

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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, February 17, 2022 in the Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility, 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, Georgia. The meeting was conducted in person and available to the public via live Internet streaming. Present were: School Board Chair Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chair Robert Rechsteiner; Members Mike Chapman, John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Clark Menard and Kelly Poole; 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 Sequoyah High School Student Elyse Robbins

The meeting’s inspiration was shared by Patsy Jordan.

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

Minutes for Approval On a motion by Clark Menard seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the January 13, 2022 School Board Meeting (7-0 vote).

On a motion by John Harmon seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the February 5, 2022 School Board Training (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 Mike Chapman seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried, to approve the Consent Agenda, for the remaining items - identified by asterisks (7-0 vote).

A. RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

- A-1. School Board Recognition of Creekview High School Agriculture Program -- National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Secondary/Middle School Program Award Recipient**

(Recognized)

- A-2. School Board Recognition of Creekview High School Senior Ty Hubert for Being Named as a Candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

(Recognized)

- A-3. School Board Recognition of 2021-22 Middle School County Academic Bowl Team Champions Creekland Middle School**

(Recognized)

- A-4. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions**

(Recognized)

- A-5. School Board Recognition of Cherokee High School Athletic Director Jeremy Adams as Region 5-7A Athletic Director of the Year**

(Recognized)

- *A-6. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of the Partnership Agreement with Cherokee Soccer Association**

(Approved)

- *A-7. School Board Approval of a Resolution Recognizing February 17, 2022 as "PTA Day in the Cherokee County School District"**

(Approved)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

On a motion by Kelly Poole and seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried, the Board extended time for public participation (7-0 vote).

Twelve members of the public signed up to address the School Board.

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

School Board Member Comments:

- School Board Member clarified that student surveys are often requested by GADOE, and parents were reminded that the district offers an opt-out option for each student.
- In response to several speakers, a school board member asked about the process for challenged books and assignments.
 - Superintendent responded as to procedures in this regard.
- A Board Member suggested working with the Cherokee County Regional Library System regarding community concerns and recommendations for challenged books.
- Clarification was requested on legal issues surrounding the book challenges.
 - The School Board Attorney provided some review of case Law relative to media centers and challenged materials.
 - Legislation is pending for challenged materials and will likely influence our policies in the future.
- Several School Board Members discussed Panorama, funding for SEL programs and support staff needs: Nurses, Counselors, and Social Workers.
 - Clarification was given that the CARES Act funding was used to increase student services and has been utilized to supplement federal funding as it relates to student wellness initiatives.
 - CCSD's BluePrint was developed by board members, school staff and community partners/members before the pandemic; student social and emotional learning was emphasized during a time when the community experienced several teen suicides over a span of three years.

- The Superintendent communicated the following in response:
 - CCSD is not renewing its contract with Panorama due to community concerns but will continue to evaluate the whole child through an internal survey developed by CCSD staff.
 - The Superintendent communicated that social and emotional learning for CCSD has always been unique and was developed prior to the pandemic... and, that moving forward, the initiative will now be known as CCSDCares; serving students academically and emotionally is a priority for this School Board and District; due to the district's intervention programs currently in place, many students are receiving life skills to be successful.
 - CCSDCares will continue to work at promoting support of student and staff members' mental health, and it was stated that over 50 students have received life-saving interventions over the past two school years due to programs and reporting protocols that have been established.
- Several School Board Members addressed concerns about Cognia and CCSD Accreditation.
 - Board Members acknowledged that accreditation was essential to the School District's success in serving students.
 - The School Board functioning properly is essential to the school district keeping its accreditation.
 - The Superintendent responded that, although Cognia establishes standards, the School Board can determine if any of the standards are outside of the district's goals.
 - Accreditation is not unique to public schools. Many private, charter and homeschool collaboratives utilize Cognia for accreditation.
- School Board Chair reminded parents that February is CCSD School Choice month and school reassignments are being considered.
 - Information is available on the CCSD website and social media outlets.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- *D-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of January 2022 Financial Report and Sales Tax Update**

(Approved)

E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

(Approved)

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

(Approved)

F. SUPPORT SERVICES

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

(Approved)

- *F-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Special Lease Agreements**

(Approved)

- *F-3. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Amend the State-Required Capital Outlay Funding Application for the Cherokee High School Replacement 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:

- The Superintendent informed the School Board, staff and audience that retired, long-serving Cherokee High School Principal, Dr. Edwin Casey had passed away.
- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of Ace Academy Principal, Richard Landolt and Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor, Jackie Miller.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Potential Litigation Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2) at 8:59 p.m. (7-0 vote).

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to return to Open Session at 9:30 p.m. (7-0 vote).

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by John Harmon and carried to authorize the School Board Attorney to author and file an amicus brief in support of CCSD employees in Northside Hospital vs. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in Gwinnett County or any potential lawsuit filed by the same or similar parties. (7-0 vote).

The School Board adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary