

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, April 21, 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, April 21, 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 Cherokee High School Student Brayden lovino.

The meeting's inspiration was shared by Clark Menard.

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 March 17, 2022 School Board Meeting (7-0 vote).

On a motion by Kelly Poole seconded by Clark Menard and carried, the Board approved the minutes from the March 24 Called School Board Meeting (7-0 vote).

Consent Agenda

Following the 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 Cherokee County School District Teacher of the Year - Jonathan Gustin, Cherokee High School**

(Recognized)

- A-2. School Board Recognition of Cherokee County School District 2022 Counselor of the Year and Innovation Zone Counselors of the Year**

(Recognized)

- A-3. School Board Recognition of Cherokee High School Students for Earning Top Honors at the Georgia Skills USA Competition**

(Recognized)

- A-4. School Board Recognition of 2022 Georgia Technology Student Association Competition Award Winners from Creekland Middle School and Woodstock High School**

(Recognized)

- A-5. School Board Recognition of 2022 Spelling Bee Winners**

(Recognized)

- A-6. School Board Recognition of 2021-22 Governor's Honors Finalists**

(Recognized)

- A-7. School Board Recognition of Etowah High School Air Force Junior ROTC Program for Earning an Overall Unit Assessment Score of Exceeds Standards**

(Recognized)

- A-8. School Board Recognition of CCSD Students Selected for All-State Band and Orchestra**

(Recognized)

- A-9. School Board Recognition of Georgia High School Association State and Regional Champions**

(Recognized)

A-10. School Board Recognition of Creekview High School Student Ashley Tippens -- Recipient of 2022 Waste Management/Pine Bluff Landfill Scholarship

(Recognized)

***A-11. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation to Approve Renewal of Partnership Agreements with Reinhardt University and the Cherokee County YMCA and to Approve New Partnership Agreement with Revolution Church**

(Approved)

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

School Board Member Comments:

- School Board Chair recognized Dr. Hightower for receiving the Georgia School Superintendents Association President's Award for Outstanding Leadership. Remarking that CCSD received high marks for accreditation due to the Superintendent's leadership which included recruiting and retaining exceptional teachers and support staff and implementing the School Board's Vision.
- School Board applauded the hard work and dedication displayed in the results of the Cognia review and accreditation report received this month.
- School Board Member recognized Sequoyah HS Robotics Club and Firestorm Robotics, which is community-based and provides opportunities for students districtwide.
- The Board commented on the following financial news:
 - In addition to teachers, they value all staff members and approved supplemental pay to employees not included in the Governor's bonus;
 - Agreed that the budget committee review pay-scale increases to help retain and recruit top talent for the next fiscal year;
 - Confirmed that the tentative budget would include substitute pay remaining the same for SY22-23.
- A Board Member commented that continuing to focus on debt reduction in next year's budget could help improve the district's credit rating.

C. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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

(Approved)

- D-2. School Board Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Defeasement and Redemption of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012 and Letter of Direction to Paying Agent, Regions Bank**

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Clark Menard, and carried to approve a resolution authorizing defeasement and redemption of General Obligation Series 2012 Bonds. (7-0 Vote).

(Approved)

- D-3. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Supplemental Employee Pay**

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Mike Chapman, and carried to approve supplemental employee pay recommendation. (7-0 Vote).

(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)

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 for Approval of SY2022-23 Attendance Area Map Adjustment**

(Approved)

Informational Items:

- Financial News:
 - The Superintendent reported that because the current School Board is fiscally conservative, CCSD will pay off Series 2012 General Obligation bonds 11 years earlier than required, saving the taxpayers \$7.8 million in interest and reducing construction debt by over \$29 million.
 - Several School Board Members requested a reduction in millage rates for homeowners be made a priority in next year's budget; he and staff are working to develop a budget that would recommend decreasing the millage rate by 1.25-1.50 mills while still

- maintaining/improving the current level of service to stakeholders. As always, the need for long-term financial stability will be considered due to inflation costs and the potential for market corrections. The budget will be available for review by the May School Board Meeting, and the School Board and public will have a month to review it.
- To maintain and attract highly qualified staff, the Superintendent recommended the District provide additional supplemental pay to staff members that were not included in the Governor's bonus pay. In addition, staff is developing a plan increasing next fiscal year's pay scales to remain competitive with the surrounding counties.
 - Accreditation and Student Achievement:
 - CCSD received a report from Cognia that recommended the District be recognized as a high-quality school system for the next five years.
 - Thirty-one Performance Standards were reviewed, and the district scored very well. Highlights from the Cognia report were shared by the CCSD Chief Academic Officer, and it was noted that most standards scored at the highest level, and the remaining were listed as improving.
 - Student achievement was highlighted throughout the report and CCSD is already looking toward developing its Future Ready Graduate Profile.
 - Legislative Summary for 2022:
 - Update on the Governor's mid-year budget adjustment which restores austerity cuts and provides funding for supplemental pay for many CCSD staff members.
 - Policies affecting CCSD will be reviewed and submitted for consideration to the School Board; many current District policies already reflect changes that are contained in the new statutes.

Superintendent Comments:

- Recognized the end-of-year retirement of Doug Knott, Principal of Liberty Elementary School.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Trey Moores, Chief Support Services Officer; and Sarah Boulineau, Coordinator of Procurement Services.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Hasty ES Assistant Principal Sandi Harrison to Principal Liberty ES; and Oak Grove ES Assistant Principal Ashley Polito to Principal Holly Springs ES.
- Recognized the SY2022-23 appointment of Hilary Collins, Assistant Principal Woodstock HS, and Janet Marotte, Assistant Principal Hasty ES.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a Student Discipline matter (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-757) at 10:07 p.m. (7-0 vote).

Motion was made by Patsy Jordan, seconded by Clark Menard and carried to return to Open Session at 10:22 p.m. p.m. (7-0 vote).

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Robert Rechsteiner and carried to Uphold the Findings and Disposition of the Discipline Tribunal panel for Tribunal #21-185253, (7-0 vote).

The School Board adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary