The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Clint Williams, Chairman, Mr. Russ Benton, Vice Chairman, Mr. Trent Akins, Mr. Mitch Bellflower, Mr. Michael Grimes, Mr. Jonathan Holland, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, and Superintendent Richard Smith.

Visitors in attendance were Shannon Chambers, Sonya Ross, Brad Sanders, Chasity Denmark, Stormy Knight, Rustin Howard, Rhonda Gerrits, Dee Tapley, Stacy Reese, Sandra Floyd, Tabatha Nobles, Rhonda Stone, Terri Overstreet, Ryan Rodgers, Jill Rodgers, Janice Toole, Darrien Toole, Kip Hart.

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

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

Unanimously Approved

On motion by Mr. Bellflower and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting that included the minutes from previous meetings.

Unanimously Approved

In the superintendent’s report, Mr. Smith presented the board with updates from the Georgia Department of Education including a newsletter from State Superintendent Woods and a one from GSBA President Doug Roper. FFA President Brad Sanders and two of his fellow officers, Chasity Denmark and Stormy Knight, were in attendance to provide an update on their club activities. Miss Denmark gave details of their plans for the upcoming FFA week.

On a motion by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board approved the following bids for remodeling work to be completed at the old Toombs County High School: Roof repairs – South Georgia Coatings in the amount of $133,500; Painting – TQ Constructors, INC in the amount of $118,000; Ceiling tile replacement - TQ Constructors, INC in the amount of $110,000; Floor covering - TQ Constructors, INC in the amount of $128,075.

Unanimously Approved

The board held a discussion about the topic for their required Whole Board Training. Mr. Williams suggested information be provided on the state’s Farm to School Program. He had been given information on this topic at a state meeting and would like to know more. Mr. Benton suggested the board needed training on performing the superintendent’s evaluation. Mr. Smith will work to arrange the training and provide a date by the February board meeting. No action was required.

Mr. Smith presented a draft copy of the superintendent’s evaluation to all members and asked that they review the instrument and either make notes to discuss at the February meeting or contact Mr. Smith prior to that time. No action was required.
Mr. Smith informed the board it was his intention to have a proposed 2016-2017 school calendar for them to see at the February meeting. He asked that the board consider adding instructional days to next year’s calendar. Members asked if it would be possible to see a calendar for 160 days and one for 170 days. Mr. Smith stated they would prepare a calendar that showed 160 days plus identified additional days that can be added to the total number. No action was required.

Mr. Smith shared the Staffing Plan Timeline with the board. A copy of this plan along with an intent form will be sent to all employees beginning Friday, January 15, 2016. Employees will be asked to have their non-binding intent forms back to their principal or director no later than Friday January 29, 2016. No action was required.

Mr. Smith presented the board with the December SPLOST report, and the monthly Budget Summary and Cash Flow financial reports. No action was required.

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, 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; (O.C.G.A 50-14-3(6)).

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

On motion by Mr. Akins, seconded by Mr. Grimes, 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 Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: Employment Recommendation: Sam Hicks, Teacher, TCHS; Wendy Hitchcock, Paraprofessional, TCES, Mirla Morgan, Paraprofessional, TCHS; Patrick Craft, Paraprofessional TCMS. Supplemental Duties: Mark McDaniel, TCMS Tennis Coach; Patrick Craft, Unpaid TCHS Baseball Assistant. Resignation Notice: Judy Hellgren, Assistant Principal, TCHS.

Unanimously Approved
Mr. Smith provided the board and others in attendance information on the issue with the Great American annuity plan. The system is working to create a viable solution for all involved. As soon as any information can be finalized, Mr. Smith will be in contact with all parties effected by this.

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

Unanimously Approved