CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, April 20, 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, April 20, 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 John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale. Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Abby Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by CCSD Students Benjamin and Asher Pinckard.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kelly Poole.

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried the Board approved the minutes from the March 16, 2023, School Board Meeting *(7-0 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote)*.

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

A-1. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year -- Lara McDonald, Etowah High School

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2023 Counselor of the Year and Innovation Zone Counselors of the Year

(Recognized)

A-3. School Board Recognition of Clark Creek Elementary School STEM Academy Assistant Principal Laura Casey -- Named 2023 National Outstanding Assistant Principal

(Recognized)

A-4. School Board Recognition of Freedom Middle School History Bowl Team -- Statewide History Competition First Place Winners

(Recognized)

A-5. School Board Recognition of Woodstock High School Senior Emily Coburn -- Placed in the Annual All-State Art Competition

(Recognized)

A-6. School Board Recognition of the 2022-23 Georgia State Technology Competition Champions

(Recognized)

A-7. School Board Recognition of Creekland Middle School Students -- Placed at State Technology Student Association Career Skills Competition

(Recognized)

A-8. School Board Recognition of Cherokee High School Students for Earning Top Honors at the Georgia Skills USA Competition

(Recognized)

A-9. School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Juniors Samantha Durst, Temilola Oloruntoba, Katie Shay and Hannah Stack -- Placed First in Statewide Career Skills Competition

(Recognized)

A-10. School Board Recognition of 2022-23 Regional and State Science and Engineering Fair Winners

(Recognized)

A-11. School Board Recognition of Eight Cherokee County School District Students for Earning First Place Honors at the Elementary School State Science Fair

(Recognized)

A-12. School Board Recognition of Teasley Middle School Students Aryn Bracewell and Elise Martin for Earning Top Honors at an Annual Statewide Literary Competition

(Recognized)

A-13. School Board Recognition of 2022-23 Governor's Honors Finalists

(Recognized)

A-14. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions

(Recognized)

***A-15. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Renewal of the Partnership Agreement with the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce**

(Approved)

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

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by John Harmon and carried to waive attorney-client privilege and release communications requested in the open records request dated April 14, 2023. *(5-2 vote, Kyla Cromer and Kelly Poole dissented).*

- School Board Members commented on the following:
  - School Board Chair thanked R.M. Moore ES for hosting this month's School Board luncheon.

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 March 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 Proposals for the Creekland MS ~ Creekview HS Driveway Parking Improvements

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to award the contract for the Creekland MS ~ Creekview HS Driveway Parking Improvements to Summit Construction & Development *(7-0 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:

- Moody's Credit Impact Score (CIS)
    - A presentation sharing the results of CCSD's recent credit rating review by Moody's was made. Based on a scale of one being the best and five being the lowest score, the district's Chief Financial Officer outlined the results as follows:
        - Cherokee County School District was rated one overall.
        - Regarding factors the school district controls, Policy Credibility and Effectiveness, Transparency and Budget Management, the district rated a one.
        - The district's great work to stabilize workforce shortages through compensation and benefits contributed to the favorable scoring.
            - A board member commented that the CIS report was great news. The district's excellent credit rating

would help reduce the financing cost incurred by CCSD and ultimately save taxpayers money.

- Legislative Updates for 2023:
  - Several education bills that passed during the recently completed state legislative session were reviewed.
  - Limited, if any, district policies will need to be changed or updated because they already reflect the changes that are contained in the statutes.
  - Mountain Education Charter High School will continue to serve CCSD students with some governance and financial modifications.
  - School Board members asked about mandates regarding teacher planning time and literacy. Senior Cabinet members responded that current practices are in place regarding teacher planning time in grades 6-12, and literacy assessments are being reviewed to maximize their benefit in meeting required mandates.

Superintendent Comments:

- The Superintendent announced that GA ranked 15th in the nation for Advanced Placement rates. CCSD students have the opportunity to take AP coursework and exams at each of the high schools.
- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of Executive Director, Administrative Leadership, Dr. Kerry Martin.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Rodney Larrotta, Executive Director Administrative Leadership (ES).
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of ACTIVE Academy Principal Andy Hall to Cherokee HS Principal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary