

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, July 9, 2020

**MINUTES OF CALLED BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m.**

The Cherokee County Board of Education called its called Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020 in the Dr. Frank R. Petruzielo Educational Services Facility, 1205 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, Georgia. Present were: School Board Chair Kyla Cromer; Vice-Chair Kelly Poole; Members Mike Chapman, Patsy Jordan, John Harmon, Clark Menard and Robert Rechsteiner; 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 School Board Chair Kyla Cromer.

A brief 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 agenda (7-0 vote).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public signed up to address the School Board within the public participation section of the meeting, but several members of the public signed up to specifically address agenda item I-2.

I. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I-1. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of an Enhanced 2020 Graduation Plan

(Approved)

Motion was made by Kelly Poole, seconded by Patsy Jordan and carried to Ratify the Enhanced 2020 Graduation Plan (7-0 vote).

I-2. School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of Cherokee County School District (CCSD) Reopening of School Plan for SY2020-21

(Approved)

Several Members of the public addressed the School Board relative to Agenda Item I-2. Most comments were related to student mask mandates (for/against), extending the school start date and temperature checks.

Motion was made by Clark Menard, seconded by Kelly Poole and carried to extend public participation from the initial 30 minutes allowed (7-0 vote).

Motion was made by Mike Chapman, seconded by John Harmon and carried to Approve the Cherokee County School District Reopening of School Plan for SY2020-21 (7-0 vote).

Superintendent's Comments

- Thanked parents for advocating for their children
- Recognized staff for their hard work
- Remarked that he was very proud of how the COVID-19 closure was handled
- Shared the following from the Reopening of School Plan:
 - Plan developed in conjunction with an advisory committee which included CCSD staff and community members along with a Task Force of employees
 - Committee examined the logistics of reopening work, bus and school spaces in order to return to school as normal as possible
 - Options for instructional models determined from information provided by the state based on the level of spread in the community
 - Our reopening plan is subject to change if information from the state changes
 - Two models available: Traditional In-person and Digital Learning
 - **Traditional In-person points:** how to social distance, limit exposure from volunteers, work through temperature checks and additional sanitizing protocols
 - If exposure, closure will be looked at on a case-by-case basis: classroom, building, zone, then District
 - **Digital Learning points:** not a true virtual school, lack of flexibility to move between choices, can't use for students wanting some in-class

instruction and some digital, lacking equity and access within teaching and learning

- Commented that we are trying to be as versatile as we can, and asked that we please work together

School Board Member Comments:

- Thanked Superintendent, Staff and Ad Hoc Reopening of School Committee for their hard work and looking at all options thoroughly
- Several questions were asked of the Superintendent who provided clarification on Teachers Sick Leave Policy; water fountains; visitors/volunteers in schools; free & reduced lunch for digital learners; digital learning affecting college; extra-curricular activities; and, substitutes.
- Impressed how CCSD has managed the budget to avoid furloughs, cover additional costs for sanitizing, and provide two masks for each student and adult.
- Shared that middle and high school schedules will need to be hand built if digital learning is chosen.
- Acknowledgement of all emails that shared parent/student concerns and about their specific situation
- Shared how many teachers are positive about returning to class and building relationships with their students
- Remarked that parents have a key role in their student's attitude about returning
- Shared that the Board's well-considered decision was based on how all students (and employees) would be impacted considering guidance provided by the GA Department of Education, Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and American Academy of Pediatrics

ADJOURNMENT

School Board Chair Kyla Cromer adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

School Board Chair

Secretary