

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, January 14, 2021

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m.

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2021 in the Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility, 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, Georgia. The meeting was conducted online/virtually and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were: School Board Chair Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chair Kelly Poole; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; Superintendent Dr. Brian V. Hightower; and, Attorney Tom Roach.

Call to Order

The call to order by Kyla Cromer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by School Board Chair Kyla Cromer.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Patsy Jordan.

Swearing-in Ceremony

School Board Chair Kyla Cromer, Vice-Chair Kelly Poole and School Board Member Patsy Jordan, were sworn in by Probate Judge Keith Wood.

Organizational Meeting

School Board Attorney Tom Roach presided over a brief organizational meeting for the selection of the 2021 School Board Vice-Chair. Robert Rechsteiner was selected as School Board Vice-Chair.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mike Chapman seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, the Board unanimously adopted the Superintendent's recommended agenda (7-0 vote).

Minutes for Approval

On a motion by Patsy Jordan seconded by Mike Chapman and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the December 10, 2020 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 Clark Menard seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (7-0 vote).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Suspended for this online School Board meeting

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

- *A-1. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions**

(Recognized)

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

School Board Member Comments:

- School Board stated they appreciated the resolve exhibited by Teachers, Technology & Informational Services and Curriculum & Instruction to execute Digital Learning this week.
- Additional acknowledgement was given to Technology for their quick response for the Virtual Board meeting held tonight.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- *D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of December 2020 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

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

(Approved)

- *F-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution of the Cherokee Board of Education to Phase Out a Facility**

(Approved)

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

(Approved)

H. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Comments:

- Thanked Technology for providing the resources and School Board members for their flexibility in transitioning to a Virtual School Board meeting.
- Recognized School Board members who were sworn-in for a new term and thanked them for their willingness to serve our community.
- CCSD will be working with Cognia to receive Accreditation and Certification.
- Education SPLOST initiative will be discussed at the February School Board training retreat.

Informational Items:

- The update on the Governor's proposed budget and early education-based legislation filed included the following:
 - No further budget cuts and 60% of FY21 austerity cuts will be restored to this year's QBE budget;

- A \$1K supplement for K-12 teachers and school-level support staff will be recommended for approval at the State Board of Education's February 18, 2021, meeting;
 - Recommendation is being made that School Districts will be held harmless for enrollment reductions in the FY21 mid-term adjustment;
 - Department of Education will receive funding from the Governor's Emergency Relief fund to provide funding for parents/caregivers who endured expenses for students with special needs;
 - Over 30 Education Bills have been filed, in particular HB60 was introduced this week.
- COVID-19 Update: Update included the following:
 - Current case and quarantines totals for the county and the school district;
 - Staffing update including division absences;
 - Impact of cases and quarantines on substitute costs and fill rates;
 - Impact of new Covid strain; and,
 - Vaccination plan and partnership considerations for staff and family member distribution.
 - All CCSD schools will remain temporarily closed for in-person learning through Friday, Jan. 22, with a tentative reopening date of Monday, Jan. 25.

ADJOURNMENT

The School Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary