

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, September 14, 2023

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 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 Vice-Chair Robert Rechsteiner; Members John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale. Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Chair Kyla Cromer was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The call to order by Robert Rechsteiner was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Creekview High School Student Gina Ross.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Robert Rechsteiner.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison 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 John Harmon and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 17, 2023, School Board Meeting and minutes of the September 6, 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 Patsy Jordan 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 Recognition of Cherokee County School District Special Olympic Statewide Gold Medalists

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, Free Home Elementary School and Mill Creek Middle School -- Winners of the National PTA School of Excellence Award

(Recognized)

A-3 School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Teacher Lara McDonald for Earning the Georgia Outstanding Biology Teacher Award

(Recognized)

A-4 School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District Educators and Support Staff -- Winners of PTA State, District 13 Awards

(Recognized)

A-5 School Board Recognition of Clayton Elementary School -- Georgia School Nutrition Cafeteria of Excellence Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-6 School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Chapter of the FFA Agricultural Education Program -- Named a 2023 3 Star Chapter by the National FFA Organization

(Recognized)

A-7 School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2023-24 Lead Innovation Zone Principals

(Recognized)

***A-8 School Board Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Constitution Week**

(Approved)

***A-9 School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Cherokee County School District's Renewal of Partnership Agreements**

(Approved)

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

School Board Members' Comment:

- School Board member commented on a visit to ACTIVE Academy and the outstanding work being done with CTAE programs preparing students for post-secondary education and the workforce.

School Board Members' Informational Item:

- Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) representative shared the details of the support and resources given to local boards of education to assist them in conducting a superintendent search that will attract quality candidates. Based on the School Board's criteria, GSBA provides qualifying candidates, and the School Board makes a final decision after public review.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- *D-1 School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of August 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)

- E-3. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans (SIPs)**

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Erin Ragsdale, and carried for approval of the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) (6-0 Vote)

(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)

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 of Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. for October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024**

(Approved)

Superintendent's Comments:

- Recognized the appointment of Shelby Johnston for the position of Supervisor of Financial Compliance and Reporting (Audits) in the Office of Financial Management.

Informational Items:

- Student Information System (SIS) Synergy
- ROI Dashboards Glimpse K12
- Security and Safety

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by John Harmon and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6)) and a Real Estate Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4)) (at 8:21 p.m. (6-0 vote).

The Board returned to open session at 8:39 p.m.

Motion was made by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, seconded by John Harmon and carried, to authorize the Superintendent and staff to pursue a real estate transaction relative to an undisclosed property (hereby designated as #02-23) at an undisclosed location/price. (6-0 vote).

The Board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary