

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, March 16, 2023

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 16, 2023, in the Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility, 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, Georgia. The meeting was conducted in person and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were: School Board Chair Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chair Robert Rechsteiner; Members Patsy Jordan, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale. Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Member John Harmon was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Hasty ES Students Durham and Reagan Thomas.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Robert Rechsteiner.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (6-0 vote).

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried the Board approved the minutes from the February 16, 2023, School Board Meeting (6-0 vote).

Consent Agenda

Following the identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Kelly Poole seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (6-0 vote).

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

- A-1. School Board Recognition of School Board Members During School Board Member Appreciation Week**

(Recognized)

- A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2023 Media Specialist of the Year -- Jennifer Martin of Boston Elementary School**

(Recognized)

- A-3. School Board Recognition of Transition Academy Senior Merritt Wilson -- Gold Medal Winner at Special Olympics Winter Games**

(Recognized)

- A-4. School Board Recognition of 2023 Spelling Bee Winners**

(Recognized)

- A-5. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District's School Nutrition Program -- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Silver Turnip the Beet Award**

(Recognized)

- A-6. School Board Recognition of CCSD Students Selected for All-State Band, Orchestra and Chorus**

(Recognized)

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

(Recognized)

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

- B-1. School Board Approval or Delegate and Alternate for 2023 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly**

Motion was made by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried to nominate Robert Rechsteiner as Delegate

and Kelly Poole as Alternate for the 2023 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly (6-0 vote).

(Approved)

- School Board Members commented on the following:
 - Congratulated the River Ridge HS girls' basketball team for winning the State Championship.
 - Recognized the staff at Mountain Road ES for presenting their first STEAM night.
 - Commended School Operations staff for the NGWSD event hosted at Woodstock HS.
 - Thanked School Operations senior staff for offering Parent University as an additional informational resource for parents.
 - Highlighted the academic, artistic and athletic student talent that has persevered over the last three years. In addition, she expressed gratitude to the CCSD staff for their dedication to these students.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

- *C-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Modifications to School Board Policy BCBI -- Public Participation in Board Meetings on First Reading**

(Approved)

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- *D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of February 2023 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

(Approved)

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

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

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

(Approved)

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

(Approved)

***F-3. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Permanent Right-of-Way to the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Cherokee County Government**

(Approved)

F-4. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposals for the Sequoyah HS Family and Consumer Science Lab (FACS) Modernization

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to award the contract for the Sequoyah HS Family and Consumer Science Lab (FACS) Modernization to SmithBuilt Construction Group (6-0 vote).

(Approved)

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Informational Items:

- Legislative Updates for 2023:
 - Update on the Governor's mid-year budget adjustment which includes investing in safety grants, paraprofessional continued education grants and QBE adjustments.
 - Details of next year's budget were highlighted regarding employer health insurance premium increases for classified staff.
 - Several education bills of interest are being followed including HB87 which would impact the future of Mountain Education Charter High School. School Board members continued to express concern about the ongoing debate regarding the future of this program.
- Summer School and EL Literacy:
 - Chief Academic Officer highlighted the details for each High School to host summer school programs and three Title I elementary schools will provide full day summer camp programs that will focus on English, math and science.
- International Welcome Center:
 - Information was shared that the Superintendent is proposing a plan to open an International Welcome Center for families of English Learner students to improve enrollment barriers, expedite screening and assist in establishing account services for their children.

Superintendent Comments:

- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Mike Dickerson, Coordinator of Maintenance, and Richard Rich, Captain School Police.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Bascomb ES Assistant Principal Jessica Currie to Boston ES Principal.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Leslie Bryant, Assistant Principal Teasley MS; Matthew Cates, Assistant Principal Cherokee HS; Dr. Chad Flatt, Assistant Principal Woodstock MS; Danielle Gradwell, Assistant Principal Bascomb ES; Lauren Holtzer, Assistant Principal River Ridge HS; Dr. Katie Smith, Assistant Principal Dean Rusk MS; Meghan Martin, Assistant Principal Boston ES; Nick Singleton, Assistant Principal Creekview HS; Lashonda Tucker, Assistant Principal Woodstock MS.
- Recognized the appointment of Tyler Whitlock, Creekview High School Head Basketball Coach.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

On a motion made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Student Discipline Matters (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) and a Personnel Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6)) at 8:27 p.m. (6-0 vote).

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to return to Open Session at 9:30 p.m. (6-0 vote).

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried to Uphold the Findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal panel for Tribunal #22-145208, (6-0 vote).

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison and carried to Uphold the Findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal panel for Tribunal #22-157998, (6-0 vote).

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary