Cherokee County School District

AGENDA

School Board Meeting

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility

7:00 p.m.

November 16, 2023

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance/Inspiration
- Adoption of Superintendent's Recommended Agenda for November 16, 2023 School Board Meeting
- Approval of Minutes of the October 19, 2023 School Board Meeting
- Approval of Consent Agenda for November 16, 2023 School Board Meeting

A. Resolutions/Recognition

1. School Board Recognition of Creekview High School -- Named a Breakout School Award Winner by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

2. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions

3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District VILLA Program Class of 2023-24 Participants

4. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Renewal of the Partnership Agreement with Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

B. School Board Member

C. School Board Policies

D. Financial Management

1. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of October 2023 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

E. Curriculum and Instruction

1. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

2. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

F. Support Services

1. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Monthly Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

G. Human Resources

1. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Recommendations, Resignations, Terminations of Employment and Transfers for Certified and Classified Personnel**

H. School Board Attorney

I. Superintendent of Schools

1. **School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2024 Legislative Partnership Priorities**

- **Public Participation**

- **Adjournment**

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, October 19, 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, October 19, 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 Patsy Jordan, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale. Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Member John Harmon 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 Etowah High School Student Bella Postel.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kelly Poole.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(6-0 vote)*.

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the September 14, 2023, School Board Meeting and minutes of the October 4, 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by Erin Ragsdale 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 High School Seniors Named 2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

(Recognized)

A-2. School Board Recognition of Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy Teacher Dr. Lisa Spence -- Named Georgia Elementary Art Educator of the Year

(Recognized)

A-3 School Board Recognition of Free Home Elementary School Physical Education Program and Physical Education Teacher Coach Keith Furstenberg -- Named Georgia Award of Excellence in Physical Education Winner

(Recognized)

A-4 School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Senior Cristina Garcia -- Named to State School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council

(Recognized)

A-5 School Board Recognition of Sequoyah High School Students Valor Lekas, Noah Popp and Ava Grace Roberts -- Named to All-State Theatre Program

(Recognized)

A-6 School Board Recognition of CCSD Special Education Executive Director Charlette Green -- Named 2023 Phil Pickens Administrator Award Winner

(Recognized)

A-7 School Board Recognition of Carmel Elementary School -- Named a 2023 Georgia Title I Distinguished School

(Recognized)

A-8 School Board Recognition of Mountain Road Elementary School -- Named a 2023 State Literacy Leader

(Recognized)

A-9 School Board Recognition of Indian Knoll Elementary School -- Named Microsoft Showcase School

(Recognized)

A-10 School Board Recognition of 40 CCSD Teachers, Staff and Leaders -- Named 2023-24 Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts

(Recognized)

A-11 School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District School Nutrition Program for Winning Golden Radish Award

(Recognized)

***A-12 School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Renewal of Partnership Agreements**

(Approved)

***A-13 Board Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Retired Educators Day**

(Approved)

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

School Board Members' Comments:

- School Board members thanked bus drivers for their dedication to the well-being of CCSD students,
- recognized the hard work of Pre-K teachers and staff,
- thanked community volunteers and staff for a successful CCSD Special Olympics Awareness Day event,
- and recognized several senior staff members for their continued dedication to CCSD stakeholders.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

***D-1 School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of September 2023 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

***D-2 School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Declaring Surplus Property and Disposing of Said Property Pursuant to School Board Policy DO**

(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 Proposals for the Creekland MS Classroom Addition and Creekview HS Classroom Addition & Auxiliary Gym

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to award the contract for the Creekland MS Classroom Addition and Creekview HS Classroom Addition & Auxiliary Gym to McKnight Construction Company *(6-0 vote)*.

(Approved)

***F-3. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Sanitary Sewer Easement on Woodstock ES Campus to Adjoining Property Owner**

(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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

_____ _____

School Board Chair Secretary

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	A-1

Title

Recognition of Creekview High School -- Named a Breakout School Award Winner by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of Creekview High School -- Named a Breakout School Award Winner by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

Summary Explanation and Background

A Cherokee County School District school has earned statewide recognition for its work to increase student achievement.

Creekview High School has been named a Breakout School Award winner by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals. The award is designed to "identify, recognize and showcase Georgia high schools that are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement," according to the educational leadership organization.

In addition to a $1,000 grant, which will be presented during an awards banquet at the association's fall conference, Principal Michael Santoro is invited to present a conference session on the school's successful academic initiatives.

To earn the award, schools must demonstrate how they successfully implemented strategies in three core areas to improve student success. The areas are: collaborative leadership: professional learning communities, shared leadership and student and staff leadership development; personalization: attention to all students, mentoring and school/community connections; and curriculum, instruction and assessment: access to rigorous coursework for all students, differentiated instruction with multiple assessments, data-based decision making and opportunities for career development.

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness; Positive Culture and Climate; Quality Workforce

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

N/A

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Barbara Jacoby	770.479.1871

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	A-2

Title

Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions

Summary Explanation and Background

Please see the attached list of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions.

Priority Area

Student Achievement: Access and Opportunity

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

Region/State Champions

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Dr. Debra Murdock	770.479.1871

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY RECOGNITIONS

River Ridge High School		
Sport/Activity	Softball - Team	
Coach/Director	Head Coach - Andy Marinelli	Region 6A Coach of the Year
	Assistant - Eric Britt	
	Assistant - Chance Cain	
	Assistant - Kristi Underwood	
Team Recognition	Region 6-6A Champions	
	6A - 3rd Place State Finish	
Team Members		
	Brooke Beam	
	Josie Bohannon	
	Emery Butler	
	Ellie Charles	
	Harli Cramer	
	Taylor Free	
	Amanda Fulton	Region 6-6A Pitcher of the Year
	Alanna Garner	
	Jordyn Hartman	
	Evelyn Koester	
	Dellaina McCarty	
	Brelyn O'Hearn	Region 6-6A Player of the Year
	Caroline Purvis	
	Hayley Taylor	

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY RECOGNITIONS

River Ridge High School	
Sport	Volleyball - Team
Coach	Head Coach: Julie Winfield Assistant Coach: Jenna Covington
Team Recognition	Region 6 - 6A Champions
Team Members	Kayla Cleaveland Amya Dryden Gracie Lovelace Lily Marshall Elise McIntosh Caroline Moon Olivia Philpot Julia Richard Makayla Roberson Allie Sweet Jade Thompsen Elizabeth Thornton Danielle Weiss
Managers:	Wesley Harrison Wyatt Scepaniak Cole Womack

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	A-3

Title

Recognition of Cherokee County School District VILLA Program Class of 2023-24 Participants

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District VILLA Program Class of 2023-24 Participants

Summary Explanation and Background

The Cherokee County School District's VILLA Program, which encourages and celebrates parent engagement, concludes with class graduation tonight!

The parent academy program began six years ago in CCSD as a pilot initiative developed with the Georgia School Boards Association and with the support of Cherokee County School Board Chair Kyla Cromer, who championed the idea during her re-election campaign.

VILLA (Volunteer Instructional Leadership Learning Academy) is a free six-week program that offers participants the opportunity to learn more about the public schools in their community. Topics including school operations, governance, funding and accountability are covered in classes that include presentations by CCSD staff and question-and-answer sessions with the School Board and Superintendent of Schools, as well as a field trip to schools.

Costs associated with the program are funded through the generous sponsorship of Credit Union of Georgia, a CCSD Partner. Class size is limited, with participants selected by application; classes are held in the fall and culminate with graduation at the School Board's November meeting.

Priority Area

Family, Partner and Community Engagement

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

List of VILLA Class of 2023-24 Participants

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Barbara Jacoby	770.479.1871

2023-24 VILLA PARTICIPANTS

Christina Barsalou
Yolanda Browning
Mandi Fishback
Laura Guglielmo
Nadia Hernandez
Kristin Hornsby
Samira Hubbard
Aletia Martin
Nicole Parramore
Oscar Perez
Jason Quinn
Chisa Rawlings
Amanda Roberts
Lindsey Rohde
Michele Sanchez
Lisa Schade

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	A-4

Title

Approval of Renewal of Partnership Agreement with Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve the Renewal of the Partnership Agreement with Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

Summary Explanation and Background

One of the School Board's Blueprint 2020-24 Five Priority Areas is increasing meaningful family, partner and community engagement. We believe the meaningful connections we forge with students, families and community partners positively influence how we teach, lead and prepare graduates for success in a knowledge-based, technology rich and culturally diverse world.

The School Board is requested to consider the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the partnership agreement renewal with Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

Priority Area

Family, Partner and Community Engagement

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

Agreement Attached

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Barbara Jacoby	770.479.1871

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AND

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF METRO ATLANTA INC.

This agreement entered into on this ~~19th day of October, 2017~~ 16th day of November, 2023 by and between The Cherokee County Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the "School Board," and Waste Management of Metro Atlanta, Inc. hereinafter referred to as "Waste Management."

WHEREAS, the School Board's mission is to educate the emerging generation through learning environments designed to increase the performance of all students; and,

WHEREAS, one of the School ~~Board's Major System Priorities is to increase parental and community involvement through public engagement policies and practices that treat parents, businesses, community-based organizations and agencies, local institutions of higher learning and other public entities as true partners in the educational process~~ District's Priority Areas is Family, Partner and Community Engagement; and,

WHEREAS, Waste Management's key stakeholders include the community and the environment and therefore it desires to increase sustainability efforts and improve the environment in Cherokee County through education, community involvement and participation; and,

WHEREAS, Waste Management will through its programs assist the School Board in impacting students as to the importance of promoting a healthy environment for everyone and everything.

Now therefore in consideration of the covenants and conditions set forth herein the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

The parties agree that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

ARTICLE II

The School Board will:

1. Provide one qualified candidate to receive an annual scholarship.
2. Work with the committee comprised of a Waste Management representatives and members of the advisory panel from Pine Bluff Landfill in the selection of this recipient.
3. Encourage and organize field trips to Pine Bluff Landfill.
4. Provide volunteers from School System where possible for Cleanups in Cherokee County.

ARTICLE III

Waste Management will:

1. Provide an annual scholarship to one Cherokee County School District high school senior (the opportunity will rotate to a different school each year) in the amount of $5,000 for the recipient.
2. Work with the School System and committee comprised of Advisory Panel members and Waste Management managers representing Pine Bluff Landfill to award this scholarship.
3. Provide tours for High School Groups at Pine Bluff Landfill.
4. Present a scholarship awards by Waste Management at Board of Education meeting.
5. Provide internship for students in the Cherokee County School District as it relates to the School District's Career Pathways initiative if Waste Management believes that an opportunity becomes available at Pine Bluff Landfill. Student would have to go through policy and procedures for Waste Management hiring practices and pass all requirements when applying for internship.
6. Accept all children/interested participants for participation within its programs without regard to their gender, race, political affiliation, age, national origin or handicapping condition or any other discrimination recognized and prohibited by State or Federal Law. Children/participants with handicaps must be provided all necessary levels of supervision and must be included within the activities of the partnering organization. As a result of this partnership agreement, Waste Management must adhere to all local, State or Federal laws regarding education.

