CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

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 Michael Geist.

Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb provided an inspirational message.

Selection of Vice-Chair

Robert Wofford was selected as School Board Vice-Chair for 2014.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Kelly Marlow 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 Robert Wofford and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the December 5, 2013 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 Michael Geist seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

Public Participation

Two members of the public addressed the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Etowah HS Junior Jesse Sullivan for Heroism

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Etowah HS Teacher Dr. Claudia Larrotta and Senior David Morrison for Hispanic Heritage Foundation Awards

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Kim Fisher of Oak Grove ES Fine Arts Academy as Georgia Parent Leadership Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Jessica Riley of Woodstock HS as Kennesaw State University (KSU) Outstanding Dual Enrollment Honors Student for 2013-14

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize 2013-14 Reinhardt University/CCSD Mathematics Tournament Winners

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize Region and State Champions

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Approval of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2014 Legislative Priorities

(Approved)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner, and carried, to Approve the Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) 2014 Legislative Priorities *(7-0 vote)*.

***B-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD) on <u>First Reading</u>**

(Approved)

B-3. Auditor Presentation on 2010-11 (FY11) Audit

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Michael Geist, and carried, to allow the Auditor Presentation on the 2010-11 (FY11) Audit.

Two members of the public addressed the School Board.

B-4. Board Appreciation of Staff for Work During Extreme Cold Weather and Closing of School

B-5. Board Recognition of River Ridge HS "Night of Fine Arts"

B-6. Board Focus on Teaching and Learning for the New Year

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of November 2013 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/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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Student Discipline Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757]*, a Real Estate Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4)]*, and a Personnel Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6)]* at 8:59 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

Motion by Rob Usher, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, the Board returned to open session at 9:30 p.m. to vote on the Student Discipline Matter and Real Estate Matter *(7-0 vote).*

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to uphold the decision of the student disciplinary tribunal for Appeal Case #2013-DA-04 *(7-0 vote).*

(Upheld)

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Janet Read and carried, to approve the sale of 4.472 acres of elementary school property on Highway 108 to the Georgia Department of Transportation for $147,600.

(Approved)

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Janet Read and carried, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6)]* at 9:32 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 January 16, 2014. 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 16 day of January, 2014.

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

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

January 16, 2014: Strategic Work Session & Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board at its Strategic Work Session on Thursday heard good news about a likely reduction in the State "austerity budget cut" that may provide relief for the remaining furlough days.

Governor Nathan Deal in his "State of the State" address this week outlined plans to restore a portion of State education funding that has been cut in recent years, which may total about $7.5 Million for the Cherokee County School District.

Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said, while the School District still would face an estimated $18 Million State "austerity budget cut," the partial restoration will provide some financial relief.

The Governor initially was focused on giving teachers raises, but since then has said the decision on how to spend the funding will be left to local leaders.

"We really appreciate his tip of the hat to local control," Dr. Petruzielo said.

The School District's zero-based budget review process for developing a recommended 2014-15 operating budget begins this month, and the Superintendent's Ad Hoc Budget Committee will consider best uses for the restored funding.

Dr. Petruzielo noted that a furlough day saves the School District approximately $1.1 Million, so it would cost approximately $3.3 Million to eliminate the remaining three furlough days.

During his presentation, Dr. Petruzielo also noted that he appreciated the Governor's decision to delay a planned 2015 increase in State Health Benefit Plan costs to school systems of $150 per month per classified employee and appoint a committee to review the issue.

The School Board during its regular meeting heard a presentation on its Fiscal Year 2011 audit from the independent auditors, who reinforced that the School District's financial reporting received a "clean" or "unqualified" opinion, which is the best opinion possible.

"We believe based on our test work that these financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects," said Adam Fraley, a partner with the accounting firm of Mauldin & Jenkins, which completed the audit.

The Fiscal Year 2011 audit was completed in 2011; and since then, the Fiscal Year 2012 audit has been completed, and the Fiscal Year 2013 audit is currently underway. The Fiscal Year 2012 audit, which was conducted by the firm Williamson & Co., also received a "clean" opinion.

The School District has received "clean" opinions on all of its independent audits for at least the last 26 years, with those audits conducted by four different auditors. The past four years of final audit reports are posted on the School District's website at www.cherokee.k12.ga.us on the Open Government Project page.

During the presentation, Mr. Fraley reviewed the six findings the firm included in its final audit report; four of those findings were corrected in the Fiscal Year 2012 audit, with the remaining two corrected in the Fiscal Year 2013 audit. Findings are not unusual in an audit report with a "clean" opinion, as these are normal suggestions from an auditor to a client and often reflect new and/or changing generally accepted accounting principles or practices.

An explanation of these findings and the corrective action is included in the "Frequently Asked Questions – Annual Audits" document posted in the audit section of the Open Government Project page.

Mr. Fraley and Candler Howell, the School District's Assistant Superintendent of Financial Management and a former State auditor, following the presentation answered all questions from the Board; the Board took no action.

"What I saw was a process that was working," said Clark Menard, a former accountant with audit experience, who spoke during the public comment time following the presentation. "There are always going to be adjustments in an audit… and errors is not a bad word."

The School Board also took the following action:

- Re-elected Robert Wofford to serve as Board Vice Chair for a second one-year term;

- Heard a presentation from Dr. Petruzielo recognizing his Executive Administrative Assistant for being named the 2014 Best Volunteer in Cherokee

County by the Cherokee Tribune's Cherokee Life Magazine for her work with the Service League of Cherokee County;

- Heard a presentation from River Ridge HS teacher Judi Haggerty about the Piedmont Regional Technology Competition, for which she serves as director; the fair provides the opportunity for CCSD students to compete in technology-based challenges;

- Heard a resolution from the Cherokee County Council of PTA supporting CCSD employees who are protesting State Health Benefit Plan provider and plan changes;

- Recognized Etowah HS junior Jesse Sullivan for heroism, as he and his father recently saved a family from a house fire;

- Recognized Etowah HS teacher Dr. Claudia Larrotta and senior David Morrison for Hispanic Heritage Foundation Awards; Dr. Larrotta won the Innovative Educator Award and David was named an Atlanta Regional Hispanic Heritage Youth Award Gold winner in the engineering and mathematics division;

- Recognized Kim Fisher of Oak Grove ES Fine Arts Academy as one of only six Georgia Parent Leadership Awards Winners statewide;

- Recognized Jessica Riley of Woodstock HS as the Kennesaw State University Outstanding Dual Enrollment Honors Student for 2013-14;

- Recognized the 2013-14 Reinhardt University/CCSD Mathematics Tournament Winners: Individual First-Place Winner Varsity, Miranda Dominick, Etowah HS; Individual First-Place Winner Junior Varsity, Alex McMath, River Ridge HS; Team A Varsity First-Place Winner, Etowah HS: Miranda Dominick, Matthew Kern, David Morrison and Madeline Lazar, coached by Dr. Wright Vermilya and Dr. Kathleen Velueta; and Team A Junior Varsity First-Place Winner, Woodstock MS: Toral Patel, Greg Carroll, Sasha Stogniy and Michelle Belikova, coached by Dr. Catherine Head and Karen Egner;

- Recognized State and Region Champions: Creekview High School volleyball team player Katie Creger, coached by Abigail Jackson, for being named to the All-Area Team for 5A Area 7;

- Approved the Georgia Education Coalition 2014 Legislative Priorities;

- Approved the first reading of revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD);

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;

- Approved monthly personnel recommendations including the upcoming retirements of Director of School Operations Michael Vernor and Supervisor of Special Education Dr. Pam Ballato, both of whom were praised by Dr. Petruzielo for their dedicated service to CCSD and the community;

- Approved a motion in regard to a student discipline matter as reviewed in Executive Session;

- Approved a motion in regard to a real estate matter as reviewed in Executive Session to sell 4.5 acres on Highway 108 in Sutallee to the Georgia Department of Transportation for $147,600, which was CCSD's cost for the land; and,

- Met in executive session to consider a personnel matter.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Feb. 6, 2014

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, February 6, 2014

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

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach. Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb was 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 Tom Roach.

Janet Read provided an inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Janet Read, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, as amended *(7-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Rob Usher and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the January 16, 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 Michael Geist seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

Public Participation

No members of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

***A-1. Board Approval of Resolution Proclaiming February 17, 2014 as "PTA Day in Cherokee County Schools"**

(Approved)

A-2. Recognize Mike Baker as State AAAA and Region 7-AAAA Athletic Director of the Year

(Withdrawn)

A-3. Recognize Christine Lauer as Georgia Science Teachers Association's 2014 High School Science Teacher of the Year

(Withdrawn)

A-4. Recognize 2013-14 Regional Middle School Academic Bowl Winners

(Withdrawn)

A-5. Recognize CCSD's 2013-14 District Honor and All-State Band and Orchestra Members

(Withdrawn)

A-6. Recognize Region and State Champions

(Withdrawn)

A-7. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Partnership Agreements with Aramark Management Services and Optimist Clubs on Canton, Towne Lake

(Approved)

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve the Partnership Agreements with Aramark Management Services and Optimist Clubs on Canton, Towne Lake *(7-0 vote).*

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Alex Johnson, Student Delegate, Etowah HS

B-2. Board Recognition of Winter Weather Response

B-3. Board Recognition of Recent CCSD Events

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

***C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD) on <u>Final Reading</u>**

(Approved)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of December 2013 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)

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve the Bond Resolution which Authorizes the Issuance of $46,855,000 in New Money General Obligation Bonds and $34,430,000 in Refunding Bonds, Together with Approving the Bond Purchase Agreement with Citi Group. (7-0 *vote*).

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/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/Replacement Middle School "F" (Dean Rusk MS)

(Approved)

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to Approve Womack, Lewis and Smith Construction as Contractor for Construction of New/Replacement Middle School "F" (Dean Rusk MS) *(7-0 vote).*

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2014-15 Organizational Chart**

(Approved)

***I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Modifications to 2014-15 and 2015-16 School Calendars**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

February 6, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday night approved the next step in the process to build a new Dean Rusk Middle School facility.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the low bid from general contractor Womack, Lewis and Smith Construction of $38.6 Million. The replacement building, which is scheduled to open in August 2016, is being funded by Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenue, as approved by voters.

The new building will provide the Hickory Flat community with an expanded middle school similar to the recently opened replacement E.T. Booth Middle and the replacement Teasley Middle now under construction. The new facility is designed for 1,600 students, and will allow the current campus to be repurposed to relieve overcrowding at adjacent Sequoyah High School and potentially expand programs.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said while the bids are higher than for past similar projects, the increase is due to growth in the available construction work after a downturn that put many contractors and subcontractors out of business.

Despite increasing costs, the School District still was able to attract a bid well below the industry average for public school construction of $173 per square foot (which mirrors the costs for recent projects in neighboring counties), while the low bid accepted by the Board for the Dean Rusk Middle School replacement is $151 per square foot.

Dr. Petruzielo cautioned that if the Board rejected the bids and issued a new Request For Proposals, which was proposed by Board Members Michael Geist and Kelly Marlow, it would delay the project's opening to January 2017 and would not result in lower bids given the rising costs for labor and supplies.

"It's time to take care of business in regard to Dean Rusk," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the School District continues to see growth, and an average of 500 additional students is projected per year for the next five years. "Like it or not, growth is resuming."

The School Board also heard good news about rates for its proposed bond issuance, which then was approved unanimously. The School District's strong financials, reputation and "clean" unqualified independent audits led the bond underwriters to succeed in winning its lowest interest rates since 2001, with the exception of when federally subsidized bonds were issued.

These low interest rates not only allow the School District to issue $46.2 Million in bonds (a portion of the $138 Million borrowing capacity authorized by voters) at a great savings for construction and technology, but also enable the refinancing of existing debt for a savings to taxpayers of nearly $1.7 Million… refinancing in recent years has saved the School District and taxpayers more than $5 Million.

"This is real tax dollar savings," bond underwriter Bryce Holcomb of Citigroup Global Markets said in his presentation, noting that the buyers lined up to purchase the bonds are a "who's who" of major investors, all of whom do significant research. "It speaks very highly of your credit, your credit ratings, your system, the whole nine yards… whenever they do a bond rating, they really look under the hood and study you: at the Board level, at the finance level, at the staff level -- they really look at it all."

The School Board also took the following action:

- Heard a report from Dr. Petruzielo on CCSD response to "SnowJam" (highlights are published below this report);
- Approved a resolution proclaiming Feb. 17 as PTA Day in Cherokee County Schools;
- Approved the final reading of revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD);
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations;
- Approved the 2014-15 Organizational Chart; and,
- Approved changes to the 2014-15 and 2015-16 School Calendars so the last day of the school year will be on a Thursday to facilitate graduation ceremonies.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. March 20, 2014

CCSD Response to "SnowJam"

Presented by Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo
at the Feb. 6, 2014 School Board Meeting

I. THANK YOU!

- I want to begin by saying thank you! As I stated in my message to the community last week, we weathered this storm thanks to the patience and support of our employees, parents, partners and volunteers.

- We have heard amazing stories about the lengths our principals, teachers and support staff went to in order to ensure that every child was reunited safely with their families as soon as possible… and the dedication, resourcefulness and calm they showed when evacuating students and sheltering students at their schools overnight.

- We've received literally hundreds of messages of gratitude from parents. We've also heard from a few upset and frustrated parents. To address concerns, we are reviewing our inclement weather protocols and already have held a senior staff debriefing to begin talking about what we can do better.

- I'd like to publicly thank Deputy Superintendent Dr. Brian Hightower for the extraordinary, executive-level leadership he has shown during this emergency. The other members of my senior staff and principals, likewise, rose above and beyond… whether in tracking and evacuating stranded school buses, ensuring buildings where we sheltered students stayed warm or in communicating updates and answering calls and emails around the clock to keep parents and the community at large informed.

- There are many other staff members who deserve recognition for their dedication, professional commitment and heroism. I can't call every one of them out this evening, but I'd like to share just a few examples…

    - Thank you to bus drivers like Gretchen Caldwell or "Miss G," as the kids call her, who drove her big yellow school bus with Olympic skill and reassuring cool over icy hills carrying a load of precious cargo from Sixes Elementary School.

    - Thank you to administrators like Canton Elementary School STEM Academy Principal Beth Long, who not only stayed late to ensure every child got on a bus or into a parent's car, but also walked the last remaining students in the snow down the block to where the roads were clear enough for parents to pick them up.

- Thank you to support staff like Creekland Middle School Nurse Bre Carlson, who on her way home helped a woman in labor and then came back to the school and assisted with sheltering students overnight.

- And thank you to teachers like River Ridge High School's Matthew May, who spent Tuesday night sheltering students and making the experience special through creativity and great spirit… Matthew was dubbed "Entertainment Director, Activity Director, Cabin Steward, Custodian, Chef and Snowman"… Snowman because he made everyone laugh the entire night.

I see many more of our staff in the audience tonight who I know slept in their schools and offices on Tuesday night… if they slept at all, and who spent the next morning ensuring that every one of those students and staff returned home safely. And there are those who kept working throughout the recovery to ensure that no pipes burst inside our buildings, that our employees received their monthly paychecks and that our schools were ready for classes to resume on Monday.

For all of this and so much more, I again say: thank you! I am sure that the School Board, the audience of parents and students here tonight – and the entire community – joins me in applauding you.

II. DECISION-MAKING TIMELINE

- It's also important for me to share publicly a brief outline as to how "SnowJam" decisions were made and action was taken. The timeline for our response to last week's inclement weather began with advance tracking starting on Sunday… in cooperation with the Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

- The decision to hold school Tuesday and the subsequent decision to close early both were made with the most recent information from the National Weather Service (NWS) during a 9 a.m. teleconference attended by CCSD officials at the Cherokee County Emergency Operations Center. CCSD and the Cherokee County EMA rely upon NWS forecasts and advisories… which did not call for the storm we experienced. The NWS forecast as of that teleconference was a 1 inch dusting of snow between 1 and 8 p.m. in Cherokee County.

- Our surrounding school districts, with the exception of Pickens to the north, all held school on Tuesday; and upon hearing the updated forecast, all chose the same early dismissal plan. Had we or our neighboring school systems known the speed or severity of this storm further in advance, we would never have held school on Tuesday.

- The "warning" some citizens and some media representatives cite that Cherokee was added to at 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday was a "Winter Weather Advisory," which projected for our county up to an inch of snow over a 12-hour period. This is <u>not</u> the same forecast as the NWS "Winter Storm Warning" for earlier and more

significant snow amounts that Counties in Central and South Atlanta were initially included in -- Cherokee County was not added to that area until 1:15 p.m. – three hours after our decision to close early already had been made, with elementary bus routes well underway and middle and high school bus routes beginning.

- Our notification process began as soon as the closure/early dismissal decision was made, with public notification beginning at 10:15 a.m. Notification was made through the CCSD website, Facebook page and other social media; local and Atlanta TV stations and other media; and through our Aspen mass email system.

- Parents began picking students up from schools; buses began running their hub routes, followed by elementary routes and then middle and high routes; and high school student drivers were released. When weather conditions worsened, CCSD bus transportation was suspended and public notification was issued at 2:30 p.m. using the same notification methods. The closing of CCSD schools on Wednesday was announced at 4:30 p.m. that afternoon using the same notification methods.

- All CCSD buses were cleared of students by dark and of drivers by 8:20 p.m., with approximately 400 students and 70 staff members sheltered at 15 schools overnight. By 1:30 p.m. the next day, all students were reunited with parents and guardians.

III. NEXT STEPS

- As indicated earlier, staff is already in the review process – debriefing, identifying areas of improvement and implementing necessary adjustments and changes.

- At this time, we do not anticipate the need for student make-up days to be taken during breaks or added on to the end of the school year. We are awaiting guidance from the State as to whether the “State of Emergency” days will be counted toward the four inclement weather days that are allowed under State law… without the need for make-up days or a State waiver. If the State requires more seat time for our students, we have a contingency plan prepared that will not require additional days.

- Finally, please be advised that teachers are working diligently with students and parents to ensure that student mastery of performance standards is not negatively impacted by the loss of these school days.

Thank you again to our dedicated staff, parents and the entire community for its conscientious work and extraordinary support for our students through this trying time; it is greatly appreciated!

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, March 20, 2014

BOARD MEETING/EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order — Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Janet Read.

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

Executive Session — Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6)]* at 6:32 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

The School 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 20, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and, Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Janet Read.

Patsy Jordan provided an inspirational message.

Minutes for Approval — On a motion by Michael Geist seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the February 6, 2014 School Board Meeting, as amended *(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 Michael Geist seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

Public Participation

One member of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

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

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Debra Murdock of Cherokee High School as Georgia High School Principal of the Year

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Christine Lauer as Georgia Science Teacher Association's 2014 High School Science Teacher of the Year

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Rhonda Fiddler and Susan Nulph as National Special Needs Team Safety Roadeo Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Lindsay Bowley and Tori Sinco as Georgia Innovation in Teaching Competition Winners

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize 2013-14 Regional Middle School Academic Bowl Winners

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize CCSD's 2013-14 District Honor and All-State Band and Orchestra

(Recognized)

A-8. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

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

(Approved)

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

B-1. Board Approval of Naming of Delegate for 2014 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly

(Approved)

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to Name Robert Rechsteiner as Delegate for 2014 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly *(7-0 vote)*.

B-2. Whole Board Training Scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2014

B-3. Board Recognition of CCSD Partner of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Recognition Reception Sponsored by Cherokee County Educational Foundation

B-4. Board Recognition of Student Delegates for Recent Honors and Achievements

B-5. Board Recognition of Read Across America

B-6. Board Recognition of School Board Lunch at Sixes Elementary School

B-7. Board Recognition of Tour and Media Day at Etowah East

B-8. Board Recognition of Legislative Representatives and Legislative Session

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of January 2014 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/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

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

March 20, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday night heard an update on the efforts of the Cherokee County Educational Foundation, which so far this school year has donated more than $20,000 to the Cherokee County School District.

The Foundation is a nonprofit community organization founded a little more than a year ago at the suggestion of School Board Chair Janet Read. Its mission is to support students and staff of CCSD by promoting teaching and learning and celebrating achievements. It seeks funding and resources to enrich CCSD schools in areas not fully funded in the regular school program.

"The Foundation is a strong supporter of all that we do, and I greatly appreciate that collaboration," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said, noting that Ms. Read and the community leaders who make up the Foundation Board, led by President William "Billy" G. Hasty Jr., deserve great thanks. "This organization is not only doing an outstanding service to the students of today, but I know it will continue to do so for generations. It is my hope that every business and organization in the community would recognize this and join the Foundation in its efforts to assist in furthering improving public education in Cherokee County."

Foundation Board Member Mike Chapman and Barbara Jacoby, CCSD Director of Public Information, Communications and Partnerships, who serves as the Superintendent's ex-officio designee to the Foundation, presented the update.

So far this school year, the Foundation has:

- Issued $10,000 to six recipients in the first round of IMPACT Educational Grants for teachers and administrators with "bright ideas" including:
    - Merry Willis, Carmel Elementary School, $2,487.95 for "Carmel Colts Take Flight – A Hot Air Balloon Festival;"
    - Shelly Brumbelow and Jennifer Lewis, Indian Knoll Elementary School, $2,044.85 for "Digital Storytelling;"

  - John Murnan and Michelle Barthlow, Etowah High School, $1,640 for "Improving Science Instruction in the Etowah Zone by Fostering STEM Collaboration and Preparedness Between High School and Elementary School Teachers;"
  - Wendy Cope, Woodstock Middle School, and Pati Olton, Woodstock High School, $1,610 for "21st-Century Skills: Building a 7-Year Program;"
  - Amy Graham, Michael L'Esperance, Tim Lewis and Christy Rich, Teasley Middle School, $1,115 for "Teasley Trek;" and,
  - Beth Watkins, Teasley Middle School, $1,100 for "Boardworks Math."

- Issued special projects grants totaling $6,000 to:
  - Office of School Operations, $3,000 for credit recovery scholarships to aid students in graduating from high school;
  - Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy, $2,000 for scholarships to allow more low-income students to participate in extra-curricular enrichment opportunities and field trips; and,
  - Oak Grove Elementary School Fine Arts Academy, $1,000 for technology to allow more low-income students to participate in the BYLD (Bring Your Learning Device) initiative.

- Just this week, issued more than $3,250 in the second round of Rapid Grants to CCSD schools for a total of $7,700 awarded so far through this program.

- And, also this week, sponsored all of the costs associated with the School District's first-ever CCSD Partner of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Recognition Ceremony, which honored more than 70 outstanding community partners and volunteers with tributes, plaques and a reception for them and their guests.

- Expanded its school presence through its second annual "For the Love of Education" T-shirt campaign held this winter in CCSD schools.

- Expanded its community presence through the inaugural Fore… Cherokee County School Charity Golf Tournament held last fall – the second annual tournament is scheduled for Sept. 30 at Woodmont Golf & Country Club.

- Established a stronger online presence through its own website at www.cherokeecountyeducationalfoundation.org and Facebook page.

This month, the Foundation is launching its second "For the Love of Education" fundraising campaign, which seeks donations from businesses, organizations and individuals in the community. More information can be found on the Foundation's website at www.cherokeecountyeducationalfoundation.org.

The School Board also took the following action:

- Recognized School Board Members during Georgia School Boards Association School Board Member Appreciation Week;

- Recognized Cherokee HS Principal Debra Murdock as the 2014 Georgia High School Principal of the Year;

- Recognized Woodstock HS teacher Christine Lauer as the 2014 Georgia High School Science Teacher of the Year;

- Recognized CCSD bus drivers Rhonda Fiddler and Susan Nulph as the 2014 National Special Needs Team Safety Roadeo winners;

- Recognized Creekland MS teacher Lindsay Bowley and Avery ES teacher Tori Sinco as 2014 Georgia Innovation in Teaching Competition winners;

- Recognized Creekland MS and Woodstock MS academic bowl teams as 2013-14 Regional Middle School Academic Bowl winners;

- Recognized CCSD's 2013-14 District Honor and All-State Band and Orchestra student musicians and directors;

- Recognized the Creekview HS competitive cheerleading team and Etowah HS wrestling team as Region Champions;

- Heard public comment from Mr. Chapman, who also serves as a United Way board member. Mr. Chapman thanked CCSD for its support of the charitable organization's recent fundraising campaign, for which CCSD employees are among the greatest contributors with a total donation of $88,000;

- Approved a resolution regarding class size exemptions;

- Approved naming School Board Member Rick Steiner as the Board's delegate for the 2014 Georgia School Boards Association Delegate Assembly;

- Announced that Whole Board Training will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, in the Historic Canton HS/School Board Auditorium conference room.

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update; and,
- Approved personnel recommendations, which included the appointments of:
    - Dr. Nicole Holmes, current Liberty ES Principal, to Director of School Operations;
    - Doug Knott, current Ball Ground ES STEM Academy Principal, to Principal of Liberty ES;
    - Dr. Keith Ingram, current Hickory Flat ES Principal, to Principal of Ball Ground ES STEM Academy;
    - Whitney Nolan, current Woodstock MS Assistant Principal, to Principal of Hickory Flat ES;
    - Dr. Keith Bryant, current Carmel ES Principal, to Supervisor of Special Education;
    - Paula Crumbley, currently a principal in Henry County, to Principal of Carmel ES; and,
    - Ronald Barnes, current Supervisor of Maintenance, to Director of Maintenance.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. April 17, 2014

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, April 17, 2014

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 17, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and, Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

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 High School student Miranda Burroughs.

Janet Read provided an inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, 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 Rob Usher seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the March 20, 2014 School Board Meeting, as amended *(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 Michael Geist seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

Public Participation

Two members of the public addressed the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Mike Baker as State AAAA and Region 7-AAAA Athletic Director of the Year

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Cherokee County School District Counselors of the Year

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize of Participation by Dave Martinez in Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Meeting at United States Department of Education

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize 2014 GAE District Spelling Bee Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Etowah HS Sophomore, Evan McKenzie, as National Tourette Syndrome Association Youth Ambassador

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize CCSD's 2013-14 District Honor and All-State Chorus Members

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

***A-8. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Partnership Agreement with CASA for Children, Inc.**

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Approval of Collecting $3,600 Fine from School Board Member Kelly Marlow for Hearing Costs and Fees Related to Code of Ethics Violations – as requested by Janet Read, School Board Chair

B-2. Consideration of "Board to discuss resolution on Reconciliation of Cash Accounts Audit findings as directed by the State" – as requested by Kelly Marlow

B-3. Consideration of "Board to discuss resolution on Procurement and Suspension and Debarment Audit Findings as directed by the State" – as requested by Kelly Marlow

B-4. "Request the status of the completion and to schedule a public hearing for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 Financial Audit to include an official agenda item to conduct a complete review of findings, a review of all state correspondence and to include a question and answer session with the a representative or representatives from Williamson and Co. CPAs at an official Board Meeting" – as requested by Kelly Marlow

B-5. Board Recognition of River Ridge HS for Invitation to London, England New Year's Day Parade 2016

B-6. Board Recognition of Administrative Staff at Sequoyah HS

B-7. Board Recognition of Staff and Teachers for CRCT Preparation

B-8. Board Recognition of Woodstock ES for Hosting April 2014 School Board Lunch

B-9. Board Recognition of Special Olympics Awareness Day

B-10. Board Recognition of CCSD NCAA Signing Day, April 16, 2014

B-11. Potential Partnership Agreement with Cherokee County Legislative Delegation

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of February 2014 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/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 for Approval of Annual Update of Cherokee County School District's Three-Year Technology Plan

(Approved)

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to Approval of Annual Update of Cherokee County School District's Three-Year Technology Plan *(7-0 vote)*.

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

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate Matter *[O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4)]* at 8:19 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

April 17, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday, April 17, 2014 unanimously approved the annual update of the Cherokee County School District's Three-Year Technology Plan, which outlines how technology will be used throughout the school system.

The School District this month for the ninth time was named one of the Top 10 large school systems nationwide by the Center for Digital Education and the National School Boards Association in recognition of its effective use of technology in education.

The School District's Technology Plan is largely funded by the Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) that is approved by voters every five years to pay for school construction, land purchases, bond debt retirement and technology infrastructure, equipment and training. The most recent Education SPLOST renewal in 2011 allotted $40 Million for technology needs, with the next renewal referendum scheduled for 2016.

"We are so fortunate to be in a county where the voters support SPLOST and understand its importance not just to buy land and build buildings, but also to implement technology," Board Chair Janet Read said, adding that she appreciates how dedicated all CCSD employees are to learning how to best use technology. "We realize the importance of giving these kids a 21st-Century education."

The School District's Top 10 ranking as a digital education leader recognizes more than its successful use of technology in classrooms, as the judging criteria also evaluates the use of technology for areas including: effective and transparent governance; improvement in operations, strategic planning, data management and safety; and increased communication with students, parents and the community at large.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following action:

- Heard a request from Ms. Read that School Board Member Kelly Marlow develop a plan with the School Board Attorney by May 1, 2014 to pay $3,600 for hearing costs and fees related to Code of Ethics Violations, as the violations and sanction

were upheld earlier this month by the Georgia Board of Education. Ms. Read said that if Ms. Marlow does not do this by the May 1 School Board Meeting that she will ask the School Board to authorize the School Board Attorney to take action to collect the $3,600;

- Heard an update from Ms. Read on the Final Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2013; the independent auditor currently is completing this report, which could be finished as soon as this month. After the Final Audit Report is received by the School District, it will be presented by the independent auditor to the School Board during a regular meeting;

- Recognized River Ridge HS Athletic Director Mike Baker as the State AAAA and Region 7-AAAA Athletic Director of the Year;

- Recognized Cherokee County School District Counselor of the Year Elizabeth "Liz" Ray of Carmel ES and CCSD Innovation Zone Counselors of the Year;

- Recognized CCSD teacher Dave Martinez as the only K-12 educator selected to participate in an Office of Special Education Programs meeting at the U.S. Department of Education;

- Recognized 2014 Georgia Association of Educators District Spelling Bee Winners;

- Recognized Etowah HS sophomore Evan McKenzie as a National Tourette Syndrome Association Youth Ambassador;

- Recognized CCSD's 2013-14 District Honor Chorus, All-State Chorus and All-State Reading Chorus Members;

- Recognized State and Region Champions from Cherokee HS (Basketball, Football and Softball), Creekview HS (Football and Wrestling), Etowah HS (Swimming) and River Ridge HS (Basketball);

- Recognized Woodstock HS senior Briana Francois, the school's delegate to the School Board, as the recipient of a National Merit Achievement Scholarship;

- Approved a Partnership Agreement with CASA for Children, Inc.;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;

- Approved personnel recommendations, which included the appointments of:

    - Cindy Crews, who currently serves as Assistant Principal at Sixes ES, to serve as Principal of Sixes ES to succeed retiring Principal Deborah Kelly. Clay Gunter, a teacher at Oak Grove ES Fine Arts Academy, will serve as an Assistant Principal at Sixes ES;

    - Charles "Chuck" Wilson, who currently serves as a shared Assistant Principal at Creekview HS and Creekland MS, to serve full time as an Assistant Principal at Creekview HS. Dana Phillips, an Assistant Principal at E.T. Booth MS, will serve as an Assistant Principal at Creekland MS; and Craig McKinney, a teacher at Etowah HS, will serve as an Assistant Principal at E.T. Booth MS;

    - Laura Kudlak, who currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Dean Rusk MS, to serve as an Assistant Principal at Sequoyah HS, as Assistant Principal Pete Rohan is retiring. Catherine Holman, a counselor at Mill Creek MS, will serve as an Assistant Principal at Dean Rusk MS;

    - Scott Krug, who currently serves as an Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director at Woodstock HS, to serve as an Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director at River Ridge HS, as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Mike Baker is retiring. Tonya Sebring, who currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Etowah HS, will serve as an Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director at Woodstock HS. Amanda Ruiz, a teacher at Etowah HS, will serve as an Assistant Principal at Etowah HS;

    - Ben Lester, a teacher at Cherokee HS, to serve as an Assistant Principal at Teasley MS, which is adding Grade 6 next school year; Joni Smith, an Assistant Principal at R.M. Moore ES, will serve as an Assistant Principal at Little River ES; and CCSD special education teacher on special assignment Angela Greene will serve as an Assistant Principal at Woodstock MS; and,

    - Marjorie DeFrank, a past member of the CCSD Office of Financial Management Staff, to rejoin the department as a Supervisor after working for Kennesaw State University; and Randy Evans will be promoted from Coordinator to Supervisor of Maintenance.

- Approved Special Lease Agreements for summer camps; and,

- Met in executive session to discuss real estate, but took no action upon returning to open session.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. May 1, 2014 (Whole Board Training is 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 24, 2014)

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, May 1, 2014

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 1, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and, Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb. *The District 1 School Board seat became vacant on April 30, 2014 due to the resignation of Kelly Marlow.*

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 Carmel ES students Mathew Shae and Garrett Smith.

Teacher Kim Shotts read a sonnet by Woodstock HS student Brianna Jackson.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Robert Wofford, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Michael Geist and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the April 17, 2014 School Board Meeting, as amended *(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 Michael Geist seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

Public Participation

One member of the public addressed the Board of Education.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Katherine Morawa of Etowah HS for Winning National Spanish Examination 2014 Junior Travel Award

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Dalton West as Recipient of National READ 180 All-Star Award

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Student Recipient of Award of Excellence by Georgia Department of Education

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize 2014 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize State and Region Technology Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize Clark Creek ES STEM Academy FIRST LEGO League Robotics Teams as Regional Champions

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

A-8. Recognize Cherokee HS Senior Claire Jordan – Recipient of 2014 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship

(Recognized)

A-9. Recognize Creekview HS Students Riley Alexandra Jenkins and Cynda Lynn Tate – Recipients of Waste Management, Inc. Scholarships

(Recognized)

A-10. Recognize Carmel ES and Clark Creek ES STEM Academy for Participation in Parental Awareness for Safe Schools (PASS) Program

(Recognized)

***A-11. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve New and Renewal Partnership Agreements**

(Approved)

A-12. Board to Receive Status Report: Education SPLOST – <u>as requested by Janet Read, School Board Chair</u>

(Received)

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

B-1. Procedure for Filling Vacant School Board Seat

B-2. Status Report on 2014-15 Budget

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of March 2014 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/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. School Board Training - - Whole Board/Superintendent Training Scheduled for 6:15-9:15 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Special Lease Agreements**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. *(6-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

May 1, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board is proceeding with incremental steps to fill the School Board District 1 seat vacated by a recent resignation.

School Board Attorney Tom Roach said at the Board's meeting on May 1 that he has determined, after researching Local law and State law in regard to School Board vacancies and recent changes in that regard to the State election code, the earliest date on which a special election could be held is on Nov. 4, 2014… in conjunction with the General Election.

Mr. Roach said he has also determined that the School Board has the authority to make an interim appointment, which would enable students and parents in District 1 to have representation as the Board makes major upcoming policy decisions prior to the election, including approval of next year's (2014-15) budget. The Board has made interim appointments on two other occasions in the past 15 years to similarly provide representation following a resignation.

The Board agreed that Mr. Roach should prepare an application packet and process for the interim position to be approved at the May 15 meeting and subsequently advertised publicly… with the Board ultimately selecting the interim School Board member at its June 19 meeting. The interim Board member will serve from that date until Jan. 1, 2015, when the winner of the Nov. 4 special election will take office.

Also during the May 1 meeting, the Board heard a status report on the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) at Chair Janet Read's request. This report is posted on the Education SPLOST page on the School District's website at www.cherokee.k12.ga.us.

The report outlines how the voter-approved sales tax has been used over the past 15 years to build 19 new and replacement schools, as well as numerous support facilities; make major additions and renovations; fund technology infrastructure, equipment and training; acquire land for new schools; and retire bond debt. The School

District uses low-interest bonds to fund all of these projects; sales tax revenue retires the debt; and a 20-year plan of regular payments will retire all existing debt… a structure similar to a home mortgage.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo in his presentation emphasized that the use of bonds and the debt retirement plan are "not a secret and not hidden" – noting the information is on the ballot for every Ed SPLOST renewal and is included in annual budgets posted on the CCSD website.

"Political rhetoric," he said, could lead some to think otherwise, but that's deceitful; and such candidates for office "need both a math lesson and a history lesson."

"There's no 'exploding debt' – all that's exploded are good ideas for dealing with overcrowding, and all that's happened is now all of our students are in clean, well-lit, safe schools with enough places for all of them to sit," he said. "The School Board and this administration have done a good job of building infrastructure for the most important thing which happens in Cherokee County: making sure our children and grandchildren get a quality education!"

The Superintendent also noted that the use of bonds allows for future residents to help pay the costs for facilities built today, which will last 50 years; adding that, when sales tax revenue declined during the economic downturn, the School Board postponed projects and remained prudent in borrowing… only using 70 percent of the Ed SPLOST funds authorized by voters.

"The Board has exercised a great deal of discretion and has built new schools not where developers may have wanted them, but where we needed them," Dr. Petruzielo said, adding that schools not only are needed to address growth caused by new neighborhood construction, but replacement schools also are needed when existing facilities in older communities no longer can provide adequate and safe learning environments for children.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following action:

- Recognized Katherine Morawa of Etowah HS for winning a National Spanish Examination 2014 Junior Travel Award;

- Recognized Dalton West of Canton ES STEM Academy for winning a National READ 180 All-Star Award;

- Recognized Woodstock HS senior Brianna Jackson for winning a 2014 Award of Excellence presented by the Georgia Department of Education; Brianna also served as an Honorary School Board Member during Recognitions, and a sonnet that she wrote was shared as the meeting Inspiration;

- Recognized 2014 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners;

- Recognized State and Region Technology Fair Winners;

- Recognized Clark Creek ES STEM Academy FIRST LEGO League Robotics Team as Regional Champions;

- Recognized State and Region Champions (River Ridge HS: Georgia High School Association Literary Event Region Champions and the school's first-ever State Champion; Woodstock HS: Swimming, Wrestling and Girls Varsity Basketball Region champions);

- Recognized Cherokee HS senior Claire Jordan as recipient of 2014 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship;

- Recognized Creekview HS seniors Riley Jenkins and Cynda Tate as recipients of 2014 Waste Management Inc. Scholarships;

- Recognized Carmel ES and Clark Creek ES STEM Academy for participation in the Parental Awareness for Safe Schools (PASS) Program;

- Approved a new Partnership Agreement with the Macedonia Community Club and a renewed Agreement with Young Harris College;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;

- Approved the monthly personnel recommendations; and,

- Approved a Special Lease Agreement with Thrive Chapel for use of River Ridge HS.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. May 15, 2014, with the Annual Budget Conference Session at 6 p.m.
(Whole Board Training is 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. May 19, 2014)

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, May 15, 2014

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 15, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Tom Roach. Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb was not in attendance. *The District 1 School Board seat is currently vacant.*

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.

Student Delegate and Etowah HS student Alex Johnson provided an inspirational message.

Robert Rechsteiner recognized teacher Kun Tian and introduced a brief inspirational video focusing on the Chinese language program at Etowah HS, Woodstock HS and Clark Creek ES STEM Academy.

Adopt Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Michael Geist and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the May 1, 2014 School Board Meeting, as amended *(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 Robert Wofford seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote).*

Janet Read recognized the 2013-14 Student Advisor and Student Delegates.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize CCSD Winners of 2014 Georgia PTA District 13 Educator Awards

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Elaine Dasher of Sequoyah HS as National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Grant Winner

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Tori Sinco of Avery ES as 2014 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy Winner

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Heather Weiss of Woodstock MS/HS for State Culinary Competition First-Place Win

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize 2013-14 Georgia Scholars

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize 2014 Governor's Honors Finalists

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize 2013-14 Elementary Science Olympiad Winners

(Recognized)

A-8. Recognize 2013-14 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-9. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

A-10. Recognize 2013-14 STAR Students and STAR Teachers

(Recognized)

A-11. Recognize Recipients of 2014 Aramark Education Scholarships

(Recognized)

***A-12. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreement**

(Approved)

A-13. Recognize Creekview HS National Rocketry Champions

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Recognition of Recent Events at CCSD Schools

B-2. Board Recognition of Legislative Delegation Member

B-3. Reminder of School Board Training - - 6:15 -9:15 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2014

B-4. Board Recognition of Office of Personnel Management

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of April 2014 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/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**

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Board Approval of Interim School Board District 1 Member Appointment Process and Call for Special Election for School Board District 1 to be Held Nov. 4, 2014

(Approved)

Motion made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to Approve the Interim School Board District 1 Member Appointment Process and Call for Special Election for School Board District 1 to be Held Nov. 4, 2014 *(6-0 vote).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2014-15 Student Discipline Code

(Approved)

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

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(4)) at 8:07 p.m. *(6-0 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 May 15, 2014. 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 15 day of May, 2014.

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

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

<u>May 15, 2014</u>: Strategic Work Session and Regular Meeting

Taxpayers will see a charge on their property tax bill disappear forever this year if the Cherokee County School Board adopts budget recommendations outlined by the Superintendent of Schools.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, during his Strategic Work Session with the School Board on Thursday, May 15, presented an overview of the forthcoming 2014-15 Budget, which calls for no increase in the operating millage rate and complete elimination of the debt service millage rate, which currently is set at .4 mills.

"The elimination of this property tax represents a promise kept by the School Board and administration," said Dr. Petruzielo, after explaining that the debt service tax was approved by voters in 1993 with the understanding that, once the associated bonds were paid off, the tax would end. "We're not leaving this toll bridge up to fill the coffers – the debt has disappeared and so should the tax… this is yet another example of how the public's trust in the School Board and administration has been and continues to be a wise investment!"

As the State has reduced the School District's "austerity budget cut" by $7 Million for the next year and the Local property tax digest is anticipated to grow, after appeals, by at least 6-7%, the Superintendent said the School Board is in a position to further restore services for students and staff… such as smaller class size for all grade levels and additional support positions.

The continuing economic recovery brings the School District back to 2006 revenue levels, but with 4,400 more students enrolled in its schools; so, a full restoration of services is not yet possible, Dr. Petruzielo noted.

The major highlights of the Superintendent's Tentative Budget, which will be presented at the June 19 meeting, include:

- Reduction in property taxes… by eliminating General Obligation Bond Millage (.4 mills = $2.5 Million in taxes generated), with no increase in the current Maintenance & Operation (M&O) Millage;

- Continuation of the full 180-day school calendar (this was restored for the 2013-14 School Year as a result of $7 Million in budget cuts and a $4 Million reduction in State "austerity budget cuts");

- Hire 49 additional teachers to reduce class size at primary (K-3) grade levels; and, if Local property tax digest growth allows, hire additional teachers to reduce class size at intermediate (4-5) grade levels;

- Restore school nurse hours to six hours (from 5.5 hours) per day;

- Restore School Police staffing levels to reflect growth/additional schools;

- Hire 10 additional bus drivers to address growth, improve efficiency and reduce ride time for students;

- Provide a one-half teacher allotment at each high school dedicated to credit recovery/helping students stay on track for graduation… similar to the successful Graduation Coach program that previously was fully funded by the State;

- Implement an automated substitute teacher scheduling system for classroom teachers to utilize… to improve efficiency and comply with the Affordable Care Act;

- Pilot a school entry-door security system in one Innovation Zone… this system will allow front office staff to keep all front doors locked and to "buzz in" visitors after review via an intercom and video camera system;

- Establish an emergency Parent Notification System -- for phone, text and email alerts, which expands the current system in use;

- Eliminate the remaining three furlough days, which will restore full work calendars and full pay for all employees... for the first time since 2008-09;

- Fund annual longevity step increases for eligible employees; and, if Local property tax digest growth allows, consider a small cost-of-living raise for all employees -- the first in five years; and,

- Use remaining funds to begin restoring Budget Reserves to previous levels.

When the Superintendent's recommended tentative budget is presented at the June 19 School Board meeting, public comment will be heard; the vote to approve the budget will be held at the July 23 meeting after another opportunity for public comment.

Dr. Petruzielo said he greatly appreciates the decision by the Governor and General Assembly to make increased education funding a priority, but noted that if the remaining $17.6 Million "austerity budget cut" had been restored, it could have funded an additional 267 teaching positions to reduce class size across all grades districtwide.

"We know that it's not feasible to fully restore State funding in one year, but our challenge to the Legislative Delegation is to keep those cards and letters coming… for if you do reduce the austerity cuts further, we'll also be able to begin reducing middle and high school class size," Dr. Petruzielo said.

The School Board on Thursday also unanimously approved the process to fill the School Board District 1 seat vacated by a recent resignation.

The Board will accept applications for the interim District 1 Board Member seat from today through June 5 and will vote on June 19 to make the appointment; the interim Board member will serve until Nov. 4, 2014. The application is posted on the home page of the School District's website at www.cherokee.k12.ga.us. A special election will be held on Nov. 4, 2014 in conjunction with the General Election; the winner will serve the remaining two years of the term until Dec. 31, 2016.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following action:

- Recognized CCSD Winners of 2014 Georgia PTA District 13 Educator Awards;
- Recognized Elaine Dasher of Sequoyah HS as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Grant winner;
- Recognized Tori Sinco of Avery ES as a 2014 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy winner;
- Recognized Heather Weiss of Woodstock MS/HS for her State Culinary Competition first-place win;
- Recognized 2013-14 Georgia Scholars;
- Recognized 2014 Governor's Honors Finalists;
- Recognized Holly Springs ES STEM Academy's team as the 2013-14 Elementary Science Olympiad winner;
- Recognized 2013-14 State and Regional Science and Engineering Fair winners;

- Recognized State and Region Champions: Cherokee HS, Skills USA and Literary Competition; Creekview HS, Track & Field; Woodstock HS, Literary Competition and Softball;

- Recognized 2013-14 STAR Students and STAR Teachers;

- Recognized recipients of 2014 Aramark Education Scholarships;

- Recognized Creekview HS National Rocketry Champions;

- Approved a renewed Partnership Agreement with Central Michigan University;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the monthly personnel recommendations;

- Approved the 2014-15 Student Discipline Code; and,

- Approved a Special Lease Agreement with Mount Paran North Church for use of Sequoyah HS.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. June 19, 2014
(Whole Board Training is 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. May 19, 2014)

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, June 19, 2014

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 19, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Darrell Caudill. School Board Member Rob Usher was 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 Canton ES student Faith Johnson.
Adopt Agenda	On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(5-0 vote).*
Minutes for Approval	On a motion by Robert Wofford seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the May 15, 2014 School Board Meeting, as amended *(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 Michael Geist 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 School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Carmel ES as 2014 "Promising Practices in Character Education" Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize 2013-14 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize 2013-14 Elementary, Middle and High School Social Studies Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Shakobia "Kobi" Sims, Georgia State Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Winner

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Meredith Schneider, Georgia "Give Wildlife a Chance" Poster Contest Winner

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize Sean Amato, Metro Atlanta Chess Tournament Winner

(Recognized)

A-7. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

A-8. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements

(Approved)

Motion made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements *(5-0 vote).*

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

B-1. Board Appointment of Interim School Board District 1 Member

Kyla Cromer was appointed Interim School Board District 1 Member.

B-2. Board Recognition of GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly

B-3. Board Recognition of FY 2014-15 Tentative Budget

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

***C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2014-15 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on <u>First Reading</u>**

(Approved)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

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

(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 FY2015**

(Approved)

***E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's 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)

Motion made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Out of State/Overnight Field Trips *(5-0 vote).*

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 Parent Entrance at Carmel Elementary School

(Approved)

Motion made by Janet Read, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to Reject Proposed Contracts for Construction of New Parent Entrance at Carmel ES *(5-0 vote).*

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

***G-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Repurposed Job Descriptions for: Inventory Control Clerk (Maintenance and Transportation), Braille Transcriber (Special Education), Police Lieutenant, Police Sergeant, Police Officer – Senior, Police Officer-Investigator and Facility Support Worker**

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Tabling of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2014-15 Budget and Approval of Spending Resolution**

(Approved)

I-2. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended Intergovernmental Transfer

(Approved)

Motion made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to Approve the Intergovernmental Transfer *(5-0 vote).*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 8:05 p.m. *(5-0 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 June 19, 2014. 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 19th day of June, 2014.

_____

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

Notary Public Melissa Whatley
My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017

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

Janet S Read

Robert Jordan

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

June 19, 2014: Regular Meeting

Cherokee County School District students who live in the District 1 School Board post now have new representation on the Board.

The School Board at its regular meeting on June 19, 2014 voted to name Kyla Cromer of BridgeMill as the interim District 1 School Board Member to fill the vacant seat. She will be sworn in at the July 23, 2014 meeting and will serve until the successful candidate in a November special election is sworn in. That individual will serve until the term expires on Dec. 31, 2016; Ms. Cromer has stated she plans to run in that election.

A longtime PTA volunteer with CCSD schools, Ms. Cromer has held many offices with the organization including school PTA President, Vice President of the Cherokee County Council of PTA and PTA 13th District Legislative Chair. She worked as a public school teacher for seven years in Ohio before moving to Georgia, and served as director of education for Sylvan Learning Center of Woodstock for four years. Ms. Cromer earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and volunteers with MUST Ministries and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She and her husband, Randy, have two daughters who attend CCSD schools.

"I care about the students, employees and taxpayers of Cherokee County," Ms. Cromer wrote in her application for the position. "Through my experiences as a teacher, community volunteer and PTA leader throughout the District, I have demonstrated the qualities of leadership, teamwork, dedication, public service and humility necessary to represent my community and yet also serve as part of a seven-member board."

The School Board on Thursday also tabled the Superintendent's Recommended 2014-15 Budget to allow for planned public hearings on July 9 and 23 before a vote to adopt the budget on July 23. An Executive Summary of the budget is posted on the School District's website at www.cherokee.k12.ga.us.

The proposed budget calls for no increase in the operating millage rate and elimination of the debt service millage rate, which currently is set at .4 mills.

The budget allows for: continuation of the full 180-day school calendar for students; hiring of: additional teachers to reduce class size for kindergarten through fifth grade, half-time graduation coaches for all high schools and additional police officers and bus drivers; elimination of the remaining three furlough days for all employees; new initiatives to enhance communication with parents and school safety; increases in Budget Reserves; and other improvements to services.

"I really appreciate the staff's effort on the budget," Board Chair Janet Read said. "I'm especially excited that we're looking at no furlough days… and how many teachers we're able to hire. Everyone here is a taxpayer – thank you for everything you to do support us. The Governor and Legislature also didn't have as much of a State 'austerity budget cut' for next year – and we really appreciate that."

In keeping with its history of accountability and strong financial stewardship, the School Board on Thursday voted 5-0 (School Board Member Rob Usher was absent) to reject a contractor's proposal for a planned project because it came in over budget. Only one proposal was received for the project to build a parent entrance road at Carmel Elementary School to improve safety and traffic flow, and it was for $2.97 Million… which exceeded the advertised $2.7 Million budget.

"This is not about there being a problem with the contractor," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the one proposal received was from an "extremely reputable firm." "This is related to questions about soil conditions, and contractors tend to err on the side of caution when there are unknown factors in a construction project."

Dr. Petruzielo said CCSD's Facilities staff will investigate and test the soil, and that information likely will be helpful in generating a second round of proposals that are more numerous and within the project's estimated budget.

The Board on Thursday also unanimously approved transferring 2.2 acres behind ACE Academy to the City of Holly Springs. The land is part of the existing City-operated J.C. Mullins Park, and the transfer allows the City to make improvements that will benefit CCSD and community use of the property.

