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The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2017, 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 Rhonda Benton, Reggie Roberts, Stacy Reese, Patricia Brantley, Julie Spivey, Deidre Braddock, Tammy Oliver, Judy Hellgren, Rustin Parker, Teresa Winge, Denise Rogers, Joyce Fields, Larry Hackler, Tabitha Fields, Miguel Lara, Arlinda Joiner, Lashawn Fletcher, Theresa Standard, Dorsey Hart, Rhonda Stone, Melanie McLemore, Joseph Depenhart, Carmen Roberts, Shannon Chambers.

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

On a motion by Mr. Grimes, and seconded by Mr. Akins, 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 regular meeting, and two out-of-state field trip requests from the TCHS FCCLA to attend national competitions in San Antonio, Texas and Nashville, Tennessee.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mrs. Carmen Roberts announced the local winners of the Young Authors’ Writing Contest. They were Dax Nobles, Dean Morrow, Tabitha Fields, and Brooke Morris. Congratulations to these students on their outstanding work!

Mrs. Theresa Standard and her FCCLA students were present to inform the board of the activities they have taken part in this school year and to share the results from State Competition. Congratulations to everyone who placed at state and best of luck at nationals!

Mr. Smith informed the board that TCHS has received a $9400 grant to offset transportation cost with the Move On When Ready program. He also shared the following dates and events with the members and encouraged them to attend as many as possible: Senior Prom Walk, Saturday, April 15th; FY2018 Comprehensive Needs Assessment Meeting, Thursday, April 20th at the Ag Center, 6:00 PM; Graduation, Saturday, May 13th at Booster Stadium, 8:30 AM; Annual Retirement Breakfast, Tuesday, May 16th at the Ag Center.

Mr. Smith presented the board with the monthly SPLOST report, the current Budget and Cash Flow reports, the monthly Bank Fund Balance report, and the February check registry. No action was required.

The board was presented with an update to the following policies; DJE. The policy will be available for public review for one month and will be presented for action at the May meeting.

The Board was reminded they will take part in a six hour training session on Thursday April 27, 2017 beginning at 10 AM. The training will be held at TCHS.
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On a motion by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Bellflower, 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
- Michael Grimes - yes
- Jonathan Holland - yes
- Toni Wilkes - yes
- Clint Williams-yes

On motion by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Akins, 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. Akins, the board approved the following personnel recommendations:

- Employment Recommendations: Brittany Johns, Lisa Bishop, LaPortia Pitts, Teachers, LPS; Angela Waller, Patricia Clark, Amanda Hudson, Teachers LUES; Crystal Gail Paulk, Teacher, TCES, Sergio Arrequin, Marion Brian, William Morris, Lindsey McElroy, Teachers, TCMS; Katie Horton, Monica Garrett, Kevin Pych, Teachers, Joseph Depenhart, Assistant Principal, TCHS; Pamela Harrell, Food Service Worker, LPS; Pat Powell, Food Service Worker, TCHS. Retirement: Kay Summerset. Resignations: Stephanie Lawless, Marcella Alexander, Deanna Stoddard, Laken Rodgers, Jessica Downie, Kyle Redmond, Sam Hicks, Jimmy Price, Sam Rodgers, Brent Coleman, and Meagan Hayes. Transfers: Kip Hart, TCHS Science Teacher; Laberton Sims, Part-time TCHS Assistant Principal. Supplemental Duties; Matt Parker, TCMS Golf.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Holland expressed his concern with someone nearing the end of their career and seeking employment in the Toombs County School District for the purpose of gaining social security benefits. He stated his comment was not against anyone but that he asked we make sure when we hire someone they are coming for the right reasons, which is to help students.

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

Unanimously Approved

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