CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, January 15, 2015

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, January 15, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Parth Patel, Student Advisor to the School Board.

Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.

Swearing-in Ceremony

School Board Members Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner were sworn in by the Probate Judge Keith Wood.

Organizational Meeting

School Board Attorney Tom Roach presided over a brief organizational meeting for the selection of the 2015 School Board Vice-Chair. Patsy Jordan was selected as School Board Vice-Chair.

Adopt 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 Kyla Cromer seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the December 4, 2014 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 Clark Menard seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public signed-up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Cherokee HS Principal Debra Murdock – National Advisory Council Appointment

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Etowah HS Senior Katherine Morawa for Hispanic Heritage Foundation Award

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Etowah HS Football Program for Achieving CCSD's First-Ever State Football Semi-Final Appearance

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize 2014-15 Reinhardt University/CCSD Mathematics Tournament Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

A-6. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Establishment of Investing in Educational Excellence (IE^2) Contract with Georgia Board of Education

(Approved)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon and carried, to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Establishment of Investing in Educational Excellence (IE^2) Contract with Georgia Board of Education, *(7-0 vote).*

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

B-1. Board Adoption of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2015 Legislative Program

(Approved)

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, to Adopt the Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2015 Legislative Program *(7-0 vote).*

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to Approve Mike Chapman to Serve as the School Board's Representative on the GEC *(7-0 vote).*

B-2. Board Recognition of New and Returning School Board Members, Their Families and Supporters

B-3. Board Recognition of Parth Patel, Student Advisor to the School Board

B-4. Board Recognition of Recent Regional Academic Bowl Tournament Held at Creekland MS

B-5. Board Recognition of Staff Efforts During Recent Cold Weather Events

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of November 2014 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

***H-1. Board Approval of Purchase of Property for Future CCSD Use**

(Approved)

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Parth Patel to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

January 15, 2015: Strategic Work Session and Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015 welcomed three new Board members, including a former Chairman, and took the next step toward building a long-needed replacement administration building.

Mike Chapman, former longtime Board member and Chairman, was sworn into office after last year's election to a four-year term, as were new members John Harmon and Clark Menard. Board Members Kyla Cromer and Rick Steiner also were sworn in to begin new four-year terms after winning their bids for office.

"We all have one thing in common," School Board Chair Janet Read said in her remarks to introduce and welcome the new and returning Board members. "We ran for this job to do what's best for the 40,000 students in the School District."

The new and returning Board members and Ms. Read also elected Board Member Patsy Jordan, who is beginning the third year of her term, to serve as this year's Vice Chair.

The Board during the regular meeting unanimously approved the purchase of 217 acres on Highway 108 north of Highway 20 (Knox Bridge Highway) in west Cherokee County for $1.05 Million. The size of the property would enable development of a multi-school campus, which could include an elementary, middle and high school configuration or a middle and high school configuration.

There currently are no elementary schools west of Knox Elementary School at River Green and no middle or high schools, and future significant growth is anticipated in the area. The price per acre, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo noted, also is extraordinarily less than what it would have cost to buy this property prior to the economic downturn, and much less than what it will cost once development resumes.

During the Strategic Work Session prior the Board meeting, presentations were made by School District staff on topics including early indications for 2015-16 budget funding and education-related legislation anticipated during the Georgia General Assembly session now underway.

Dr. Petruzielo also shared with the Board an update on plans for the School District replacement administration building in downtown Canton. Voters have approved this project in each of the three Educational SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) referenda since 2001, but Dr.

Petruzielo consistently has postponed it due to critical school construction needs. The project was added in August to the School District's five-year facility plan.

"After successfully building dozens of new and replacement schools on time and within budget in order to bring the School District up to modern standards and meet exploding enrollment, we're now in the position where we must address the administration infrastructure needs we've long delayed," Dr. Petruzielo said. "This is a practical decision to increase efficiency by staff and decrease operating costs."

The project would replace the administration buildings known as "Building A" and "Building B" in downtown Canton, with a single building on the same footprint. Building B, a former elementary school that was renovated more than 30 years ago for office use with no preservation of historic details, has been closed for six years due to structural, safety and health concerns. The basement level of the two-floor Building A, which always has been used for private or school district offices, was closed shortly after due to similar concerns. As a result of these closures, several departments and more than 100 employees were relocated to schools and other facilities.

Both buildings recently were assessed by architects and engineers, who determined that the cost to renovate Buildings A and B – including the removal of asbestos, lead paint, mold and mildew and construction in compliance with Americans Disabilities Act standards and current code -- would exceed $14 Million, be very time-consuming and would not accommodate the return of all staff; whereas construction of a new three-story facility that would accommodate all staff would cost $9.9 Million and could be completed by the fall of 2016. The new facility not only would allow for the return of relocated employees, but also would accommodate training facilities that would regularly bring 50-100 employees from throughout the county to downtown Canton for professional development.

The replacement project also would include additional CCSD staff parking, as well as new public parking on the street on Academy Street and would allow the City of Canton to continue to use the CCSD lot on the corner of Archer and W. Marietta Streets for public parking.

Board Members will be asked to take several votes in the coming months on the project to approve proposals for site preparation and construction, and members made their support clear during the work session.

Ms. Read said it would be "misleading" for people to look at the buildings' exteriors and judge that the buildings are safe or worth preserving, noting that she and other Board members recently toured the closed facilities and saw the deplorable conditions and lack of historic significance.

"The best decision fiscally would be to start over," she said.

Dr. Petruzielo said he knows that some in the community would like the School District to preserve the buildings as they did with the Historic Canton High School/Building C project more than 15 years ago, but that is not in the taxpayers' best interest.

"The School District's priority cannot be preservation of older buildings," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the School District is supportive of opportunities when they are in the taxpayers' best interest such as the donation more than 15 years ago of the Historic Rock Barn to the Cherokee County Historical Society. "Our mission is teaching and learning, and, while we must have administrative infrastructure in order to meet that mission, we must be fiscally conservative when it comes to the construction of those facilities."

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Cherokee High School Principal Debra Murdock for her appointment to the National Association of Student Councils' National Advisory Council;

- Recognized Etowah High School senior Katherine Morawa for winning the Hispanic Heritage Foundation 2014 Regional Youth Gold Award in the Education category;

- Recognized the Etowah High School football program for achieving the School District's first-ever football State Semi-Final appearance, Coach David Svehla as County and Region Coach of the Year and players for First-Team All-Region and First-Team All-State honors;

- Recognized the River Ridge High School volleyball team and coaches as Area Champions and a State Final Four team;

- Approved adoption of a resolution supporting the School District's intent to establish an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE^2) performance-based contract with the Georgia Department of Education;

- Approved adoption of the Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2015 Legislative Priorities and for Mr. Chapman to represent the Board on the Coalition;

- Approved monthly financial reports;

- Approved out-of-state professional development;

- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;

- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects; and,

- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Feb. 5, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, February 5, 2015

EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:00 P.M.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Motion made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter at 6:00 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

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, February 5, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Kyla Cromer.

Parth Patel provided a brief inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the January 15, 2015 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 Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed-up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

***A-1. Board Approval of Resolution Proclaiming March 3, 2015 as "PTA Day in Cherokee County Schools"**

(Approved)

A-2. Recognize Kevin Higgins as Region 7-AAAAA Athletic Director of the Year

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Regional Technology Fair

B-2. Board Recognition of National Signing Day Event

B-3. Board Recognition of School Board/Superintendent Lunch at Carmel ES

B-4. Board Recognition of GridIron Club Banquet

B-5. Board Recognition of Women's Day in Sports Event

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of December 2014 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Financial Consultants to Prepare, Price and Tentatively Market the Sale of General Obligation Bonds for Voter-Approved SPLOST Construction Projects**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Capital Outlay Project: New/Replacement Educational Services Facility in Downtown Canton, Which Includes Demolition of Buildings A & B

[Tabled until the School Board's next (March 19, 2015) meeting]

Fifteen members of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to Agenda Item I-1.

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried to Table Agenda Item I-1 with the additional language that a design input meeting will be held by the Superintendent, CCSD staff, the project architect and one representative each from the Cherokee County Historical Society, Canton City Council and Canton Downtown Development Authority. Ideas suggested by these representatives would be incorporated into the new/replacement administrative building design -- as long as they do not extend the projected construction timeframe or significantly increase cost. *(7-0 vote)*

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to Authorize the Superintendent and his staff:

- until the next (March 19) Board meeting, to utilize that time to conduct their usual and customary due diligence and to negotiate a contract for an acceptable land swap with the City of Canton, with the caveat that the Superintendent will only present and recommend a contract to the School Board if the offered property meets School District needs; and,
- to advertise for and accept sealed bids for the purchase of Buildings A & B and the property on which they sit, with such bids due prior to the March 19 meeting. *(7-0 vote)*

An executive session will be scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 19, so that the Board can review a proposed contract and/or the sealed bids and make a determination as to whether either of these options is in the best interest of the School District, students and taxpayers.

***I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2015-16 Organizational Chart**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Parth Patel to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

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 2/5/2015. 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 5th day of February, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

Janet S Read
Patsy Jordan
Michael Chapman
Kyle Stromer

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

February 5, 2015: Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 agreed to consider two more options in addition to the original plan to build a long-needed replacement administration building in downtown Canton.

Since Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo last month announced his recommendation to replace Buildings A and B with a larger building and associated parking in order to reunify 150 employees from various departments in one facility, two proposals have been made in regard to the property.

The City of Canton on Wednesday night sent the School Board and Superintendent a proposal to swap some of its 20 acres at The Bluffs office/technology park in exchange for Buildings A and B and the property on which they sit. This proposal follows the recent offer made by the Cherokee County Historical Society to purchase Buildings A and B and the property for $300,000.

After meeting in Executive Session, the School Board unanimously voted to wait on approving the original recommendation to allow three steps to take place prior to its next meeting on March 19:

- The Superintendent, CCSD staff and the project architect will hold a design input meeting to hear suggestions from one representative each from the Cherokee County Historical Society, Canton City Council and Canton Downtown Development Authority. Ideas suggested by these representatives would be incorporated into the new/replacement administrative building design -- as long as they do not extend the projected construction timeframe or significantly increase cost;

- The Superintendent and his staff will conduct their usual and customary due diligence and negotiate a contract for an acceptable land swap with the City of Canton, with the caveat that the Superintendent will only present and recommend a contract to the School Board if the offered property meets CCSD needs; and,

- CCSD will advertise for and accept sealed bids for the purchase of Buildings A and B and the property on which they sit, with such bids due on a date prior to the March 19 meeting.

An Executive Session, which is closed to the public, will be held at 6 p.m. March 19, during which the Board will review the proposed contract and bids. The School Board, during its regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m., then will consider the options of the original recommendation, the contract with the City or selling the property to one of the bidders.

During its Feb. 5 regular meeting, the School Board heard from 15 public speakers: eight Cherokee County residents indicated when they signed in to speak that they were in favor of replacing Buildings A and B with a new administrative building; and seven – six Cherokee residents and one Tennessee resident – spoke against the proposal.

Several speakers showed satellite photos from the Internet to argue there is enough room on CCSD's downtown property to preserve Buildings A and/or B and construct a replacement building.

Dr. Petruzielo said it's important for the public to understand that the site does not include enough buildable land to allow for the preservation of either building in addition to construction of the planned 75,000-square-foot building, associated 200 parking spaces and required site work. While land often may appear on the surface to be entirely buildable, there can be mitigating factors such as bedrock and storm water infrastructure requirements. Additionally, Dr. Petruzielo said he would "never" recommend that the School Board consider the suggestion made by some speakers that CCSD purchase neighboring homes and evict those families in order to gain more buildable land.

The speakers against the proposal, including Historical Society representatives, spoke largely about the importance of preserving historic buildings. The speakers who support the project, including downtown merchants and CCSD parents, spoke about the positive impact it would have on their businesses and the concern it wouldn't be prudent for CCSD to spend $14 Million to renovate buildings that would not produce enough space to reunify administrative offices instead of spending $9.9 Million to build a new facility that would meet its needs.

Dr. Petruzielo, who did not comment during the meeting, said he still feels very strongly that his original recommendation is "in the best interest of the School District, its students and the taxpayers who have entrusted the School Board to be good stewards of public resources. Approving this recommendation will: reunify our central administrative staff to increase productivity and efficiency; reduce operating costs; and allow continued use of property we already own… including the site of Buildings A and B, the office space in Building C and in this auditorium, as well as associated parking lots."

Voters approved the project in each of the three Educational SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) referenda since 2001, but Dr. Petruzielo consistently has postponed it due to critical school construction needs… which have included the construction and/or renovation of dozens of schools to keep up with enrollment growth, replace older facilities and remove portable classrooms.

The project was added in August to CCSD's five-year facility plan. Building B has been closed for six years following a Federal Office of Civil Rights complaint related to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards; it also poses structural, safety and health concerns that would require the removal of asbestos, lead paint, mold and mildew and significant structural improvements to meet ADA and current codes. The basement level of the two-floor Building A also was closed six years ago due to similar concerns.

As a result of these closures, more than 100 employees were relocated to schools and other facilities. The new/replacement administration building would reunify displaced staff with the existing staff on the downtown campus for a total of 150 employees, plus an additional 50 to 100 employees from throughout the County would regularly visit the campus for professional development.

Dr. Petruzielo added that he also supports the School Board's decision to allow time for review of the City's offer, as well as any sealed bids, noting that "these may be viable options that should not be dismissed out of hand without investigation and consideration."

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Approved resolution proclaiming March 3, 2015 as “PTA Day in Cherokee County Schools;”
- Recognized Creekview HS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Kevin Higgins as Region 7AAAAA Athletic Director of the Year;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved the sale of general obligation bonds for voter-approved Education SPLOST construction projects;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and
- Approved the 2015-16 Organizational Chart.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. March 19, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, March 19, 2015

EXECUTIVE SESSION
5:30 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Motion made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter at 5:30 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

The Board returned to open session at 7:00 p.m.

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 19, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Pet ruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Parth Patel, Student Advisor to the School Board.

A brief inspirational video was provided by Hickory Flat ES PTA.

Adopt Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by John Harmon seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the February 5, 2015 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 Robert Rechsteiner seconded by John Harmon and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed-up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize School Board Members during School Board Member Appreciation Week

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Clark Creek ES STEM Academy as 2015 Georgia Project WET School of the Year

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize CCSD's 2014-15 All State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Members

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize 2014-15 Etowah HS Science Olympiad Team Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

***A-6. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve New Partnership Agreement**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Approval of Naming of Delegate for 2015 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly *[Janet Read]*

(Approved)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to Approve Robert Rechsteiner as Delegate for 2015 GSBA Delegate Assembly *(7-0 vote).*

B-2. Board Recognition of Holly Springs ES STEM Academy and Sandi Adams, CCSD Technology Project Specialist, as a Microsoft Innovators Educators

B-3. Board Recognition of Science Olympiad Program

B-4. Board Recognition of Cherokee County Educational Foundation Gala

B-5. Board Recognition of Bascomb ES for "Georgia On My Mind"

B-6. Board Recognition of Parth Patel, Student Advisor to the School Board, for Recent Achievements in Robotics

B-7. Board Recognition of CCSD Partner and Volunteer of the Year Reception

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of January 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Capital Outlay Project: New/Replacement Educational Services Facility in Downtown Canton, Which Includes Demolition of Buildings A & B *[as Amended to Reflect School Board Actions Taken at the February 5, 2015 School Board Meeting*

Three members of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to Agenda Item I-1.

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Clark Menard and failed to Approve Capital Outlay Project: New/Replacement Educational Services Facility in Downtown Canton, Which Includes Demolition of Buildings A & B *(1-6 vote; Cromer, Harmon, Jordan, Menard, Read and Rechsteiner dissented)*

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to Amend Agenda Item I-1 to reflect an alternative action item relative to approval of the "Governmental Real Property Exchange Agreement" which was approved at the Canton City Council's March 17, 2015 called meeting. As described in the agreement (and attached Exhibits "A" and "B"), the School Board agrees to exchange ownership of School Board property known as Buildings A and B and associated contiguous property for ownership of City of Canton property on the Bluffs Parkway and to reject demolition proposals and purchase offers in this regard. *(7-0 vote).*

I-2. Board Consideration of Proposals for Demolition of Administrative Building "B" in Downtown Canton

(Rejected as part of amended I-1 motion and subsequent vote.)

I-3. Board Consideration of Proposals for Demolition of Administrative Building "A" in Downtown Canton

(Rejected as part of amended I-1 motion and subsequent vote.)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4)]* and student discipline matters *[O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757]* at 8:20 p.m. *(7-0 vote). See attached affidavit.*

The Board returned to open session at 8:53 p.m.

Real Estate Matter:
Motion was made by John Harmon, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to Approve the Sale of Original R.M. Moore ES to Stanley Townsend for $150,000 *(7-0 vote)*

Student Discipline Matter 15-78877*:*
Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Janet Read and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel hearing *(7-0 vote).*

Student Discipline Matter 15-82735:
Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel hearing *(7-0 vote).*

Motion was made by Janet Read to adjourn at 8:54 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 March 19, 2015 5:30. 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 or sale 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 19 day of March, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

Janet S. Read
Kyle Cromer
Patsy Jordan

FRP/MW: 3/24/15

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 March 19, 2015 8:32pm. 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 or sale 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 19 day of March, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

Janet S Read
Kyla Cromer
Patsy Jordan

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

March 19, 2015: Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, March 19, 2015 unanimously approved a land swap agreement with the City of Canton to build the new/replacement Cherokee County School District administration building in The Bluffs at Technology Park.

The agreement calls for the School District to give Buildings A and B and the property they sit on in downtown Canton to the City of Canton in exchange for 16 acres of City-owned property at The Bluffs that is across from the Cherokee County government's administration building north of RiverStone Plaza.

After Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo earlier this year recommended the School Board replace Buildings A and B with a larger building and associated parking on the same site in order to reunify 150 employees from various departments in one more cost-effective facility, the Board received the land swap offer and two bids for purchasing the downtown property.

Board Member Mike Chapman, who has long championed the need for the new/replacement building to be constructed in downtown Canton, initially motioned on Thursday for the Board to approve the original recommendation. After that failed to pass, Board Member Kyla Cromer motioned for the Board to accept the land swap offer, which received unanimous approval, including Mr. Chapman.

"This option is the second-best option, and I support the Board," he said.

School Board Chair Janet Read and other Board Members thanked the Superintendent, his staff and the School Board Attorney for the considerable amount of additional work they completed prior to Thursday's meeting to provide them with significant information about the three options.

"We had the best information given to us, so we could go through this step by step," Ms. Cromer said.

School Board Member Clark Menard spoke about the option evaluation process, noting it was an "amazingly hard decision" that all the Board members gave "thoughtful consideration" including reviewing public input. Three citizens spoke at Thursday's meeting against the School Board demolishing Buildings A and B in order to build downtown.

"We don't take these decisions lightly," Mr. Menard said, adding that it was clear to him the new/replacement building was needed in order to improve operations and make more funding available

for classroom use. What he did not agree with, Mr. Menard said, was that the building needed to be in downtown Canton versus being elsewhere in the county seat such as at The Bluffs.

Once the land swap closes, the next step for the planned CCSD Educational Services Facility will be advertising this spring for proposals from general contractors to build the complex at The Bluffs. Construction could begin as early as this summer, and likely would be completed in about one year.

The School Board on Thursday also approved the sale of the original R.M. Moore Elementary School, which has been closed for many years, to Stanley Townsend for $150,000.

Dr. Petruzielo at the start of the meeting on Thursday night recognized retiring administrators and the administrators being promoted and/or appointed as a result:

- Director of School Operations Ron Dunnavant is retiring, and Cherokee HS Principal Debra Murdock has been appointed to the post, with Sequoyah HS Assistant Principal Todd Miller appointed as Cherokee HS Principal;

- Woodstock HS Principal Dr. Paul Weir has been appointed to fill the Director of School Improvement post vacated earlier this year with the promotion of Susan McCarthy to Assistant Superintendent. Woodstock MS Principal Mark Smith has been appointed as Woodstock HS Principal, with E.T. Booth MS Assistant Principal David Childress appointed as Woodstock MS Principal;

- Supervisor of Special Education Dr. Susan Ritchie is retiring, and Tippens Education Center Administrator Sheryl Gould has been appointed to the post, with Cherokee HS Assistant Principal Kelly Strickland appointed as Tippens EC Administrator;

- Mill Creek MS Principal Elaine Daniel is retiring, and Arnold Mill ES Principal Dr. Kerry Martin has been appointed to the post, with Mill Creek MS Assistant Principal Dan Fuller appointed as Arnold Mill ES Principal;

- Bascomb ES Principal Ruth Flowers is retiring, and Johnston ES Principal Kathleen Chandler has been appointed to the post, with Teasley MS Assistant Principal Amy Graham appointed as Johnston ES Principal;

- Oak Grove ES Fine Arts Academy Principal Les Conley is retiring, and Etowah HS Assistant Principal Penny Valle has been appointed to the post; and,

- Avery ES Pamela Smith has resigned for family reasons, and Holly Springs ES Assistant Principal Lisa Turner has been appointed to the post.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized School Board Members in honor of School Board Member Appreciation Week;
- Recognized Clark Creek ES STEM Academy as 2015 Georgia Project WET School of the Year;
- Recognized CCSD's 2014-15 All State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Members;
- Recognized Etowah HS Science Olympiad Team Winners;
- Recognized State And Region Champions;
- Approved new Partnership Agreement with Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame;
- Approved School Board Member Rick Steiner as the Board's delegate for the 2015 Georgia School Boards Association Delegate Assembly;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects; and,
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. April 16, 2015

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CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, April 16, 2015

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, April 16, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Creekview HS JROTC Cadet Staff Sergeant Billy Cobb.

A brief inspiration was provided by Molly Herring, Student Delegate from River Ridge HS.

Adopt Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the March 19, 2015 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 Clark Menard seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed-up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize 2015 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize 2015 GAE District Spelling Bee Winners

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Cherokee County School District Media Specialists of the Year

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Cherokee County School District Counselors of the Year

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Sandi Adams as Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize Holly Springs ES STEM Academy for Achievement of 100% Microsoft Innovative Educator Certification

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize Creekview HS JROTC Cadet Roxana Maranon for Heroism

(Recognized)

A-8. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Implementation of Milestone Testing Process

B-2. Board Recognition of Hasty ES Fine Arts Academy 10-Year Celebration

B-3. Board Recognition of April 15, 2015 Signing Day Event

B-4. Board Recognition of NSBA Conference and Awards

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of February 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

D-2. Receive Fiscal Year 2013-14 Financial Audit Report Presentation by Independent Auditor

(Received)

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to Receive Fiscal Year 2013-14 Financial Audit Report Presentation by Independent Auditor *(7-0 vote)*.

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Board Approval of Proposed Easement - - Bluffs Parkway Property

(Approved)

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, to Approve Proposed Easement - - Bluffs Parkway Property *(7-0 vote)*.

H-2. Whole Board Training (3 credit hours) Scheduled for 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2015

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approval of Proposed 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 School Calendars**

(Approved)

***I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Special Lease Agreements**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to adjourn to at 8:12 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

Board Briefs for April 16, 2015

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

April 16, 2015: Regular Meeting
The School Board on April 16, 2015 unanimously accepted the audit report for FY2014 from Williamson and Company, which issued a "clean" report with no findings. Auditor Christian Hatch made a presentation to the Board, and noted that the audit showed no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in Financial Statements or Federal Awards.
The School Board also approved school calendars for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. These calendars will be posted on the CCSD website and feature the balanced calendar structure the School District has utilized for more than a decade.
The School Board approved an easement on the property acquired from the City of Canton as part of its land swap agreement approved last month. The easement allows for a better alignment of a common driveway to be shared with a portion of the property retained by the city for a future fire station.
Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo recognized several administrative moves approved as part of the Personnel recommendations.
New Appointments:

- Amanda Fleming, School Nutrition Coordinator
- Judy Withey, Curriculum Coordinator, Language Arts and Social Studies
- Dr. Shannon Carroll, Curriculum Coordinator, Math and Science

Newly Appointed Assistant Principals for 2015-16

- Laura Akers, Little River ES
- Emily Weber, Bascomb ES
- Renee Bernhardt, Teasley MS
- John Carter, Indian Knoll ES
- Dr. Jessica Porter, Holly Springs ES
- Valerie Lowery, Canton ES
- Matthew Swanson, Freedom MS
- Jessica Whitley, Creekview HS
- Dr. Mark Merges, Sequoyah HS
- Neil Howell, Cherokee HS

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized the District and Region Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners;
- Recognized the District GAE Spelling Bee Winners;
- Recognized the CCSD Media Specialists of the Year;
- Recognized the CCSD Counselors of the Year;
- Recognized Sandi Adams as a Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert;
- Recognized Holly Springs ES STEM Academy as the first school in the nation to become 100% Microsoft Innovative Educator certified;
- Recognized Creekview HS JROTC Cadet Roxana Maranon for Heroism;
- Recognized State and Region Champions;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects;

- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and
- Approved special lease agreements.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, May 7, 2015

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, May 7, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach. Chairman Janet Read was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Patsy Jordan was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Woodstock HS student Michael Gustafson.

A brief inspiration was provided by Robert Rechsteiner.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman, seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kyla Cromer seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the April 16, 2015 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 Mike Chapman seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed-up to address the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Students Honored for Participation in 2014-15 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize 2014-15 Georgia Scholars

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize 2014-15 Governor's Honors Finalists

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Kristen Brooks as PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize High School Region and State Technology Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize Creekview High School Students Meghan Nay and Callisa Ruschmeyer, Recipients of Waste Management, Inc. Scholarship

(Recognized)

A-8. Recognize Student Recipient of Award of Excellence by Georgia Department of Education

(Recognized)

A-9. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Resolution Regarding 2015-16 Class Size Exemptions

(Recognized)

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Clark Menard, and carried to Adopt Proposed Resolution Regarding 2015-16 Class Size Exemptions *(6-0 vote)*.

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week

B-2. Board Recognition of Special Olympics

B-3. Board Recognition of YMCA Snack Wars Program

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of March 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Hairnet Bid**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 7:56 p.m. *(6-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:10 p.m.

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by John Harmon and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 15-148336 *(6-0 vote). See attached affidavit.*

(Upheld)

The Board adjourned at 8:11 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 May 7, 2015. 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 7th day of May, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

May 7, 2015: Regular Meeting

The School Board approved a resolution for Class Size Exemptions for the 2015-16 school year; but, despite the adoption of the waiver resolution, CCSD expects average class sizes to decrease across all grade levels next year, fulfilling a budget priority of the Superintendent and School Board.

Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo explained that, as the School District is in the process of applying to the State to become a Strategic Waiver System (formerly known as "IE2"), the waivers will be needed for flexibility in regard to the 2015-16 budget, which is in the final stages of preparation. To bring all class sizes into state maximum compliance would require the School District to hire 170 additional teachers.

"Without waivers next year, we would have to hire 170 teachers, at a cost of $12 Million, to bring every classroom across the district into compliance," said Dr. Petruzielo. "The irony is that $12 Million is also the same amount of money we have earned in state revenue next year and will not receive due to continued State 'austerity' budget cuts.

"We hope that the rest of the austerity budget cuts go away for 2016-17, and that we receive all the funding we have earned," Dr. P continued. "But, the state is likely to revise the funding formula, which may result in a 'new normal' where our state funding is $12 Million less—on a permanent basis."

Grade Level	2014-15 Class Size Average*	Class Size State Maximums	Class Size Maximums with Waiver	Projected 2015-16 Class Size Average	Class Size Difference from 2014-15 to 2015-16
Kindergarten	23.7	20	26	22.4	-1.3
1st Grade	24.9	21	28	22.7	-2.2
2nd Grade	24.8	21	28	22.9	-1.9
3rd Grade	24.7	21	28	23.7	-1.0
4th Grade	30.6	28	35	28.4	-2.2
5th Grade	30.7	28	35	28.5	-2.2
6th – 8th Grade	29.7	28	35	27.4	-2.3
9th – 12th Grade	33.1	32	35	31.5	-1.6

** as of August 29, 2014*

Dr. Petruzielo recognized two new administrative appointments approved as part of the Personnel recommendations.

New Appointments:

- Jennifer Hall, Assistant Principal at Ball Ground ES STEM Academy
- Jillian Nichols, Assistant Principal at Clark Creek ES STEM Academy

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized the 2015 Duke Talent Identification Program students who received State and Grand level recognition;
- Recognized 2015 Georgia Scholars;
- Recognized 2015 Governor's Honors Finalists;
- Recognized Kristen Brooks as PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator;
- Recognized High School Region and State Technology Fair Winners;

- Recognized the State winners of the SkillsUSA competition;
- Recognized Creekview HS Students Callisa Ruschmeyer and Meghan Nay as recipients of the 2015 Waste Management Scholarship;
- Recognized Dieter Hartman as Recipient of the State Department of Education Award of Excellence;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects; and
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, May 21, 2015

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, May 21, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Parth Patel, Student Advisor to the School Board.

Janet Read recognized the 2014-15 Student Advisor to the School Board and Student Delegates.

Adopt Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by John Harmon seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the May 7, 2015 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 Mike Chapman and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize 2014-15 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize 2014-15 Regional and State Social Studies Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Liberty ES School Nutrition Staff Members for Life-Saving Actions and Heroism

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Cherokee HS Senior Darby Blanton, Recipient of 2015 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Recipients of Aramark 2015 Education Scholarships

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Avery ES STEAM Event

B-2. Board Recognition of Superintendent and Staff for Development of 2015-16 Tentative Budget

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

***F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Adoption of Resolution to Certify Closeout for New/Replacement Teasley MS (MS "E")**

(Approved)

***F-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Adoption of Resolution to Certify Closeout for New/Replacement E.T. Booth MS (MS "D")**

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2015-16 Student Discipline Code

(Approved)

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Kyla Cromer, and carried to Approve 2015-16 Student Discipline Code *(7-0 vote).*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Janet Read to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

Highlights from the May 21, 2015 regular meeting of the Cherokee County School Board

The School Board held a budget work session at 6 pm prior to the regular meeting to receive a status report from the Superintendent on the 2015-16 Tentative Budget. The Board heard presentations from the Personnel Department regarding increased healthcare and other benefit costs, as well as efforts to lower class size by hiring additional teachers. The Transportation Department gave an update on its efforts to accommodate the projected 1,156 additional students expected next year and will pilot a three-tiered transportation system in the Etowah Innovation Zone that will allow CCSD to handle the student population increase by hiring only seven new drivers as opposed to 15. More information can be found in Financial Facts at http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/Documents/Financial%20Facts.pdf

The May 21 meeting was the last meeting for the 2014-15 School Board Advisor and Delegates, the students who represent CCSD's high schools at each meeting. Student Advisor Parth Patel and the Delegates present shared their plans for college after graduation, which included Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Emory University and Auburn University. Delegate Rushay Amarath-Madav from Etowah High School shared that he was truly appreciative of the education he received in the Cherokee County School District, having experienced education in less privileged parts of the world.

"From a student who has seen the other side of education in a third world country, I can assure you that the Cherokee County School District is a model for school systems everywhere. Thanks to the dedication of CCSD, I was given the opportunities to make my education mine, and tailor my experience to help me in obtaining my aspirations of being a doctor. I will be attending Emory University in the fall with a pending major in Biology, and I am forever in debt to the Board and CCSD for guiding me in the right direction and giving me the ability to grow as a member of my school, community and school district."

In its regular meeting, the School Board approved the Superintendent's recommended 2015-16 Student Discipline Code, which incorporates new state law regarding the treatment of cyber-bullying as a school offense, regardless of whether the activity is occurring off school grounds and outside of school hours. The Superintendent, School Board members and the School Board attorney discussed the many loopholes in the law, including the lack of a definition of what actually constitutes cyber bullying.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Regional and State Science and Engineering Fair Winners
- Recognized Regional and State Social Studies Fair Winners
- Recognized Liberty ES School Nutrition Staff Members for Life-Saving Actions
- Recognized Cherokee HS Senior Darby Blanton, Recipient of 2015 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship
- Recognized Recipients of Aramark 2015 Education Scholarships
- Recognized State and Region Champions;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;

- Approved closeout for new/replacement ET Booth MS and Teasley MS; and
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, June 11, 2015

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, June 11, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members, Kyla Cromer and Clark Menard; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Attorney Darrell Caudill. School Board Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon and Robert Rechsteiner and School Board Attorney Tom Roach were not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Patsy Jordan.

A brief inspiration was provided by Clark Menard.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Clark Menard, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(4-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kyla Cromer seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the May 21, 2015 School Board Meeting, *(4-0 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 *(4-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Miranda Crespo for Second Place in State Clean Air Art Competition

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize 2014-15 Elementary Science Olympiad Winners

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Georgia PTA District 13 Award Winners

(Recognized)

***A-4. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements with Chattahoochee Technical College and Credit Union of Georgia**

(Approved)

***A-5. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Resolution Regarding Request for 2015-16 Class Size Exemptions**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of CCSD Students Headed to College

B-2. Board Recognition of Michael Haggerty, Cherokee HS Staff Member of the Year

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies on First Reading

(Approved)

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-1.

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies on First Reading *(4-0 vote).*

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of April 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Local Plan for Improvement of Vocational, Technical and Agricultural Education/One-Year Funding Application for FY 2016**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Tabling of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Tentative Budget and Approval of Spending Resolution

(Approved)

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Patsy Jordan, and carried to Table the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Tentative Budget and Approval of Spending Resolution *(4-0 vote).*

***I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Special Lease Agreement**

(Approved)

At the close of the meeting, School Board Chair Janet Read announced that she will be resigning her seat on the Board in order to take a position with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as the community liaison for Cherokee County. She indicated that terms of the employment opportunity do not allow her to remain in office as an elected official. The resignation takes effect June 14, 2015. Mrs. Read stated, "It has been a privilege to serve the citizens and students of Cherokee County for the last ten and one-half years. Although I will no longer be a member of our local School Board, I am committed to remaining a strong advocate for the children of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia."

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Janet Read to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

Board Briefs

Highlights from the June 11, 2015 regular meeting of the Cherokee County School Board

The School Board voted to table the 2015-16 Tentative Budget recommended by the Superintendent and adopted a spending resolution. The Budget will lie on the table until July 22, with public hearings scheduled for July 9 and at the July 22 School Board meeting. The budget includes a 180-day school calendar; class size reductions in grades 6-12; longevity step increases for eligible employees; increased hours for school nurses and the addition of nurses at the high schools; expansion of the front door security system at elementary and middle schools; and continued support of classroom technology and professional development.

"This is a budget that reflects the Board's priorities, and by extension, the community's priorities," said Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, Superintendent of Schools. "We have a conservative budget that equals a competitive education."

At the close of the meeting, School Board Chair Janet Read announced that she will be resigning her seat on the Board in order to take a position with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta as the community liaison for Cherokee County. Terms of the employment opportunity do not allow her to remain in office as an elected official. The resignation takes effect June 14, 2015. Applications will be accepted (forms and details are available on the CCSD website) by July 7, 2015.

Ms. Read was first elected to the School Board in 2004 to Post 4 (Towne Lake/Woodstock area). She was re-elected in 2008, and then was drawn out of her post by the Cherokee County Legislative delegation before the 2012 election. She instead ran for the newly created School Board Chair position and easily won the countywide seat. During her tenure on the School Board, she missed only one meeting (last month), in order to attend her older son's college graduation. Prior to serving on the School Board, Ms. Read was active in PTA, serving as PTA President at Bascomb Elementary School, and she held PTA committee chair positions at Bascomb, Chapman Intermediate, ET Booth Middle and Etowah High schools.

Dr. Petruzielo made the following statement: "Janet Read has been an extraordinary School Board Member for over a decade and an outstanding School Board Chair. She has been a role model for other School Board Members in Metropolitan Atlanta and across the State of Georgia with her laser-like focus on doing what is best for students and working collaboratively with staff and members of the community to ensure that the School District's policies have the greatest amount of positive impact on the academic achievement of students. While she will be sorely missed, we wish her well in her new position."



The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Miranda Crespo, third grader from Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, second place winner of the State Clean Air Campaign "Young Lungs" art contest

- Recognized Science Olympiad team from Woodstock ES
- Recognized District 13 PTA winners
- Approved renewal of partnerships with Chattahoochee Technical College and Credit Union of Georgia
- Approved resolution of State waiver regarding 2015-16 class size exemptions
- Approved first reading of 2015-16 technical changes to School Board policies
- Approved out-of-state professional development
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips
- Approved local plan for vocational, technical and agricultural education/one-year funding application
- Approved update on capital outlay projects; and
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, July 9, 2015

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-16 BUDGET
11:30 a.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education conducted a public hearing on the 2015-16 Budget. School Board Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan; Board Member Kyla Cromer; and Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo.

No members of the public expressed an interest in addressing the Board regarding the budget.

The public hearing was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-16 BUDGET
6:30 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education conducted a public hearing on the 2015-16 Budget. School Board Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan; Board Member Kyla Cromer; and Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo.

No members of the public expressed an interest in addressing the Board regarding the budget. Vice-Chair Jordan explained the public could also sign up to speak at the 6:30 p.m. public hearing on July 22, 2015 or during the agenda item at the Board's meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2015.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON 2015-16 BUDGET
6:30 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education conducted a public hearing on the 2015-16 Budget. School Board Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Vice Chair Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, Kyla Cromer, John Harmon and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach.

No members of the public expressed an interest in addressing the Board regarding the budget.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, July 22, 2015

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 Wednesday, July 22, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Attorney Tom Roach. School Board Member Clark Menard was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Patsy Jordan was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by student Nathan Gramza.

A brief inspiration was provided by Patsy Jordan.

School Board Appointment of Interim School Board Chair

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to appoint an Interim School Board Chair to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016. The School Board Attorney distributed ballots to School Board Members. Kyla Cromer recused herself from voting.

The School Board appointed Kyla Cromer as Interim School Board Chair to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016.

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Honorable Keith Wood conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Kyla Cromer.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by John Harmon, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(5-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the June 11, 2015 School Board Meeting and July 9, 2015 Public Hearings on the Tentative 2015-16 Budget, *(5-0 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 Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(5-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

***A-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Partnership Renewal with The Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta/Malon D. Mimms Club Cherokee County**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Georgia School Board Association Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly

B-2. Board Recognition of Georgia PTA Conference

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies <u>on Final Reading</u>

(Approved)

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-1.

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies <u>on Final Reading</u> *(5-0 vote).*

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of May 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Pre-Approval of Authorized School Fund-Raising Activities for 2015-16 School Year**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

***H-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Establish Tribunal Hearing Panel for Certificated Personnel Recommended for Employment Contract Termination or Suspension**

(Approved)

H-2. Board Approval to Authorize the School Board Attorney to Proceed with Advertising and Accepting Applications for Vacant School Board Seat for District 1

(Approved)

Motion was made by John Harmon, seconded by Mike Chapman, and carried to Authorize the School Board Attorney to Proceed with Advertising and Accepting Applications for Vacant School Board Seat for District 1 *(5-0 vote).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget

(Approved)

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget *(5-0 vote).*

I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposed 2015-16 Student Discipline Code

(Approved)

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-1.

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget *(5-0 vote).*

*I-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Special Lease Agreements

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 7:55 p.m. *(5-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:07 p.m.

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 15-84066.

(Upheld)

The Board adjourned at 8:08 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 7/22/2015. 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 22 day of July, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

Kyle Cromer

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

July 22, 2015: Regular Meeting

The School Board on Wednesday, July 22, appointed a new Board Chair and approved its 2015-16 budget, which funds improvements including lowering class sizes and increasing school safety and student wellness.

School Board District 1 Member Kyla Cromer was selected by the Board from a pool of two applicants to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of former Board Chair Janet Read, who resigned last month as a requirement of her new employer. The term expires Dec. 31, 2016.

"I am here to serve with you for the betterment of the children of Cherokee County," Ms. Cromer told Board members after thanking them for their support. "I thank (Ms. Read) for setting an excellent example of how to lead with humility, grace and humor, and I'll do my best to do that."

As a result of Ms. Cromer's appointment, the Board will advertise for applications for her now-vacant seat; those applications will be considered at the Sept. 3 meeting.

The School Board on Wednesday also unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommended 2015-16 budget at $553 Million, which includes a $363 Million general fund day-to-day operating budget, as well as separate budgets for school construction and other areas.

Board Members noted how pleased they are that the budget accomplished priorities they outlined last fall to the Superintendent including: continuation of the full 180-day school calendar; continuation of no furlough days for students of staff; continued lowering of class sizes; and continued competitive pay and benefits to attract and retain the best teachers and staff.

Board Vice Chair Patsy Jordan said this achievement was even more commendable in light of the fact the School District still is not receiving its full State funding – this year's State "austerity budget cut" was $11.1 Million – and the local property tax millage rate was not increased.

"The first year I served on the School Board, teachers and staff were furloughed eight days, and students were not receiving the 180-day instructional school year," she said. "I'm very happy that three years later so many of my budget priorities have been honored."

Ms. Jordan noted she was especially pleased that the budget included the hiring of more teachers to decrease class sizes in middle schools and high schools following the same measure last school year in elementary schools, as well as hiring more bus drivers to alleviate some of the

overcrowding, expanding the school nurse program and installing at all elementary and middle schools the school entry-door security system that was piloted last school year.

"Even though I would like to see the QBE (State funding formula) fully funded, I do appreciate the steps we are taking to move forward to restore budget reserves without raising the School District's millage rate," Ms. Jordan said, thanking the Superintendent and his staff for their work to produce a zero-based, balanced budget.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Approved the renewal of a Partnership Agreement with The Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta/Malon D. Mimms Boys & Girls Club of Cherokee County;
- Approved the final reading of technical modifications to School Board Policies;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved authorized school fundraising activities for the 2015-16 school year;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations;
- Approved the establishment of a personnel tribunal hearing panel;
- Approved the 2015-16 Student Discipline Code; and,
- Approved special lease agreements.

School Board Member Clark Menard was not present for the meeting.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. August 13, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, August 13, 2015

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, August 13, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; 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 2015-16 Student Advisor to the School Board Claire Roop.

A brief inspiration was provided by Patsy Jordan.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Clark Menard seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the July 22, 2015 Public Hearing (3rd) on the Tentative 2015-16 Budget and July 22, 2015 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 Mike Chapman seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Holly Springs ES STEM Academy and Woodstock ES – Winners of 2015 Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals' "School Bell Award" – and Principals Dr. Dianne Steinbeck and Kim Montalbano

(Approved)

A-2. Recognize Dave Martinez as Recipient of William A. Hillman Distinguished Service Award

(Approved)

A-3. Recognize Joyce Pufnock as Recipient of Tools for Life Innovation Award

(Approved)

A-4. Recognize Georgia PTA Outstanding School Nurse Award Winner – CCSD Lead Nurse Jami Stefano

(Approved)

A-5. Recognize CCSD School Nutrition Program – Georgia United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2015 Best Practice Award

(Approved)

A-6. Recognize Region and State Technology Fair Winners

(Approved)

A-7. Recognize 2015-16 Student Advisor to School Board and Student Delegates

(Approved)

A-8. Board Consideration of Superintendent Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements with American Heart Association, City of Woodstock and Northside Hospital-Cherokee

(Approved)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Clark Menard, and carried to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements with American Heart Association, City of Woodstock and Northside Hospital-Cherokee *(6-0 vote).*

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Canton ES STEM Academy Bus Tour

B-2. Board Recognition of Start of 2015-16 School Year

B-3. Board Recognition of CCSD "Choices" Document

B-4. Board Recognition of Former School Board Chair Janet Read

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of June 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs)**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Board Discussion of Training Plan for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

H-2. Board Approval of Order of Appointment for School Board Chair Kyla Cromer

(Approved)

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Clark Menard, and carried to Approve Order of Appointment for School Board Chair Kyla Cromer *(5-0 vote; Cromer abstained).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposed Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) Application and Contract with State Board of Education

(Approved)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to Approve the Proposed Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) Application and Contract with State Board of Education *(6-0 vote).*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Claire Roop to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

<u>August 13, 2015</u>: Trends in Education Work Session and Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2015 unanimously approved the School District's proposed application and contract for the State-required flexibility-based education reform model.

The School District has chosen the Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) model, formerly known as IE^2, which addresses CCSD-identified challenges and provides flexibility through waivers from mutually-determined State (Title 20) Statutes and State Board Rules in order to increase student achievement.

The proposed contract, which will be considered for approval by the State Board of Education on Thursday, is for an initial term of five years of individual school performance accountability (using College and Career Ready Performance Index scores) and provides CCSD with seven years of contracted flexibility through waivers.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Brian Hightower said he and his staff have heard only positive response to the plan from administrators, teachers and parents since CCSD and the School Board began its model review and selection process more than two years ago. A public hearing was held prior to the regular meeting; no speakers attended.

The application includes a long list of waivers that CCSD may opt to use as it pursues new initiatives; but it's not obligated to use them all.

"The contract is built on two facts: flexibility and accountability," Dr. Hightower said. "We're up for the challenge and the opportunity."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said the proposal builds upon CCSD's strong foundation of its accountability policy and supporting strategic and improvement plans, and is designed to allow for greater flexibility at the school, Zone and District level.

Also during the regular meeting, School Board Attorney Tom Roach provided an update on the process to fill the District 1 seat on the Board, which was vacated when Kyla Cromer was appointed School Board Chair.

He is accepting applications from the public through August 19 and then will share those applications with the Board and local media. If the Board chooses to make an appointment after reviewing the applications, it can do so at the Sept. 3 meeting; however, Mr. Roach said the Secretary

of State's Office has advised that following that vote, he needs to submit an order of appointment prior to the new Board member being sworn into office. He said he expects the new Board member could then be sworn into office at the Oct. 15 Board meeting. The term expires Dec. 31, 2016.

Prior to its regular meeting, the Board participated in the annual Trends in Education strategic work session presented by Dr. Petruzielo and members of his senior staff.

Topics covered included public education funding, the local impact of major State legislation, an update on new State accountability systems for students and teachers and a status report on CCSD initiatives [including Cherokee Academies (STEM Academies, Fine Arts Academies, College and Career Academy), dual-enrollment programs and emerging trends in educational technology… including virtual learning].

Local funding continues to slowly improve as property values recover, Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management Ken Owen noted during his report on the state of public education funding, but it's a slow process, as the tax digest needs to grow by another $1 Billion to reach pre-Recession levels. "It will take at least another four years to get there," Mr. Owen said.

No improvement in State funding is expected, Mr. Owen reported, unless the Governor and State Legislature further reduce the "State austerity budget cut" that this year totals $11.1 Million. Mr. Owen added that Federal education funding is "stagnant," and will remain so for at least the next one to two years.

Mr. Owen also addressed the need for the Board to call for renewal of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) in the fall of 2016 to ensure that CCSD can continue to keep up with facility and technology needs, while at the same time reducing bond debt.

Without this SPLOST, he said, school construction and the purchase of any new technology would come to a halt, and the property tax rate automatically would be increased by 5 mills to fulfill the obligation to retire bond debt incurred by 15 years of construction to meet the demands created by the county's explosive population growth.

"Much of the Ed SPLOST is paid by people who don't live in this county" but come here to shop, eat and play, Board member Mike Chapman said, as to one reason why he thinks SPLOST is a better model than property taxes for this purpose. "We need to always talk about that."

Staff members presented updates for the Board on State legislation impacting CCSD including options under review by the Governor's Education Reform Commission, increasing State Health Benefit Plan participation costs for CCSD and employees and the Governor's proposed "Opportunity School District" State Takeover Plan.

Dr. Petruzielo said he and his staff will make presentations to the Board over the course of the next year at its work sessions on "major congenital defects" in the Governor's "Opportunity School District" State Takeover Plan. The Constitutional Amendment to give the State this power will be on the ballot for voters to decide in November of 2016.

The first of these issues was covered during Thursday's work session and focused on the loss of local control of schools currently vested in local School Boards, taxpayers and parents.

"Parents, the community and the School Board lose all control over the school in its entirety," Dr. Petruzielo said of the Governor's plan, noting that loss would cover a wide range of operations from the hiring and firing of employees to choosing the curriculum used in classrooms. "The school facility

and all it contains (including the technology) would become property of the State, despite the fact that this investment was largely paid for using local Ed SPLOST dollars and through partnerships… like the wonderful aquaponics lab at Canton Elementary School STEM Academy funded by the Rotary Club of Canton."

Dr. Petruzielo said the State Takeover Plan is just another attempt by lawmakers to siphon money away from the at-risk children who need it most in order to receive a high-quality education and instead turn it over to for-profit companies.

"Every few years, there's a new labeling system devised by the Federal or State government to negatively categorize schools that struggle with extra challenges like poverty or families learning English as a second language. We don't need labels to know which of our schools face these challenges... our teachers see it when their students come to class hungry or when their parents can't help with homework that's in English. We also don't need the threats that always follow these labels... like the Governor's 'opportunity' State Takeover Plan," Dr. Petruzielo said. "What we need is for Federal and State government leaders to give traditional public schools the full funding that our children and grandchildren deserve and allow us the same flexibility that is served up without question to profiteering charter companies."

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Holly Springs ES STEM Academy and Woodstock ES and Principals Dr. Dianne Steinbeck and Kim Montalbano as winners of 2015 Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals' "School Bell Award";

- Recognized CCSD Adaptive PE teacher Dave Martinez as recipient of the National William A. Hillman Distinguished Service Award for his service to students with disabilities;

- Recognized Joyce Pufnock of the CCSD Office of Special Education as recipient of the Georgia Tools for Life Innovation Award;

- Recognized CCSD Lead Nurse Jami Stefano as Georgia PTA Outstanding School Nurse Award Winner;

- Recognized CCSD School Nutrition Program and the Transition Academies of Cherokee HS and Woodstock HS for their collaboration that won a Georgia USDA 2015 Best Practice Award;

- Recognized Region and State Technology Fair Winners (a list is posted here);

- Recognized 2015-16 Student Advisor to School Board and Student Delegates

- Approved the renewal of Partnership Agreements with the American Heart Association, City of Woodstock and Northside Hospital-Cherokee;

- Approved monthly financial reports;

- Approved issuance of tax anticipation notices;

- Approved out-of-state travel;

- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;

- Approved monthly update on capital outlay projects;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved an official order of appointment for School Board Chair Kyla Cromer to be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. September 3, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, September 3, 2015

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, September 3, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; 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 Student Delegate Bailey Ray from ACE Academy.

A brief inspiration was provided by Kyla Cromer.

School Board Appointment of Interim School Board Member-District 1

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to appoint an Interim School Board Member – District 1 to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016. The School Board Attorney distributed ballots to School Board Members.

The School Board appointed Kelly Poole as Interim School Board Member – District 1 to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016. *(See attached Order of Appointment.)*

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Clark Menard, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 13, 2015 School Board Meeting and August 13, 2015 Public Input Session on Strategic Waivers School System Application and Contract *(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 Mike Chapman seconded by Clark Menard and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize CCSD Finalists for 2015 Georgia STEM Education Awards: Canton ES STEM Academy, Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, Teasley MS and Creekview HS

(Approved)

A-2. Board Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Constitution Week

(Approved)

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to Approve a Proclamation in Honor of Constitution Week *(6-0 vote).*

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Woodstock ES

B-2. Board Recognition of L.R. Tippens Education Center

B-3. Board Recognition of Superintendent Woods' Visit to CCSD in October 2015

B-4. Board Recognition of Freedom MS

B-5. Board Recognition of CCSD SAT Scores

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of July 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Board Approval of Training Plan for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to Approve School Board Member Training Plan for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 *(6-0 vote).*

(Approved)

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation to Name Johnston ES Walking Track "Joe E. Johnston Walking Track"**

(Approved)

***I-2. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of SY2015-16 Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.**

(Approved)

After the School Board concluded its business for the evening, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo asked Ms. Cromer if he could say a few words; he then shared a prepared statement *(attached)* that reviewed the School District's successes during the past 17 years and announced his retirement, effective February 1, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by John Harmon, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Personnel Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6)]* at 7:46 p.m. *(6-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

September 3, 2015

To: School Board Members
From: Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: RETIREMENT—FEBRUARY 1, 2016

As you may know, this is my 50th year as a public school educator and my 25th year as a Superintendent of Schools in Texas, Florida and Georgia…with the last 17 of those 25 Superintendent years at the helm of the Cherokee County School District.

Even more importantly, January 29, 2016 will be the 50th wedding anniversary for me and my wife, Sharon, a former Special Education teacher and supervisor. We met as undergraduates at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida; married in 1966; and were subsequently blessed with two wonderful children and two terrific grandchildren.

As much as I would like to take credit for all of the achievements and success enjoyed by this extraordinary School District since 1999 when the School Board initially appointed me Superintendent of Schools, I cannot in good conscience do that. The truth is: we have great students in this community; extremely involved and supportive parents and grandparents; amazing classroom teachers; outstanding senior staff, principals, assistant principals, counselors, media specialists and technologists…and some of the best administrative assistants, secretaries, bus drivers and maintenance workers with whom I have ever had the pleasure to serve.

Additionally, this community has been extremely fortunate to have elected a series of dedicated School Board Members over the years who have worked tirelessly to establish and support a policy framework designed to provide every student with an outstanding public education…and a highly competent School Board Attorney, whose law firm consistently provides invaluable guidance and advice on the wide variety of legal issues and challenges faced on a daily basis by the Board and the Administration.

What I and so many other School District leaders have worked diligently over the years to instill and facilitate throughout this school system is a work ethic and organizational culture that reflects the knowledge, skills, creativity and intestinal fortitude necessary to routinely solve complex problems systemically and to continually initiate desirable change. In my view, that has been, and continues to be, achieved while focusing like a laser beam on our top priority: doing what is best for students!

Despite the obvious educational "Renaissance" which has been well- documented for a metropolitan Atlanta School District that was on the verge of losing its accreditation 17 years ago and that has since become one of the top school systems in the State of Georgia, there are likely some policymakers, individuals and interest groups in our community, in the State of Georgia and elsewhere who have not always appreciated my leadership and outspoken advocacy for public education…and who actually have considered me to be abrasive. In my experience, if you tell the truth, you're abrasive; but, if you lie or bend the truth, you're charming. Accordingly, since none of my degrees are from "charm school," I have been personally and professionally committed to telling

the truth…even when some state lawmakers, local elected officials and other influential individuals and groups haven't appreciated it. Hopefully, our students, our employees and many others do appreciate, and have derived direct and indirect benefits from, my outspoken candor… and the leadership which I have endeavored to provide for the Cherokee County School District and the education profession.

I am most proud of: our students continually demonstrating mastery of internationally competitive standards; the outstanding academic and organizational dividends resulting from our School District's investments in technology for students and staff; extraordinary educational facility infrastructure put in place to address unprecedented student population growth; diligent efforts to attract, retain and train great teachers, school administrators and support staff; our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Fine Arts Academies and Career Pathways initiative; the incredible achievements of our students with special needs; our comprehensive Board-approved partnerships; the recently-established, but already extremely successful, Cherokee County Educational Foundation; and the way that the Board and staff at all levels have embraced and celebrated significantly increased student and community diversity.

It is widely believed that a primary litmus test for leadership success is determining if a leader leaves an organization fundamentally better than he or she found it. In that regard, what has occurred over the past 17 years of my Cherokee County Public Schools leadership speaks for itself. The CCSD "Renaissance in Education" brochure provides a longitudinal view of our most significant educational restructuring and reform accomplishments over almost the past two decades. However, as impressive as these well-documented results are, it is critically important that those achievements not be viewed as an end, but as a beginning…a foundation for what must come next in the School District's continuing efforts to provide Cherokee County's children and grandchildren with a world-class public education!

In consideration of all of the above factors, and to provide the School Board with adequate time to select the School District's next Superintendent of Schools, this is to advise that I have decided to retire, effective February 1, 2016…approximately seven months prior to expiration of my current employment contract (August 19, 2016).
With a 2015-16 School District Budget, Administrative Organizational Chart, Five Year District Strategic Plan, Five Year Facility Plan, Three Year Technology Plan, School and Innovation Zone Improvement Plans, three years of future School District Calendars and a multi-year Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) contract with the State Board of Education all Board-approved and currently in place, this would appear to be a desirable "window of opportunity" for the School Board to devote the time and attention necessary to making the critically important policy decision on who will become the School District's next Superintendent of Schools. Obviously, I and my staff stand ready over the next five months to assist in this regard in any way that the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

Finally, I want to thank current and prior School Board Members for their dedicated policy leadership and unwavering support over the past 17 years! I firmly believe that this School District has become a public sector model for planning, developing and implementing unprecedented accountability and fiscal transparency, which has been

made possible as a direct result of the Board and this Administration continually demonstrating enlightened governance and outstanding cooperation in its joint, collaborative efforts on behalf of the students, parents and community we have worked so diligently to serve.

Frank R. Petruzielo

FRP

cc: School Board Attorney
Agenda Preparation Group
Principals
Assistant Principals
PTA Presidents

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 9/3/2015. 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 3rd day of September, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

In Re:
Appointment of School Board Member for Post 1 2015

Order of Appointment

The Cherokee County Board of Education is vested with the control and management of the Cherokee County School System. (***Ga. Const. Art. VIII, § V, Para. II.)*** Pursuant to a local act of the Georgia General Assembly (2012 Ga. Laws 4590) the Cherokee County Board of Education is composed of seven members. Six members of the Board of Education are elected by and represent one of six geographic "Posts". The Chair Person of the Cherokee County Board of Education is elected county wide to serve a four year term as Chair Person.

On July 22, 2015 Kyla Cromer was appointed by a majority vote of the Cherokee County Board of Education to serve out the remaining term of the Chair Person that expires on December 31, 2016. (Meeting minutes of the July 22, 2015 Cherokee County Board of Education meeting are attached as exhibit "A"). Mrs. Cromer's appointment created a vacancy for Post 1.

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §20-2-54.1(a)(2) after solicitation and consideration of applications, the members of the Board of Education hereby appoint Kelly Poole as the Post 1 representative on the Cherokee County Board of Education to serve out the unexpired term of the Post 1 Board Member that expires on December 31, 2016. (Proposed meeting minutes of the September 3, 2015 Cherokee County Board of Education meeting are attached as exhibit "B")

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Cherokee County Board of Education by Georgia Law and the action taken pursuant thereto, the Cherokee County Board of Education Orders that Kelly Poole serve as the Post 1 representative on the Cherokee County Board of Education until the term expires on December 31, 2016.

{signatures on following page}

Approved and Ordered this 3rd day of September, 2015

Kyla Cromer, Chair
Cherokee County Board of Education

Attest:

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, Secretary
Cherokee County Board of Education

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

In Re:
Appointment of School Board Member for Post 1 2015

Order of Appointment

The Cherokee County Board of Education is vested with the control and management of the Cherokee County School System. (***Ga. Const. Art. VIII, § V, Para. II.)*** Pursuant to a local act of the Georgia General Assembly (2012 Ga. Laws 4590) the Cherokee County Board of Education is composed of seven members. Six members of the Board of Education are elected by and represent one of six geographic "Posts". The Chair Person of the Cherokee County Board of Education is elected county wide to serve a four year term as Chair Person.

On July 22, 2015 Kyla Cromer was appointed by a majority vote of the Cherokee County Board of Education to serve out the remaining term of the Chair Person that expires on December 31, 2016. (Meeting minutes of the July 22, 2015 Cherokee County Board of Education meeting are attached as exhibit "A"). Mrs. Cromer's appointment created a vacancy for Post 1.

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §20-2-54.1(a)(2) after solicitation and consideration of applications, the members of the Board of Education hereby appoint _____ as the Post 1 representative on the Cherokee County Board of Education to serve out the unexpired term of the Post 1 Board Member that expires on December 31, 2016. (Proposed meeting minutes of the September 3, 2015 Cherokee County Board of Education meeting are attached as exhibit "B")

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Cherokee County Board of Education by Georgia Law and the action taken pursuant thereto, the Cherokee County Board of Education Orders that _____ serve as the Post 1 representative on the Cherokee County Board of Education until the term expires on December 31, 2016.

{signatures on following page}

Approved and Ordered this 3rd day of September, 2015

Kyla Cromer, Chair
Cherokee County Board of Education

Attest:

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, Secretary
Cherokee County Board of Education

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, July 22, 2015

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 Wednesday, July 22, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Attorney Tom Roach. School Board Member Clark Menard was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Patsy Jordan was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by student Nathan Gramza.

A brief inspiration was provided by Patsy Jordan.

School Board Appointment of Interim School Board Chair

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon, and carried to appoint an Interim School Board Chair to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016. The School Board Attorney distributed ballots to School Board Members. Kyla Cromer recused herself from voting.

The School Board appointed Kyla Cromer as Interim School Board Chair to complete the unexpired term through December 31, 2016.

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Honorable Keith Wood conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Kyla Cromer.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by John Harmon, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(5-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the June 11, 2015 School Board Meeting and July 9, 2015 Public Hearings on the Tentative 2015-16 Budget, *(5-0 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 Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(5-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

***A-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Partnership Renewal with The Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta/Malon D. Mimms Club Cherokee County**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Georgia School Board Association Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly

B-2. Board Recognition of Georgia PTA Conference

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies <u>on Final Reading</u>

(Approved)

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-1.

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for 2015-16 Technical Modifications to School Board Policies <u>on Final Reading</u> *(5-0 vote).*

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of May 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Pre-Approval of Authorized School Fund-Raising Activities for 2015-16 School Year**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

***H-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Establish Tribunal Hearing Panel for Certificated Personnel Recommended for Employment Contract Termination or Suspension**

(Approved)

H-2. Board Approval to Authorize the School Board Attorney to Proceed with Advertising and Accepting Applications for Vacant School Board Seat for District 1

(Approved)

Motion was made by John Harmon, seconded by Mike Chapman, and carried to Authorize the School Board Attorney to Proceed with Advertising and Accepting Applications for Vacant School Board Seat for District 1 *(5-0 vote).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget

(Approved)

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget *(5-0 vote).*

I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposed 2015-16 Student Discipline Code

(Approved)

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-1.

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget *(5-0 vote).*

*I-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Special Lease Agreements

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 7:55 p.m. *(5-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:07 p.m.

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 15-84066.

(Upheld)

The Board adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary

FRP/MW: 7/23/15

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 7/22/2015. 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 22 day of July, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

Kyle Cromer

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

September 3, 2015: Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015 appointed a new District 1 Board Member, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo announced his retirement after 17 years of service.

The Board appointed Kelly Poole, an accountant and longtime PTA and community volunteer, to the District 1 seat, which was vacated when Kyla Cromer was appointed School Board Chair. She will be sworn in as soon as authorized by the Secretary of State's office, likely at the Oct. 15 Board meeting. The District includes the BridgeMill and Sixes area, and the term expires Dec. 31, 2016.

"I have a lot to learn, but I am looking forward to the challenge," Ms. Poole said. "I'm ready to advocate for the kids, teachers and education in Cherokee County."



Kelly Poole, left, an accountant and longtime PTA and community volunteer, reacts to the news on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015 that she has been appointed to the District 1 seat on the Cherokee County School Board.

After the Board concluded its business for the evening, Dr. Petruzielo asked Ms. Cromer if he could say a few words; he then shared this statement:

"As you may know, this is my 50th year as a public school educator and my 25th year as a Superintendent of Schools in Texas, Florida and Georgia… with the last 17 of those 25 Superintendent years at the helm of the Cherokee County School District.

Even more importantly, January 29, 2016 will be the 50th wedding anniversary for me and my wife, Sharon, a former Special Education teacher and supervisor. We met as undergraduates at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida; married in 1966; and were subsequently blessed with two wonderful children and two terrific grandchildren.

As much as I would like to take credit for all of the achievements and success enjoyed by this extraordinary School District since 1999 when the School Board initially appointed me Superintendent of Schools, I cannot in good conscience do that. The truth is: we have great students in this community; extremely involved and supportive parents and grandparents; amazing classroom teachers; outstanding senior staff, principals, assistant principals, counselors, media specialists and technologists… and some of the best administrative assistants, secretaries, bus drivers and maintenance workers with whom I have ever had the pleasure to serve.

Additionally, this community has been extremely fortunate to have elected a series of dedicated School Board Members over the years who have worked tirelessly to establish and support a policy framework designed to provide every student with an outstanding public education…and a highly competent School Board Attorney, whose law firm consistently provides invaluable guidance and advice on the wide variety of legal issues and challenges faced on a daily basis by the Board and the Administration.

What I and so many other School District leaders have worked diligently over the years to instill and facilitate throughout this school system is a work ethic and organizational culture that reflects the knowledge, skills, creativity and intestinal fortitude necessary to routinely solve complex problems systemically and to continually initiate desirable change. In my view, that has been, and continues to be, achieved while focusing like a laser beam on our top priority: doing what is best for students!

Despite the obvious educational "Renaissance" which has been well-documented for a metropolitan Atlanta School District that was on the verge of losing its accreditation 17 years ago and that has since become one of the top school systems in the State of Georgia, there are likely some policymakers, individuals and interest groups in our community, in the State of Georgia and elsewhere who have not always appreciated my leadership and outspoken advocacy for public education…and who actually have considered me to be abrasive. In my experience, if you tell the truth, you're abrasive; but, if you lie or bend the truth, you're charming. Accordingly, since none of my degrees are from "charm school," I have been personally and professionally committed to telling the truth…even when some state lawmakers, local elected officials and other influential individuals and groups haven't appreciated it. Hopefully, our students, our employees and many others do appreciate, and have derived direct and indirect benefits from, my outspoken candor… and the leadership which I have endeavored to provide for the Cherokee County School District and the education profession.

I am most proud of: our students continually demonstrating mastery of internationally competitive standards; the outstanding academic and organizational dividends resulting from our School District's investments in technology for students and staff; extraordinary educational facility infrastructure put in place to address unprecedented student population growth; diligent efforts to attract, retain and train great teachers, school administrators and support staff; our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Fine Arts Academies and Career Pathways initiative; the incredible

achievements of our students with special needs; our comprehensive Board-approved partnerships; the recently-established, but already extremely successful, Cherokee County Educational Foundation; and the way that the Board and staff at all levels have embraced and celebrated significantly increased student and community diversity.

It is widely believed that a primary litmus test for leadership success is determining if a leader leaves an organization fundamentally better than he or she found it. In that regard, what has occurred over the past 17 years of my Cherokee County Public Schools leadership speaks for itself. The CCSD "Renaissance in Education" brochure provides a longitudinal view of our most significant educational restructuring and reform accomplishments over almost the past two decades. However, as impressive as these well-documented results are, it is critically important that those achievements not be viewed as an end, but as a beginning…a foundation for what must come next in the School District's continuing efforts to provide Cherokee County's children and grandchildren with a world-class public education!

In consideration of all of the above factors, and to provide the School Board with adequate time to select the School District's next Superintendent of Schools, this is to advise that I have decided to retire, effective February 1, 2016… approximately seven months prior to expiration of my current employment contract (August 19, 2016).

With a 2015-16 School District Budget, Administrative Organizational Chart, Five Year District Strategic Plan, Five Year Facility Plan, Three Year Technology Plan, School and Innovation Zone Improvement Plans, three years of future School District Calendars and a multi-year Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) contract with the State Board of Education all Board-approved and currently in place, this would appear to be a desirable "window of opportunity" for the School Board to devote the time and attention necessary to making the critically important policy decision on who will become the School District's next Superintendent of Schools. Obviously, I and my staff stand ready over the next five months to assist in this regard in any way that the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

Finally, I want to thank current and prior School Board Members for their dedicated policy leadership and unwavering support over the past 17 years! I firmly believe that this School District has become a public sector model for planning, developing and implementing unprecedented accountability and fiscal transparency, which has been made possible as a direct result of the Board and this Administration continually demonstrating enlightened governance and outstanding cooperation in its joint, collaborative efforts on behalf of the students, parents and community we have worked so diligently to serve."

Following his remarks and a standing ovation in recognition of his service, School Board Members praised Dr. Petruzielo's leadership, with Board Member Clark Menard quipping "I move not to accept" his plans for retirement.

"Your leadership in this District is unparalleled," Ms. Cromer said. "We would not be where we are now without your leadership. It is greatly, greatly appreciated from a standpoint as a parent in this District and what you've done for the students, and as a Board member and someone who has been involved in the PTA, your leadership is unparalleled, and we thank you very much."

Vice Chair Patsy Jordan, who began her career in CCSD the same year as Dr. Petruzielo was appointed, said working as a classroom teacher during his tenure as Superintendent of Schools was "one of the absolute greatest experiences of my life."

"I probably would not have stayed in teaching is I had not come to Cherokee County," she said. "I can't thank you enough for the experience in the 10 years I had here as a teacher, and then getting

to serve on the School Board with you – it's been an awesome experience for me. We've got seven more months."



Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, left, enjoys a light-hearted moment during the Sept. 3, 2015 Cherokee County School Board Meeting at which he later announced his retirement after 17 years of service. His last day as Superintendent of Schools will be Feb. 1, 2016. To his right are School Board Members Mike Chapman, left, and John Harmon.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Canton ES STEM Academy, Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, Teasley MS and Creekview HS as 2015 Georgia STEM Education Award Finalists;
- Approved a proclamation in honor of Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, 2015.
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved out-of-state travel;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved monthly update on capital outlay projects;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations;

- Approved the 2015-16 School Board Training Plan to include online training, Georgia School Boards Association training and two local training sessions tentatively scheduled for Jan. 23 and March 24;

- Approved the naming of the new Joe E. Johnston Walking Track at Johnston ES;

- Approved the 2015-16 School Year contract with Ninth District Opportunity Inc. for Head Start preschool programs in CCSD; and,

- Met in Executive Session to review a personnel matter, but took no action upon returning to open session.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. October 15, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, October 15, 2015

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, October 15, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Clark Menard, Kelly Poole and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; 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 Cherokee Rabjohn.

A brief inspiration was provided by Clark Menard.

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Honorable Keith Wood conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Kelly Poole as Interim School Board Member for District 1.

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the September 17, 2015 Called 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 Clark Menard seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Clark Creek ES STEM Academy for Earning State STEM Certification

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Hickory Flat ES as 2015-17 National PTA School of Excellence

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize CCSD Schools as Governor's SHAPE (Student Health And Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize 20th Anniversary of Georgia Pre-K in Cherokee County School District

(Recognized)

***A-5. Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Retired Educators Day**

(Approved)

A-6. Recognize Immediate Past School Board Chair Janet

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of National School of Character Committee Visit to Carmel ES

B-2. Board Recognition of Fundraiser at Ball Ground ES

B-3. Board Recognition of Special Olympics Awareness Day

B-4. Board Recognition of Ball Ground Business Association Event at Ball Ground ES

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of August 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

Tom Roach provided a brief update on the Superintendent Search. The application deadline is October 19, 2015.

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss an Attorney/Client Privilege Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2)* at 8:05 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

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 October 15th 2015. 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 15th day of October, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO., GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

<u>October 15, 2015</u>: Strategic Work Session and Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015 reviewed plans for the new/replacement CCSD administration building and officially welcomed the new District 1 Board Member.

The Board last month appointed Kelly Poole, an accountant and longtime PTA and community volunteer, to the District 1 seat, which was vacated when Kyla Cromer was appointed School Board Chair.

Ms. Poole, accompanied by her husband and two children, was sworn into office on Thursday by Cherokee County Probate Court Judge Keith Wood. The term expires Dec. 31, 2016, and District 1 includes the BridgeMill and Sixes area.



School Board Member Kelly Poole is sworn into office on Thursday night by Cherokee County Probate Court Judge Keith Wood as her husband, Jim, and children, Taylor and James, look on.

During its Strategic Work Session, the Board heard a status report from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo and his staff on planning for the new/replacement administration building to be constructed on Bluffs Parkway in Canton.

The Board in March unanimously approved a land swap agreement with the City of Canton to build what will be called the CCSD Educational Services Facility. In exchange for Buildings A and B in downtown Canton, CCSD received 16 acres of City-owned property across from the Cherokee County government's administration building north of RiverStone Plaza.

The new CCSD building will allow for the reunification of 150 employees from various departments in one more cost-effective facility and will include an open meeting space for professional development, special events and School Board meetings that is significantly larger than current options.

An advertisement seeking proposals from general contractors to build the complex will be published today; the Board will consider selection of a proposal at its December meeting. Construction would begin in January and be completed by August 2017.

Construction of the $15 Million project will be funded by Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) revenue, as previously approved by voters. Estimated costs per square foot are less than similar projects recently constructed in the county, and the design and construction will incorporate the same cost- and energy-efficient elements as featured in newer CCSD schools.

Board Member Mike Chapman said it makes good business sense to build professional office space for administrative staff and training needs in order to attract and retain the best employees.

"Anyone who sees this plan should understand that," he said, noting that taxpayers have shown their support through approving the project as part of three Ed SPLOST votes.

Board Member Clark Menard said he is pleased that the design allows for some future staff growth, which extends the lifespan of the facility without the need for immediate additions.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said the facility is "long overdue," noting that the county's other government entities have made significant investments in infrastructure, while CCSD prioritized building 19 new and replacement schools to accommodate student enrollment growth.

"It's always difficult to justify spending on administrative infrastructure, but we can't be as productive an organization as we have been or hope to continue to be without efficient facilities," he said. "I think we've built a strong case for the need."

The Board and the audience rose to its feet several times for a special recognition during the regular meeting to honor Immediate Past School Board Chair Janet Read for distinguished service.

Ms. Read, who for two decades served CCSD as a PTA volunteer and then as a School Board member and its first countywide elected Chair, stepped down earlier this year due to an employment opportunity that would not allow her to serve in public office.

She was thanked not only by the Board and Superintendent of Schools, which presented her with a framed gavel and commemorative plaque, but also by the Cherokee County Council of PTA and Georgia PTA, which presented her with a Life Achievement Award – the PTA's highest honor for a volunteer.



Immediate Past School Board Chair Janet Read, left, is thanked for her service by School Board Chair Kyla Cromer, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo and the School Board.

During its work session, the School Board also took the following actions:

- Heard a report on the Governor's proposed "Opportunity School District" State takeover plan, which would allow the Governor's Office of Student Achievement to seize local schools, including CCSD schools, and turn the operations and the assets over to for-profit charter operators;

- Heard a status report on the implementation of Kronos, an integrated personnel and payroll system to improve CCSD operational efficiency;

- Reviewed the draft 2016 Legislative Program, which calls on the Cherokee County Legislative Delegation to:
    - Fund the existing State educational funding formula to fully restore "austerity budget cuts";
    - Address skyrocketing premiums and out-out-pocket expenses for participation in the State Health Benefit Program;
    - Support local control and management of public schools rather than supporting State takeover plans like the Governor's proposed "Opportunity School District" Constitutional Amendment;
    - Correct evaluation models for teachers and administrators to allow greater emphasis on observation of their performance by trained administrators and supervisors;
    - Stop the erosion of the State's tax base through tax exemptions for private companies;

- Oppose the continuation and/or expansion of programs that use public funds to pay for private school tuition and/or provide tax incentives.

- Heard staff updates including the announcement that Boundary Focus Groups will not be needed this fall, as no boundary redrawings will be proposed for the 2016-17 School Year.

During its regular meeting, the School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Clark Creek ES STEM Academy for Earning State STEM Certification;
- Recognized Hickory Flat ES as 2015-2017 National PTA School of Excellence;
- Recognized CCSD Schools as Governor's SHAPE (Student Health and Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees (names of recognized teachers are posted here);
- Recognized the 20th Anniversary of Georgia Pre-K in CCSD;
- Approved a proclamation in honor of Retired Educators Day, Nov. 1, 2015.
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved out-of-state travel;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved monthly update on capital outlay projects;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations including the retirement of Dr. Pat Kearns, Director of Curriculum and Academic Standards, who began her tenure with CCSD in 1999 after working for the Sequoyah Regional Library System and in public school administration in Iowa;
- The School Board Attorney recommended that the School Board meet in Executive Session following the Nov. 5, 2015 regular meeting in order to review applications for the Superintendent of Schools position and possibly select finalists for interviews; and,
- Met in Executive Session to review an attorney-client privilege matter, but took no action upon returning to open session.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Nov. 5, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, November 5, 2015

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, November 5, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Clark Menard, Kelly Poole and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; 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 Nicole Boone, Student Delegate from Etowah HS.

A brief inspiration was provided by Kelly Poole.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan 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 Mike Chapman and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the October 15, 2015 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 Kelly Poole seconded by John Harmon 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 Board of Education. Woodstock HS students Sydney and Brittany Gunter presented Dr. Petruzielo with a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in appreciation of his 50 years of service as an educator and his advocacy for public education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize CCSD Transportation Department for Earning ASE Blue Seal of Excellence

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize CCSD High School Seniors Named 2016 National Merit Semi-Finalists

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of School Events

B-2. Board Recognition of CCSD Transportation Department

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of September 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Proposed School Board 2016 Legislative Program

(Approved)

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Proposed School Board 2016 Legislative Program *(7-0 vote)*.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Student Discipline Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)* at 7:59 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:24 p.m.

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by John Harmon and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 16-97994.

(Upheld)

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))* at 8:25 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

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 11/5/2015. 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 5 day of November, 2015.

Melissa Whatley

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

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

MELISSA WHATLEY NOTARY PUBLIC CHEROKEE CO. GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 24 2017

Kelly Poole

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

<u>November 5, 2015</u>: Regular Meeting

The School Board on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, approved its 2016 Legislative Program, which is published annually to inform the community as to how the Cherokee County State Legislative Delegation could better assist the Cherokee County School District.

The 2016 Legislative priorities outlined in the Program, which was unanimously approved by the School Board, ask the State Legislature to:

- Fund the existing State educational funding formula to fully restore "austerity budget cuts";
- Address skyrocketing premiums and out-out-pocket expenses for participation in the State Health Benefit Program;
- Support local control and management of public schools rather than supporting State takeover plans like the Governor's proposed "Opportunity School District" Constitutional Amendment;
- Correct evaluation models for teachers and administrators to allow greater emphasis on observation of their performance by trained administrators and supervisors;
- Stop the erosion of the State's tax base through tax exemptions for private companies;
- Oppose the continuation and/or expansion of programs that use public funds to pay for private school tuition and/or provide tax incentives; and,
- Undertake no modifications to Federal funding access and availability that would delay or reduce local school districts' earned allocations.

School Board Member Clark Menard thanked the Superintendent and his staff for adding the last priority, which he had requested. Mr. Menard said he is frustrated by State Legislators' proposals to take away the local control of a school board's ability to accept Federal funds for such needs as Title I schools, which have higher percentages of low-income students, and outstanding teachers who qualify for grants.

"There's nothing more local than a school board," Mr. Menard said, as to who should make the decision whether to accept Federal funds.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo agreed, and also spoke to the recently unveiled proposals from the Governor-appointed Education Reform Commission that would continue to shortchange

public schools the State funding they are owed through the existing funding formula by reconfiguring the formula with a lower starting point.

"It's convenient to say 'we're going to fully fund a new formula,' but to not start it out at the funding levels we're currently owed," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the State "austerity budget cut" for CCSD currently totals $11 Million. "I think it's irresponsible, and the quality of education is going to be in direct correlation with the lack of full funding. People like to say 'You can't fix a problem by throwing money at it," but I'm here to say that I've been a superintendent for 25 years, and I don't remember anyone ever throwing money at me. I've had to fight and claw for every dollar that our children were owed."

Dr. Petruzielo's passionate advocacy for public education resulted in a special moment at Thursday's meeting when two Woodstock High School students, Brittany and Sydney Gunter, spoke during Public Participation to thank him for his 50 years of service as an educator and present him with a U.S. Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol.

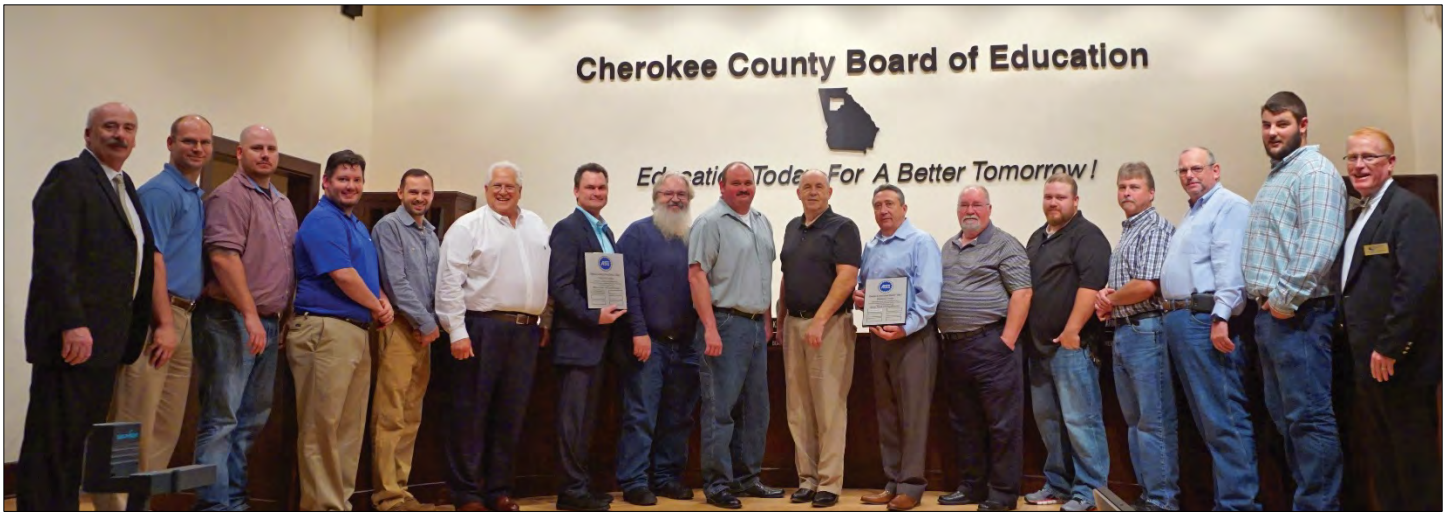
During its regular meeting, the School Board also:

- Recognized CCSD Transportation Department for earning ASE Blue Seal of Excellence… becoming one of the first school systems in the State to obtain this prestigious level of National certification. A list of all recognized employees is posted online;

- Recognized CCSD High School Seniors named 2016 National Merit and National Achievement Semi-Finalists: Matthew Wang of River Ridge HS, Mackenzie Joy of Sequoyah HS and Paula Ruiz of Woodstock HS;



Woodstock High School students Sydney, left, and Brittany Gunter present Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo with a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in appreciation of his 50 years of service as an educator and his advocacy for public education.



The CCSD Transportation Department was recognized at the School Board Meeting for earning ASE Blue Seal of Excellence… becoming one of the first school systems in the State to obtain this prestigious level of National certification.

- Recognized Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Award-winning CCSD staff members;

- Presented a "trailer" with excerpts from the first "Learning from Legends: Retired Educators Share Their Wisdom" video record, a new collaboration between CCSD and the Cherokee Retired Educators Association inspired by the StoryCorps national oral history project and the annual observance of Retired Educators Day;

- Approved monthly financial reports;

- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;

- Approved monthly update on capital outlay projects;

- Approved monthly personnel recommendations including appointing: Abbey Philpot, currently an assistant principal at Hasty ES Fine Arts Academy, as the new Principal of Clayton ES; Jennifer McIntosh, currently a teacher at Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, as a new assistant principal at Hasty ES Fine Arts Academy; and Dr. Susan McQuade, a teacher at Boston ES, as a new assistant principal at Macedonia ES; and,

- Met in Executive Session to review a personnel matter and a student discipline matter; upon returning to open session, the Board voted to uphold the tribunal's decision in regard to the student discipline matter.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Dec. 3, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, November 19, 2015

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING
6:30 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Clark Menard, Kelly Poole and Robert Rechsteiner; and Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order The call to order was given by Kyla Cromer.

Adjournment Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))* at 6:34 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, December 3, 2015

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, December 3, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Kelly Poole and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Attorney Tom Roach. Board Member Clark Menard was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order was made by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Etowah HS student Lily Russell.

