

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, January 17, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach. Board Member Rob Usher and Student Advisor to the School Board Gabrielle Roth were not in attendance.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Call to Order</b>           | The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Woodstock HS student Rachel Morris.  |
| <b>Swearing-in Ceremony</b>    | The Honorable Keith Wood presided over the swearing-in ceremony for newly-elected School Board Chair Janet Read and School Board Members Patsy Jordan and Kelly Marlow.   |
| <b>Selection of Vice-Chair</b> | Selection of School Board Vice-Chair was tabled until the February 7, 2013 School Board Meeting when all Board Members can be in attendance.  |
| <b>Adopt Agenda</b>            | On a motion by Michael Geist, seconded by Kelly Marlow, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda ( <i>6-0 vote</i> ).  |
| <b>Minutes for Approval</b>    | On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford, the Board approved the minutes from the December 6, 2012 School Board Meeting, ( <i>6-0</i> ).  |
| <b>Consent Agenda</b>          | Following 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 Janet Read and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks ( <i>6-0 vote</i> ). |

Dr. Petruzielo introduced newly-appointed administrators Bill Sebring, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services and Facilities/Construction Management; Paul Weir, Principal, Woodstock HS; and, Michael Manzella, Assistant Principal, Woodstock HS.

**Public Participation**

Barbara Jacoby introduced a video news report regarding the Impact Concussion Program. The program is conducted collaboratively with Northside Hospital-Cherokee. Michael Patterson, Director of Operations for Northside-Hospital Cherokee addressed the Board.

Members of the public addressed the School Board relative to a previous meeting of the Cherokee County Citizens For the Kids and comments made about a CCSD employee by a School Board Member.

A member of the public addressed the School Board relative to unsolicited e-mail correspondence from a School Board Member.

A member of the public addressed the School Board relative to safety and security.

**A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- A -1. Recognize Emily Solon of Creekview HS as KSU Outstanding Dual Enrollment Honors Student for 2012-13**

*(Recognized)*

- A-2. Recognize 2012-13 Reinhardt University/CCSD Mathematics Tournament Winners**

*(Recognized)*

- A-3. Recognize CCSD Nominees for Georgia Governor's Honors Program**

*(Recognized)*

- A-4. Recognize Clark Creek Elementary School STEM Academy Robotics Team**

*(Recognized)*

- A-5. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendations to Approve New Partnership Agreement with Oak Leaf Church**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford, and carried to Approve a New Partnership Agreement with Oak Leaf Church. *(6-0 vote)*

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

- B-1.** Kelly Marlow thanked her friends and family for their support.
- B-2.** Michael Geist corrected a previous statement he made referencing a CCSD employee.
- B-3.** Janet Read made several calendar-related announcements regarding upcoming school activities.
- B-4.** Patsy Jordan thanked voters, friends and family for their support.
- B-5.** Janet Read thanked voters and family for their support.

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- \*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of November 2012 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- \*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

- \*E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

- \*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

Tom Roach stated that recent developments required decision to be made regarding a "housekeeping" (non-policy) issue to change banks for purposes of the local government investment pool.

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to Amend the Agenda to Include a Resolution to Change Banks for Purposes of Local Government Investment Pool. *(4-2 vote, Geist and Marlow dissented)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve a Resolution to change banks for purposes of local government investment pool from Cherokee Bank to Wells Fargo. *(6-0 vote)*

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Janet Read and carried to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, February 7, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Gabrielle Roth.

**Call to Order** The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Gabrielle Roth, Student Advisor to the School Board.

**Selection of Vice-Chair** Robert Wofford was selected as School Board Vice-Chair for 2013.

**Adopt Agenda** On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Michael Geist, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (*7-0 vote*).

**Minutes for Approval** On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford, the Board approved the minutes from the January 17, 2013 School Board Meeting, (*7-0*).

**Consent Agenda** Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Robert Usher seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (*7-0 vote*).

#### **Public Participation**

A Sequoyah HS student provided an overview of her senior project on boating safety.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **A -1. Recognize Cathy McKenzie for the 2012-13 SSTAGE Outstanding Leadership Award**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize 2012-13 Regional Middle School Academic Bowl Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Band Middle School Members**

*(Recognized)*

**A-4. Recognize 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Chorus High School Members**

*(Recognized)*

**A-5. Recognize State and Region Champions**

*(Recognized)*

**\*A-6. Board Approval of Resolution Proclaiming February 17, 2013 as “PTA Day in Cherokee County Schools”**

*(Approved)*

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

**B-1. Board Approval to Expend Funds for National School Board Association (NSBA) and Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Memberships and Conference/Training Opportunities for Calendar Year 2013 [J. Read]**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Janet Read and carried, to Approve Expenditure of Funds for National School Board Association (NSBA) and Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Memberships and Conference/Training Opportunities for Calendar Year 2013. *(6-1 vote; Marlow dissented)*

Kelly Marlow requested additional information relative to the School Board’s membership and association with GSBA. Dr. Petruzielo provided additional information relative to the School Board’s ongoing relationship with GSBA.

**B-2. Board Approval of Naming of Delegate for 2013 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference and Delegate Assembly [J. Read]**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve Robert Rechsteiner as Delegate for the 2013 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference and Delegate Assembly. *(7-0 vote)*

**B-3. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policies: Goals and Objectives (BA), Safety (EBB) and Emergency Drills (EBBC) on First Reading [R. Usher]**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Usher, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to Approve Proposed Revisions to School Board Policies: Goals and Objectives (BA), Safety (EBB) and Emergency Drills (EBBC) on First Reading. *(7-0 vote)*

**B-4. Events, Activities and Correspondence**

Kelly Marlow stated that she recently attended several School District and School District-related events and was impressed with all students, staff and community members involved.

Janet Read stated that she also had the honor of participating in several recent events and encouraged School Board members to participate as their schedules permit.

Kelly Marlow thanked the Superintendent for a letter he had sent to all employees earlier in the day regarding health insurance, and for quickly addressing the issue and communicating with employees.

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of December 2012 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to Approve December 2012 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update (7-0 vote).

Kelly Marlow and Michael Geist requested additional information regarding SPLOST revenue and expenditures. Dr. Petruzielo and Candler Howell, Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management, provided additional information in this regard.

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips. (7-0 vote)

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2013-14 Organizational Chart**

*(Approved)*



Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2013-14 Organizational Chart. (7-0 vote)

Rob Usher and Mr. Geist requested additional information relative to the proposed organizational chart. Dr. Petruzielo provided information in this regard.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss at student discipline matter [*See attached affidavit (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)*] at 8:30 p.m. (7-0 vote)

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

**CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on 2/7/2013. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

- ☒ To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)
- ☐ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)
- ☐ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))
- ☐ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))
- ☐ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 7 day of Feb, 2013.

Melissa Whatley

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

July 24, 2013



[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, March 21, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Gabrielle Roth was not in attendance.

**Call to Order** The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Hickory Flat ES student Jackson Taylor.

**Adopt Agenda** On a motion by Robert Wofford, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(7-0 vote)*.

**Minutes for Approval** On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Kelly Marlow, the Board approved the minutes from the January 17, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(7-0 vote)*.

**Consent Agenda** Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote)*.

### **Public Participation**

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

### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **A-1. Recognize Patti Howard for the 2013 Jack Bess Memorial Award**

*(Recognized)*

#### **A-2. Recognize State and Regional Technology Fair Winners**

*(Recognized)*

- A-3. Recognize 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Band High School Members**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-4. Recognize 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Chorus Middle School Members**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-5. Recognize 2013 GAE District Spelling Bee Winners**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-6. Recognize State and Region Champions**  
*(Recognized)*
- \*A-7. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Proposed Resolution Regarding Class Size Exemptions**  
*(Approved)*
- A-8. Recognize School Board Members During School Board Member Appreciation Week**  
*(Recognized)*
- B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS/STUDENT ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

  - B-1. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policies: Rules of Order (BCBF) and Board Meeting Policies (BCBD) on First Reading [Kelly Marlow]**  
*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended Revisions to Policy BCBF on First Reading *(7-0 vote)*.

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended Revisions to Policy BCBD on First Reading *(4-3 vote; Geist, Marlow and Usher dissented)*.
  - B-2. Events and Activities**

Patsy Jordan thanked Principals and staff for inviting her to participate in many school events over the past few weeks.

**B-3. School Board Training**

School Board Members agreed on two tentative dates for whole-Board training. Proposed dates are Tuesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 25, 2013. Tom Roach indicated he would contact GSBA to set-up the required training.

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES****D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT****\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of January 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT****\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

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

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT****\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**\*F-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for the Adoption of a Resolution to Certify Closeout for Clark Creek ES (Elementary School "H")**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**\*I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation of Special Lease Agreements**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter *[See attached affidavit (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)]* at 8:40 p.m. (7-0 vote)

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

**CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on March 21, 2013. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

- ☒ To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)
- ☐ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)
- ☐ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))
- ☐ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))
- ☐ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 21 day of March, 2013.

Melissa Whatley

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: July 24, 2013



Daisy Jordan  
Robert [unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]  
Janet S Read



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **March 21, 2013: Strategic Work Session and Regular Board Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board at its March 21, 2013 Strategic Work Session heard a presentation about potential, significant changes to how the School District's non-teaching employees are employed and provided benefits.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo reviewed with the School Board a memorandum, which he explained was to be distributed to all School District employees that evening. The memorandum also is posted on the School District's website at [www.cherokee.k12.ga.us](http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us).

The correspondence details the School District's current fiscal crisis largely caused by continued State "austerity" budget cuts totaling \$26.6 Million and skyrocketing costs to provide State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) insurance to all employees.

As a result of "significant erosion of financial support" from State lawmakers, Dr. Petruzielo said, coupled with no anticipated increase in local property tax revenues and other negative fiscal impacts, School District staff has been reviewing cost-containment options for the 2013-14 operating budget.

Dr. Petruzielo said the measures already in place to compensate for the rising deficit, such as furloughs, increasing class size and consolidating bus routes, not only will likely need to continue, but the School District must additionally look elsewhere to achieve a balanced budget for the next (2013-14) school year.

"We must make even more painful recommendations, with the understanding that our primary mission – and funding obligation – is teaching and learning," he said.

Three immediate next steps are now underway: issuing a Request For Proposals (RFP) to seek bids for custodial and grounds services, which currently are provided by 239 School District positions; developing an Alternative Health Plan and/or Alternative Health Plan Contribution Model for the School District's 1,760 non-certified employees; and considering other cost-containment models for next year, including changes to the



size of the School District's non-certified workforce and alternative work hour and work day models.

"This is a fact-finding step and does not necessarily mean that we will subsequently recommend that these services be privatized; but, the details and potential impact for all of the options available to the School Board must be known in order to make appropriate policy recommendations and decisions," Dr. Petruzielo said of issuing an RFP, which could take place as soon as next week.

School systems statewide – including Cobb, Henry and Carroll Counties among others in metropolitan Atlanta – are researching privatization of non-teaching services in order to reduce costs. Dr. Petruzielo said, if the responses to the RFP produce a potential opportunity for a significant savings/cost avoidance for the School District, a contract for grounds services could be considered for a July 2013 start date, followed by a January 2014 start date for custodial services.

Petruzielo said no other services have been identified for RFPs at this time, but "without significant State funding relief, that cannot be ruled out for the future."

The Superintendent said this plan should not lead anyone to think the quality of work and dedication of the School District's custodians and grounds staff is not appreciated.

"Nor should anyone doubt how much we value every non-certified employee on our team... we are simply faced with fewer and fewer options for reducing expenses, recognizing that 85 percent of the operating budget is expended on employees' salaries and benefits," he said.

The School District will prepare a question-and-answer document on the subject for employees, and will hold staff meetings to provide non-certified employees with more information and the opportunity to ask questions.

"We are committed to ensuring that all employees' questions are answered, and that all available information is shared in a timely manner as this process progresses," said Barbara Jacoby, Director of Public Information, Communications and Partnerships.

During the regular meeting, the School Board approved recommendations by the Superintendent to further improve financial transparency and the rules of order for Board meetings. The revision related to the rules of order was approved unanimously; the change to increase financial transparency was approved 4-3... with Michael Geist, Kelly Marlow and Rob Usher opposed.

The Board also took the following action:

- Approved personnel recommendations, including: the retirements of Freedom MS Karen Hawley and Tippens Education Center Administrator Marsha Iler and the departure of Knox ES Principal Dr. Kelly B. Page, who is moving out of the

area. The Board approved: the appointment of Sheila Grimes, currently an assistant principal at Cherokee HS, to Principal of Freedom MS; Sheryl Gould, currently an Assistant Principal at Freedom MS, to Administrator of Tippens; and Tammy Sandell, currently the Principal of Mountain Road ES, to the Principal post at Knox ES. Jennifer Landry, currently an Assistant Principal at Johnston ES, was appointed as Principal of Mountain Road ES; and Susan McCarthy, currently Principal at Chapman IS, was appointed as Director of School Improvement. Canton ES Principal Gwen Lince and Clayton ES Principal Beth P. Long were approved to switch posts.

- Recognized School District Lead Speech-Language Pathologist Patti Howard for winning the 2013 Jack Bess Memorial Award presented by the Georgia Speech-Language Hearing Association;
- Recognized State and Regional Technology Fair Winners;
- Recognized 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Band High School Members;
- Recognized 2012-13 District Honor and All-State Chorus Middle School Members;
- Recognized 2013 District Spelling Bee Winners;
- Recognized State and Region Champions in Athletic Competitions;
- Approved a resolution regarding class size exemptions;
- Recognized School Board Members in honor of Georgia School Boards Association's School Board Member Appreciation Week;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved out-of-state travel and out-of-state and overnight field trips;
- Approved the monthly update on construction projects;
- Adopted a resolution to certify the construction closeout for Clark Creek ES STEM Academy;
- Approved special lease agreements;
- Approved holding School Board training, possibly in late April; and,
- Met in executive session to discuss a student discipline matter.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, April 18, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Gabrielle Roth.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Chapman IS student Paul Wineman.

Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (*7-0 vote*).

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Robert Wofford seconded by Michael Geist, the Board approved the minutes from the March 21, 2013 School Board Meeting, (*7-0 vote*).

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Kelly Marlow seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (*7-0 vote*).

#### **Public Participation**

A representative of the Cherokee County Council of PTA addressed the School Board relative to a recently-passed unanimous resolution.

Two employees addressed the School Board relative to potential outsourcing of custodial services.

**A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize Cherokee County School District Counselors of the Year**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize 2013 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize 2013 Governor's Honor Finalists**

*(Recognized)*

**A-4. Recognize State and Region Champions**

*(Recognized)*

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

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**\*C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to School Board Policy: Board meeting Agendas (BCBD) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

**\*C-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to School Board Policy: Rules of Order (BCBF) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of February 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**\*D-2. Board Approval of Request For Proposals (RFPs) for Annual Financial Audits--2011-12 and 2012-13**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

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

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Gabrielle Roth, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. (7-0 vote)

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **April 18, 2013: Trends in Education Work Session and Regular Board Meeting**

Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo in his fiscal forecast to the School Board at the April 18, 2013 Trends in Education Work Session reported that while at least \$9 Million in new cuts are needed to balance the 2013-14 budget, he does not anticipate additional furlough days.

Dr. Petruzielo said due to continued State “austerity reductions” and a still recovering housing market, he estimates the Cherokee County School District is \$65 Million short of funding needed to restore budget cuts made this year, which means the current eight furlough days, increased class size and five fewer schools days will remain.

The Superintendent’s Ad Hoc Budget Committee has been conducting its zero-based review of all expenses, with additional details to be presented to the School Board at the Budget Conference Work Session on May 16.

Dr. Petruzielo said, in addition to decreased State and Local revenue, the budget also is complicated by \$1.2 Million in Federal “sequestration” cuts, increases in CCSD costs for State Health Benefit Plan premiums (\$4 Million) and State retirement plan contributions (\$1.4 Million), and the cost to supplement State longevity salary step increases (\$3.1 Million).

“Our budget is like a three-legged stool... and all of the legs are wobbly,” Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the outlook may be slowly improving. “The Cherokee County Tax Assessor’s office is advising that the tax digest will likely be flat this year, which would bring us some relief after three years of declines amounting to \$30 Million. The State also may withhold slightly less of our earned State Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding, as it appears the \$26.6 Million ‘austerity cut’ suffered this year will be reduced to a \$24.4 Million cut for next year. These small improvements won’t add up to the \$65 Million we need, but we’re on the right track.”

During the work session, the Superintendent and his staff highlighted the progress that the District has made in the past 15 years and continues to make in four areas

considered to be major national trends in education: increased accountability for student achievement; technology integration; enhanced safety and security; and expanded choice.

During the safety and security presentation, Ad Hoc Safety and Security Committee Chair CCSD Police Chief Mark Kissel outlined the Committee's recommendations following audit visits to all CCSD schools.

The recommendations include: standardizing the Visitor Management System on all campuses; seeking State funding in the next legislative session to fund the hiring of three to 10 additional School District police officers; and using Education Special Local Option Sales Tax (Ed SPLOST) revenue, if available, to make security system enhancements such as installing: digital cameras for the elementary schools without such systems; electronic access control systems for campuses with multiple buildings; and additional fencing, lighting and signage.

Ad Hoc Responsible Relationships Committee Chair Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Management Trey Olson outlined the Committee's recommendations following its review of policies and procedures in place regarding how employees conduct themselves with students and all members of the school and community.

The recommendations call for the incorporation of new guidelines into the "Critical Issues" process, which requires all new and existing employees to annually review a list of State laws and local policies and procedures and sign a statement affirming they understand the School District's expectations and requirements. The new documents include: Guidelines for Student Boundaries and Relationships, Guidelines for Professionalism in the Workplace and Guidelines for the Use of Social Media.

During the expanded choice presentation, the Board heard an update on the Cherokee Academies initiative, which was launched this school year to offer more academic options within CCSD.

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academies at Ball Ground, Canton and Holly Springs Elementary Schools, which currently provide special classes each semester in STEM subjects to all students in Grades 3-5, will expand next school year to include STEM classes for sixth-graders. Curriculum also will be developed to offer STEM units for second-graders at these campuses and the Clark Creek Elementary School STEM Academy.

Through a partnership with Georgia Tech, STEM robotics and engineering courses will be offered at all CCSD middle schools for interested eighth-graders next school year. The college's Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics and Computing (CEISMC – pronounced seismic) through the partnership is providing professional development for one teacher from each CCSD middle school and materials and equipment for one middle school. Materials for the other six middle schools will be purchased using Race To The Top federal grant funding.

The transfer process for all six Cherokee Academies – Ball Ground, Canton, Clark Creek and Holly Springs STEM Academies and Hasty and Oak Grove Fine Arts Academies – is open to all interested students in eligible grades from April 22 through May 3. The School District anticipates an additional 500 students will be enrolled in the Academies for next school year.

Plans for a new Academy, Cherokee Cyber Connection Academy (also known as C<sup>3</sup> Academy), also were announced during the work session.

The C<sup>3</sup> Academy will expand the existing online curricular offerings for CCSD high school students (Georgia Virtual School, Credit Connect, Georgia Credit Recovery and blended learning options) and introduce eight middle school courses recently developed by the Georgia Virtual School, with elementary school options to be explored.

The increased accountability section of the work session focused on a review of the Race To The Top program that CCSD is piloting and encompassed: Common Core student performance standards, the new evaluation systems for teachers and administrators and the new College and Career Readiness Performance Index school evaluation system.

During the technology portion of the work session, Board members heard about plans to: further expand the Bring Your Learning Device (BYLD) to school initiative to additional schools; increase the use of “flipped classroom” models, which promote delivering lecture instruction through online videos watched as homework, so classroom time can be spent on hands-on activity learning; and move toward a District-wide Learning Management Platform and greater use of Cloud computing.

Board members expressed appreciation for the information, which was shared both through brief presentations and through printed materials provided for their later review.

“It’s obvious [the staff has] done a lot of work preparing,” School Board Member Kelly Marlow said. “For someone who asks a lot of questions and wants to know a lot of detail, I just want to commend you for the work you’ve done.”

During the regular meeting, the School Board unanimously approved the final reading of recommendations by the Superintendent to further improve financial transparency and the rules of order for Board meetings.

The Board also took the following action:

- Approved personnel recommendations, including: the retirement of Canton ES STEM Academy Principal Gwen Lince; and the appointments of: John Hultquist, currently principal of Sixes ES, as principal at Clayton ES; Debbie Kelly, currently an assistant principal at Clark Creek ES STEM Academy, as principal of Sixes ES; Melinda Roulier, currently an academic coach at Oak Grove ES Fine Arts



Academy, as an assistant principal at Clark Creek ES STEM Academy; Leigh Gutierrez, currently a teacher at Hickory Flat ES, as an assistant principal at Freedom MS; and Rodney Larotta, currently a teacher at Woodstock HS, as an assistant principal at Cherokee HS.

- Recognized Cherokee County School District Counselors of the Year;
- Recognized 2013 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winners;
- Recognized 2013 Governor's Honors Finalists;
- Recognized State and Region Champions in Athletic Competitions;
- Approved a Request For Proposals (RFP) for Annual Financial Audits for 2011-12 and 2012-13;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved out-of-state travel and out-of-state and overnight field trips; and,
- Approved the monthly update on construction projects.

**Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2013**

# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, May 2, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Gabrielle Roth. Board Member Robert Rechsteiner was not in attendance.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Gabrielle Roth, Student Advisor to the Superintendent.

Rob Usher provided a brief inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Wofford, seconded by Kelly Marlow, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda *(5-0 vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Patsy Jordan, the Board approved the minutes from the April 18, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(5-0 vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

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

**A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize 2012-13 Elementary School, Middle School and High School Social Studies Fair Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize Todd Miller as Region 7-AAAAA Athletic Director of the Year**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize State and Region Champions**

*(Recognized)*

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

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

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

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**F-2. Board Consideration of Proposed Contracts for Construction/Relocation of Sewer Infrastructure for Cherokee High School**

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried to Approve Strack Incorporated as Contractor for Construction/Relocation of Sewer Infrastructure for Cherokee High School. *(6-0 vote)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Gabrielle Roth, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. *(6-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **May 2, 2013: Regular Board Meeting**

Cherokee High School Warriors fans will be happy to hear that improvements are on the way for the campus's athletic facilities.

The Cherokee County School Board at its meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2013 unanimously voted to select a construction company to relocate sewer lines so a new girls' softball field can be constructed.

The Board voted to select Strack Incorporated, which both earned the highest score in the School District staff's evaluation of proposals and also submitted the lowest bid of \$392,167. The project will be funded with Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) revenue.

The efforts to improve Cherokee High's athletic facilities also will include replacement of athletic field houses to provide updated structures with air-conditioning and other features to increase safety and usefulness.

"Athletic opportunities for students are a true complement to our rigorous academic programs. Sports offer students opportunities to succeed and to form healthy habits for a lifetime. They also reinforce our Character Education program core values such as integrity, commitment and respect... as everyone who has ever worked with a team to win a game or trained for an individual physical challenge knows," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said. "Ensuring that our student athletes have facilities that allow them to do their best and do so safely is an important priority, and we're thankful the community has continued to support this through their passage of Education SPLOST renewals."

The Board during the meeting also talked about Common Core and the School District's participation in the national initiative to implement rigorous student performance standards.

The School District is nearing the end of the pilot year for implementing the new standards, with completion scheduled by the 2013-14 school year. The School District has been a longtime leader in standards-based education, with a roll-out of District-wide standards that preceded not only Common Core, but also the State's development of Georgia Performance Standards (GPS).

Forty-five states, including Georgia, have adopted Common Core, which will allow student and teacher performance to be more accurately compared and improved nationwide. The Cherokee County School Board adopted Common Core with its approval of participation in the federal Race To The Top education reform and grant program. Participation in Race To The Top has provided \$2.8 Million in federal grant funding to the School District, which has assisted the School District in weathering the recession by preventing further increases in class size and by allowing continued innovation such as through STEM Academies.

Common Core standards, like GPS and District standards, are made available to the public via a prominent link on the home page of the School District's website and are reviewed with parents and guardians at Curriculum Nights held at all schools at the beginning of the school year. Parents and guardians can review syllabi, textbooks and other materials at any time if they want to learn more about curriculum.

The Superintendent through numerous curriculum-related committees, including the Student Performance/Common Core Standards Committee, gathers input from various viewpoints to develop his recommendations to the School Board for policy revisions, textbook purchases and other actions.

The first Objective in the School District's Five-Year Strategic Plan, which was unanimously approved by the School Board in November, is to increase student achievement levels for international competitiveness, and the first action step in the plan to achieve that goal is for teachers to use Common Core standards.

Under Common Core standards, the School District will continue using individualized education models, so that students who are ahead of National averages can maintain progress at an advanced pace, whether through differentiation in a traditional classroom; additional curriculum in a STEM Academy; more challenging coursework in an Advanced Placement (AP) class; participation in a pull-out AIM gifted program; or acceleration to higher grades ahead of schedule.

Similarly, the School District will continue to provide additional resources for children who, due to factors such as socio-economic background, speaking English as a second language or learning disabilities, need more assistance in meeting expectations, as the Superintendent believes strongly in leaving no child behind.

"It's important for today's students to be prepared for the global marketplace, and an important step is ensuring that all U.S. students are receiving a thorough and rigorous education in core subjects," Dr. Petruzielo said. "I'm very proud of how diligently our

classroom teachers, principals and staff at every level have worked for the past two years to make these new standards a reality in our classrooms; and I look forward to seeing the results as we truly begin competing nationally beyond the SAT and ITBS, where our students and teachers already have excelled.”

The Board also took the following action:

- Chair Janet Read asked the Superintendent and his staff to review current policies and make recommendations at the next Board meeting in regard to governance and accreditation issues and information presented to the Board at its recent Whole Board Governance Team Training;
- Approved the Superintendent’s personnel recommendations, including the reappointment of teachers for the 2013-14 School Year;
- Recognized 2012-13 School Board Student Advisor Gabrielle “Gabby” Roth of River Ridge High School;
- Recognized Elementary, Middle and High School Social Studies Fair Winners;
- Recognized Sequoyah High School Athletic Director Todd Miller as the Region 7-AAAAA Athletic Director of the Year;
- Recognized State and Region Champions in Athletic Competitions;
- Approved out-of-state travel and out-of-state and overnight field trips; and,
- Approved the monthly update on construction projects.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach.

**Call to Order** The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Boy Scout Daniel Urkel.

Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.

**Adopt Agenda** On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (7-0 vote).

**Minutes for Approval** On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Robert Wofford, the Board approved the minutes from the May 2, 2013 School Board Meeting, (7-0 vote).

**Consent Agenda** Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Michael Geist seconded by Rob Usher and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (7-0 vote).

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize Cherokee High School Senior Jessica Simmons, Recipient of 2013 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize Creekview High School Students John Campbell and Logan Fetters - - Recipients of Waste Management, Inc. Scholarships**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize Students Honored for Participation in 2012-13 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)**

*(Recognized)*



- A-4. Recognize 2012-13 Georgia Scholars**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-5. Recognize State and Region Champions**  
*(Recognized)*
- B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS/STUDENT ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**
- C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**
- C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Officers (BBA) on First Reading**  
*(Approved)*
- Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Officers (BBA) on First Reading. *(4-3 vote; Geist, Marlow and Usher dissented)*
- C-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board-School Superintendent Relations (BCBD) on First Reading**  
*(Approved)*
- Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist and failed to Amend Revisions to Board Policy: Board-School Superintendent Relations (BBD) on First Reading *(3-4 vote; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner and Wofford dissented.)*
- Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board-School Superintendent Relations (BBD) on First Reading. *(4-3 vote; Geist, Marlow and Usher dissented.)*
- C-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD) on First Reading**  
*(Approved)*
- Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to Approve an Amendment to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD) on First Reading. *(5-2 vote, Rechsteiner and Read dissented.)*
- Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and failed to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Meeting Agendas (BCBD) on First Reading, as amended. *(1-6 vote; Geist, Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher, Wofford dissented)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT****\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of March 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**D-2. Board Approval of Selection of Certified Accounting Firm for Annual Financial Audits - - 2011-12 and 2012-13**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Kelly Marlow, to Approve Mauldin and Jenkins, CPAs, LLC as the Certified Accounting Firm for Annual Financial Audits - - 2011-12 and 2012-13. Mr. Geist subsequently withdrew the motion. *(No vote.)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist and failed to Approve Mauldin and Jenkins, CPAs, LLC as the Certified Accounting Firm for Annual Financial Audits - - 2011-12 and 2012-13 *(2-5 vote; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher and Wofford dissented.)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to Approve Williamson and Company, CPAs as the Certified Accounting Firm for Financial Audits - - 2011-12 and 2012-13. *(6-1 vote; Marlow dissented.)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT****\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

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

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT****F-1. Board Consideration of Proposed Contracts for Modifications/ Renovation of Video Broadcast Classroom for Sequoyah High School**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Approve Headley Construction as Contractor for Modifications/ Renovation of Video Broadcast Classroom for Sequoyah High School. *(7-0 vote)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**\*I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Special Lease Agreements**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter *[See attached affidavit (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)]* at 8:55 p.m. (7-0 vote)

Meeting was called back to order at 9:10 p.m.

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Rob Usher and carried to uphold the disciplinary tribunal decision, designated as student 2013-DA-01.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

**CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on May 16, 2013. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

- X To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)
- \_\_\_\_\_ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))
- \_\_\_\_\_ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))
- \_\_\_\_\_ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 16 day of May, 2013.

Melissa Whatley

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: July 24, 2013



[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
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# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **May 16, 2013: Budget Conference Session and Regular Board Meeting**

Cherokee County School District students and parents next school year likely will see the restoration of two school days that had been cut due to revenue shortfalls.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo at a Budget Conference Session with the School Board on Thursday night announced plans to include reinstatement of the days in his recommended 2013-14 Tentative Budget. The budget will be presented to the School Board at its June 13 meeting, with final adoption set for July 24.

The Superintendent's recommendation follows the Cherokee County Tax Commissioner's recent adjustment of the county's 2013 Property Tax Digest from "flat" (with no revenue growth) to one of 2.8% growth (2.6% after appeals/exemptions).

"If this new estimate holds true, that would certainly be the first positive news we have received regarding local revenue after three years of significant decline in the Property Tax Digest," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the decline has amounted to a more than \$30 Million decrease in Local funding since 2009. "Accordingly, in keeping with our primary mission of teaching and learning, my recommendation will be to utilize this projected Local revenue increase to restore as many school calendar days as possible."

Dr. Petruzielo said the projected tax digest growth will allow for the restoration of at least two school calendar days, at a cost of about \$1.1 Million per day, and his Ad Hoc Budget Committee is focused on increasing the total, if funding allows.

The Committee, as part of its annual, zero-based budget review process, already has identified \$7 Million in new 2013-14 cuts in light of anticipated funding shortfalls due to Federal sequestration, State "austerity budget cuts" of \$24.6 Million and significantly increased costs shifted from the State to the School District for continued participation of non-certified/classified employees in the State Health Benefit Plan.

These savings will be achieved through measures including staff reductions through attrition (not filling jobs vacated by retirement, resignation, etc.), realigning

transportation routes in the Etowah Zone and privatizing grounds services. At least \$1 Million in cost reductions will be made through modifying the current custodial services model through: privatization; work schedule changes that would retain some or all custodial staff as School District employees; or a hybrid model in this regard. A proposal will be presented to the Board in the Fall to take effect Jan. 1, 2014.

Dr. Petruzielo noted that, while the No. 1 goal through restoration of school days is to increase instructional time, it also will be welcome news to the 4,500 School District employees who, as a result, will see their furlough days reduced from eight to six. He also is recommending a full-year Local match of State-funded longevity step increases for eligible employees.

"Kudos on getting two school days back," School Board Chair Janet Read told the Superintendent and staff after his announcement, adding, with a laugh: "I'm not sure the students will be happy though!"

Additional information regarding the 2013-14 School Year budget development process is now available under "Budget Development" on the School District's Open Government Project web page at [www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/departments/pr/OGP](http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/departments/pr/OGP).

During the regular meeting, the School Board approved on first reading two policy changes requested by Ms. Read in light of recommendations made during recent whole board governance training for the Board coordinated by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and School Board Attorney.

The changes reflect recommendations made by GSBA to ensure than the School Board is in an even stronger position in regard to governance and accreditation and to reflect the recent change in School Board Chair election methodology, as set by the Cherokee County Legislative Delegation.

One policy change adds a description of job duties and responsibilities for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair. The other policy puts in writing the School Board's 15-year practice of not establishing or serving on its own standing or ad hoc committees; it also outlines the many opportunities the School District offers to the public for engagement and involvement.

The vote to approve both policy changes was 4-3, with Michael Geist, Kelly Marlow and Rob Usher opposed.

The Board also took the following action:

Approved a construction proposal to convert an existing classroom at Sequoyah High School into a video broadcast classroom at a cost of \$400,000 using Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) revenue;

Selected Williamson and Company, CPAs to conduct independent financial audits of the School District for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 budget years, 6-1, with Ms. Marlow opposed;

Recognized Cherokee High School senior Jessica Simmons, recipient of the 2013 Oak Leaf Church Scholarship;

Recognized Creekview High School seniors John Campbell and Logan Feters, recipients of 2013 Waste Management Scholarships;

Recognized students honored for participation in the 2012-13 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP);

Recognized 2012-13 Georgia Scholars;

Recognized State and Region Champions in Athletic Competitions;

Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

Approved out-of-state travel and out-of-state and overnight field trips;

Approved personnel recommendations;

Approved special lease agreements; and,

After meeting in executive session, returned to open session to approve a disciplinary tribunal decision.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, June 13, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher and Robert Wofford; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach.

**Call to Order** The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Mill Creek MS student Billie O'Bryant.

Patsy Jordan provided a brief inspirational message.

**Adopt Agenda** On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (*7-0 vote*).

**Minutes for Approval** On a motion by Rob Usher seconded by Patsy Jordan, the Board approved the minutes from the May 16, 2013 School Board Meeting, (*6-1 vote; Marlow dissented*).

**Consent Agenda** Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Michael Geist seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (*7-0 vote*).

### **Public Participation**

One member of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize Student Recipient of Award of Excellence by the Georgia Department of Education**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize 2012-13 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize 2012-13 Elementary Science Olympiad Winners**

*(Recognized)*



**\*A-4. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revised Partnership Agreements and New Partnership Agreements**

*(Approved)*

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

**B-1. Further Discussion of School District 2010-11 Final Audit Report (Closed By State With No Material Findings in January) – As Requested by Kelly Marlow**

**B-2. Status Report - - Replacement E.T. Booth MS**

**B-3. 2010-11 School District Audit**

**B-4. 2013 Graduation Ceremonies**

**B-5. Proposed Crematorium in Macedonia**

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy (JBC-4) Transferring Credits on First Reading**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy (JBC-4) Transferring Credits on First Reading. (7-0 vote)

**C-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2013-14 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on First Reading**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation for 2013-14 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on First Reading. (5-2 vote; Geist and Marlow dissented.)

Six speakers addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item C-2.

**C-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Officers (BBA) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, and seconded by Kelly Marlow to Amend Board Policy: Board Officers (BBA). Motion and second were subsequently withdrawn.

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board Officers (BBA) on Final Reading. *(7-0 vote)*

**C-4. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board-School Superintendent Relations (BBD) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Board-School Superintendent Relations (BBD) on Final Reading. *(4-3 vote; Geist, Marlow and Usher dissented.)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of April 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**\*D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of School Nutrition Bid for Bread**

*(Approved)*

**\*D-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Safety Shoe and Hair Net Bid**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- \*E-1. Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Local Plan for Improvement of Vocational, Technical and Agricultural Education/One-Year Funding Application for FY 2014**

*(Approved)*

- \*E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

- \*E-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State and Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

- \*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS****I-1. Board Tabling of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013-14 Budget and Approval of Spending Resolution**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Table the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013-14 Budget and Approve the Spending Resolution. *(6-1 vote; Marlow dissented.)*

One speaker addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item I-1.

**I-2. Board Selection of a Grounds Services Proposal and Authorization of the Superintendent to Execute an Acceptable Contract with the Selected Vendor**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Seasonal Designs as the Vendor for Grounds Services and Authorize the Superintendent to Execute an Acceptable Contract with the Selected Vendor. *(7-0 vote.)*

**\*I-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of SY 2013-14 Student Discipline Code**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter *[See attached affidavit (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)]* at 10:16 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

Meeting was called back to order at 10:40 p.m.

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried to modify the proposed disciplinary matter, designated as 2013-DA-02, to include the first term of the 2013-14 school year. *(4-3 vote; Read, Steiner and Wofford dissented.)*

Meeting was adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on June 13, 2013. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

- ☒ To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)
- ☐ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)
- ☐ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))
- ☐ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))
- ☐ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 13 day of June, 2013.

Melissa Whitley

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

July 24, 2013



Janet S. Reed

Robert P. Hoff

Michael D. East

James H. Mac

Clifford Jordan



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **June 13, 2013: Regular Board Meeting**

The Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools' 2013-14 Tentative Budget presented to the School Board on Thursday evening calls for the restoration of four schools days for the upcoming school year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo had previously announced that improvements in the local tax digest would allow for the restoration of two days; but, as a result of further budget cuts, two more days now can be restored. The School District's 2012-13 school calendar was reduced from 180 to 175 instructional days due to budget shortfalls.

"The School Board and I are committed to returning students to a 180-day calendar, as our primary mission is teaching and learning, and I appreciate the efforts by the Ad Hoc Budget Committee to make this proposal possible," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting the restoration of four school days means that all full-time employees – school-year and year-round – would see their total number of furlough days reduced from eight to four.

The Superintendent is recommending that the one school day to be cancelled due to revenue shortfalls be placed in the second semester to give parents as much notice as possible; the date will be determined after the budget is approved.

The restoration is possible through another recommendation made by the Superintendent on Thursday, which is to outsource custodial services beginning this fall, as opposed to mid-year. Approval of the budget and the selection of a private custodial services company will be on the agenda for the July 24, 2013 School Board Meeting.

"This is not something that we want to do," Dr. Petruzielo said of privatizing grounds maintenance, which was approved by the School Board on Thursday night, and custodial services. "We really cannot effectively balance our budget and absorb these rising State healthcare costs going forward."

The School District's pursuit of proposals for privatizing grounds and custodial services came in response to actions by the State to cut all State funding to provide State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) healthcare insurance to non-certified school employees and to dramatically raise fees for both school systems and school employees to participate in SHBP. These skyrocketing costs, coupled with continued State "austerity budget cuts" and a slowly recovering tax digest, widened the gap to \$65 Million in order to restore the 180-day school calendar, eliminate furlough days and reduce class size.

All of the companies that submitted proposals for privatizing custodial services have agreed to offer all CCSD custodial employees jobs with benefits. The specific details of the contract will be negotiated by the Superintendent and his staff after the School Board on July 24 votes to select a company. A critical part of the staff's evaluation will be the method and quality of staffing and employment practices, reputation and references of the companies that proposed.

The \$321 Million operating budget, in addition to continuing existing cuts, calls for more than \$7 Million in new 2013-14 cuts including the privatization proposals; staff reductions through attrition; realigning transportation routes in the Etowah Zone; and other operational solutions.

The Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax)-funded capital outlay budget calls for various projects including the completion of the new/replacement E.T. Booth Middle School and Teasley Middle School and the start of construction of the new/replacement Dean Rusk Middle School. It also includes additional campus improvements, technology enhancements and safety and security upgrades, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Safety and Security Committee made up of staff, local law enforcement leadership, parents and other community members.

The Executive Summary of the 2013-14 Tentative Budget, as well as supplemental information regarding its development process, is now available under "Budget Development" on the School District's Open Government Project web page at [www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/departments/pr/OGP](http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/departments/pr/OGP).

During the regular meeting, the Superintendent also shared good news regarding the opening of the new/replacement E.T. Booth Middle School. Although initial reports indicated issues with a subcontractor could delay the opening until mid-year, the facility has received its certificate of occupancy and will open for the first day of school in August... continuing the School District's 15-year record of opening all new schools on time and under budget!

The Superintendent, School Board Chair Janet Read and senior staff toured the new facility on Tuesday, where final details such as installing computers and unpacking boxes of supplies from the current school, are nearing completion. The projected enrollment is 1,621 students, and demolition of the current school building will begin on July 1.

The School Board also took the following action:

Authorized the Superintendent and his staff to negotiate a grounds maintenance contract with Seasonal Designs;

Approved the final reading of a Board policy change to add a description of job duties and responsibilities for the School Board Chair and Vice-Chair;

Approved the final reading of a Board policy change recognizing the School Board's 15-year practice of not establishing or serving on its own standing or ad hoc committees; it also outlines CCSD's many opportunities for public engagement and involvement;

Recognized Woodstock High School Class of 2013 graduate Jason Chang as a recipient of the Georgia Department of Education's Award of Excellence;

Recognized 2012-13 State and Regional Science and Engineering Fair Winners;

Recognized 2012-13 CCSD Elementary Science Olympiad Winners;

Approved the 2013-14 CCSD Student Discipline Code;

Approved the first reading of a Board policy change to reflect State changes regarding transferring credit;

Approved the first reading of the annual technical modifications and rescindments to Board policies;

Approved bids for School Nutrition bread, safety shoe and hair net contracts;

Approved the State Department of Education-required 2013-14 local plan and funding application for improving vocational, technical and agricultural education;

Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

Approved out-of-state travel and out-of-state and overnight field trips;

Approved the monthly update on capital outlay projects;

Approved the Superintendent's personnel recommendations, including the appointment of Kim Montalbano of Mountain Road Elementary School to serve as Principal of Woodstock Elementary School; and,

After meeting in executive session, returned to open session and approved a disciplinary tribunal decision.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, July 24, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2013 in the Cherokee High School Auditorium, 930 Marietta Highway, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Kelly Marlow.

Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Michael Geist seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, to Pull Board Policy BGA/MGB from Agenda Item C-2 to be considered separately and referenced as Agenda Item C-2a *(7-0 vote)*.

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, as amended *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Robert Wofford seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the June 13, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Michael Geist seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

Ten members of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

**A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize State/Region Champions**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize CCSD Winners of Georgia PTA Awards**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize Barbara Jacoby at “Top 10 in 10” Award Winner**

*(Recognized)*

**\*A-4. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation to Approve New Partnership Agreements and Renew Existing Partnership Agreements**

*(Approved)*

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

**B-1. Approval of Call to Conduct School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing Regarding Recent Action by Board Member Kelly Marlow (June 11, 2013 letter to AdvancEd) – as Requested by Chair Janet Read**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to Approve Call to Conduct School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing Regarding Recent Action by Board Member Kelly Marlow (June 11, 2013 letter to AdvancEd) – as Requested by Chair Janet Read. (7-0 vote)

Ten members of the public addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item B-1.

