

Springfield, Georgia

June 8, 2022

The Effingham County Board of Education met in regular session on June 8, 2022 at 2:00PM with the following members present: F. Lamar Allen, Vickie Decker, Ben Johnson, and Jan Landing. Lynn Anderson participated virtually.

Jan Landing opened the meeting with an invocation.

F. Lamar Allen led meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting agenda was adopted and unanimously approved in a motion by Jan Landing and a second by Vickie Decker.

In a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Jan Landing, Board members voted unanimously to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included: Board minutes from the May 19, 2022 Board meeting.

There were no Public Participation requests submitted for today's meeting. Requests to address the Board must be made at least 24 hours in advance of any given meeting. Individuals interested in presenting at Board meetings must submit their requests to the Superintendent's office.

Mr. Ron Wilson, Financial Director, presented the April 2022 financial reports. With no questions or concerns, Board members voted unanimously to approve the reports in a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Jan Landing.

Dr. Yancy Ford, Superintendent, presented the attached Monthly Board Report. No questions or concerns were voiced by Board members.

Mr. Ron Womack, Chief Operations Officer, presented the recommendation to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the renovation of the main house at the Honey Ridge Agricenter. Mr. Womack stated Dabbs & Williams made multiple visits to assess the scope of the renovation. The quoted GMP of \$420,000 includes a \$20,000 contingency and allows for the ECSD maintenance department to partner with contractors/subcontractors to complete various portions of the project. The recommended GMP was approved unanimously by Board members in a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Vickie Decker.

Mr. Ron Womack presented the recommendation to approve the environmental site assessment for the new elementary school site on Blue Jay Road. He discussed measures that need to be addressed to ensure chemical hazard mitigation: building placement and orientation, emergency planning, automatic HVAC shutdown in the event of a toxic gas spill, and structure of exterior windows. Board members voted unanimously to accept the recommendation in a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Jan Landing.

Mr. Travis Nesmith, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update to the American Rescue Plan. He discussed the purpose of ARP and the parameters within which ARP (CARES III) funds may be spent. He identified the specific areas for which the school district tentatively plans to use CARES III funds and noted that at least 20% of those funds must address learning loss that has resulted due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Nesmith presented the recommendation to table policy revisions for Board Policy JB- Student Attendance. He explained that one addition to “Excused Absences” is being presented: a student’s documented participation in 4-H activities or programs may be considered an excused absence. This policy will be placed on the June 16, 2022 consent agenda. Board members voted unanimously to table Board Policy JB- Student Attendance in a motion by Jan Landing and a second by Vickie Decker.

Mr. Nesmith presented the recommendation to table policy revisions for Board Policy JBC- School Admissions. He stated that he would like to strike the portion of the policy under “Requirements for Enrollment” that specifies the documentation required for proof of residency. This information will be outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook instead, which will allow for more frequent revisions than if it were to remain in the Board Policy. This policy revision will be placed on the June 16, 2022 consent agenda. Board members voted unanimously to table Board Policy JBC- School Admissions in a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Vickie Decker.

Mr. Tim Hood, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Travis Nesmith presented each of the recommended revisions to the 2022-23 Student and Parent Handbook. There was a brief discussion regarding the wording of several items, and Mr. Nesmith noted the suggestions. He also recommended that any additional input regarding the red-lined items should be provided to Dr. Ford prior to final approval of the handbook, which is slated to take place at the June 16, 2022 Board meeting.

Mr. Nesmith presented the recommendation to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic calendars previously presented to the Board during the May 19, 2022 Board meeting. He briefly reviewed the adjustments that were made based on survey feedback. Board members voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to approve the calendars in a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Jan Landing.

Ashley Kieffer, ECSD Safety and Energy Education Manager, discussed the District Safety Plan. The current comprehensive safety plan is a narrative that consists of approximately 60 pages. Mr. Kieffer is working on streamlining the plan so that administrators can use it as a quick “if-then” reference tool with bulleted steps for various emergencies. Mr. Brent Coleman of Centegix Crisis Alert presented a PowerPoint discussing the services the company provides as well and how schools can utilize those services for increased safety. Centegix currently serves the Rincon Learning Center campus, which houses both Encompass and Crossroads Academy.

Dr. Yancy Ford presented information for the FY23 budget. He stated that the information previously presented for FY23 budgets regarding “Salary and Benefits”, “All Expenses”, and “Other Expenses” remains the same. He discussed changes to the revenue outlined in the budget for fiscal

year ending June 30, 2023. Dr. Ford stated the revenue information may change once tax bills are released. He also shared the dates for upcoming budget hearings: June 16 at 6pm and 7pm and June 22 at 11:30am, 6pm, and 7pm.

Board members voted unanimously to enter into executive session in a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Jan Landing.

Board members voted 4-0 to end executive session in a motion by Jan Landing and a second by Vickie Decker. Lynn Anderson had ended her virtual participation prior to this vote.

Board members reviewed the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined on the attached June 8, 2022 Board Action list. Board members voted 4-0 to accept all recommendations in a motion by Ben Johnson and a second by Jan Landing. Lynn Anderson had ended her virtual participation prior to this vote.

In other business, Dr. Ford presented a recommendation to approve the following additional positions due to growth:

- AG/STEM Teacher at Marlow Elementary
- Interventionist at Blandford Elementary
- Interventionist at Ebenezer Middle
- 3rd Grade Teacher at Blandford Elementary
- 5th Grade Teacher at Blandford Elementary
- 4th Grade Teacher at Rincon Elementary
- 5th Grade Teacher at Rincon Elementary
- 3rd Grade Teacher at Ebenezer Elementary
- 5th Grade Teacher at Ebenezer Elementary
- 5th Grade Teacher at Springfield Elementary

Board members voted 4-0 to approve the requested positions in a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Jan Landing. Lynn Anderson had ended her virtual participation prior to this vote.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

F. Lamar Allen, Board Chair

Dr. Yancy Ford, Superintendent