

# CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, March 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, March 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 Abby 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 Clayton Elementary School Student Tommy Ingham

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Kelly Poole.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Clark Menard 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 Robert Rechsteiner seconded by Kelly Poole and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the February 17, 2022 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 Patsy Jordan seconded by John Harmon 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 2022 STAR Students and Teachers**

*(Recognized)*

**A-2. School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Senior Ryan Lofland-Selected for the National Association for Music Education's All-National Symphony Orchestra**

*(Recognized)*

**A-3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2022 Media Specialist of the Year: Leslie Hicks of Knox Elementary School STEM Academy**

*(Recognized)*

**A-4. School Board Recognition of Mill Creek Middle School Lego Cats - Navy Team, a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics Team, as Third-place Overall Champion's Award at State Finals**

*(Recognized)*

**A-5. School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Junior Ila Prabhuram for Being Selected as a 2022 Georgia Youth Leadership Award Recipient**

*(Recognized)*

**A-6. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District Veterinary Science Students Named State Champions in the Georgia FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event**

*(Recognized)*

**A-7. School Board Recognition of 2021-22 Elementary School and Middle School Reading Bowl First-Place Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-8. School Board Recognition of 2021-22 CCSD Elementary Math Competition Winners**

*(Recognized)*

**A-9. School Board Recognition of River Ridge High School Cafeteria Team for Earning its 20th Consecutive Perfect Health Inspection Score**

*(Recognized)*

**A-10. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions**

*(Recognized)*

**A-11. School Board Recognition of Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards**

*(Recognized)*

**A-12. School Board Recognition of Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA) Publication Awards**

*(Recognized)*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

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

**B-1. School Board Approval of Delegate and Alternate for 2022 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly**

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to nominate Robert Rechsteiner as Delegate and John Harmon as Alternate for the 2022 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Delegate Assembly (7-0 vote).

*(Approved)*

**School Board Member Comments:**

- A School Board Member publicly thanked Cherokee County Educational Foundation for the successful Gala event held this year. Donations from this event will benefit students and teachers throughout the district.
- A Board Member thanked district staff for recognizing partners and volunteers at a special event last week.
- A Board Member expressed gratitude for schools that hosted Read Across America.

- In response to several speakers, the School Board Chair reminded the audience students have a choice relative to which books they borrow from the library, that books are evaluated on age appropriateness and that all parents should retain the right to choose which books their students read.
- At the close of the meeting, a board member thanked police officers for carrying out their duties in a professional manner and encouraged respectful behavior from audience members in the future.

**C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES**

**D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

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

*(Approved)*

**D-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Proposed FY2022 Budget Amendment II**

Motion was made by Robert Rechsteiner, seconded by Kelly Poole, and carried to approve FY2022 Budget Amendment II (7-0 Vote).

*(Approved)*

**E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**F. SUPPORT SERVICES**

**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**

**\*I-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Adopt Cherokee County School District Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS) Contract Amendment Resolution**

*(Approved)*

Informational Items:

- Job Fair:
  - CCSD has seen 98% of its current teachers sign contracts for the next school year.
  - The recent job fairs for the next school year were held both in-person and virtual.
    - In collaboration with Goodwill, CCSD was able to offer a special recruitment opportunity for classified staff.
    - A Cabinet member stated that quality candidates have already been hired to fill positions vacated by retiring teachers and classified staff.
- Legislative Updates for 2022:
  - Update on the Governor's mid-year budget adjustment which restores austerity cuts.
  - HB304 will suspend the State 29 cent motor fuel tax through May and will have a positive impact on the transportation fuel budget.
  - Several Education bills of interest are being followed and content modifications to current policies may be required under multiple timelines.
- PreK Accreditation:
  - CCSD has successfully completed the first step of accreditation renewal with our Pre-K program being recognized by Cognia for providing a learning culture that emphasizes partnership with staff, parents and community.

- The Superintendent will make future recommendations for the development of a larger CCSD Pre-K Learning Center.

Superintendent Comments:

- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of Chief Support Services Officer, Bill Sebring.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Tyler Gwynn, Executive Director for MS/HS Staffing and Dr. Robert Shaw, Administrator on Special Assignment Administrative Leadership.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Cherokee HS Assistant Principal Charley Ingham to Woodstock HS Principal and ASA, I-Grad Andy Hall to ACTIVE Campus Principal.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Janet Baggett, Assistant Principal Etowah HS; Casey Belli, Assistant Principal Cherokee HS; Amanda Blackwell, Assistant Principal E.T. Booth MS; Brittany Holton, Assistant Principal Boston ES; Josh Martin, Assistant Principal Dean Rusk MS; Holly Miller, Assistant Principal Sixes ES; and Melissa Venezia, Assistant Principal Woodstock MS.

## ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Mike Chapman and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Potential Litigation Matter (O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2) at 8:49 p.m. (7-0 vote).

The School Board adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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School Board Chair

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Secretary