"This is a good opportunity to do what government should do: work together to benefit the community," Board Vice Chair Robert Wofford said.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following action:

- Recognized Carmel Elementary School as 2014 "Promising Practices in Character Education" Award Winner;

- Recognized 2013-14 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners;

- Recognized 2013-14 Elementary, Middle and High School Social Studies Winners;

- Recognized Shakobia “Kobi” Sims of Teasley Middle School, Georgia State Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Winner;

- Recognized Meredith Schneider of Arnold Mill Elementary School, Georgia “Give Wildlife a Chance” Poster Contest Winner;

- Recognized Sean Amato of Clark Creek Elementary School STEM Academy, Metro Atlanta Chess Tournament Winner;

- Recognized State and Region Champs in girls’ track and field and girls’ golf from Etowah High School;

- Approved renewed Partnership Agreements with the Cherokee Child Advocacy Council and Cherokee County Department of Family and Children Services;

- Approved the first reading of technical modifications and rescindments to School Board Policies;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved the annual Food Services hair net bid;

- Approved the Local Plan for Improvement of Vocational, Technical and Agricultural Education/One-Year Funding Application for 2014-15;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the monthly capital outlay project update;

- Approved the monthly personnel recommendations;

- Approved repurposed job descriptions for several positions; and,

- Approved the annual Spending Resolution.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. July 23, 2014
(Public Budget Hearings will be held at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. July 9, 2014 and 6:30 p.m. July 23, 2014)

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

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 23, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; 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 Alyssa, Spencer and Sydney Geist. Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.
Swearing-In Ceremony	District 1 School Board Member Kyla Cromer was sworn in by Cherokee County Probate Judge Keith Wood.
Adopt Agenda	On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(7-0 vote).*
Minutes for Approval	On a motion by Robert Wofford seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the June 19, 2014 School Board Meeting and July 9, 2014 Public Hearings on the 2014-15 Budget. *(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 Michael Geist 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 Canton STEM Academy – Winner of 2014 Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals "School Bell Award" – and Principal Beth Long

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Charlette Green, Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Jenn Melvin, Bascomb ES, Georgia PTA Outstanding Educator for 2014

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize CCSD's Georgia PTA Reflections Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Students Honored for Participation in the 2013-14 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Recognition of Superintendent and Staff for Development of the 2014-15 Budget

B-2. Recognition of New/Replacement Teasley MS

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

***C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2014-15 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on Final Reading**

(Approved)

C-2. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Revisions to School Board Policy (GAMB) – Possession and Use of Weapon on First Reading

(Approved)

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Revisions to School Board Policy (GAMB) – Possession and Use of Weapon on First Reading *(7-0 vote).*

One member of the public signed up to address the School Board relative to agenda item C-2.

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

***D-2. School Board Pre-Approval of Authorized School Fund-Raising Activities for 2014-15 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 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

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

(Approved)

H-2. Board Consideration of Resolution Calling for Special Election to Fill School Board Post 1 Vacancy

(Approved)

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to Approve a Resolution Calling for Special Election to Fill School Board Post 1 Vacancy. *(6-0 vote; Cromer abstained).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2014-15 Budget**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) and a Personnel Matter *(O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))* at 7:46 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:27 p.m.

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 14-84753.

(Upheld)

The Board adjourned at 8:29 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 July 23, 2014. 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 23 day of July, 2014.

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
Robert Rutford
Kayla Cromer

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

July 23, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board welcomed its newest member at its meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2014 and unanimously approved the 2014-15 Annual Budget.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Kyla Cromer of BridgeMill was sworn in as interim Board Member for District 1 by Cherokee County Probate Court Judge Keith Wood, and the ceremony was followed by a standing ovation for the new official. Ms. Cromer will serve until the successful candidate in a Nov. 4, 2014 special election is sworn in; Ms. Cromer has already announced her intentions to run in that election for the remainder of the term, which expires on Dec. 31, 2016.

The budget, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and posted on the Cherokee County School District website at www.cherokee.k12.ga.us, calls for no increase in the operating millage rate and elimination of the debt service millage rate, which was set at .4 mills last year.

School Board Chair Janet Read and Board Member Patsy Jordan both thanked the Superintendent and his staff for their diligent work in preparing the 2014-15 budget, which addressed all of the Board's major budget priorities: 180 days of school, no furlough days and reduced class size.

"I want to thank you for keeping the collective priorities of the School Board in mind to get us where we need to be so that we can continue to offer a quality education to every student that will be joining us," Ms. Read said.

Major highlights of the budget include: continuation of the full 180-day school calendar for students; hiring of: additional teachers to reduce class size for kindergarten through fifth grade, half-time graduation coaches for all high schools and additional police officers and bus drivers; elimination of the remaining three furlough days for all employees; new initiatives to enhance communication with parents and school safety; increases in Budget Reserves; and other improvements to programs and services.

The School Board approved the first reading of revisions to the School Board Policy governing weapons on school property as a result of changes in State law. A final reading will be heard at the Aug. 14 meeting. The Board will continue to prohibit weapons on school property, where possible, and will discourage possession of weapons on school properties when otherwise authorized.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following actions:

- Heard an update from School Board Attorney Tom Roach in regard to the $3,600 ethics violation sanction owed to CCSD by former School Board Member Kelly Marlow Trim; he recently received a check for the full amount from Charles Robertson on her behalf;

- Heard an update from Mr. Roach in regard to the School Board's completion of training and self-evaluations required to continue "School Board of Distinction" status… as awarded by the Georgia School Boards Association; he reported that, one School Board Member did not complete the self-evaluation by the June 30 deadline; accordingly, the School Board will be ineligible to continue receiving this recognition next year.

- Recognized Canton ES STEM Academy – Winner of 2014 Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals' "School Bell Award" – and Principal Beth Long;

- Recognized Charlette Green, CCSD Special Education Director, as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association;

- Recognized Bascomb ES teacher Jenn Melvin as the Georgia PTA Outstanding Educator for 2014;

- Recognized CCSD's Georgia PTA Reflections Winners (a list of these students' names is posted online with the agenda);

- Recognized Students Honored for Participation in the 2013-14 Duke University Talent Identification Program (a list of these students' names is posted online with the agenda);

- Approved the final reading of technical modifications and rescindments to School Board Policies;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved authorized school fundraising activities for the 2014-15 school year;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

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

- Approved the Superintendent's monthly personnel recommendations, including appointment of Woodstock ES Teacher of the Year Rachel Wasserman to fill a recently vacated Assistant Principal position at the school;

- Approved establishment of a 2014-15 tribunal hearing panel for certified personnel recommended for employment contract termination or suspension; and,

- Approved a formal resolution calling for a special election on Nov. 4, 2014 to fill the School Board District 1 vacancy; Ms. Cromer abstained from this vote, citing her intentions to run for office in the election.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Aug. 14, 2014…following the annual Trends in Education Work Session at 5:30 p.m.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, August 14, 2014

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 14, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Rob Usher and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and, Board Attorney Darrell Caudill.

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 Student Advisor to the School Board Parth Patel.

Adopt Agenda — On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher 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 July 23, 2014 Public Hearing on the 2014-15 Budget and from the July 23, 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 Robert Wofford seconded by Rob Usher 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 Student Advisor and Student Delegates to School Board

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Creekview HS Rocketry Team for Silver Medal

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Hazel Tuck of Creekview HS for FLBA National Award

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize CCSD Schools as Governor's SHAPE (Student Health and Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Jennifer McIntosh as Georgia Innovation in Teaching Competition Winner

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Approval of Extension of Employment Contract with Superintendent of Schools

Motion made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Extension of Employment Contract with Superintendent of Schools *(6-1 vote; Geist dissented).*

B-2. Recognition of School Board, Superintendent and Staff for Assistance in New School Board Member Transition

B-3. Recognition of First Lady Sandra Deal's Recent Visit to Hasty Fine Arts Academy

B-4. Recognition of Pre-Planning and First Week of School Photo Slideshow

B-5. Recognition of Student Enrollment Count

B-6. Recognition of Staff for Response to Recent Severe Weather Event

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

C-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Revisions to School Board Policy GAMB – Possession and Use of Weapons on Final Reading

(Approved)

Motion made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation for Revisions to School Board Policy GAMB – Possession and Use of Weapons on Final Reading, *(7-0 vote).*

One member of the public addressed the School Board relative to Board policy GAMB.

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

D-1. Receive Fiscal Year 2012-13 Financial Audit Report Presentation by Independent Auditor

(Received)

Motion made by Rob Usher, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Receive Fiscal Year 2012-13 Financial Audit Report Presentation by Independent Auditor *(7-0 vote).*

***D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of July 2014 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs)**

(Approved)

D-4. Board Approval of Request For Proposals (RFPs) for Annual Financial Audits - - 2013-14 and 2014-15

(Approved)

Motion made by Michael Geist, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to Approve Request For Proposals (RFPs) for Annual Financial Audits - - 2013-14 and 2014-15 *(7-0 vote).*

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

***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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Parth Patel, seconded by Janet Read and carried to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

August 14, 2014: Trends in Education Session and Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board at its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014 celebrated the successful start of a new school year, the extension of the Superintendent of Schools' contract and a positive independent financial audit.

School Board Chair Janet Read asked for a report on the first two weeks of school, noting that she has only heard positive feedback from the community.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Brian Hightower reported that enrollment had increased by Thursday, the ninth day of classes, to 40,389… which exceeded projections for peak enrollment (typically reached by the 20th day of school) by 189 students. The total has already topped last year's 20-day count by 745 students.

Dr. Hightower attributed the growth to higher than anticipated transfers from Cherokee Charter Academy (297 students across all grades) and an improving economy, noting that staff is closely monitoring class size and housing inventory in preparation for possible adjustments and future school construction.

Class size in elementary schools across CCSD has greatly improved due to funding approved by the School Board in its 2014-15 Annual Budget, Dr. Hightower said.

"The allotments you approved in the budget are really paying off," he said, noting that kindergarten is down to an average of 21.5 students – significantly lower than the approved maximum of 26 and down by about two students per class from last school year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said the response from parents and teachers has been overwhelming.

"The teachers are certainly happy about the small cost-of-living increase and longevity steps, and they're delighted there are no more furlough days, but more than

anything, they are thrilled with the extra attention they can give kids with fewer kids in the classroom," he said, noting that, as long as the Governor and State Legislature continue the trend of reducing "State austerity budget cuts," CCSD will be able to begin reducing class sizes next school year in middle and high schools.

Dr. Petruzielo on Thursday also accepted a two-year renewal of his contract to lead CCSD, a role he has held since 1999 when he came to the county after leading two of the Nation's largest school systems in Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale), Fla. and Houston, Texas.

"I appreciate the votes of confidence I've received from the School Board with eight renewals of my contract, and I greatly appreciate the support of all of our employees, parents, volunteers and partners during my tenure thus far," Dr. Petruzielo said. "While these next two years will be my last in this role, I will be bringing the same passion for public education and for the success of every child that we serve as I have every day for the last 16 years. We have extraordinary projects in the wings, and I can't wait to see them take flight."

More good news for the School District came in the form of a report presented by the accounting firm that conducted the independent financial audit for the 2012-13 fiscal year. The School District has received another "clean audit" – the best possible – for its finances. One finding (a recommendation by an auditor for improvement) was made: the continuation of a previous recommendation in regard to making cash reconciliation entries on a more frequent basis; the auditor said the recommendation has been implemented, so the finding should not be continued in future audits.

"Our Office of Financial Management is diligent in its accounting of our community's investment in public education, and this independent review of our finances gives the highest marks for their professionalism and the School Board's strong fiscal stewardship," Dr. Petruzielo said. "Our School District is our community's largest organization, so it's important for the entire community that our financial house remains in order and has received this clean opinion."

During its annual Trends in Education work session, the School Board received an overview of developments in: accountability for students, schools, teachers and administrators; enhanced student learning opportunities, such as the expansion of the Cherokee Academies initiative including the development of the Career and College Academy; and the future of public education funding.

The Superintendent also detailed another important development: the pursuit of IE^2 as the School District's choice for its Georgia General Assembly statutorily-required educational restructuring option, with a presentation on this proposal to be made at the Oct. 16 Strategic Work Session.

Dr. Petruzielo during the session also shared an updated Five-Year Facility Plan, which now incorporates the project to replace Administrative Office Building "A."

The replacement project was approved by voters during the past three Education Special Purpose Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) renewals, but had been put behind more pressing projects and then postponed due to low revenue. A replacement building is needed in order to consolidate departments spread between buildings throughout the county due to the inability to use half of the space in the 85-year-old Building "A"; this consolidation will improve productivity, efficiency and reduce operating costs.

A timeline for the project has not yet been established, as significant planning is still to be done; however, the Superintendent said his preference is to build the replacement facility on the current footprint and to retain a similar historic appearance for the façade.

The School Board on Thursday also took the following actions:

- Approved the first reading of revisions to the School Board Policy governing weapons on school property as a result of changes in State law. The policy continues to prohibit weapons on school property, where possible, and to discourage possession of weapons on school properties when otherwise authorized;

- Recognized 2014-15 Student Advisor and Student Delegates to the School Board. This year's Student Advisor is Parth Patel of Woodstock High School. The Student Delegates are: ACE Academy, Richard "Alex" Fulbright; Cherokee High School, Kathryn Huller; Creekview High School, Calli Ruschmeyer; Etowah High School, Rushay Amarath-Madav; of River Ridge High School, Molly Herring; and Sequoyah High School, Isabelle Riddle;

- Recognized Creekview HS Rocketry Team for winning the Silver Medal at International Competition. Team members are Captain Amanda Semler, Austin Bralick. Nick Dimos, Bailey Robertson and Andrew White. The students are part of Creekview High School's Aeronautics Team program sponsored by teachers Todd Sharrock and Tim Smyrl;

- Recognized Creekview HS Class of 2014 graduate Hazel Tuck for Future Business Leaders of America National Award;

- Recognized 23 CCSD Schools as Governor's SHAPE (Student Health and Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees including Freedom MS as winner of the inaugural Platinum Award. The CCSD health and physical education teachers responsible for achieving this honors are posted on the CCSD website: http://portal.cherokee.k12.ga.us/board/meetings/081414/Board%20Meeting%20Agenda%20Items/A-4a.pdf;

- Recognized Jennifer McIntosh of Clark Creek ES STEM Academy as one of only eight winners statewide of the Georgia Innovation in Teaching Competition Award;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved the issuance of tax anticipation notices (TANs);
- Approved the advertisement of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal year independent financial audits;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips; and
- Approved the Superintendent's monthly personnel recommendations.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Sept. 4, 2014

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, September 4, 2014

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 4, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Rob Usher 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 Boy Scout Troop 4056.

Patsy Jordan provided a brief inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda — On a motion by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(7-0 vote).*

Minutes for Approval — On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 14, 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A brief presentation was provided to the School Board.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Dr. Patti Howard as National Patriotic Employer Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Judi Haggerty as "Siemens Teachers as Researchers" (STARs) Fellowship Winner

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Judy R. Stewart as Atlanta Braves Winner of the All Star Teacher Program

(Recognized)

***A-4. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreement**

(Approved)

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

B-1. Recognition of School Board/Superintendent Lunch at Canton STEM Academy

B-2. Update on Replacement Dean Rusk MS

B-3. Recognition of Dedication of Greenhouse at Free Home ES

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

D-1. Board Selection and Approval of Services of an Independent Certified Public Accounting Firm to Perform Annual Financial Audits – 2013-14 and 2014-15

(Approved)

Motion made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Services of Williamson & Company, CPAs, as Independent Certified Public Accounting Firm to Perform Annual Financial Audits – 2013-14 and 2014-15 *(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**

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of SY 2014-15 Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.**

(Approved)

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

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

September 4, 2014: Regular Meeting

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday celebrated the completion of the Cherokee High School athletic complex upgrades with a special presentation by the school and its student athletes.

"It is a masterpiece of function, safety and design," Principal Debra Murdock said of the recently completed project, who in her remarks thanked the School Board, the Superintendent and his staff and the community. "We thank the voters for their support of our school and our school system by approving the 2011 Education SPLOST [Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax] renewal."

The upgrades, which were funded by Education SPLOST revenue, included construction of a new softball complex; improvements to the football stadium and field; and construction of new home and visitor field houses, public restrooms and concession stands.

The school's video production program produced a video showcasing the project that was presented to the School Board and is included in the video record of the meeting. It features interviews with Ms. Murdock and student athletes, who spoke about how the upgrades will improve their performance and safety.

The School Board on Thursday also approved the renewal of the School District's Partnership Agreement with Northside Hospital-Cherokee.

The existing longtime Agreement was expanded to reflect the many new ways the hospital is supporting the School District… not only through staff members volunteering their time and talents to educate students about health and wellness and prepare them for careers in the field, but also the significant financial support awarded by the hospital.

The hospital's financial support includes, but is not limited to, sponsorship of: the ImPACT Concussion Management Program for student athletes; the Scholars Banquet

recognizing valedictorians and salutatorians; the Teacher of the Year Banquet; the Technology Fair student competition; and the newly established CCSD Senior Bowl football game.

The hospital additionally provides donations to individual schools of clinic supplies, AEDs and other healthcare-related necessities; and is the 2014-15 title sponsor of the Cherokee County Educational Foundation, which raises funds and awareness for the School District.

"We deeply appreciate this continued support of one of our greatest partners," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said. "Northside Hospital-Cherokee shares our mission of ensuring every child receives an outstanding education that prepares them for success in higher education and careers… and student health and safety is vital to that success!"

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Dr. Patti Howard as a National Patriotic Employer Award Winner;
- Recognized Judi Haggerty as a "Siemens Teachers as Researchers" (STARs) Fellowship Winner;
- Recognized Judy R. Stewart as the Atlanta Braves Winner of the All Star Teacher Program;
- Approved the selection of Williamson & Co. as the independent auditor to perform the 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal year independent financial audits;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects;
- Approved the Superintendent's monthly personnel recommendations;
- Approved the 2014-15 School Year contract and memorandum of understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.; and
- Approved a special lease agreement for Gold Bracket Sports at Clayton ES.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Oct. 16, 2014

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, October 16, 2014

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 16, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Rob Usher 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.

Michael Geist provided a brief inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Rob Usher and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the September 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 Kyla Cromer seconded by Patsy Jordan 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. Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Retired Educators Day – as Requested by Chair Janet Read

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize Woodstock ES as a Georgia 2014 Reward School – Highest Performing School

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Clark Creek ES STEM Academy Parent as Appointee to State School Superintendent's 2014-15 Parent Advisory Council

(Recognized)

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

B-1. School Board Recognition of Candler Howell

B-2. School Board Recognition of Letitia Cline

B-3. School Board Recognition of Teasley MS Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony

B-4. School Board Recognition of Recent School Board/Superintendent Lunch at ACE Academy

B-5. School Board Recognition of CCSD Five-Year Strategic Plan

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval to Initiate Board Policy BDH (Suspension of Policy); and, Approval of Technical Modifications to Policies IHE (Promotion, Placement and Retention) and JBC(4) (Transferring Credit) <u>on First Reading</u>

(Approved)

Motion made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kyla Cromer and carried to Approve Initiate Board Policy BDH (Suspension of Policy); and, Approval of Technical Modifications to Policies IHE (Promotion, Placement and Retention) and JBC(4) (Transferring Credit) <u>on First Reading</u> *(7-0 vote).*

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of August 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)

***E-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2014-15 School Improvement Plans (SIPs)**

(Approved)

Motion made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Approve 2014-15 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) *(7-0 vote).*

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 a New Parent Entrance for Carmel Elementary School

(Approved)

Motion made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Select N.J. Wilbanks Contractor, Inc. as Contractor for Construction of a New Parent Entrance for Carmel Elementary School *(7-0 vote).*

G. PERSONNEL

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

H-1. Board Consideration of School Board Attorney's Plan for 2014-15 Local School Board Governance Training

(Approved)

Motion made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to Approve School Board Attorney's Plan for 2014-15 Local School Board Governance Training *(7-0 vote).*

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

***I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposed Annual Update of Cherokee County School District Five-Year Strategic Plan**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

<u>October 16, 2014</u>: Regular Meeting and Strategic Work Session

The School Board on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014 approved a bid to build a car rider driveway at Carmel Elementary School that will improve safety and alleviate traffic congestion.

The parent entrance project was unanimously awarded to NJ Wilbanks Contractor for the low bid of $1.85 Million… which is a significant savings from the School District's original budget of $2.7 Million. Construction will begin in November, with completion scheduled for February.

The School Board in June, after receiving bids on the original request for proposals that exceeded the project budget, approved the Superintendent's recommendation that staff be permitted to review the site and plans again to see if modifications could be made to attract more competitive bids. As a result of this process, the project was modified and resulted in a savings to taxpayers of $1.15 Million from the original cost.

"I greatly appreciate the School Board's support in this effort and the work of my staff, especially Assistant Superintendent Bill Sebring, whose department oversees construction among other roles, to continue our historically strong stewardship of all resources entrusted to us by our community," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said.

The School Board, with its approval of the Superintendent's monthly personnel recommendations, accepted the resignations of two senior staff members: Assistant Superintendent of Financial Management Candler Howell, who is retiring in November, and Letitia Cline, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs, Student Support and Professional Development, who is retiring in December.

Mr. Howell joined CCSD 27 years ago as its chief financial officer, a role he has held ever since and during which time he led the department through the community's significant growth including a tenfold increase in the School District's operating budget.

"Mr. Howell exhibits the organization skills, competence and professionalism of an outstanding auditor and financial management expert, while maintaining a systematic and common sense approach to dealing with extraordinary fiscal challenges… and a thoughtful and personable demeanor in dealing with colleagues and employees at all levels of the CCSD organization," Dr. Petruzielo said.

Ms. Cline, after graduating from CCSD schools and pursuing higher education, returned to the system to serve as an educator for 30 years… including as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, National award-winning principal and in her current role.

"Ms. Cline's professional commitment and districtwide leadership in helping at-risk students achieve at high levels has made her a wonderful role model for teachers, principals and senior staff," Dr. Petruzielo said.

During the Strategic Work Session, Dr. Petruzielo and senior staff gave reports on topics including the draft 2015 Legislative Program and the work underway to draft a proposal for the State's new educational flexibility program requirement.

The draft legislative program, which will be presented to the School Board for approval next month, calls for three priorities for the Cherokee County Legislative Delegation to pursue as far as educational funding and legislation:

1. Full funding by the State of the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Formula, which is not occurring due to State "austerity budget cuts" that in CCSD amount to $17.6 Million this year ($121 Million over the past five years);
2. Address skyrocketing State Health Benefit Plan premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for both employers and employees; and,
3. Make necessary mid-course corrections in the new assessment models for teacher and administrators… including placing greater emphasis on teacher classroom performance as opposed to student test scores.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Approved a proclamation declaring Nov. 2, 2014 as Retired Educators Day;
- Recognized Woodstock Elementary School as a Georgia 2014 Reward School – Highest Performing School for the third consecutive year;
- Recognized Clark Creek Elementary School STEM Academy parent Cassandra Hazelwood for her appointment to the State School Superintendent's 2014-15 Parent Advisory Council;
- Approved out-of-state professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved 2014-15 School Improvement Plans;
- Approved the monthly update on Capital Outlay Projects;
- Approved the 2014-15 Local School Board Governance Training plan; and
- Approved the annual update of the CCSD Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Nov. 6, 2014
Public Input Session on School Boundaries at 6:30 p.m.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, November 6, 2014

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 6, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Rob Usher 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 Rushay Amarath-Madav, Student Delegate from Etowah HS.

Rob Usher provided a brief inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Michael Geist, 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 Robert Wofford seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the October 16, 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 Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote).*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Sequoyah HS Junior Mackenzie Joy for Perfect Score on ACT

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize CCSD High School Seniors Named 2015 National Merit and National Achievement Semi-Finalists

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize CCSD Students for First-Place Awards in Statewide Fire Prevention Week Contests

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Clark Creek ES STEM Academy Principal Dr. Jennifer Scrivner as Appointee to Governor's Principal Advisory Board

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards

(Recognized)

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

B-1. School Board Recognition of School District Achievements and Awards

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

***C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval to Initiate Board Policy BDH (Suspension of Policy); and, Approval of Technical Modifications to Policies IHE (Promotion, Placement and Retention) and JBC(4) (Transferring Credit) <u>on Final Reading</u>**

(Approved)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of September 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 Approval of Superintendent's Proposed School Board 2015 Legislative Program**

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

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School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

November 6, 2014: Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

The School Board on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2014 congratulated two newly appointed Assistant Superintendents.

With its approval of the Superintendent's monthly personnel recommendations, the School Board approved the appointment of Kenneth Owen as Assistant Superintendent of Financial Management and Susan McCarthy as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs, Student Support and Professional Development.

The appointments were spurred by the recent announcements that Assistant Superintendent of Financial Management Candler Howell is retiring this month, and Letitia Cline, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs, Student Support and Professional Development, will retire in December.

Mr. Owen brings more than 25 years in accounting and finance to the role, including previous experience as CCSD Director of Grants Accounting, Internal Audits and Budgets and Director of Grants Management, as well as serving as financial aid director for Reinhardt and Piedmont Colleges.

Marjorie DeFrank, current CCSD Supervisor of Accounting, Budgets and System Applications, has been appointed as Director for the department. She previously has worked in accounting leadership roles for Kennesaw State University, United Parcel Service and Price Waterhouse.

Ms. McCarthy comes to her new post with a wealth of classroom and administrative experience, most recently as CCSD Director of School Improvement. She joined CCSD in 1998 as a teacher at E.T. Booth MS, and served as Principal of Chapman Intermediate School, Assistant Principal of Teasley Middle School and as a CCSD Teacher on Special Assignment.

"These leaders will be filling very important shoes in our operations, and I know each will succeed based on their knowledge, experience and record of dedication to CCSD and our students," Dr. Petruzielo said.

The School Board on Thursday also approved the retirement of Ken Johnson, CCSD's Director of Transportation, after more than 30 years of service to the school system.

Mr. Johnson joined CCSD in 1981 as a PE teacher and went on to serve as Assistant Principal at Arnold Mill, Bascomb and Little River Elementary Schools and as Principal at R.M. Moore Elementary from 1999 to 2008.

"He was a high-performing principal and went on to be a high-performing director of transportation," Dr. Petruzielo said, praising Mr. Johnson as a "role model," who improved all facets of the department ranging from routing efficiency to driver training.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Heard from one public speaker during the Public Input Session on 2015-16 School Boundaries; the Superintendent's only boundary redrawing recommendation for the School Board's consideration at its Dec. 4 meeting are two scrivener's corrections to realign neighborhoods under construction, which will not affect any current CCSD students.

- Recognized Sequoyah HS Junior Mackenzie Joy for her perfect score on the ACT;

- Recognized CCSD high school seniors named 2015 National Merit and National Achievement Semi-Finalists: the National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists are: Kathryn Huller of Cherokee HS, Joshua Whitley of Creekview HS, Joseph D. Litrel of Etowah HS and Chetan Velivela of River Ridge HS; the National Achievement Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists are: Austin P. Floyd and Ebony N. Scott of Cherokee HS, Felicia N. Williams of River Ridge HS and Langston H. Leake of Sequoyah HS;

- Recognized CCSD students for first-place awards in Statewide Fire Prevention Week Contests: Avery ES fifth-grader Madeline Holley is a statewide first-place winner in the Calendar Art Contest; Creekview HS sophomore Kayla McCloud is the statewide first-place winner for Grade 10 in the Essay Contest;

- Recognized Clark Creek ES STEM Academy Principal Dr. Jennifer Scrivner as an appointee to Governor's Principal Advisory Board;

- Recognized CCSD staff for Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards;

- Approved monthly financial reports;

- Approved sales of bonds for 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; and,

- Approved the 2015 Legislative Program.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Dec. 4, 2014
Strategic Work Session at 6 p.m.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, December 4, 2014

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 4, 2014 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Kyla Cromer, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Rob Usher 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 Amy Worley, Reid Worley, Caden English and Addie English.

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Robert Wofford provided a brief inspirational message.

Adopt Agenda

On a motion by Robert Wofford, 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 Michael Geist and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the November 6, 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Robert Wofford 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.

Board Chair Janet Read recognized School Board Members Michael Geist, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford for their service on the School Board and presented them with commemorative plates

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. Recognize Sixes ES Lunch Monitor and Student for Life-Saving Actions and Heroism

(Recognized)

A-2. Recognize William Penniman (Woodstock HS Senior) for Gold Award at Clemson University's 42nd Annual Declamation Contest

(Recognized)

A-3. Recognize Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year- Joy Silk of Ball Ground ES STEM Academy

(Recognized)

A-4. Recognize Free Home ES Teacher Carmen Power – 2014 Georgia Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Educator Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-5. Recognize Assistant Superintendent Candler Howell – 2014 Outstanding School Business Official Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-6. Recognize State and Region Champions

(Recognized)

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

B-1. Board Consideration of Mr. Geist's Proposed Revisions to Board Policy (DID) Audits on First Reading

(Failed)

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Janet Read, to Consider Mr. Geist's Proposed Revisions to Board Policy (DID) Audits on First Reading, as amended. *(1-6 vote; Cromer, Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher and Wofford dissented.)*

B-2. Board Recognition of CCSD Fall Sports and Extracurricular Activities

B-3. Comments from Outgoing School Board Members

B-4. Board Recognition of Etowah HS Participation in Final Four Playoffs

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of October 2014 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 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 Proposed SY2015-16 School Boundaries

(Approved)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by rob Usher and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to Student Discipline Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 8:02 p.m. *(7-0 vote).*

The Board returned to open session at 8:36 p.m.

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District tribunal panel in the student disciplinary appeal, 15-126953.

(Upheld)

The Board adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board

December 4, 2014: Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

The School Board on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014 bid farewell to three departing School Board Members.

Vice Chair Robert Wofford and Board Members Michael Geist and Rob Usher served the last meeting of their four-year terms, and each was presented with a plaque and words of appreciation from Board Chair Janet Read.

"It has been a pleasure to work with all of them," Ms. Read said. "This can be a fun job, it can be an icky job, it can be a scary job, but the highs really outweigh the lows. Thank you all for giving your time."

All three members completed one four-year term and did not seek re-election. Mr. Wofford's service on the Board followed a long career with the School District, which, when coupled with his education as a student in the system, totals 60 years.

"It's truly been an experience, as well as a pleasure," said Mr. Wofford, who previously worked for CCSD as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, district director for transportation and personnel and substitute teacher. "I've always worked for the best interest of the students. They are my customers, and my job was to serve them and support them."

Mr. Usher in his remarks called his tenure "an enlightening experience," and said he believed his goal to "exert common sense" as a Board Member was fulfilled. His parting comments often were light-hearted, especially as he wished the incoming Board Members success: "This District is in the best shape I've seen in in four years. So don't screw it up."

Mr. Geist thanked his fellow Board Members for the "grace and respect" he feels they showed him even when he disagreed with their opinions.

The School Board also took the following actions:

- Recognized Sixes ES Lunch Monitor Gloria Szopinski and student Bailey Johnson for life-saving actions and heroism;

- Recognized William Penniman (Woodstock HS Senior) for Gold Award in Advanced Placement Spanish at Clemson University's 42nd Annual Declamation Contest;

- Recognized Joy Silk of Ball Ground ES STEM Academy as the Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year;

- Recognized Free Home ES Teacher Carmen Power as the 2014 Georgia Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Educator Award Winner;

- Recognized Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management Candler Howell as the 2014 Outstanding School Business Official Award Winner;

- Recognized Sequoyah High School's volleyball team as the State Champions and Coach John Edwards as the State and Area Coach of the Year and Creekview High School's girls' cross-country team as the Region Champions;

- Denied a motion by Mr. Geist to revise Board Policy DID, with opponents noting that the current practice in place already provides the information in question; the vote was 1-6, with only Mr. Geist supporting the motion;

- 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 the 2015-16 school boundaries, which included two scrivener's changes that will not affect any current CCSD students.

Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Jan. 15, 2014
Strategic Work Session at 6 p.m.