A brief inspiration was provided by Patsy Jordan.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the November 5, 2015 School Board Meeting and the November 19, 2015 Called 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 John Harmon seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year - - Jeremy Law, Teasley MS

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

***A-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Resolution Clarifying School Board Intent Regarding Expenditure of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of The Children's Haven

B-2. Status Report: Safety and Security/Out of Country Field Trips

B-3. Status Report: State Audit

B-4. Update: Proposed City of Holly Springs Tax Allocation District (TAD)

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of October 2015 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation of Disposal of Surplus Property and Sale Date**

(Approved)

E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

***E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

F-2. Board Consideration of Proposed Contracts for Construction of New Educational Services Facility

(Approved)

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Womack, Lewis and Smith Construction as General Contractor for Construction of New Educational Services Facility *(6-0 vote).*

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Notification of Called Board Meeting - - 6:00 p.m., December 18, 2015

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Proposed Amendment to Aramark Custodial Services Contract**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

December 3, 2015: Regular Meeting



The $16 Million contract to build the CCSD Educational Services Facility on Bluffs Parkway in Canton was awarded to Womack, Lewis and Smith Construction. Funded by Education SPLOST revenue, construction will begin in January and be completed by August 2017.

The School Board on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, unanimously approved a contract for construction of a new administration building that will reunify staff and increase efficiency in central office operations.

The new/replacement facility has been needed, as well as approved by voters through Education Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referenda, for 15 years; but Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo had repeatedly recommended postponement in order to construct 19 new schools.

"We can no longer productively and efficiently manage and supervise the School District with central office staff spread out throughout the County in facilities that were not designed to meet current operational needs," Dr. Petruzielo said. "This new facility will allow for more efficient operations and better serve students, employees and the general public."

The $16 Million contract funded by Education SPLOST revenue to build the 90,300 square-foot CCSD Educational Services Facility in Canton was awarded to Womack, Lewis and Smith Construction.

The complex, which includes an office building and a professional development training center/School Board auditorium, will be built on more than 15 acres on the Bluffs Parkway north of RiverStone Plaza. The School District received the property in an exchange with the City of Canton for CCSD Buildings A and B downtown.

Construction will begin in January and be completed by August 2017. The new facility will reunite 150 employees from various departments in one centrally located, cost-effective office building; and the training center/auditorium, with a capacity for 690, will allow for professional development, special events and School Board meetings in a space that is significantly larger than current options.

School Board members at Thursday's meeting also heard several presentations from staff.

School Board Member Mike Chapman requested a presentation on school safety in light of recent mass shootings in the U.S. and France. School District Police Chief Mark Kissel gave an overview of the department's history, current operations and recent upgrades, such as the installation of buzz-in electronic school entrance systems that eliminate the practice of keeping one front door unlocked.

"We take it very seriously that this threat is out there," Mr. Chapman said of school safety, noting that he has been "very impressed" by the Department's operations and partnerships with other local law enforcement, especially in light of the fact that CCSD receives no State funds for safety and security.

At the request of Board Chair Kyla Cromer, Susan McCarthy, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs, Student Support and Professional Development, spoke about student out-of-country field trips. Ms. McCarthy assured the Board that CCSD works closely with its vendor for travel services, which monitors safety and security issues before and during such trips.

Also at the request of the Chair, Ken Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management, spoke about CCSD's recent State audit and the closing meeting that they and the Superintendent attended this week with the auditors. Per State law, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts may at any time elect to perform a random audit on any state or local unit of government. The State in November 2014 notified CCSD that Fiscal Year 2014 operations would be audited, in part due to the actions of a former School Board member.

The State audit concentrated on the financial statement work performed by Williamson and Company, the third-party, independent auditor hired by the School Board. After nearly six months of on-site review, an unprecedented experience for CCSD, the State found no instance of fraud, waste or mismanagement. The State's report concludes with an unmodified opinion, the most positive rating possible.

"The people from the State were very complimentary of [Mr. Owen]," Ms. Cromer said. "They were very impressed… and very satisfied with what we are doing."

The State report's findings refer only to the financial statements produced by Williamson and Company, and not to the staff or operations of the CCSD Office of Financial Management. All recommended changes to FY14 financial statements have been made by Williamson and Company at no charge to CCSD. All operational recommendations have been implemented (more than 75% were in place prior to completion of the State audit) or will be in place by the end of the current fiscal year.

Mr. Owen also noted that CCSD hired an internal auditor this fiscal year, who began work on July 1, to continually review and test internal controls and assist in identifying additional opportunities for operational improvements/efficiencies.

Board Member Kelly Poole, who is an accountant, asked as to whether the internal auditor would assist CCSD in developing its own financial statements. Mr. Owen said that work is underway to do just that, beginning with a parallel process for FY16 that will be compared to the independent auditor's statements.

The Board, at the request of the Chair, also heard a presentation on the Tax Allocation District (TAD) being considered by the City of Holly Springs. School Board Attorney Tom Roach explained the process, which, if approved by the School Board, would allow the City to withhold a certain percentage of property tax growth revenue that otherwise would fund school operations to instead be used by the City to redevelop its downtown area.

Mr. Roach and Dr. Petruzielo both voiced concerns that the City has not provided the legally required written proposal or basic information about the project's scope and the financial impact to CCSD, but the City is holding public meetings at which the TAD is being potentially erroneously described as in CCSD's best interest.

Dr. Petruzielo said it appears that the City's proposed TAD could significantly increase residential growth (which increases the cost of CCSD operations), rather than focusing solely on increasing commercial growth, which would improve the property tax base to the benefit of CCSD operations.

As a result, both Mr. Roach and Dr. Petruzielo said it would be premature and irresponsible for staff to make a recommendation to the Board that this TAD be approved.

"You don't want to be in a position where money that should be spent on students and teachers is being spent to develop Holly Springs' downtown," he said.

During its regular meeting, the School Board also:

- Recognized Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year Jeremy Law of Teasley MS;
- Recognized the Creekview HS girls' cross-country team members and coaches for winning first-place at the Regional competition and second-place at the State championship meet;
- Recognized the Cherokee HS advanced welding teacher and students for constructing a 28-foot Eiffel Tower tribute for the Holiday Lights of Hope display at Hobgood Park benefitting the Anna Crawford Children's Center;
- Approved a resolution in regard to the planned use of construction bonds;
- Approved monthly financial reports;
- Approved the disposal of surplus property through a surplus sale at 9 a.m. on Dec. 12 at the CCSD Warehouse at 201 Mountain Brook Court in Canton;

- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved monthly update on capital outlay projects;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved an amendment to the Aramark custodial services contract to increase staffing.

Next School Board meeting: 6 p.m. Dec. 18, 2015

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Friday, December 18, 2015

MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2015 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Interim Chairman Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chairman Patsy Jordan; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Kelly Poole and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Attorney Tom Roach. Board Member Clark Menard was not in attendance.

Call to Order The call to order was made by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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

B-1. Appointment of Dr. Brian Hightower - - Superintendent of Schools (Effective February 1, 2016)

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, to Appoint Dr. Brian Hightower as Superintendent of Schools – Effective February 1, 2016 *(6-0 vote).*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kyla Cromer to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

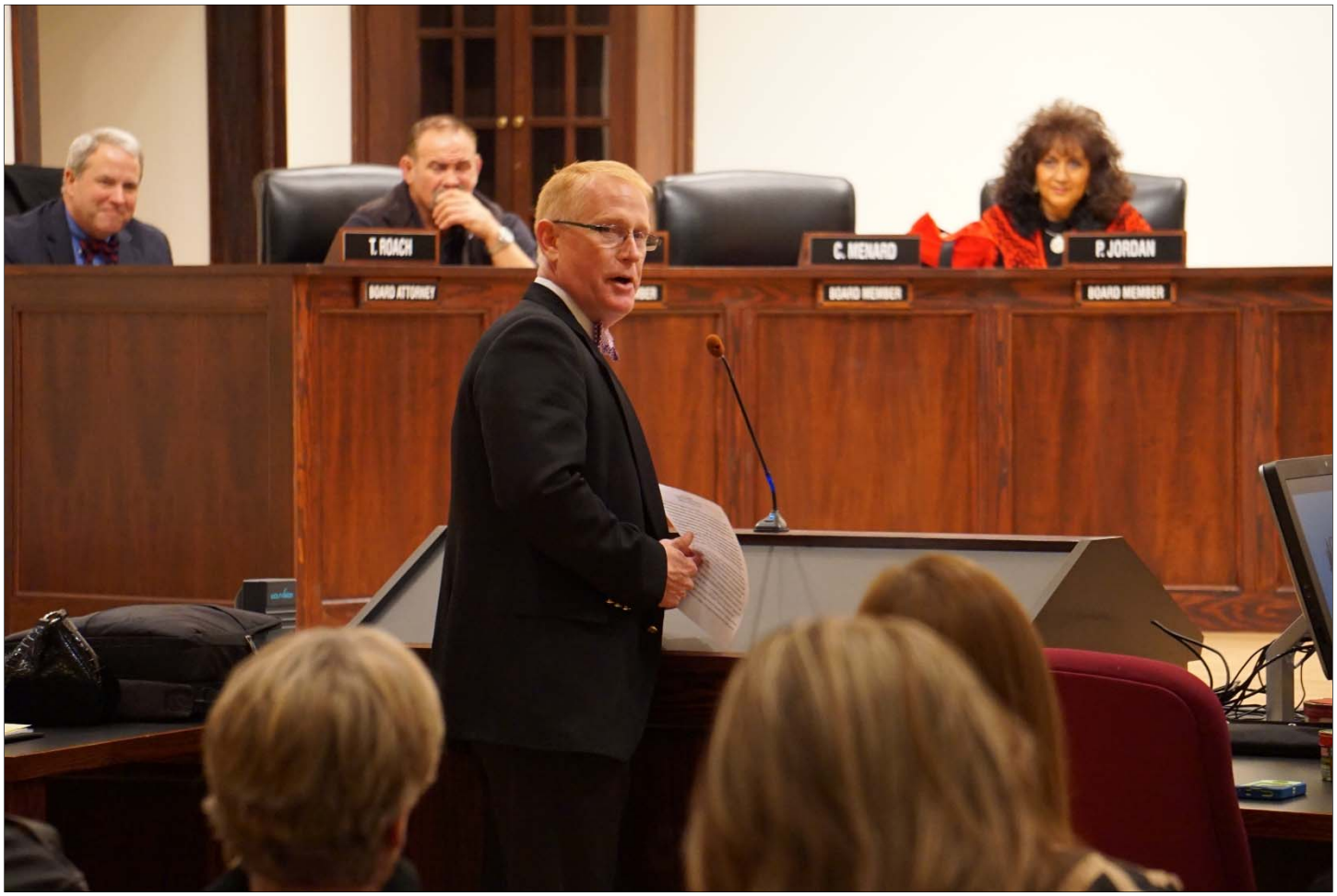
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School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

December 18, 2015: Called Meeting



Dr. Brian V. Hightower turns to the audience to thank his family after he was unanimously approved on Dec. 18, 2015 by the Cherokee County School Board to serve as the next Superintendent of Schools for the Cherokee County School District.

The Cherokee County School Board on Dec. 18, 2015 unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Brian V. Hightower as the next Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Hightower, who has served for the last 29 years in CCSD beginning as a classroom teacher and rising through school and central office administrative roles, will take office on Feb. 1.

"I stand ready to serve as your next Superintendent," Dr. Hightower told Board members during a brief speech to thank them, retiring Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, his family, his colleagues and his mentors and friends. "To be a part of this organization for 29 of my 30 years [in education] has turned into being the privilege of a lifetime."

School Board Chair Kyla Cromer said the Board was very impressed by Dr. Hightower's experience and education, as well as his interview and recommendations.

She said the strengths his supporters noted in recommending Dr. Hightower included: hard working, professional, well-respected, consistent, fair, thoughtful, problem-solver, leader.

"Your vote of confidence steels my resolve that we continue to be one of the best school districts in the Nation," he said.



The audience at the Dec. 18, 2015 School Board meeting gives a standing ovation to Dr. Brian V. Hightower upon his unanimous appointment to serve as the next Superintendent of Schools for the Cherokee County School District.

Next School Board meeting: 6 p.m. Jan. 14, 2016