

Springfield, Georgia

June 16, 2022

The Effingham County Board of Education met in regular session on June 16, 2022 at 7:00PM with the following members present: F. Lamar Allen, Vickie Decker, Lynn Anderson, and Jan Landing. Ben Johnson was not present.

Vickie Decker opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Board members voted 4-0 to adopt the meeting agenda with no additions or deletions in a motion by Lynn Anderson and a second by Jan Landing. This and all subsequent votes are exclusive of Ben Johnson as he was not present for the meeting.

In a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Lynn Anderson, Board members voted 4-0 to approve the attached items on the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included: Board minutes from the June 8, 2022 Board meeting, the Recommendation to Approve Board Policy JB- Student Attendance, and the Recommendation to Approve Board Policy JBC- School Admissions.

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. Rex Inman of VFW Post 12149 presented information for VFW educational programs. He stated that Post 12149 is interested in making veterans available to each school to share programs that explain American principles and ideals and to provide first-hand knowledge of various missions from the past 50 to 70 years. He suggested VFW involvement with Veteran's Day programs at the schools. Board members expressed appreciation for his service and thanked him for his presentation.

Mr. Robbie Cowart presented information about the KIST Lock System. Mr. Cowart demonstrated the lock system and explained that it was developed to aid in protection against active threats in the school setting. The KIST device locks from the inside to keep out anyone posing a threat to the classroom. It can be installed on doors that swing inwards or outwards and requires no new construction. There was some discussion about the features of the device. Board members thanked Mr. Cowart for his presentation.

Dr. Melodie Wall, Curriculum Coordinator for Elementary and Gifted, presented the Personal Safety (K-4th) and BE SMART (5 – 12th) curriculum and resource list. She explained the state board policy for sex education and discussed the curriculum and standards across the grade levels. She also outlined the program review process and shared the review committee's recommendations. Dr. Wall addressed concerns regarding the curriculum for K-4th and clarified that the focus for that age group is personal safety rather than sex education. She stated that parents have the opportunity to opt out of this program at the start of each school year. Students who do not participate are offered alternate health instruction. The recommendation for approval of the curriculum will be presented at the July 21, 2022 Board meeting.

Dr. Yancy Ford, Superintendent, presented proposed changes to the Employee Handbook that, if approved, will go into effect 2022-2023. The employee handbook will be presented at the June 22, 2022 Board meeting for approval.

Travis Nesmith presented the recommendation to approve the 2022-2023 Student and Parent Handbook. He highlighted additional changes made since the presentation of the handbook at the June 8, 2022 Board meeting and requested approval to include these changes. In a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Jan Landing, Board members voted 4-0 to approve the 2022-2023 Student and Parent Handbook along with the changes presented at this evening's meeting.

Board members voted 4-0 to enter into executive session in a motion by Lynn Anderson and a second by Jan Landing.

Board members voted 4-0 to end executive session in a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Jan Landing.

Board members voted 4-0 to accept the recommendations as listed on the attached Board Action list in a motion by Lynn Anderson and a second by Vickie Decker.

In other business, Dr. Yancy Ford stated that, per the Pupil Transportation Allotment from the State of Georgia, Effingham County has been allocated funds to purchase 18 buses over the next three years. Dr. Ford recommended the purchase of the following buses at a total cost of \$1,075,374.

- Two 78-passenger 2022 Thomas Built buses
- Five 78-passenger 2023 Thomas Built buses
- Three 72-passenger 2023 Thomas Built buses

Six of the ten buses will be purchased for \$528,660 using state allocated funds. The remaining \$546,714 will be covered by ESPLOST funds. Board members voted 4-0 to approve the purchase of the ten new buses in a motion by Jan Landing and a second by Vickie Decker,

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25pm.

F. Lamar Allen, Board Chair

Dr. Yancy Ford, Superintendent