The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, April 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. Jonathan Holland, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, and Superintendent Richard Smith. Mr. Michael Grimes was absent.

Visitors in attendance were Joey Montford, Brad Sanders, Erin Ricks, Karlie Wright, Brittney Beckum, Jackie Swaringim, Chasity Denmark, Shannon Chambers, Chris Bell, Stacy Reese, Rustin Howard, Miranda Kight, Julie Spivey, Dee Tapley, Rhonda Gerrits, Maria J. Velasquez, Zaida Maldonado, Jessica Maldonado, Sergio I. Maldonado, Maria Velasquez, Sergio Maldonado, Bill Benton, Larry Smith, Rosemary Wickstrom, Tabatha Nobles, Stanley Morgan, Oren Morgan, Dee Morgan.

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

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

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting that included the minutes from the March called and regular meeting and the over-night, out of state field trip for the senior class and FCCLA.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s report, Mr. Smith presented a plaque to Maria Velasquez, a student at Toombs County High School, for being selected by Altamaha EMC as the winner for this year’s Washington Youth Tour program. Altamaha EMC will be sending Maria on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. Maria completed a written application and interview and was selected as one of 3 students from a 10 high school area.

Oren Morgan was also recognized and presented a plaque for his service on State School Superintendent Richard Woods’ Student Advisory Team. Oren was selected out of students from high school all across the state to represent our area on the committee. He has had the opportunity to meet with Superintendent Woods throughout the year and offer advice and views from a student perspective on how to make education in Georgia better for students. TCHS Teacher Rustin Howard was also recognized as a member of Superintendent Woods’ Teacher Advisory Team, along with Anna Bullard who serves on the Parent Advisory Team. Toombs County is blessed to be well represented by these individuals at the state level.

FFA President Brad Sanders and fellow officers, Erin Ricks, Karlie Wright, Brittney Beckum, Jackie Swaringim, and Chasity Denmark, spoke about the many recent and upcoming activities. They also invited members to their annual FFA Chapter Banquet on April 26 at the Ag Center.

Mr. Smith presented the board with the monthly SPLOST financial report. No action was required.
On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, and seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved a resolution asking for the Georgia Department of Education to help in the development of a 5 year Local Facility Plan to be completed by June 2017.  

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board approved to make repairs to the roof at the Toombs Central Elementary School Gym by South Georgia Coatings at a cost of $22,950.  

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Akins, seconded by Mr. Holland, 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  
Mitch Bellflower - yes  
Russ Benton – yes  
Jonathan Holland - yes  
Toni Wilkes - yes  
Clint Williams -yes

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

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

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved the following new personnel recommendations and accepted the following retirement/resignation notices: Employment Recommendation (Certified Positions for next school year): Tyler Rogers, Ryan Durham, Jerrod Martin, Laberton Sims, Teachers, TCHS; Sam Rodgers, Teacher TCMS; Lacey Hartley, Teacher, TCES; Nikki Gamberg, Brooke Nail, Teachers LUES; Laken Rodgers, Tara Bishop, Anna Mapstone, Patricia Brantley, Teachers, LPS. Employment Recommendation: Classified Positions for current year: Tina Smith, SFN Assistant Manager, TCMS. Retirement Notice for the end of the current year; Shirlee Poole, Teacher TCES; Lisa Williamson, Teacher, LUES. Resignation Notice for the end of the current year: Connie Beasley, Teacher, LUES; Luray Hart, Jodi Pope, Racheal Moran, Heather Kirk, Leaette Williamson, Teachers TCMS; Chuck Hill, Connie N. Helmuth, Randy K. Thompson, Shaun Pope, Teachers, TCHS; Sandra Caraway, SFN, effective March 3, 2016.  

Unanimously Approved

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved the following certified staff recommended for employment with the Toombs County School System for the 2016-2017 school year; Kellie Bellflower.
Trent Akins – yes
Mitch Bellflower - abstain
Russ Benton – yes
Jonathan Holland - yes
Toni Wilkes - yes
Clint Williams-yes

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, seconded by Mr. Benton, the board approved the following certified staff recommended for employment with the Toombs County School System for the 2016-2017 school year; Teresa Holland, Rhonda Gerrits.

Trent Akins – yes
Mitch Bellflower - yes
Russ Benton – yes
Jonathan Holland - abstain
Toni Wilkes - yes
Clint Williams-yes

On a motion by Mr. Akins, seconded by Mr. Holland, the board approved the following certified staff recommended for employment with the Toombs County School System for the 2016-2017 school year; Noah Bullard.

Trent Akins – yes
Mitch Bellflower - yes
Russ Benton – yes
Jonathan Holland - yes
Toni Wilkes - yes
Clint Williams- abstain

Under new business, Chairman Williams suggested there be a formal study of the traffic flow around the schools on Bulldog Road during drop off and pick up of students. Given the addition of Lyons Primary School to the area, a plan of traffic flow is needed. Contact will be made with the Georgia Department of Transportation in hopes of gaining their assistance.

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

Unanimously Approved

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