The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, May 11, 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 Hannah Varnadoe, Lexie Martin, Kevyn Perez, Caitlyn Conner, Madison Hall, Rustin Parker, Rhonda Benton, Kip Hart, Mark Montfort, Tyler Outen, the 2017-2018 FFA Officer Team, Bill Benton, Shannon Chambers.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Grimes and seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting that included the minutes from the April regular meeting, and an out-of-state field trip request from the 21st Century Summer Program to visit the Jacksonville Zoo.

During the Superintendent’s Report, a thank you note from Denise Rogers was read thanking the board members for providing lunch for the TCS Staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Bill Benton, Toombs County Athletic Director, and Rustin Parker, Literary Coordinator, recognized the TCHS students who have won individual GHSA State Championships this year. They are Oren Morgan, Literary; Ricardo Santana, Wrestling; and Gage Clark, Wrestling. The 2017-2018 TCHS FFA Officer Team was present to give an overview of their plans for the coming year. They also presented the members with fresh tomatoes grown in the TCHS greenhouse.

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 March check registry. No action was required.

Frank King, of Raymond James Financial, addressed the board concerning the renewal of the SPLOST. A discussion was held about the dates the renewal could go before the citizens of Toombs County for a vote. The next available time is in November 2017. Mr. King also discussed the possibility of including a bond approval on the ballot to be used for future capital outlay projects. The board requested a called work session to continue the discussion. It was scheduled for May 25, 2017 at 6:30 PM following the first tax hearing.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the ABM project with no action being taken.

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board approved a resolution to complete the land swap with the City of Lyons at Faison Park. The transaction is for equal acreage, giving the City of Lyons access to Highway 152, Cobbtown Road. In exchange the TCS receives the east end of what was once the football field for Lyons Industrial High School.

Unanimously Approved
On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, 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
Michael Grimes - yes
Jonathan Holland - yes
Toni Wilkes - yes
Clint Williams-yes

On motion by Mr. Bellflower, 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 Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: Employment Recommendations: Rebecca Clifton, Teacher LUES; Jason McKechn, Teacher LPS; Juli Alligood, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning (first approved at February 9, 2017 meeting). Resignations: Patrica Brinson, Teacher, TCHS; Laberton Sims, Teacher, TCHS. Transfers: Rustin Parker, TCHS to LPS Instructional Coach; Jennifer Tatum, LPS to TCMS Teacher.

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the FY2018 Tentative Budget. The FY2018 budget will be published in the Vidalia Advance as required by Georgia Law. The required hearing will be held at 6:00 PM on May 25, 2017 and June 1, 2017 at the board room at 500 Bulldog Road, Lyons, prior to the June 8, 2017 regular board meeting at which time the final budget for FY2018 will be considered for approval.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, the board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously Approved