ARTICLE IV

The term of this contract is ~~October 19, 2017 through October 19, 2018~~ November 16, 2023 through November 16, 2024. This contract shall automatically renew for additional

terms not to exceed five years unless either party notifies the other at least 60 days prior to the renewal date.

ARTICLE V

This contract may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party with or without cause. All notice of this contract shall be given to the Superintendent of Cherokee County Schools at PO Box 769, Canton, GA 30114 and to South Atlantic Market Area Vice President, Waste Management, 1850 Parkway Place, Suite 600, Marietta, Georgia 30067, or such other address if notice is given by either party of a new address pursuant to this notice section.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this document the first date referred to herein.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

_____

By: Tracey Shrader, Vice President

THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

_____

By: Kyla Cromer, Chairman

_____

By: Dr. Brian V. Hightower

Superintendent of Schools

Approved as to form:

_____

Abby Roach, Esquire

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	D-1

Title

October 2023 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of October 2023 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update

Summary Explanation and Background

Financial Report for October 2023

See Attached Reports

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

Financial Report and Sales Tax Update

Source of Additional Information

Kenneth Owen	770.479.1871
Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Brian V. Hightower, Superintendent
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer

FINANCIAL REPORT
OCTOBER 2023

General Fund

For the month ending October 31, 2023, the fourth month of the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, the School District's Operating Account (General Fund) has received $70,518,947 in revenue (year-to-date) consisting of state funds of $50,660,004 (19% of budget), $18,531,032 local revenues (7% of budget), and other funds of $1,327,911 (41% of budget). All operating expenditures of $154,078,606 (29% of budget) are within the Board of Education's approved 2023-24 budget.

Building Fund/Ed-SPLOST Collections

The Capital Outlay Fund balance of $65,422,343 as of October 31, 2023 reflects Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Education (Ed-SPLOST) collections, proceeds of bond sales for capital outlay purposes, and transfers from the General Fund less bond refundings, bond issuance costs, transfers of Ed-SPLOST to the Debt Service Fund and capital outlay expenses paid.

Cherokee County School District received $5,276,069 for sales tax collections received in October 2023, for the month of September 2023, the twelfth month of 60 monthly sales tax collections for the 2022-2027 SPLOST. Collections received were above projections for the month by $656,665 and above cumulative projections by $9,272,577.

Ed-SPLOST collections are accumulated within the Building Fund to be used for specified capital outlay purchases (limited pay-as-you-go) and transferred to the Debt Service Fund at the appropriate time to meet annual bond obligations (January and July). Excess Ed-SPLOST collections above projections are used to meet critical capital outlay needs and/or transferred to the Debt Service Fund as a safeguard against future negative economic conditions, assuring the School District can meet future bond payments.

Debt Service Fund

The Debt Service Fund balance as of October 31, 2023 is $48,813,542 representing funds accumulated from Ed-SPLOST collections, collections from the 1.5 mills of property tax approved by the School Board, interest earned from investments and Invested Sinking Fund earnings. The Invested Sinking Fund is attached to the Series 2010B Bond issuance and is structured to fully pay the annual debt service on the Series 2010B bonds through January 2028. Annual Debt Service payments are made in February and August of each year, according to the Debt Service Schedule published annually in the Cherokee County School District Budget Book.

Federal/State/Competitive Grants and School Nutrition Funds

The School Nutrition Fund Balance as of October 31, 2023 is $18,945,568 and represents the difference between revenues from all sources and all expenditures. This amount is held in reserve to cover potential funding shortfalls or unexpected expenses.

Federal, State and Competitive grant funds are annually awarded to the School District based on funding formulas (Federal Title Programs) and/or program applications (State and competitive grants). As funds are expended, reimbursements are sought from the various programs. Local funds are not intended to cover shortfalls within grant programs nor are grants intended to carry a fund balance.

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023

BALANCE SHEET	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	BUILDING FUND	FED FUNDS/ SCHOOL NUTRITION	TOTAL
ASSETS					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 46,857,970	$ 19,526,060	$ 65,520,202	$ 4,099,577	$ 136,003,809
Investments	-	27,778,880	-	-	27,778,880
Receivables	899,569	1,508,602	-	15,966,009	18,374,180
Inventories	994,210	-	-	813,194	1,807,404
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 48,751,749	$ 48,813,542	$ 65,520,202	$ 20,878,780	$ 183,964,273
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	$ 1,281,139	$ -	$ 97,859	$ 1,306,506	$ 2,685,504
Salaries and Benefits Payable	16,008,126	-	-	626,706	16,634,832
FUND BALANCE	31,462,484	48,813,542	65,422,343	18,945,568	164,643,937
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	$ 48,751,749	$ 48,813,542	$ 65,520,202	$ 20,878,780	$ 183,964,273
REVENUE AND EXPENSE					
REVENUE	$ 70,518,947	$ 1,742,555	$ 17,305,675	$ 15,176,949	$ 104,744,126
EXPENDITURES	154,078,606	30,435,660	26,706,860	15,737,938	226,959,064
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	(83,559,659)	(28,693,105)	(9,401,185)	(560,989)	(122,214,938)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	167,427	17,255,484	(17,255,484)	-	167,427
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	114,854,716	60,251,163	92,079,012	19,506,557	286,691,448
ENDING FUND BALANCE	**$ 31,462,484**	**$ 48,813,542**	**$ 65,422,343**	**$ 18,945,568**	**$ 164,643,937**

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2023 - OCTOBER 31, 2023

	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	$ 278,889,605	$ 18,531,032		$ 260,358,573
State Revenue	261,331,178	50,660,004		210,671,174
Federal Revenue	199,068	217,661		(18,593)
Investment Earnings	2,615,553	1,110,250		1,505,303
Miscellaneous Revenue	424,258	-		424,258
TOTAL REVENUE	**543,459,662**	**70,518,947**		**472,940,715**
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	372,167,165	100,505,577	$ 407,808	271,253,780
Pupil Services	22,830,491	6,202,336	4,455	16,623,700
Improvement of Instructional Services	19,065,691	8,273,855	1,131,704	9,660,132
Instructional Staff Training	824,962	232,823	2,695	589,444
Educational Media Services	5,909,656	1,725,314	133,112	4,051,230
General Administration	4,029,126	1,295,249	-	2,733,877
School Administration	32,571,787	10,869,714	15,151	21,686,922
Support Services-Business	3,670,470	1,240,052	19,668	2,410,750
Maintenance & Operation of Plant Services	41,919,858	13,483,565	2,209,930	26,226,363
Student Transportation Services	29,231,913	7,874,036	1,785,386	19,572,491
Support Services-Central	5,673,995	2,064,736	1,627	3,607,632
School Nutrition Program	170,190	311,349	-	(141,159)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**538,065,304**	**154,078,606**	**5,711,536**	**378,275,162**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	154,611	267,427		(112,816)
Accounts Transfers Out	(29,756,126)	(100,000)		(29,656,126)
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	**(29,601,515)**	**167,427**		**(29,768,942)**
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	**$ (24,207,157)**	**$ (83,392,232)**	**$ (5,711,536)**	**$ 64,896,611**

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEBT SERVICE FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2023 - OCTOBER 31, 2023

	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE			
Local Revenue	$ 19,469,523	$ 1,106,096	$ 18,363,427
Investment Earnings	1,186,018	385,025	800,993
Miscellaneous Revenue	2,936,976	251,434	2,685,542
TOTAL REVENUE	**23,592,517**	**1,742,555**	**21,849,962**
EXPENDITURES			
Debt Service	44,860,790	30,435,660	14,425,130
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**44,860,790**	**30,435,660**	**14,425,130**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Accounts Transfers In	25,425,105	17,255,484	8,169,621
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	**25,425,105**	**17,255,484**	**8,169,621**
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	**$ 4,156,832**	**$ (11,437,621)**	**$ 15,594,453**

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUILDING FUND COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2023 - OCTOBER 31, 2023

	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	$ 57,052,068	$ 16,302,096		$ 40,749,972
State Revenue	2,500,000	-		2,500,000
Investment Earnings	2,719,957	1,003,579		1,716,378
TOTAL REVENUE	**62,272,025**	**17,305,675**		**44,966,350**
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	26,465,978	7,006,324	$ 295,049	19,164,605
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Svs.	162,371,770	19,700,536	1,748,308	140,922,926
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**188,837,748**	**26,706,860**	**2,043,357**	**160,087,531**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Bond Issuance	75,000,000	-		75,000,000
Premiums on Bonds Sold	11,250,000	-		11,250,000
Accounts Transfers In	27,935,234	-		27,935,234
Accounts Transfers Out	(25,425,105)	(17,255,484)		(8,169,621)
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	**88,760,129**	**(17,255,484)**		**106,015,613**
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	**$ (37,805,594)**	**$ (26,656,669)**	**$ (2,043,357)**	**$ (9,105,568)**

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEDERAL FUNDS AND SCHOOL NUTRITION COMPARISON OF BUDGET TO ACTUAL
JULY 1, 2023 - OCTOBER 31, 2023

	2023-2024 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET
REVENUE				
Local Revenue	$ 7,897,437	$ 1,457,954		$ 6,439,483
State Revenue	1,666,380	551,077		1,115,303
Federal Revenue	45,207,663	12,943,887		32,263,776
Investment Earnings	25,000	224,031		(199,031)
TOTAL REVENUE	**54,796,480**	**15,176,949**		**39,619,531**
EXPENDITURES				
Instructional Services	23,040,667	6,395,114	$ 437,290	16,208,263
Pupil Services	8,911,315	2,486,992	31,124	6,393,199
Improvement of Instructional Services	1,219,313	383,818	-	835,495
Instructional Staff Training	2,358,070	583,889	410,879	1,363,302
School Administration	13,209	-	-	13,209
Maintenance & Operation of Plant Services	593,502	89,305	-	504,197
Student Transportation Services	592,591	107,066	-	485,525
Support Services-Central	187,212	57,398	-	129,814
School Nutrition Program	21,593,231	5,634,356	227,089	15,731,786
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**58,509,110**	**15,737,938**	**1,106,382**	**41,664,790**
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Accounts Transfers In	1,265,587	-		1,265,587
TOTAL OTHER FIN SOURCES (USES)	**1,265,587**	**-**		**1,265,587**
NET CHANGE FUND BALANCES	**$ (2,447,043)**	**$ (560,989)**	**$ (1,106,382)**	**$ (779,672)**

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (2022-2027)
COMPARISON OF COLLECTIONS
THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023

REPORTING MONTH	60 MONTH COLLECTION MONTH	PERIOD	PROJECTED COLLECTIONS	ACTUAL COLLECTIONS	DIFFERENCE ACTUAL AND PROJECTED COLLECTIONS
November 2022	**October 2022**	**1**	$ 4,636,009	$ 5,328,786	$ 692,777
December 2022	**November 2022**	**2**	4,807,242	5,405,654	598,412
January 2023	**December 2022**	**3**	5,104,524	6,617,076	1,512,552
February 2023	**January 2023**	**4**	4,824,820	4,852,679	27,859
March 2023	**February 2023**	**5**	4,062,238	4,697,475	635,237
April 2023	**March 2023**	**6**	4,325,376	5,419,587	1,094,211
May 2023	**April 2023**	**7**	4,448,443	5,296,122	847,679
June 2023	**May 2023**	**8**	4,604,100	5,494,145	890,045
July 2023	**June 2023**	**9**	4,818,522	5,509,360	690,838
August 2023	**July 2023**	**10**	4,787,586	5,922,789	1,135,203
September 2023	**August 2023**	**11**	4,848,609	5,339,709	491,100
October 2023	**September 2023**	**12**	4,619,404	5,276,069	656,665
			$ 55,886,874	$ 65,159,451	$ 9,272,577

2022-2027 Ed-SPLOST Projected Collections

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL
January	-	4,824,820	4,921,317	5,019,743	5,120,138	5,222,541	25,108,558
February	-	4,062,238	4,143,483	4,226,353	4,310,880	4,397,097	21,140,052
March	-	4,325,376	4,411,884	4,500,122	4,590,124	4,681,927	22,509,432
April	-	4,448,443	4,537,412	4,628,160	4,720,723	4,815,138	23,149,876
May	-	4,604,100	4,696,182	4,790,105	4,885,907	4,983,625	23,959,919
June	-	4,818,522	4,914,893	5,013,191	5,113,455	5,215,724	25,075,784
July	-	4,787,586	4,883,338	4,981,005	5,080,625	5,182,237	24,914,790
August	-	4,848,609	4,945,582	5,044,493	5,145,383	5,248,291	25,232,358
September	-	4,619,404	4,711,792	4,806,027	4,902,148	5,000,191	24,039,561
October	4,636,009	4,766,013	4,861,333	4,958,560	5,057,731	-	24,279,647
November	4,807,242	4,899,541	4,997,532	5,097,482	5,199,432	-	25,001,229
December	5,104,524	5,403,573	5,511,645	5,621,878	5,734,315	-	27,375,934
TOTALS	**$ 14,547,775**	**$ 56,408,226**	**$ 57,536,391**	**$ 58,687,118**	**$ 59,860,861**	**$ 44,746,770**	**$ 291,787,141**

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	E-1

Title

Out of State Travel Request

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel

Summary Explanation and Background

See attachment for out of state travel requests to attend professional conferences.

Priority Area

Quality Workforce

Financial Impact

See Legend on Attached Out of State Travel Requests

Exhibits: (List)

Attached Out of State Travel Requests

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Nicole H. Holmes	770.479.1871
Dr. Keith A. Bryant	770.479.1871
Dr. Julie Dutko	770.479.1871

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

Name	School	Dates	Reason	Place	Cost
Marjorie DeFrank, Executive Director	Division of Financial Management	01.17.24 – 01.19.24	*To attend ASB Works Software Annual Conference*	Anaheim, CA	$2078 ●
Shelby Johnston, Supervisor					$2078 ●
Kelli McAteer, Financial Management Specialist					$2078 ●
Kaye Ellington, Bookkeeper	Clark Creek ES				$2078 ●
Lindsay Bowley, Recruitment Supervisor	Division of Human Resources	02.07.24 – 02.09.24	*To attend Alabama Speech-Language Pathology Conference*	Birmingham, AL	$1,491 ●
Lindsay Bowley, Recruitment Supervisor	Division of Human Resources	02.22.24 – 02.23.24	*To attend Tennessee State University Teacher Speaking Engagement*	Nashville, TN	$845 ●
Lindsay Bowley, Recruitment Supervisor	Division of Human Resources	04.10.24 – 04.13.24	*To attend National Black Association for Speech-Language Hearing (NBASLH) Annual Convention*	Raleigh, NC	$2, 202 ●
Heather Mitchell, Assistant Principal	Sequoyah HS	01.24.24 – 01.26.24	*To attend 2024 National Mentoring Summit*	Washington, DC	$1, 180 ■
McKenzie Thom, Counselor					$1, 180 ■
Jennifer Loudermilk, Teacher on Special Assignment					$1, 180 ■

Derek Engram, Teacher Joshua Sailers, Teacher	Woodstock HS	01.11.24 – 01.15.24	*To attend Double Bus Training Tour for Student Oversea Travel*	Madrid, Spain	$0 ❍ $0 ❍
Charles Lloyd McDonald, Teacher Stephen Long, Teacher	Dean Rusk MS Etowah HS	12.20.23 – 12.22.23	*To attend The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic*	Chicago, IL	$323 ■ $484 ♦
Kara Reeder, Teacher	E.T. Booth MS	03.20.24 – 03.22.24	*To present at National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference*	Denver, CO	$0 ❍

Legend

● – District Local Funds, FY2023-24
■ - School-Based Local Funds, FY2023-24
❍ - No expense to Cherokee County School District (Vendor)
♦ - School-Based Innovation Zone Funds, FY2023-24

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	E-2

Title

Out of State and Overnight Field Trips

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips

Summary Explanation and Background

See Attached List of Field Trips

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

See Attachment

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Dr. Nicole H. Holmes	770.479.1871

ATTACHMENT: OVERNIGHT AND OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIPS

I. Curriculum-Based Trips

School	Grade	Date	Destination	Reason/Nature
All CCSD High Schools	9 – 12	06.04.25 – 06.14.25	Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Salzburg, Austria; Munich, Germany	CCSD Choir students will study and perform in locations unique to music history.
Cherokee HS	9 – 12	03.06.24 – 03.09.24	Orlando, FL	Air Force JROTC students will fulfill curricular objectives.
Creekview HS	9 – 12	06.06.25 – 06.14.25	London, England; Normandy Region, Paris, France	Creekview students will learn about World War II, experience culture and tour historical sites.
Etowah HS	9 – 12	06.02.25 – 06.11.25	Dublin, Belfast, Ireland; Edinburgh, Scotland	Etowah High School Travel Club students will experience culture and tour historical sites.
River Ridge HS	9 – 12	02.12.25 – 02.19.25	San José, Monteverde Arenal Region, Sarapiquí, Costa Rica	River Ridge students will experience culture and tour historical sites.

II. Student Activities/Athletic-Based Trips

School	Grade	Date	Destination	Reason/Nature
Creekview HS	9 – 12	12.29.23 – 12.30.23	Thompson's Station, TN	The Creekview HS Wrestling Team are traveling to Thompson's Station, TN to participate in a competition.
River Ridge HS	9 – 12	12.17.23 – 12.19.23	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	The River Ridge HS Girls Basketball Team are traveling to Ft. Lauderdale, FL to compete in the Kreul Classic.

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	F - 1

Title

Monthly Update on Capital Outlay Projects

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Monthly Update on Capital Outlay Projects

Summary Explanation and Background

See the attached report from the Chief Support Services Officer regarding the status of the current Capital Outlay Projects

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

See Attachment

Source of Additional Information

Trey Moores	770.479.1871
Ken Godfrey	770.479.1871

Cherokee County School District

DATE: 08 November 2023

TO: Dr. Brian V. Hightower
Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Trey Moores
Chief Support Services Officer

SUBJECT: Construction Status Reports

The Office of Capital Improvements (OCI) staff has reviewed the architect's monthly status report on the current construction projects. A summary of the progress for each project is shown below:

Cherokee HS Replacement ~ Site Package

- Installation of curb and gutter installation is 90% complete.
- Final grading continues.
- Installation of final perimeter fencing and guardrail is nearing completion.
- Removal of excess dirt and rock is progressing well.

Cherokee HS Replacement ~ Building Package

- Pier foundation and footing concrete placement are complete on the main academic building and are underway on the CTAE wing and main gym.
- Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing in main academic building, CTAE wing and main gym are underway.
- Pouring of slabs begins in the next two weeks.

Free Home ES Replacement

- Block wall construction is ongoing.
- Parking lot curbs and asphalt binder course installations are finished.
- Structural steel continues and roof decking has begun.
- Site work is nearing completion.

Trey Moores TM

TM/KG:mm
Attachments

1205 Bluffs Parkway
Canton, Georgia 30114
770.479.1871
www.cherokeek12.net



Aerial
Facing
Northwest



Aerial
Northeast
Facing

Free Home Elementary School
Replacement



Aerial
Facing
Southeast

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	G-1

Title

Recommendations and Resignations/Terminations of Employment for Certified and Classified Personnel

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Recommendations, Resignations, Terminations of Employment and Transfers for Certified and Classified Personnel

Summary Explanation and Background

The recommendations include the following items:

1. Certified Recommendations
2. Certified Resignations/Terminations of Employment
3. Classified Recommendations
4. Classified Transfers
5. Classified Resignations/Terminations of Employment

Priority Area

Quality Workforce

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

Summary List of Recommendations

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Rick Beaulieu	770.479.1871

Cherokee County School District

G1 Summary Report

BOE Meeting Date: 11/16/2023

Certified Recommendations

Name	Location	Position	Start Date
Berry, William	Free Home Elem School	Sped IRR Teacher	11/13/2023
Galneau, Heather	Freedom Mid School	Connections Teacher	11/27/2023
Patel, Anisha	Oak Grove Elem School	Speech Language Pathologist	1/8/2024
Carruth, Tanner	Woodstock Elem School	Sped IRR Teacher	12/1/2023
VanDine, Hattie	Woodstock Mid School	7th Grade Teacher	11/1/2023

Certified Transfers

Name	Location	Position	Start Date
No records found			

Certified Resignations/Terminations

Name	Location	Position	End Date
Frank, Karen	Boston Elem School	Sped IRR Teacher	12/22/2023
Drury, Sarah	Creekland Mid School	Connections Teacher	12/22/2023
Blalock, Stanley	Freedom Mid School	Connections Teacher	10/31/2023
Read, Ariel	Woodstock Elem School	5th Grade Teacher	10/20/2023
Oglesby, Henry	Woodstock High School	Math Teacher	10/24/2023
Toussaint-Scott, Sophia	Woodstock Mid School	7th Grade Teacher	10/20/2023

Classified Recommendations

Name	Location	Position	Start Date
Lopez, Norma	Clark Creek Elem School	School Nutrition Worker	10/23/2023
Carr, Michelle	Creekland Mid School	School Nutrition Worker	10/30/2023
Gayton, Amanda	Creekview High School	School Nutrition Worker	10/19/2023
Migneco, Heather	E.T. Booth Mid School	Clerical 3	11/1/2023
Rule, Michelle	Freedom Mid School	SI ParaPro	12/4/2023
Coleman, Cherie	Mill Creek Mid School	IEP ParaPro	10/30/2023
Fayerman-Hansen, Shannon	River Ridge High School	Clerical 3	10/27/2023
Sanchez, Concetta	River Ridge High School	School Nutrition Worker	10/24/2023
Galbreath, Angela	Sixes Elem School	AU ParaPro	10/30/2023
Sampath Kumar, Abhinaya	Transportation	Bus Driver Relief	11/8/2023
Jennings, Christina	Transportation	Bus Driver Relief	11/8/2023
Free, Christopher	Transportation	Bus Driver Relief	11/8/2023
Gaddis, Levi	Transportation	Vehicle Technician	11/6/2023
Heggen, Mindy	Woodstock Mid School	Vision ParaPro	10/23/2023

Classified Transfers

Name	Location	Position	Start Date
Reynolds, Kimberly	Admin - Financial Management	Clerical 8	10/25/2023
Langston, Shay	Financial Management	Clerical 6	1/8/2024
McAteer, Kelli	Financial Management	Clerical 8	11/1/2023
Parmer, Jada	Liberty Elem School	School Nutrition Manager	11/2/2023
Painter, John	Support Services-Maintenance	Maint Facility Tech Lead	10/16/2023

Classified Resignations/Terminations

Name	Location	Position	End Date
Pittman, Jennifer	Cherokee High School	MI-MOD ParaPro	11/3/2023

Cherokee County School District

G1 Summary Report

BOE Meeting Date: 11/16/2023

Classified Resignations/Terminations

Name	Location	Position	End Date
Carter, Christina	Clark Creek Elem School	School Nutrition Worker	10/20/2023
Brummer, Jessica	Creekland Mid School	School Nutrition Worker	10/4/2023
Rump, Melanie	Dean Rusk Mid School	Clerical 4	11/30/2023
Galeza, Valerie	E.T. Booth Mid School	School Nutrition Worker	10/30/2023
Shepherd, Kerry	Liberty Elem School	School Nutrition Manager	10/30/2023
Beane, Kristine	Liberty Elem School	School Nutrition Worker	11/13/2023
Foster, Jennifer	Mill Creek Mid School	IEP ParaPro	10/20/2023
Taylor, Colleen	Mill Creek Mid School	MI-MOD ParaPro	11/17/2023
Minard, Karen	River Ridge High School	School Nutrition Worker	10/17/2023
Kenol, Janelle	Transportation	Bus Driver	10/6/2023
Bond, Michelle	Transportation	Bus Driver	10/23/2023
Brown, Peter	Transportation	Bus Driver	10/26/2023
Smith, Robert	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/31/2024
Smith, Michael	Transportation	Bus Driver Relief	9/29/2023
Hartzell, Corissa	Woodstock Elem School	School Nutrition Worker	11/17/2023

Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 16, 2023	I-1

Title

2024 Legislative Partnership Priorities

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2024 Legislative Partnership Priorities

Summary Explanation and Background

Based upon discussion, feedback and input during the October 19, 2023 Superintendent/School Board Strategic Work Session, the Superintendent recommends the attached 2024 Legislative Partnership Priorities for the School Board's consideration and approval.

Priority Area

Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

2024 Legislative Partnership Priorities

Source of Additional Information

Dr. Brian V. Hightower	770.479.1871
Mike McGowan	770.479.1871

DRAFT

Cherokee County School District

2024 LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL & WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES and FORTIFY LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- Provide high school students with diploma choices
- Support legislative initiatives which promote local control
- Eliminate schools as polling places
- Oppose efforts to eliminate sovereign immunity
- Allow additional flexibility for retirees to return to work

PRIORITIZE EDUCATION FUNDING and STRENGTHEN TEACHER PIPELINE

- Support local legislation to call for a referendum to modify the school district senior property tax initiative
- Support expansion of existing and emerging statewide teacher pipeline initiatives
- Modify the QBE to allow for safety/security funding, lower counselor/student ratios, additional transportation funds, etc.
- Increase teacher compensation, allowing local monies to offset State-required employer health premium increases
- Establish academic and fiscal accountability structures for existing and future voucher programs
- Preserve continued investment in TRS

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kyla Cromer, Chair
Rick Steiner, Vice Chair
John Harmon, Patsy Jordan,
Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison,
Kelly Poole, Erin Ragsdale

Dr. Brian V. Hightower
Superintendent of Schools

CHEROKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

GEORGIA SENATE

DISTRICT 21 Brandon Beach
DISTRICT 32 Kay Kirkpatrick
DISTRICT 56 John Albers

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 11 Rick Jasperse
DISTRICT 14 Mitchell Scoggins
DISTRICT 20 Charlice Byrd
DISTRICT 21 Brad Thomas
DISTRICT 22 Jordan Ridley
DISTRICT 23 Mandi Ballinger
DISTRICT 44 Don Parsons
DISTRICT 46 John Carson
DISTRICT 47 Jan Jones

DRAFT

2024 LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL & WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide high school graduates choices in Georgia with an alternative diploma option in the area of Career/Technical Preparation . . . thereby further ensuring students' workforce readiness skills and preparation for transitions directly into careers or secondary-level career educational opportunities, thus positively impacting Georgia's emerging workforce.

