

The Effingham County Board of Education met in regular session on December 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present: Troy K. Alford, F. Lamar Allen, Vickie Decker, Robert Grant and Beth Helmly.

Troy K. Alford opened the meeting with an invocation.

In a motion by Troy K. Alford and a second by Robert Grant, the agenda was adopted and unanimously approved.

The board voted unanimously to approve the attached item on the Consent Agenda with a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Troy K. Alford. The Consent Agenda included: Board Minutes from the November 15, 2018 Board meeting.

The October 2018 financial reports were presented by Mr. Ron Wilson, Finance Director. F. Lamar Allen expressed concern about the amount listed for outstanding checks noting that the amount is higher than usual. Ron Wilson responded that this higher amount was likely a result from checks written during the last week of October that had not processed by the end of the month. The Board voted unanimously to approve the October 2018 reports with a motion by Troy K. Alford and a second by Beth Helmly.

Dr. Yancy Ford, Assistant Superintendent, presented ECSD's new TIP 411 program. This program allows concerned citizens (students, parents, general public) to anonymously report safety concerns to school administrators and resource officers. There are several options available for reporting tips (phone app, via the district website, or by text), and each allows for tipsters to anonymously engage in a two way conversation with a school administrator or resource officer. Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie addressed the Board, as well, stating that the Sheriff's Office is excited to work with the school district in implementing the new TIP 411 system. He added that the ECSO's version of TIP 411 will go into operation by the end of this month and will offer additional capabilities to help manage school system reports. Both Sheriff McDuffie and Dr. Ford emphasized that the goal of TIP 411 is to divert a potential crisis before it occurs. Vickie Decker noted that each middle and high school has its own tip line, but the elementary schools share only one. Dr. Ford confirmed that tips at the elementary school level would go out to all elementary schools via one line, but these will be assigned to the appropriate elementary school once received. The decision was made to group the elementary schools under one tip line because 1) it is anticipated that most reports will be made at the middle and high school levels with the fewest number at the elementary level and 2) individual tip lines for each of the eight elementary schools will incur additional costs. The number of elementary referrals will be monitored to determine if additional individual school lines will become necessary in the future.

Dr. Randy Shearouse, Superintendent, presented the attached updated Organizational Chart. He noted that the new chart includes the following changes: 1) The Finance Department, formerly under Dr. Slade Helmly, is now overseen by Asst. Superintendent, Dr. Yancy Ford. This change was necessary due to Dr. Helmly's employment status change from a full time employee to 49%. 2) Susan Hartzog and Lori Dasher's titles have changed to Human Resources Executive Director and Human Resources Director, respectively. 3) Mariella Manhatton is now the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant, a position formerly held by Linda Smith, and 4) Emily Tabolt is now the Assistant Superintendent's Administrative Assistant, a position formerly held by Mariella Manhatton. The Board voted unanimously to approve the updated Organizational Chart with a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Robert Grant.

Mr. Travis Nesmith, Executive Director of Curriculum and Technology, introduced the presenters of the Reading Recovery Program and Literacy Coach Initiative. Jenny Wilkins, Mallory Turner, and Wendy DiSalvo presented information discussing the success of the Reading Recovery Program and the need to fund additional Reading Recovery Teachers to support the increasing student enrollment numbers across our elementary schools. Mrs. Carlett Fulcher, District Literacy Coach, discussed the requirements that must be met by Teacher Leaders and the District Literacy Coach as well as the coaching model for Literacy Coaches. Mrs. Fulcher outlined the various supports that

literacy coaches offer to classroom teachers and stated that the goal is to ensure this program is fully implemented at all elementary schools. Troy Alford asked what the Board could do to help ensure these programs continues to grow. Dr. Randy Shearouse stated that the district needs to be prepared to budget accordingly in order to fund additional positions. Travis Nesmith stated that the Curriculum Office would be responsible for teacher training costs.

Dr. Randy Shearouse presented the recommendation to approve the low bid from Savannah Construction and Preservation for the roof and wall panel work at Effingham County High School. Vickie Decker asked if a begin date had been set for this project. Dr. Slade Helmly stated that he is unsure of the specific begin date but, since supplies still need to be ordered for the project, the work would need to begin after the Christmas break. The Board voted unanimously to approve the low bid with a motion by Robert Grant and a second by Vickie Decker.

Dr. Randy Shearouse presented the attached 12/12/18 Board Action list. Beth Helmly expressed concern over the fact that both STAR officers are retiring. Dr. Yancy Ford addressed this concern stating that both officers are of age to retire, and both drive over 50 miles to work each day. Dr. Randy Shearouse stated that the STAR program is the entity responsible for hiring our STAR officers. In a motion by Robert Grant and a second by Vickie Decker, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations as noted on the attached Board Action list.

In other business, Dr. Shearouse stated that the Civil Air Patrol has requested permission to utilize a portable unit at the Rincon Learning Center for the period of one year. EMS (Emergency Medical Services) is also considering the use of a portable. The Aspiring Leaders Program is set to begin next month, and candidates for the program are scheduled to be interviewed next week. Letters of Intent will be issued to current employees next month, and responses will be used to determine the district's personnel needs for the next school year. Finally, Dr. Shearouse reminded attendees that the next Board meeting will take place on January 2, 2019 at 2pm.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15pm with a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Troy K. Alford.

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F. Lamar Allen, Board Chair

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Dr. Randy Shearouse, Superintendent