The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Clint Williams, Chairman, Mr. Trent Akins, Mr. Mitch Bellflower, Mr. Russ Benton, Mr. Michael Grimes, Mr. Jonathan Holland, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, and Superintendent Richard Smith.

Visitors in attendance were Jesse Scott, Jeff Raiford, Erin Ricks, Brad Sanders, Stacy Ruse, Tabatha Nobles, Mike Dennard, and Crystal Blocker.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Bellflower, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Akins and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the agenda for the meeting.

On motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Akins, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting that included the minutes from previous meetings and out of state field trips.

Erin Ricks and Brad Sanders, officers of the Toombs County High School FFA, spoke to the board about their upcoming events and thanked them for the support of their FFA Chapter. Both of these young people talked of the many activities the FFA has planned for the fall and the excitement the students have to be moving into the new high school.

Mr. Smith presented the board the Superintendents report which included historical information on SPLOST collections and the county digest.

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower and seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, the board gave final approval of the FY2016 budget. The FY2016 Tentative Budget was submitted and approved at the July 9, 2015 board meeting. As required by law the budget was advertised in The Advance two weeks prior to the August 13, 2015 board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Akins and seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved the setting of the 2015 tax year millage rate at 13.956. This is the same rate as the previous year but constitutes a 1.93% increase in local property tax due to inflationary growth and reevaluation of property in the county. As required by law, the increase will be published in The Advance and three public hears will be held. All hearings will be held at the Toombs County Board of Education, 117 East Wesley Ave, Lyons, GA 30436. The dates of the hearings will be set as follows: August 27, 2015 at 9 AM; August 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM; September 3, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The final millage rate will be set at a called meeting on September 3, 2015 at 9:30 AM.
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On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the official building plaque for the new Toombs County High School. The plaque will include all board members who served on the board during the planning and construction process, as well as Superintendents Dr. Kendel Brantley and Dr. Kim Corley who oversaw the project.  

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Smith presented the board with the GSBA Board Training report to be signed by each member and submitted to the Georgia School Boards Association. This report verifies that each member met their annual required hours of training.

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the FY2016 Annual GSBA Training Plan.  

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the renewal of the GSBA eBoard software but only the Policy and Law subscriptions. All other benefits of the eBoard subscription can be handled by the school website at a significantly lower annual cost.  

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the Toombs County Schools allow the Toombs County High School Ag Department to resume the rental of the Ag Center with the condition that the rental fee be divided equally with Toombs County Board of Education. The Board will continue to pay the month expenses for the building. Any funds from the board share of the rental above the monthly expense of the building will be reinvested into the Ag Center as needed to maintain the facility. The rental agreement will be reviewed and adjusted as needed on an annual basis under the supervision of the superintendent.  

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Smith presented the board with a recommendation to purchase a 72 Passenger Type C Blue Bird / Vision BBCV3303 school bus from Yancey Bus Sales at a total cost of $86,512 using funds from the state bus bonds. This price is from the state bid list specified to the same requirements as the 90 passenger bus purchased last year. There were several question concerning the Blue Bird buses purchased in prior years having mechanical issues. The board asked that more information be gathered before the purchase was made. No action was taken on the bus.

Mr. Smith presented the board with several policy changes for consideration. The changes and new policies shall lay on the table for one month. Action on the policies will be taken by the board at the regular September 2015 meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Akins the board voted to go into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3(6)).

Trent Akins – yes
On motion by Mr. Bellflower, seconded by Mr. Benton, the board voted to come out of executive session.

Trent Akins - yes
Mitch Bellflower - yes
Russ Benton - yes
Michael Grimes - yes
Jonathan Holland - yes
Toni Wilkes - yes
Clint Williams-yes

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: Employment Recommendation: Robert Roberson, Bus Shop Foreman; Cynthia Hendrix, Long Term Substitute at TCHS. Supplemental Duties: Chuck Hill, Special Education Teacher extended day. Transfers: Tal Harris-Williams, from the Alternative School to TCHS.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Akins, seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously Approved