

The Effingham County Board of Education met in regular session on September 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Troy K. Alford, F. Lamar Allen, Vickie Decker, Robert Grant, and Beth Helmly.

Beth Helmly 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 September 5, 2018 Board meeting.

Dr. Randy Shearouse, Superintendent, presented the 2017-2018 Effingham County graduation rates. He stated that our district's graduation rates have steadily increased from 69.4% in 2005-06 to 91.3% in 2017-18 and noted that the current rate is the highest yet. Dr. Shearouse also pointed out that our district's 91.3% rate far exceeds the state average of 81.6%. He briefly discussed results for subgroups and noted that the overall graduation rates for subgroups have also demonstrated an upward trend. When compared to other districts across Georgia that are similar in size (800 graduates or more), the Effingham County School District ranks 4th in the state. We ranked 5th out of 18 when compared to other schools within First District RESA, and we ranked 57th out of 186 when compared to all systems across Georgia. Dr. Yancy Ford, Assistant Superintendent, expressed appreciation for an increase in the number of special education teachers with dual certification. He explained that special education class sizes are smaller due to co-teaching and allow for a level of instruction that results in an increased number of regular education diplomas. Travis Nesmith, Executive Director of Curriculum and Technology, stated that he feels current programs are now better able to serve non-traditional students who, otherwise, may not have achieved graduation.

Dr. Shearouse presented the recommendation to nominate Mr. Mark Lastinger of the Effingham Herald for the 2018 GSBA Beacon Award. The award recognizes media representatives who help inform the public about programs, policies, and other issues affecting the school community. The Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation with a motion by Robert Grant and a second by Beth Helmly.

In a motion by Troy K. Alford and a second by Vickie Decker, the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

In a motion by Troy K. Alford and a second by Vickie Decker, the board voted to end executive session.

In a motion by Vickie Decker and a second by Troy K. Alford, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendations as noted on the attached Board Action list.

In a motion by Beth Helmly and a second by Robert Grant, the Board voted to approve Amie Dickerson as the principal of Effingham County High School. F. Lamar Allen, Beth Helmly and Robert Grant voted yea, and Vickie Decker and Troy K. Alford voted nay.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. with a motion by Robert Grant and a second by Beth Helmly.