

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, May 18, 2023

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 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, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale. Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Member Patsy Jordan was not in attendance.

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 Creekview HS student Carson Heath.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kyla Cromer.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by John Harmon and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (6-0 vote).

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the April 20, 2023 School Board Meeting and Minutes of the April 26, 2023 Called School Board Meeting (6-0 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 Kelly Poole seconded by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (6-0 vote).

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

- A-1. School Board Consideration of Students' Academic Achievement with the 2023 Yes I Can Awards**

(Recognized)

- A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee High School Air Force JROTC - Overall Top Honors at the All-Service National Championship Competition**

(Recognized)

- A-3. School Board Recognition of River Ridge High School Junior Baileigh J. Borna -- First Class Honors in the 2023 National Council of Teachers of English Writing's Achievement Awards in Writing Program Contest**

(Recognized)

- A-4. School Board Recognition of 2023 Georgia Scholars**

(Recognized)

- A-5. School Board Recognition of Dean Rusk Middle School Teacher Sara Lawson -- Exemplary English for Speakers of Other Languages Teacher of the Year and Etowah High School Senior Scarleth Cantarero Murillo -- Exemplary English Learner Student of the Year**

(Recognized)

- A-6. School Board Recognition of Sequoyah High School Sophomore Olivia Power -- First-Place Honors at the 2023 Atlanta American Institute of Architects High School Design Competition**

(Recognized)

- A-7. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District Students Earning Top Honors at the Regional and State Social Studies Fairs**

(Recognized)

- A-8. School Board Recognition of 2023 Georgia PTA Reflections Fine Arts Contest First-Place Winners**

(Recognized)

- A-9. School Board Recognition of 2023 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Region Winners**
(Recognized)
- A-10. Board Recognition of 2022-23 Regional and State Elementary Science Olympiad Winners**
(Recognized)
- A-11. School Board Recognition of 2023 Cherokee County School District Elementary School Academic Bowl Winners**
(Recognized)
- A-12. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions**
(Recognized)
- A-13. School Board Recognition of Woodstock High School Student Ryan Capozzi -- Recipient of 2023 Pine Bluff Landfill/ WM® Scholarship**
(Recognized)
- A-14. School Board Recognition of 2023 ABM Industry Group, LLC Scholarship Recipients**
(Recognized)
- A-15. School Board Recognition of CCSD Students Richard Beaudrie III, Ryan Richard and Rowan Steele -- Recipients of the SY2022-23 Don Stevens Memorial Scholarship**
(Recognized)
- A-16. School Board Recognition and Appreciation of the 2022-23 Student Advisor to School Board and Student Delegates for Service and Commitment to the Cherokee County School District**
(Recognized)
- *A-17. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Renewal of Partnership Agreements with ABM Industry Groups LLC and Tri-State Communications**
(Approved)

***A-18. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation of Adoption of Resolution Regarding Support of Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Constitution By-Law Modification**

(Approved)

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

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of April 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 Cherokee HS Replacement ~ Building Package

Prior to the School Board's vote, the Superintendent highlighted details regarding the CHS replacement building package.

Motion was made by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to award the contract for the Cherokee HS Replacement ~ Building Package to Carroll Daniel Construction (6-0 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

I-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval and Tabling of the FY2024 Tentative Budget and Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate

Motion was made by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, seconded by John Harmon, and carried for approval and tabling of the FY2024 Tentative Budget and Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate (6-0 Vote)

(Approved)

***I-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of SY2023-24 CCSD Code of Conduct**

(Approved)

Superintendent's Comments:

- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of Executive Director Administrative Leadership (MS/HS), Dr. Mark Merges.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Matt Freedman, Executive Director Administrative Leadership (ES).
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Natasha Diaz, Coordinator Curriculum and Instruction.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Little River ES Assistant Principal Joni Adams to Little River ES Principal.
- Recognized the SY2023-24 appointment of Meleia Bridenstine, Assistant Principal Avery ES.
- Recognized the following schools:
 - Oak Grove ES STEAM Academy for achieving Family Friendly School certification from the GA Department of Education;
 - Hasty ES for receiving Creative Arts recognition from the GA Department of Education; and,
 - Eleven CCSD schools for earning approval recommendations from Cognia for its international STEM certification.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the School Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary