CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, December 09, 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, December 09, 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 High School Student Brian Bradley

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kelly Poole.

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Clark Menard seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the November 18, 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 John Harmon and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. School Board Recognition of CCSD Overall Winners of 2022 Support Staff Employees of the Year Awards

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Teasley Middle School as a Georgia Department of Education Family School Partnership Competition Winner

(Recognized)

A-3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School Board as 2021 Georgia Leading Edge Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-4. School Board Recognition of the Cherokee County School District as Winner of the Georgia 2021 Governance Team of the Year Award

(Recognized)

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

***B-1. School Board Adoption of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2022 Legislative and Policy Priorities**

***B-2. School Board Consideration of Adoption of Resolution Regarding Proposed School Board Member District Reapportionment Map**

School Board Member Comments:

- A School Board Member wanted to address a syllabus concern that was raised by a Public Speaker in November.
  - Board Members expressed full support of the Professionals working in our schools.
- In addition, stakeholders were reminded that approved raises and bonuses for employees are not included in School Board Members' compensations.
- The School Board Chair shared Student Advisory Group discussions from the GSBA Conference.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

***D-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Financial Consultants to Prepare, Price and Tentatively Market the Sale of General Obligation Bonds for Voter-Approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Education (Ed-SPLOST) Projects**

(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 for Approval of the Special Lease Agreements**

(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 Cherokee County School District for earning Governance Team of the Year Award, and that this honor recognizes our School Board in addition to every CCSD employee; our PTA, School Councils and other valued parent volunteers; and community and business partners.
    - The full "Evidence of Success" report referenced by the Superintendent will be available on our website.
- Congratulated the School Board for receiving the Georgia School Board Association's -- Leading-Edge Award -- in recognition of our SEL initiative.
    - This important work is being recognized tonight - SEL helps kids learn the resilience needed to overcome life's challenges and provides critically needed support. The staff members recognized here tonight help those individuals most at risk for harming themselves and harming others.
- Due to conservative fiscal planning, the School Board will borrow less than authorized -- $99 Million instead of $115 Million – and instead issue 10-year bonds, as opposed to a longer period, and avoid an extension of the current timeline for repaying CCSD's bond debt.

Informational Items:

- Curriculum Update:
    - A member of the Superintendent's Cabinet stated that CCSD stakeholders have a reason to celebrate after sharing outstanding student passage rates and continued expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) programs at each of our six high schools. These rigorous courses have sharpened students'

writing skills, teach them how to think critically and improve their problem-solving abilities;
    - Balanced literacy begins in elementary school. Students engage in learning that focuses on reading, thinking critically and communicating effectively. The structure that is used in CCSD schools will help students become independent learners. Regardless of their path, we need our graduates to be able to think critically.

- COVID 19 Update:
    - The School District has numbers that are lower than what was experienced at the beginning of the school year.
        - CCSD has been able to open school on time for the last two years. School Administrators and Lead Nurses were recognized for their continued work that has been a large part of our success.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Student Discipline matters (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) and a Pending Litigation Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2)* at 8:39 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to return to Open Session at 9:12 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

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 #21-165813, *(7-0 vote*).

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Uphold the Findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal panel for 21-147328, *(7-0 vote*).

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to Modify the Findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal panel for Tribunal #21-170484, *(7-0 vote)*.

The School Board adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary