model;

        - APEX platform will not be used in SY2021-22, as teachers will utilize a blended learning model to deliver instruction to students.
    - Separate from Digital Learning; Edgenuity will be utilized for iGrad, a Virtual Academy model beginning in the Fall.
    - Community, Teachers and School Board Members feedback has been used to develop the best educational models for our students.
    - Cares Act III Funding will be utilized to increase instructional interventions and decrease classroom sizes.
- Legislative Updates for 2021:
    - 60% of FY21 austerity cuts were restored and the K-12 public education funding contained within the Governor's FY22 proposed budget currently remains at that same level.
    - Several Education bills of interest being followed, such as HB60 and SB47.
    - Chair of the House Education Appropriations Committee seeking a partnership to allow teachers to live-steam AP and STEM course instruction into rural GA school districts.

- Provided a COVID-19 Update, including the following:
    - Current case and quarantines totals for the county and the school district;
    - Decreased spread in the community;
    - A few schools remain areas of concern because of cases counts and/or quarantines;
    - Community is currently experiencing a decline in cases and positive test rates;
    - Close contact quarantines are mandated by the GA Department of Public Health.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6)) at 8:59 p.m. (*7-0 vote).*

The School Board did not return to Open Session.

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School Board Chair Secretary