CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 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 John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Clark Menard and Kelly Poole; Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Darrell Caudill. School Board Member Mike Chapman was not in attendance.

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 Etowah High School Student Emily Collins.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kelly Poole.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by John Harmon seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended amended agenda *(6-0 vote)*.

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Clark Menard seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 19, 2021 School Board Meeting *(6-0 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 *(6-0 vote)*.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District Police Department for Earning State Certified Agency Renewal

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Indian Knoll Elementary School as a 2021-22 Microsoft Showcase School

(Recognized)

A-3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2021-22 Lead Innovation Zone Principals

(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:

- School Board Chair recognized CCSD High Schools, and feeder schools, for student success in exceeding National and State averages on SAT scores.
- School Board Chair asked the Superintendent to comment on plans for Education SPLOST renewal.
    - **Superintendent's Response:**
        - The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax is up for renewal by voters in the November 2 election. Early voting begins on October 12.
        - CCSD will use the 1-percent Education SPLOST to fund capital improvement projects, technology upgrades, bus purchases and future property acquisitions.
        - Capital improvements will include replacement facilities for Cherokee HS and Free Home ES; classroom additions at Creekland MS and Creekview

HS, Oak Grove ES and Woodstock HS; and auxiliary gymnasiums at Creekview HS and River Ridge HS.

- The Education SPLOST provides an alternative option to raising property tax millage rates by creating revenue that is collected through a sales tax that everyone, including many visitors to our county, pays based on consumption of goods and services.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

***C-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Modifications to School Board Policy (IFBG) Internet Acceptable Use - - on Final Reading**

(Approved)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

(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)

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

Superintendent Comments:

- Recognized Dr. Adrian Thomason's retirement and his dedication to the CCSD community throughout his career.

Informational Items:

- Operational Updates:
  - The community and CCSD are currently experiencing a decline in COVID-19 cases and positive test rates. While Metro-Atlanta media is reporting that school cases are accounting for about 60% of cases in the area, CCSD cases are only accounting for approximately 28% of our county's cases.
  - CCSD is currently at a teacher substitute fill rate of between 87-89 percent w/o any Central Office support, placing the county in the normal range for the week. Along with the increased compensation for substitute teachers, the Office of Human Resources is continuing to increase the available substitute pool through multiple workshops.
  - Because of low employment/sub rates in school-site School Nutrition (SN) workers, an additional compensation study was completed this week. This has resulted in the Superintendent immediately authorizing increased pay for Full-Time SN workers, Part-Time SN workers, Substitute SN Workers and Cafeteria Monitors. These FY2022 increases will be covered through increased student participation rates (up to over 20% from pre-COVID participation rates) and the current Federal Government reimbursement program.

- Because of low fill rates in school-site After-School Programs (ASPs) and Instructional Extension Programs (ExPs), an additional compensation study was completed this week. This has resulted in the Superintendent authorizing additional compensation for workers in both programs. These increases will be FY2022 budget neutral, with costs covered by student participation (in ASP) and Federal grants monies (in ExP).
- SAT results have been released and show growth to CCSD scores, which continue to outpace National and State averages. Additionally, all six CCSD High Schools exceeded National and State averages and their scores are within 24 points of one another.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary