Cherokee County School District

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Minutes of Work Session Board Meeting | 01/16/2025 – 5:15 PM

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility | 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114

The Cherokee County Board of Education called the board meeting work session to order at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025. The meeting was conducted in person and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were School Board Chair Janet Read Welch; Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan; Members John Harmon, Kelly Poole, Erin Ragsdale and Robert Rechsteiner. Superintendent Dr. Mary Elizabeth Davis; and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Member Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison was not in attendance.

Call to Order

Janet Read Welch called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. followed by Superintendent Davis welcoming everyone.

Superintendent Reports

Academics and Accountability:
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer
Presented Instructional Resource Material Audit Report

Academics and Accountability:
Dr. Josh Heath, Chief Academics and Accountability Officer
Presented Cohesive System of Teaching and Learning Report

Finance: Monthly Finance Report
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer
Provided the Monthly Financial Report, as information

Finance: FY26 Budget Development
Kenneth Owen, Chief Financial Officer
Presented the Funding Outlook and Budget Development

Capital Outlay: Monthly Capital Outlay Report
Trey Moores, Chief Support Services Officer
Provided the Monthly Capital Outlay report, as information

Legislative Report: 2025 Legislative Report
Mike McGowan, Chief of Staff
Presented the 2025 Opening Legislative Session Report

Agenda Action Items

Discussion Only: Consent agenda items for action at the 7:00 PM business meeting will be determined during work session and noted below:

1. **Partnership Agreement Renewals:**
   Barbara Jacoby presented (2) two recommended partnership agreements. The Board moved this item to the consent agenda for the Business Session.
2. **Instructional Materials Policy (IFAA) on First Reading:**
   Dr. Josh Heath presented the new Instructional Materials Policy (IFAA) on first reading. The Board will act on this item individually during tonight's Business Session
3. **Resolution of Bond Issuance:**
   Ken Owen presented a resolution to issue 2025 General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of refunding the Series 2015 General Obligation Bonds. The Board moved this item to the consent agenda for the Business Session.
4. **School Board Member Resignation:**
   School Board Attorney, Abby Roach presented a resignation letter from District 3 School Board representative, John Harmon and a timeline for appointing a candidate to that open post. The Board will act on this item individually during tonight's Business Session.
5. **Human Resources Employment Recommendations:**
   Dr. Davis provided employment recommendations.
   On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, changed the order of staff recognition to occur after the consent agenda is approved. *Consent 5-0 Vote; John Harmon abstained*
   The attorney and secretary confirmed that the agenda would remain unchanged, the recognition of new employees was not applicable in tonight's business meeting. The Board will act on this item individually during tonight's Business Session.

Executive Session

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried, the board moved to go into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m to address two discipline matters (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757). *Consent5-0 Vote; John Harmon abstained*

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to return to Open Session at 6:52 p.m. *Consent 5-0 Vote; John Harmon abstained*

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District Tribunal panel hearing for appeal case #24-197565. Consent 5-0 Vote; John Harmon abstained

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Janet Read Welch and carried to uphold the findings and disposition of the Cherokee County School District Tribunal panel hearing for appeal case #24-148613. Consent 5-0 Vote; John Harmon abstained

Adjournment

The School Board adjourned the Work Session at 6:53 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary

Cherokee County School District

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Minutes of Business Board Meeting | 01/16/2025 – 7:00 PM

Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility | 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114

The Cherokee County Board of Education called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025. The meeting was in-person and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were School Board Chair Janet Read Welch; Vice-Chair Patsy Jordan; Members John Harmon, Kelly Poole, Erin Ragsdale and Robert Rechsteiner. Superintendent Dr. Mary Elizabeth Davis and Attorney Abby Roach. School Board Member, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison was not in attendance.

Call to Order

Janet Read Welch called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Adoption of Agenda

On a motion by Kelly Poole, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, the Board approved the Superintendent's agenda for the January 16, 2025, School Board Meeting. *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*

School Board Remarks

The School Board Chair and a fellow School Board member delivered remarks.

Recognitions

The Cherokee County School Board Recognized the following:

1. Elementary School Math Competition Winners
2. Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Essay Contest Winner
3. NAAE Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award
4. NAEA Southeastern Region Elementary Art Educator Award
5. GYSTC 2025 Don Cargill STEM Scholar Award Winners
6. GHSA – Cross Country CVHS, Flag Football CHS

Public Participation

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

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Kelly Poole, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the December 12 2024, Work Session and the December 12, 2024, School Board

Business Meeting. *Consent 4-0 Vote, Janet Read Welch and John Harmon abstained.*

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Erin Ragsdale and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the January 7, 2025, Called School Board Meeting. *Consent 5-0 Vote,John Harmon abstained.*

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Janet Read Welch, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve items A1 and A-3 as presented in Work Session and determined as consent items. *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*

Agenda Action Items

1. **Partnership Agreement Renewals** *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*
2. **Instructional Material Policy (IFFA) on First Reading**
   *As an individual item, Janet Read Welch recommended that the School Board approve item A2 Instructional Material Policy (IFFA), as presented in the Work Session. Robert Rechsteiner made a motion, which was seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried. Consent 5-0 Vote***,** John Harmon abstained
3. **Resolution for Bond Issuance** *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*
4. **School Board Member Resignation**
   As an individual item, Janet Read Welch recommended that the School Board approve item A4 School Board Member Resignation, as presented in the Work Session. Kelly Poole made a motion, which was seconded by Janet Read Welch and carried. *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*
5. **Human Resources Employment Recommendations**
   As an individual item, Janet Read Welch recommended that the School Board approve item A5 Human Resources Employment Recommendations, as presented in the Work Session. Robert Rechsteiner made a motion, which was seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried. *Consent 5-0 Vote, John Harmon abstained*

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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School Board Chair Secretary