**B-2. Availability of Proposed FY 2013-14 Budget**

**B-3. Request for Information on Potential Use of Solar Power for Schools**

**B-4. Recognition of Staff Presenters at Recent Leadership Conference**

**B-5. Appreciation for Recent Correspondence from Citizens**

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

- \*C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy (JBC-4) Transferring Credits on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

- \*C-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2013-14 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

- C-2a. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for 2013-14 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policy on Final Reading - - Approval to Rescind Policy BGA/MGB**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation for 2013-14 Technical Modifications and Rescindments to School Board Policies on Final Reading - - Approval to Rescind Policy BGA/MGB. (5-2 vote; Geist and Marlow dissented.)

- \*C-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Public Participation in Board Meetings (BCBI) on First Reading**

*(Approved)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- \*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of May 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

- \*D-2. School Board Pre-Approval of Authorized School Fundraising Activities for 2013-14 School Year**

*(Approved)*

- \*D-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Safety Shoe and Hair Net Bid**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**H-1. Board Approval of Proposed 2013-14 School Board Training Plan**

*No vote was required. A 2013-14 School Board Training Plan will be considered during the August 15, 2013 School Board Meeting.*

**\*H-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Annual Recommendation to Establish Tribunal Hearing Panel for Certificated Personnel Recommended for Employment Contract Termination or Suspension**

*(Approved)*

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013-14 Budget**

*(Approved)*

*Note: Based on an initial request from Kelly Marlow and subsequent agreement by other Board Members and the Superintendent, Agenda Item I-2: Board Selection of a Custodial Services Proposal and Authorization of the Superintendent to Execute an Acceptable Contract with the Selected Vendor was discussed and a vote was taken prior to voting on Agenda Item I-1: Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013-14 Budget.*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve the Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013-14 Budget. *(6-1 vote; Marlow dissented.)*

Nine speakers addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item I-1.

**I-2. Board Selection of a Custodial Services Proposal and Authorization of the Superintendent to Execute an Acceptable Contract with the Selected Vendor**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Approve Aramark as the Vendor for Custodial Services and Authorize the Superintendent to Execute an Acceptable Contract with the Selected Vendor. *(6-1 vote; Marlow dissented.)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to adjourn at 10:03 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **July 24, 2013: Called Board Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board at its called meeting on July 24, 2013 voted to accept the Superintendent's recommended 2013-14 budget, which fully restores the calendar to 180 days of school for students and reduces the number of furlough days for all School District employees from eight to three.

The decision, which drew cheers and a standing ovation, was approved 6-1, with Board member Kelly Marlow opposed.

The total budget is \$496.2 Million, down from the 2012-13 total of \$518.7 Million; and it is based on no millage rate increase. As the millage rate remains below the roll back rate, the average property owner will not see a significant increase in the school portion of his or her tax bill, and there is no "back-door" tax increase.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, upon making this recommendation, thanked students, parents, employees and the Cherokee County community for their support and patience as the School District endured the past year's financial challenges.

"Thank you to all of our students and parents for bearing this hardship for the past year. We know many of our parents work full-time and that they had to change their schedules to care for their children on the five school days we cancelled due to State 'austerity budget cuts' and Local tax digest declines," Dr. Petruzielo said.

"Thank you to our teachers for managing to teach more with less time and to all of our employees for enduring a significant eight-day pay cut for the past year, especially our families with both heads of household working in our schools," he continued. "Thank you to the community for its continued support of our Education SPLOST, which allows us to continue providing safe schools with enough space and technology for the best teaching and learning environment possible... without the need for a property tax increase."

Dr. Petruzielo, who also noted that his final recommendations included continued funding for the School District's contributions for dental and long-term disability benefits currently provided to CCSD employees, said his sights are set on eliminating the remaining three furlough days.

"I also ask our employees to please carry on with the same positive attitude next year through the three remaining furlough days, with the knowledge that, as revenue levels improve, I will recommend restoration of those teacher work days, which are so important to lesson planning and professional development," he said.

The Superintendent during his budget recommendation also announced plans to establish a Districtwide Graduation Coach position, which will be charged with identifying and implementing best practices to ensure that more CCSD students graduate within four years and that the graduation rate is reported accurately to the State. This position, Dr. Petruzielo said, goes hand-in-hand with the new Ad Hoc Graduation Rate Committee that he established earlier this month.

The Superintendent's Ad Hoc Budget Committee conducted a "zero sunset review" of major expenditures to develop the proposed budget and identified \$7.1 Million in new cuts... in addition to the more than \$120 Million cuts made in the past five years. More than 66% of the operating budget continues to be devoted to the classroom; and the approved budget maintains one of the lowest administrative costs per student in metro Atlanta – a third of what some metro systems spend.

Major new cuts include the continued elimination of positions through attrition and the outsourcing of custodial and grounds maintenance services. The grounds maintenance outsourcing was approved earlier this year; and the School Board voted on Wednesday night to outsource custodial services to the Aramark company. The contract with Aramark, which is to be negotiated by the Superintendent, will include full-time employment for all current CCSD custodial employees with additional benefits, including healthcare insurance

"Outsourcing this year will also put us in a much better position in avoiding the need to outsource additional functions at this time next year," Dr. Petruzielo said, noting it was a painful decision to outsource, but that the School District's hand was forced by skyrocketing State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) premiums and the State's withdrawal of all financial assistance to non-certified school system employees for SHBP.

School Board Members Robert Wofford and Patsy Jordan both said they spent many hours reviewing the options for custodians to ensure they made the best decision possible.

"My primary concern was for the employees and which company would be the best for our employees," Mr. Wofford said. "We've got the cleanest schools – none are better. Is this the best option we can give you? I think it is."

For more information, the 2013-14 Budget, as well as the Superintendent's memorandum regarding his final recommendations in this regard and a "Frequently Asked Questions: Annual Budget" document all are posted on the School District website at [www.cherokee.k12.ga.us](http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us).

The School Board also took the following action:

- Accepted a 100% Participation Award from the American Cancer Society in recognition of all CCSD schools participating in the 2012 Relay for Life fundraiser; CCSD raised \$180,000 of the \$260,000 raised at the event;
- Accepted a resolution of support for the Superintendent and School Board presented by the Cherokee County Council of PTA;
- Approved (7-) holding a School Board Code of Ethics violating hearing regarding a recent action by Ms. Marlow (i.e., her sending a letter to AdvancEd [SACS] on June 11, 2013). The School Board Attorney will hire a hearing officer and court reporter, and the hearing will be scheduled for no sooner than Aug. 24, as School Board Policy requires 30 days' notice. The hearing will be open to the public; and there will be advance public notice.
- Recognized Creekview High School State and Region track and field champions;
- Recognized CCSD winners of Georgia PTA awards:
  - Sequoyah High Principal Elliot Berman won the Outstanding Principal of the Year Award;
  - Hickory Flat Elementary School Media Specialist Mia Temples won the Birney Butler Outstanding Educator of the Year Award;
  - The Cherokee County Council of PTA, under the leadership of 2012-13 President Adam Belanger, won the Exemplary Council Award;
  - Mr. Belanger won the Visionary Award, in recognition of initiatives including the Council's faculty basketball game fundraisers. Arnold Mill ES teacher Melissa Stephens also won the Visionary Award for initiatives including establishing the KC (Kindness is Contagious) Club.
  - Avery Elementary and Holly Springs Elementary STEM Academy won the Georgia PTA Family-School Partnership Award of Excellence;
  - The Sequoyah High PTA placed third in the State for Outstanding Local Unit for its division;
  - Little River Elementary PTA placed third in the State for Outstanding Local Unit for its division;
  - River Ridge High School won the President's Membership Award; and,
  - Platinum Membership Awards were presented to Bascomb, Free Home and Hickory Flat Elementary Schools and Dean Rusk Middle School;



- Recognized Barbara Jacoby, CCSD Director of Public Information, Communications and Partnerships, as Cherokee County “Top 10 in 10” Award Winner;
- Approved new Partnership Agreements with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, which includes a pilot virtual learning program; and the Fairways of Canton Golf Club, which includes a pilot elementary school golf PE program; and renewed the existing Partnership Agreement with First Baptist Church of Woodstock;
- Approved the final reading of a Board policy change to reflect State changes regarding transferring credit;
- Approved the final reading of the annual technical modifications and rescindments to Board policies;
- Approved the first reading of a Board policy change to Public Participation in Board Meetings to set a standard three-minute time limit for public speakers;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved a list of authorized school fundraising activities for the 2013-14 School Year;
- Approved out-of-state travel for professional development;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and
- Approved the annual establishment of a tribunal hearing panel.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Aug. 15, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, August 15, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; and Board Attorney Tom Roach.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

Janet Read provided a brief inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the July 24, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Michael Geist seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(7-0 vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

Four members of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

- A-1. Recognize Free Home ES – Winner of 2013 Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals' "School Bell Award" – and Principal Karen Carl**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize ACE Academy Teacher Steven Keith for Heroism**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize 2012-13 Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners**

*(Recognized)*

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

**B-1. Consideration of Request by School Board Member Kelly Marlow that the Board Provide Her with an Attorney at Taxpayers' Expense for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher to Deny the Request from School Board Member Kelly Marlow that the Board Provide Her with an Attorney at Taxpayers' Expense for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist to Approve the Request from School Board Member Kelly Marlow that the Board Provide Her with an Attorney at Taxpayers' Expense for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing.

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist to Amend Mrs. Marlow's previous motion to include \$150 per hour in the Financial Impact section of the Agenda Item. The second was withdrawn. Motion failed.

Final vote on the original motion from Mrs. Marlow that the Board Provide Her with an Attorney at Taxpayers' Expense for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing failed. *(2-5 vote; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher and Wofford dissented).*

Five members of the public addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item B-1.

**B-2. Potential Topic for 2014 Legislative Program**

**B-3. 2010-11 Audit**

**B-4. Etowah HS Foreign Language Grant**

**B-5. School Board Training Plan**

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

- C-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Public Participation in Board Meetings (BCBI) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Approve Revisions to Board Policy: Public Participation in Board Meetings (BCBI) on Final Reading (6-1 vote; Marlow dissented).

- \*C-2. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommended Modifications to School Board Policy Regarding Exchange Students (JQK) on First Reading**

*(Approved)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- \*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of June 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

- \*D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

- \*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

- \*E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**\*F-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of FY 2015 Capital Outlay Program Application**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**\*I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Modification to 2013-14 School Calendar**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **August 15, 2013: Trends in Education Session and Regular Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board during its regular meeting on August 15, 2013 unanimously approved two changes to the current school year's calendar for students.

As a result of the change, students will return from the Winter Holiday Break to classes one day earlier on Monday, January 6; and the last day of school will be one day earlier on Thursday, May 29. The move-up of the last day of school will allow all graduation ceremonies to all be held following the end of classes from May 29 through 31.

Three furlough days for school-year employees (down from eight last school year) due to continued State "austerity budget cuts" and a slowly recovering Local property tax digest also were set: Nov. 5, which is Election Day, when schools already were to be closed; and two post-planning days, June 3 and 4. Year-round and other CCSD employees have their three furlough days on different dates.

The new calendar is posted on the CCSD website at:  
<http://portal.cherokee.k12.ga.us/parentinfo/Documents/2013-14Calendar.pdf>

During the Trends in Education Session held before the regular meeting, the School Board heard from the Superintendent and staff an overview of how the School District is ahead of the curve on issues ranging from accountability to technology.

Topics included status reports on the Cherokee Academies Initiative, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Fine Arts and C<sup>3</sup> (virtual learning) Academies; technology integration models, such as "flipping" the classroom, Cloud-based resources and Global Classroom video-conferencing; and communication platforms ranging from the new Parent Portal mass email notification system to School District and school use of social media like Facebook and Twitter.

"These bi-annual sessions are showcases for the School Board and the community to learn more about how our staff at every level is embracing the best of today's global trends in education to enhance teaching and learning, as well as their innovation in

developing local initiatives that are ahead of these trends,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said. “It’s an exciting time to be an educator or a student in our schools.”

The School Board’s 2013-14 Student Advisor and Student Delegates also were introduced to the crowd. The program, started by the Superintendent and School Board, invites every CCSD high school to nominate a senior to serve as its delegate to share students’ opinions with the Board and to communicate information back to their classmates. One Delegate serves as the Student Advisor each year and sits on the dais with the Board; this opportunity rotates to a different school annually.

The 2013-14 Student Advisor is Sydney Webb of Sequoyah High School, and the Delegates are: Natalie Friesen, ACE Academy; Haley Haas, Cherokee High School; Riley Jenkins, Creekview High School; Alex Johnson, Etowah High School; Justin Maxwell, River Ridge High School; and Briana Francois, Woodstock High School. Biographies of the Delegates are posted on the CCSD website: <http://portal.cherokee.k12.ga.us/departments/pr/Pages/soty.aspx>.

The School Board also took the following action:

- Recognized Free Home Elementary School, winner of the 2013 School Bell Award, presented by the Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, and Principal Karen Carl. For more information about this honor, please see the feature story posted on the CCSD website: <http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/News%20Pages/081413.pdf>.
- Recognized ACE Academy teacher Steven Keith for heroism shown in his rescue of hikers struck by lightning in Glacier National Park in Montana this summer. For more information about his actions, please see the feature story by the Cherokee Tribune: [http://cherokeetribune.com/view/full\\_story/23250052/article-Cherokee-teacher-s-quick-thinking--CPR-saves-3-lives-after-lightning-strike](http://cherokeetribune.com/view/full_story/23250052/article-Cherokee-teacher-s-quick-thinking--CPR-saves-3-lives-after-lightning-strike)
- Recognized Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition Winners: Ryleigh Tritt, Hayleigh Wright, Olivia Myers, Lillie Cate Ergle, Evelyn Hall, Jamilla Reeves-Miller, Piper Marcotte, Emily Endozo, Abigail Morris, Rachel Olivia Davis, Madeline Shepard, Jaricia Daniell and Rachel Sprouse.
- Denied a request by School Board Member Kelly Marlow that the Board provide her with an attorney at taxpayers’ expenses for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing, which the Board unanimously approved at its July 24, 2013, to determine whether Ms. Marlow violated the Code by sending correspondence to AdvancEd on June 11, 2013; denied 5-2, Ms. Marlow and Michael Geist opposed. The Hearing now will be scheduled by the School Board Attorney, with Ms. Marlow to be given at least 30 days’ notice.

- Approved the final reading of a Board policy change, as requested by School Board Member Michael Geist, regarding Public Participation in Board Meetings to set a standard three-minute time limit for public speakers; approved 6-1, Kelly Marlow opposed;
- Approved the first reading of a Board policy change regarding Exchange Students to comply with recent U.S. Department of Education guidance;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved the annual issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes;
- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Approved Fiscal Year 2015 Georgia Department of Education Capital Outlay Program application; and,
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Sept. 5, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, September 5, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Emily Powell, Junior ROTC Commander, Sequoyah HS.

Janet Read shared an inspirational video from the Etowah HS Innovation Zone.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the August 15, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Robert Wofford seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

No members of the public addressed the School Board during Public Participation.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **A-1. Recognize Woodstock ES – Winner of 2013 Georgia Family Friendly Partnership School Award**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize Sequoyah HS Air Force Junior ROTC - - Cadet Officer Leadership School at The Citadel**

*(Recognized)*

**\*A-3. Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Constitution Week – as Requested by Chair Janet Read**

*(Approved)*

**\*A-4. Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Firefighter Appreciation Week – as Requested by Chair Janet Read**

*(Approved)*

**A-5. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Renew Partnership Agreement with City of Holly Springs**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Michael Geist and carried, to Approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to Renew Partnership Agreement with City of Holly Springs (7-0 vote).

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

**B-1. Consideration of "Call for a Cap on Financial Impact to Taxpayers on Attorney Fees for Chairman's Special Called Hearing" – as Requested by Kelly Marlow**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist to Approve the "Call for a Cap on Financial Impact to Taxpayers on Attorney Fees for Chairman's Special Called Hearing" – as Requested by Kelly Marlow (1-6 vote; Geist, Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher and Wofford dissented).

Two members of the public addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item B-1.

**B-2. Consideration of "Call for a Cap on Financial Impact to Taxpayers on Court Report for Chairman's Special Called Hearing" – as Requested by Kelly Marlow**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

**B-3. Consideration of “Call for a Cap on Financial Impact to Taxpayers for Hearing Officer for Chairman’s Special Called Hearing” – as Requested by Kelly Marlow**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

**B-4. Consideration of “Call for a Review of Debt Service Plan and Bond Rating Downgrade” – as Requested by Kelly Marlow**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

**B-5. FY 2011 Audit**

**B-6. Clayton ES Playground Ribbon Cutting**

**B-7. E.T. Booth MS Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony**

**B-8. Superintendent/School Board Lunch at Freedom MS**

**B-9. School Board Training**

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to Approve a School Board Member Training Plan to Include Three Hours to Be Provided by Tom Roach, Esq. and Six Hours to Be Provided by GSBA Through Local Conferences/Workshops and/or Online Opportunities *(7-0 vote)*.

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**\*C-2. Board Approval of Superintendent’s Recommended Modifications to School Board Policy Regarding Exchange Students (JQK) on Final Reading**

*(Approved)*

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of July 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

**\*E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**\*F-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Adoption of Resolution to Certify Closeout for New Ball Ground Elementary School (ES "T")**

*(Approved)*

**F-3. Board Consideration of Proposed Contracts for Construction of Cherokee High School Physical Education/Athletic Facility Improvements**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to Approve Womack, Lewis & Smith, Inc. as Contractor for the Construction of Cherokee High School Physical Education/Athletic Facility Improvements (7-0 vote).

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**\*I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of SY2013-14 Contract and Memorandum of Understanding with Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Sydney Webb, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **September 5, 2013: Regular Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board during its regular meeting on September 5, 2013 unanimously approved contracts to begin construction of improvements to Cherokee High School's athletic facilities.

The improvements, which will be paid for with Education SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) revenue approved by voters, include: construction of a new girls' softball field complex; new field houses with public restrooms for the football stadium; public restrooms for softball and baseball game spectators and a press box; and renovations of the existing football field to accommodate more use by physical education classes and other athletic events. The School Board approved a \$5.8 Million contract with Womack, Lewis & Smith, Inc. to complete the work.

"This project will improve the quality and safety of our athletic facilities... reducing students' risk for injury and protecting their health and wellness during physical education classes and extra-curricular athletic practice and events, and also will make the spectator experience for fans of these sports more enjoyable," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said. "The Warrior Nation's athletic complexes were long overdue for these upgrades, and we greatly appreciate the support of voters who renewed the Ed SPLOST to fund them."

The School Board also took the following action:

- Recognized Woodstock Elementary School, winner of the 2013 Georgia Family Friendly Partnership School Award, including Principal Kim Montalbano and her leadership team. For more information about this honor, please see the feature story posted at: <http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/News%20Pages/082713.pdf>;
- Recognized the Sequoyah High School Air Force Junior ROTC program, led by Lt. Col. Chuck Slater and Chief Master Sgt. John Futral, for the extraordinary

success of its cadets at the Cadet Officer Leadership School held this past summer at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.;

- Approved a proclamation proposed by Board Chair Janet Read in honor of Constitution Week, which was presented to representatives from the Hightower Trail Chapter of the national Daughters of the American Revolution organization;
- Approved a proclamation proposed by Board Chair Janet Read in honor of Firefighter Appreciation Week and in appreciation of the firefighters and first-responders of Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services, Canton Fire Department, Woodstock Fire Department and the community's volunteer fire departments. Copies of the proclamation were presented to Cherokee County Fire Chief Tim Prather, Woodstock Fire Chief David Soumas and Firefighter Appreciation Week Volunteer Coordinator Dr. James Kilgore, who accepted a proclamation on behalf of Canton Fire Chief Dean Floyd;
- Approved renewal of a Partnership Agreement with the City of Holly Springs, which includes revisions that will improve community relations between the City and School District including: the recent payment of \$354,263.61 by the City to the School District for previously collected residential building fees and an agreement that, in the future, such fees will be remitted to the School District on a quarterly basis; and the agreement by the City to not assess the School District for stormwater impact fees in the future;
- Denied requests by School Board Member Kelly Marlow that the Board cap costs for the hearing officer, court reporter and School Board Attorney at levels Ms. Marlow recommended for the upcoming School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing. The Board, including Ms. Marlow, at its July 24, 2013, unanimously approved holding the hearing to determine whether Ms. Marlow violated the Code by sending correspondence to AdvancEd on June 11, 2013. The September 5 vote regarding her recommendation for School Board Attorney costs was denied, 1-6, with only Ms. Marlow in favor; Ms. Marlow's other two requests in this regard failed for lack of a second to her motions to approve. The ethics hearing will be at 6 p.m. on Oct. 2, 2013 in the School Board Auditorium;
- Denied a request by Ms. Marlow to hold a public hearing on the School District's bonded indebtedness retirement plan (which, as part of the School District's Annual Budget, already is the subject of annual public hearings) and a September 2012 report from Moody's Investors Service (which is an outdated report... as a new report was issued by the credit ratings agency in July 2013). Ms. Marlow's motion to approve her request failed for a lack of a second;
- Approved final reading of a Board policy change regarding Exchange Students to comply with recent U.S. Department of Education guidance;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;

- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Certified the close-out of all accounts related to construction of the new/replacement Ball Ground Elementary School STEM Academy, as required by the Georgia Department of Education; the school was completed on time for the 2012-13 School Year and under budget, and all construction costs have been paid in full;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved the 2013-14 School Year contract and annual memorandum of understanding with Ninth District Opportunity Inc., as related to the School District's Head Start and Pre-K programs.

**Next School Board meeting: School Board Code of Ethics  
Violation Hearing, 6 p.m. Oct. 2, 2013**



# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, October 17, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb. Board Member Robert Rechsteiner was not in attendance.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Sydney Webb, Student Advisor to the School Board.

Janet Read provided an inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Michael Geist, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Kelly Marlow seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the September 5, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Robert Wofford seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

A presentation was made to the Superintendent by the Cherokee County Educational Foundation. Three members of the public addressed the School Board.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **A-1. Recognize Dr. John Poidevant for Being Named 2013 School Psychologist of the Year by Georgia Association of School Psychologists**

*(Recognized)*

- A-2. Recognize Eliot Galyean of Mill Creek MS as Georgia Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-3. Recognize CCSD High School Seniors Named 2014 National Merit and National Achievement Semi-Finalists**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-4. Recognize Rashay Amarath-Madav of Etowah HS for Being Named to the State School Superintendent's 2013-14 Student Advisory Council**  
*(Recognized)*
- A-5. Recognize CCSD Schools as Governor's SHAPE (Student Health And Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees**  
*(Recognized)*
- \*A-6. Approval of Proclamation in Honor of Retired Educators Day – as Requested by Chair Janet Read**  
*(Approved)*
- \*A-7. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve New Partnership Agreement with Cherokee Retired Educators Association**  
*(Approved)*
- B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS/STUDENT ADVISOR TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**
- B-1. Consideration of "Call to request that a representative of Mauldin and Jenkins appear before the Cherokee Board of Education at the (insert applicable date) meeting of the Board to summarize the findings of the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 and to address related questions from individual Board members" – as Requested by Michael Geist**  
*(Approved)*

One member of the public addressed the School Board.

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Kelly Marlow, and carried, as amended, to Approve the "Call to request that a representative of Mauldin and Jenkins appear before the Cherokee Board of Education at the January 16, 2014 meeting of the Board to summarize the findings of the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 and to address related

questions from individual Board members” – as Requested by Michael Geist (*5-1 vote; Wofford dissented*).

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Rob Usher, and carried to cap the cost for Mauldin and Jenkins in regard to the January 16, 2014 presentation at \$1,280, which is the fee the auditor cited for a one-hour presentation and his preparation and travel time. The one-hour presentation will include 45 minutes for presentation by the auditor and 15 minutes for follow-up questions from School Board Members and the auditor’s answers; questions are to be submitted to the Superintendent by Nov. 20 for transmittal to the auditor. (*5-1 vote; Marlow dissented*).

**B-2. School Improvement Plans (SIPs)**

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of August 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**\*D-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation of Disposal of Surplus Property and Sale Date**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of Out of State Travel**

*(Approved)*

**\*E-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**\*E-3. Board Consideration of Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of 2013-14 School Improvement Plans (SIPs)**

*(Approved)*

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**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**I-1. Board Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation to Sell Custodial Equipment and Supplies to the School District's Contracted Vendor, Aramark Management Services Limited Partnership**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Rob Usher, and carried to Surplus Custodial Equipment and Supplies. *(6-0 vote)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Sell Surplus Custodial Equipment and Supplies to the School District's Contracted Vendor, Aramark Management Services Limited Partnership. *(6-0 vote)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Sydney Webb to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. *(6-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **October 17, 2013: Strategic Work Session and Regular Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board and Superintendent at their Strategic Work Session on Oct. 17, 2013 received a clean bill of health from the independent auditor who reviewed the School District's financial records.

Christian Hatch of Williamson & Co. certified public accounting firm presented a draft Final Audit Report for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 audit, which he recently completed, and issued an "unqualified" opinion, which is the best opinion an auditor can issue.

Mr. Hatch reviewed the findings from the previous fiscal year (FY2011) audit during his presentation and noted that four of the six findings – none of which rose to the level of being "qualified," which means of significant concern -- were resolved in FY2012, with changes made in FY2013 to resolve the final two. He said the FY2012 Final Audit Report should be ready for State review before the end of the month; he then will begin the FY2013 audit, which should be completed by early next year.

Candler Howell, CCSD Assistant Superintendent for Financial Management, said the report continues the School District's long history of unqualified audits with no evidence of any mismanagement.

"Our Office of Financial Management works diligently to ensure that the School District carries out the strong stewardship of taxpayer dollars set forth in School Board Policy," Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said, indicating the School District will continue its efforts to increase financial transparency by posting the Final Audit Report to the Open Government Project page of its website as soon as the final version is provided by the auditor. The Superintendent also noted, "we maintain at least three years of annual budgets and independent audits online, so that the public can see how their tax dollars are being used to fulfill our primary mission of teaching and learning."

Following the work session, School Board Member Michael Geist, who did not attend it, and Kelly Marlow, who arrived late, during the regular meeting made a motion and

second, respectively, to pay \$1,280 for the FY2011 auditor to make a presentation at the Jan. 16, 2014 Board meeting. That independent audit, which covered the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2011, also was “unqualified,” the best opinion possible, and was closed by the State with no corrective action needed. The vote to call upon the auditor to make a presentation was 5-1, with School Board Member Robert Wofford opposed and Rick Steiner absent.

School Board Chair Janet Read made a motion to cap the cost for the presentation at \$1,280, which is the fee the auditor cited for a one-hour presentation and his preparation and travel time. The motion was approved 5-1, with Ms. Marlow opposed and Mr. Steiner absent. School Board Members by Nov. 20 are to submit to the Superintendent by email any questions they would like the auditor to address.

Ms. Read, along with School Board Member Patsy Jordan, made presentations regarding the 2013-14 School Improvement Plans that every CCSD school is required to write annually and which the Board unanimously approved at the meeting. Each outlined highlights from the plans that they read and thanked Principals for their hard work. Mr. Steiner, who could not attend the meeting, sent a similar message of appreciation, which was shared by Ms. Read.

The meeting included a special presentation to Dr. Petruzielo by the Cherokee County Educational Foundation, which thanked him for serving as Honorary Chairman of the organization’s inaugural golf tournament, which raised \$10,000.

Three speakers addressed the School Board during Public Participation; all three called upon Ms. Marlow to resign in light of her indictment on four felony charges and the Board’s recent finding that she had violated the School Board’s Code of Ethics.

The School Board also took the following action:

- Reviewed the draft 2014 Legislative Program, which asks the Cherokee County Legislative Delegation to: end State “austerity budgets cuts” and allocate all funding earned by the School District under State law; restore State funding for health insurance for non-certified employees and begin a State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) cost-containment program; and designate State funding for pay-for-performance and STEM programs initiated by the State as part of Race To The Top;
- Reviewed the draft Five-Year (2013-17) Strategic Plan;
- Heard an update on open enrollment for SHBP and compliance with the Affordable Care Act;
- Heard an update on Race To The Top participation;

- Heard an update on 2014-15 School Boundaries, which will not be changed, and, as a result, for which no Boundary Focus Group meetings or hearings will be held;
- Recognized CCSD School Psychologist Dr. John Poidevant for being named the 2013 School Psychologist of the Year by the Georgia Association of School Psychologists;
- Recognized Eliot Galyean of Mill Creek MS as the Georgia Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year;
- Recognized CCSD high school seniors named as 2014 National Merit and National Achievement Semi-Finalists;
- Recognized Rashay Amarath-Madav of Etowah HS for being named to the State Superintendent of Schools' 2013-14 Student Advisory Council;
- Recognized the 19 CCSD schools named Governor's SHAPE (Student Health and Physical Education) Honor Roll Honorees and the Physical Education and Health teachers and Principals who made this honor possible;
- Approved a proclamation, at the request of Chair Janet Read, in honor of Retired Educators Day;
- Approved a new Partnership Agreement with the Cherokee Retired Educators Association;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved the disposal of surplus equipment at a sale on Nov. 9, 2013 at the Central Distribution Warehouse;
- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved the surplus of custodial equipment and supplies and the sale of those items for \$241,055 to vendor Aramark Management Services.

<p><b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Nov. 7, 2013</b></p>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb. Board Member Rob Usher was not in attendance.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Jessica Carter, Teacher, Clayton ES.

Janet Read provided an inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Michael Geist seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the October 17, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following identification of those agenda items, Board Members and members of the public indicated they would like considered separately, a motion was made by Robert Wofford seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

One member of the public addressed the School Board.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **A-1. Recognize Teasley MS as Georgia 2013 Distinguished Breakout Middle School**

*(Recognized)*



**A-2. Recognize Teasley MS Assistant Principal as Georgia 2013 Assistant Principal of the Year Finalist**

*(Recognized)*

**\*A-3. Recognize 2012-13 Annual Report of District Progress**

*(Recognized)*

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

**B-1. Consideration of “Approval of Revisions to Board Policy (BCBH) Board Meeting Minutes on First Reading” – as Requested by Michael Geist**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Kelly Marlow, and failed, to Approve the “Revisions to Board Policy (BCBH) Board Meeting Minutes on First Reading” – as Requested by Michael Geist *(2-4 vote; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner and Wofford dissented)*.

**B-2. Consideration of “Adoption of Resolution in Support of HR 2083” – as Requested by Michael Geist**

*(Failed)*

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Kelly Marlow, and failed, to Approve the “Adoption of Resolution in Support of HR 2083” – as Requested by Michael Geist *(2-4 vote; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner and Wofford dissented)*.

**B-3. Recognition of Passing of Representative Calvin Hill**

**B-4. Recognition of 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Get on Board with CCSD” Bus Tour**

**B-5. Recognition of Student Delegate Alex Johnson**

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of September 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**H-1. Consideration of Board Approval of Final Order for School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing for Kelly Marlow**

*(Approved)*

One member of the public addressed the School Board.

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford, and carried, to Approve Final Order for School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing for Kelly Marlow (*5-1 vote; Marlow dissented*).

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**I-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Proposed School Board  
2014 Legislative Program**

*(Approved)*

One member of the public addressed the School Board.

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Robert Wofford, and carried, to Approve School Board 2014 Legislative Priorities as amended *(6-0 vote)*.

**\*I-2. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for  
Approval of Proposed Annual Update of Cherokee County School  
District Five-Year Strategic Plan**

*(Approved)*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Sydney Webb, Student Advisor to the School Board, to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. *(6-0 vote)*

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School Board Chair

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Secretary



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **November 7, 2013: Regular Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday night through unanimous approval of its 2014 Legislative Program called upon the State Legislature to restore full funding for public education.

The Program, which is posted on the home page of the Cherokee County School District's website at [www.cherokee.k12.ga.us](http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us), outlines three priorities:

- Allocate to the School District all locally-earned funding under the statutorily required Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act formula and end State "austerity budget cuts;"
- Restore State funding for non-certified employees' health insurance and implement a cost-containment strategy for State Health Benefit Plan's skyrocketing premiums; and,
- Earmark State funding for continuation of teacher pay-for-performance incentives and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives established through Race to the Top for when Federal funding ends in September 2014.

School Board Member Robert Wofford, who suggested language changes to the Legislative Program that were recommended for approval by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo, thanked the Superintendent and his staff for their work to develop and revise the document.

"I think we have a real good program here. I thoroughly support these three agendas - I think they're critical to us for regaining the status we had," Mr. Wofford said.

Board Chair Janet Read and the Superintendent shared during the meeting that in recent weeks they have met with Cherokee County's State legislators to review about

legislative priorities, and both expressed optimism about the coming General Assembly session. Dr. Petruzielo also read aloud a letter received this week from State Reps. Michael Caldwell and Scot Turner pledging their support to assist the School District in its plans to develop a career and technical high school academy.

Leslie O'Bryant, advocacy chair for the Cherokee County Council of PTA, spoke before the School Board in support of the Legislative Program.

"We all are for your priorities," she said, noting that if State funding is restored, the PTA believes it will give the School District and its students the ability to function at their highest ability. "The Cherokee County Council of PTA joins you and will advocate for funds."

The vote to approve the 2014 Legislative Program was 6-0, with Rob Usher absent.

The Board also unanimously approved the annual update of the School District's Five-Year Strategic Plan, which has been posted to the CCSD website home page as well.

The School Board also took the following action:

- Recognized Teasley Middle School for being named a Distinguished Breakout Middle School by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals; only two middle schools in the state earned this designation;
- Recognized Teasley Middle School Assistant Principal for being named a Georgia 2013 Assistant Principal of the Year finalist by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals; only four assistant principals in the state earned this designation;
- Recognized the School District and its staff for the 2012-13 Annual Report of District Progress, which is posted on the CCSD website home page;
- Denied a request by Michael Geist to revise Board Policy regarding meeting minutes, 2-4, with Mr. Geist and Kelly Marlow supporting the changes;
- Denied a request by Mr. Geist to adopt a resolution in regard to HR 2083, 2-4, with Mr. Geist and Kelly Marlow supporting the resolution;
- Heard a presentation from Debby Pinion of the Cherokee County FERST Foundation for early childhood literacy, who thanked Dr. Petruzielo for his support of Read for the Record Day; a video of the Superintendent reading this year's featured book has been viewed by 400 classes in the School District;
- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;

- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved the final order for the School Board Code of Ethics Violation Hearing for Ms. Marlow, 5-1, with Ms. Marlow opposed.

<b>Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Dec. 5, 2013</b>
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# **CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Thursday, December 5, 2013**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2013 in the Historic Canton High School/School Board Auditorium, 111 Academy Street, Canton, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Janet Read; Vice Chair Robert Wofford; Members, Michael Geist, Patsy Jordan, Kelly Marlow, Robert Rechsteiner, Rob Usher; Superintendent Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo; Board Attorney Tom Roach; and Student Advisor to the School Board Sydney Webb.

#### **Call to Order**

The call to order by Janet Read was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Patsy Jordan.

Kelly Marlow provided an inspirational message.

#### **Adopt Agenda**

On a motion by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Rob Usher and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda, *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Minutes for Approval**

On a motion by Robert Wofford seconded by Kelly Marlow and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the November 7, 2013 School Board Meeting, *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Following 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 Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks *(6-0 vote; Geist absent for vote)*.

#### **Public Participation**

Four members of the public addressed the School Board.

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

**A-1. Recognize Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year –  
Lindsay Bowley of Creekland MS**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. Recognize Carmel ES as 2013 National School of Character**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. Recognize Woodstock ES as Georgia 2013 Reward School – Highest Performing School**

*(Recognized)*

**A-4. Recognize Maddilyn Dentino as Winner of Georgia 2013-14 March of Dimes Walkmania T-Shirt Design Contest**

*(Recognized)*

**A-5. Recognize State and Region Champions**

*(Recognized)*

**A-6. Recognize Woodstock HS Senior Rachel Steppe for Perfect Score on ACT**

*(Recognized)*

**A-7. Recognize Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards**

*(Recognized)*

**A-8. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Amend Partnership Agreement with March of Dimes**

*(Approved)*

Motion was made by Rob Usher, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, to approve the Amended Partnership Agreement with March of Dimes (6-1 vote).

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow to table the agenda item for further research. *Motion died due to the lack of a second.*

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

**B-1. Consideration of "Approval of Revisions to Board Policy (BCBH) Board Meeting Minutes on First Reading" – as Requested by Michael Geist**

*(Withdrawn)*

Motion was made by Michael Geist, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner, and failed, to Approve "Revisions to Board Policy (BCBH) Board Meeting Minutes on First Reading" – as Requested by Michael Geist.

*Motion and second were with withdrawn. The Superintendent will provide his recommendation in this regard at the January meeting.*



**B-3. Recognition of PTA Presidents/Principals Luncheon at Macedonia ES****B-4. Recognition of Clayton ES Superintendent/School Board Member Lunch****B-5. Recognition of Polaris Evening School Presentation with School Board and Cherokee County Legislative Delegation****B-6. Donation for Auditor Appearance at January Meeting**

Motion was made by Kelly Marlow, seconded by Michael Geist, to accept an anonymous donation specifically designated to extend the time of the auditor's presentation (*Motion failed 2-5; Jordan, Read, Rechsteiner, Usher and Wofford dissented*).

**B-7. PTA/Public Participation Discussion****B-8. Recognition of Etowah HS PTA Teacher Recognition Lunch, Clayton ES Veterans Day Program, Creekview HS 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Honors Banquet and Cherokee HS Career/Technical Education Program****B-9. Recognition of Booth MS Veterans Day Program****B-10. Recognition of Georgia Education Coalition (GEC) meetings and Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Annual Conference****B-11. Recognition of Susan Green, Polaris Evening School****B-12. Recognition of Holiday Lights of Hope to benefit Anna Crawford Children's Center December 12-21****C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES****D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT****\*D-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of October 2013 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

*(Approved)*

**E. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, STUDENT SUPPORT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT****\*E-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trips**

*(Approved)*

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**\*F-1. Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Update on Capital Outlay Projects**

*(Approved)*

**G. PERSONNEL**

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

*(Approved)*

**H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY**

**I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Robert Wofford, seconded by Michael Geist and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss at student discipline matter [O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757] at 8:45 p.m. *(7-0 vote)*.

The Board returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Janet Read, seconded by Robert Wofford and carried, to uphold the decision of the student disciplinary tribunal for Appeal Case #2013-DA-03 *(7-0 vote)*.

*(Upheld)*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Secretary

**CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****AFFIDAVIT**

The undersigned members of the Cherokee County Board of Education, under oath, certify that an Executive Session of the Board of Education was duly called and approved by majority vote in open session in accordance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 on 12/5/2013. The only matter(s) considered or discussed during the closed executive session of its meeting is/are as checked below:

- ☒ To review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757)
- ☐ To consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g.)
- ☐ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4))
- ☐ To discuss or deliberate upon appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (6))
- ☐ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2).

The members of the Board Of Education present for the executive session further certify and acknowledge that all discussions and proceeding conducted in executive session shall remain strictly confidential.

This 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013.

Melissa Whatley

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me on the above indicated date:

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: July 24, 2017



Janet S Read  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Robert [Signature]  
[Signature]



# BOARD BRIEFS

*Highlights from regular meetings of the Cherokee County School Board*

## **December 5, 2013: Regular Meeting**

The Cherokee County School Board on Thursday night continued its longtime partnership with March of Dimes and its support of pregnant women and babies.

The nonprofit charitable organization's mission is to improve the health of babies by funding research to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant deaths; the School District supports the cause by allowing staff and students to participate in optional fundraisers like the annual March for Babies and Walkmania.

Carmel Elementary School fourth-grader Maddilyn Dentino was honored at the School Board Meeting for winning the annual Georgia Walkmania T-shirt design contest, and her design will be featured on shirts distributed statewide for the fundraiser. Last year's T-shirt contest also was won by a Carmel Elementary student, Katie Wheeler, who was recognized at the meeting, as well.

The renewal of the Partnership Agreement, the second since its establishment in 2001, was approved 6-1, with School Board Member Kelly Marlow opposed.

"We have a lot of teachers and students that feel very passionately about our organization and have participated for the last several years on their own or with their schools," March of Dimes Community Director Michelle Beal said. "This is going to mean a lot to them that we're going forward and continuing on with our partnership."

Ms. Beal was joined at the meeting by March of Dimes Cherokee County Volunteer Chairman David Resendiz.

"Thank you for keeping children first and for really helping out a great cause," Mr. Resendiz said.

School Board Member Rick Steiner thanked Ms. Beal and Mr. Resendiz for their work to support babies and their families.

“Thank you all for coming and for what you guys do. I really appreciate it and we look forward to supporting you all further,” said Mr. Steiner, whose comments were followed by a round of applause from the audience.

The Partnership Agreement is one of more than 80 formal agreements the School District has forged with community partners, in addition to more than 200 school-based partnerships and numerous informal partnerships at the school and District level.

“Partnerships with community partners that support our students, such as the March of Dimes, are vital to a successful School District,” Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo said. “We greatly appreciate the support these partners provide in the form of financial and in-kind donations, thousands of volunteer hours and resources that provide our students with opportunities to not only learn, but to serve their communities and become better citizens.”

The School Board also took the following action:

- Recognized Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year Lindsay Bowley of Creekland Middle School;
- Recognized Carmel Elementary School as a 2013 National School of Character;
- Recognized Woodstock Elementary School as a Georgia 2013 Reward School – Highest Performing School;
- Recognized State and Region Champions: Creekview High School Softball Team, Region 7-AAAAA Champions and Elite 8 Finalists; River Ridge High School Volleyball Team, 6-AAAA Area Champions and Final Four in State; Sequoyah High School Drama, One-Act Play Region Champions and Fourth-Place AAAAA State Winners; and Sequoyah High School Volleyball, 2013 County Champions and State AAAAA Runner Up;
- Recognized Woodstock High School senior Rachel Steppe for earning a perfect score on the ACT;
- School Board Member Michael Geist withdrew his request to revise Board Policy regarding meeting minutes; the Superintendent offered to draft revisions to Board Policy regarding meeting agendas for consideration at the Board’s next (Jan. 16, 2014) meeting;
- Ms. Marlow made a motion that the Board accept an unknown amount of funds from an anonymous group to extend the time – but not to defray the existing cost of \$1,280 -- for an upcoming presentation on the Fiscal Year 2011 audit; the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Geist, failed 2-5, with Ms. Marlow and Mr. Geist supporting;

- Approved the monthly financial report and sales tax update;
- Approved out-of-state travel for staff professional development;
- Approved out-of-state and overnight student field trips;
- Approved the monthly capital outlay projects update;
- Approved monthly personnel recommendations; and,
- Approved a motion in regard to a student discipline matter as reviewed in Executive Session.

**Next School Board meeting: 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 2014  
(6 p.m. Strategic Work Session)**