FORTIFY LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- Ensure proposed legislative initiatives strengthen provisions for the local control and management of schools (including the ability for a School Board to select its own delivery model and incorporate locally-endorsed curricular programs and materials, etc.) . . . thereby empowering local School Boards to fulfill their Constitutional mandate and corresponding responsibility to engage their local constituency, develop locally-derived educational policy and oversee continued performance improvements among their students.

- Eliminate State-mandated use of schools as public polling locations during regular school days . . . thereby increasing safety and security for students, staff and buildings.

- Oppose any effort to eliminate limited sovereign and official immunity . . . thereby protecting K-12 public school districts from lawsuits over day-today school operations (e.g., grades, discipline, classroom placements, etc.).

- Allow additional flexibility to local school districts within Teacher Retirement System (TRS) of Georgia compensation rules when establishing parameters for retiree return to work eligibility requirements.

PRIORITIZE EDUCATION FUNDING & STRENGTHEN TEACHER PIPELINE

- Support modification of the school district senior property tax exemption to assist senior property owners, while mitigating the loss of resources for schools. Options could include removal of the cap, inclusion of residency requirements, and/or verification that no school-age children reside at the property.

- Support expansion of existing and emerging statewide teacher pipeline initiatives.

- Make public education in the State of Georgia a priority by permanently ending State "austerity reductions" of the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act and allocating to local school districts all funding earned under the statutorily required formula.

- Consider modifications and update of the QBE formula to accurately reflect inflation, true costs of transportation; and, to include a funding weight/poverty index for economically disadvantaged students, funding for safety and security and increased allocations for counselors, social workers, psychologists and nurses . . . thereby providing support for critically-needed student services functions.

- Provide State funding to decrease reliance on local funding for safety/security. CCSD will expend over $4.5M for safety/security in SY2023-24 ($2.5M salaries/benefits and over $2M for security operations).

- Provide State funding to decrease the school counselor to student ratio from 1:450 to 1:250 (Georgia DOE model).

- Significantly increase the base teacher compensation within the State teacher salary schedule . . . thereby communicating the State's long-term commitment to providing competitive compensation for the purposes of attracting and retaining teachers in the State and allowing local school districts to concentrate local revenues on offsetting State-required employer rate increases in health care premiums, local share of retirement plan contributions and locally-determined benefit plans (e.g., disability, life, dental, etc.).

- Until such time as equitable accountability measures are ensured, oppose the continuation and/or expansion of existing programs that directly or indirectly use public funds to pay private school tuition for students or provide tax incentives for their parents . . . thereby

Continued

ensuring a solid revenue base for state funding of public education. Establish and implement a fiscal and academic accountability structure for existing and future voucher programs that is analogous to that which public school districts must adhere.

• Preserve continued investment in Georgia's Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) in order to ensure the longevity of the defined benefit plan. Georgia's retirement system is the State's best benefit for teachers!

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

• The formula for determining QBE allocations for student transportation is out of date and in need of revision. CCSD will receive $2.4M in QBE funds for student transportation for FY23. The total budgeted cost for student transportation during this budget cycle is $29.2M. Comparatively, in FY2010, CCSD was allocated $2.5M in QBE funds for student transportation . . . but had 4,955 fewer students to serve.

• Looking statewide, in 1991 the State provided 54% of the total cost of providing transportation. By 2001 the amount was down to 39%. In 2021, the amount provided by the QBE formula had decreased to less than 12% of the actual cost.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

• The Teacher Retirement System of Georgia, a defined benefit plan and the State's best benefit for teachers, has increased the employer (CCSD) contribution rate from 14.27% (FY17) to an expected 19.98% in FY24. CCSD's annual payment to TRS on behalf of its employees for FY24 is expected to exceed $57.8M ($10.9M paid via local funds).

• Due to the vision and commitment of Georgia leaders over the decades, TRS:

◊ Ranks in the top third of pension systems in the U.S., is actuarially sound, and has a proven record of sustainability.

◊ Provides a compelling recruitment and retention incentive for the education industry, supporting a life-long career path for high-quality teachers in Georgia schools.

◊ Positively impacts Georgia's economy and the economic success of our state, as pensions for over 148,000 TRS retirees are reinvested in local communities across the state each year.

◊ Affords a defined benefit plan as the last, best benefit for Georgia's dedicated teachers, who are diligently preparing the next generation of Georgia citizens.

As Georgia is recognized to be the #1 place to do business for the 10th consecutive year, it must also seek to be the #1 place to teach. Supporting TRS today ensures success for Georgia tomorrow.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

• Beginning in FY08, the State's contribution for noncertified employee health insurance premiums was reduced and then eliminated by FY12 (from over $500M statewide to $0), requiring local school districts to fully absorb the additional costs since that time. CCSD's employer contribution toward the annual cost of providing health insurance for a non-certified employee has risen from $2,000 in FY10 to $12,840 in FY24 ... this cost, nearing $1,100 per month/per participating employee, represents a 542% increase.

• CCSD's health insurance costs for non-certified employees are projected to be $18.6M for FY24 far exceeding and more than doubling the $7.5M cost in FY14. The extraordinary financial impact of continuing exorbitant employer contributions rates for State mandated benefits without corresponding State funding continues to be of great concern. As such, CCSD continues to privatize custodial and grounds services and increase the use of part-time/temporary workers for non-certified staffing as cost-reduction measures.