The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Clint Williams, Chairman, Mr. Russ Benton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mitch Bellflower, Mr. Michael Grimes, Mr. Jonathan Holland, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, Mr. Trent Akins, and Superintendent Richard Smith.

Visitors in attendance were Barry Waller, Juli Alligood, Shannon Chambers, Joe Depenhart, Nathan Miller, Bonnie Brantley, Suzanne Smith, and Mark Smith.

The Invocation was given by Trent Akins and was 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.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting that included the minutes from the called July 13th meeting.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mrs. Standard shared the inspirational summer for FCCLA. They won many awards at state competition. The group became involved with Safe Kids, and two students, Gracie Alvarado and Sandibel Cruz were on the advisory board for Teens in the Driver Seat. The students won third place at the state competition and won five hundred dollars. They won an expense paid trip to the national summit in San Antonio. Bonnie Brantley, from Safe Kids International, partnered with TCS FCCLA this past year. As a result of the work Gracie, Sandibel, and the TCHS Chapter preformed, Mrs. Brantley won the U. S. Coalition for Safe Kids Award for 2017.  Next, the FCCLA group attended Summer Leadership Camp held at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Camp in Covington.  They also attended the National Leadership Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee the first week in July.  TCHS students Carlie Morgan and Morgan Sager completed in the national STAR Event—Sports Nutrition event and for the second year in a row won gold medals.  Congratulations to these young ladies.

Information was shared on the Georgia Milestone EOC system report. Overall, some increases were seen, and work will continue this year in these academic areas. The TCS Targets for Teaching and Learning for FY2018 were shared. The TCS Leadership Team met at the end of July to address strategic and improvement plans for the coming school year. The two-day retreat culminated with a draft set of system beliefs. Mr. Smith shared that school begins for students in the morning.

The financial reports, July SPLOST and current Bank Balance, were shared. The SPLOST report is down nearly five percent from the same time last year. Due to year-end closing, all other financial reports were not currently available. They will be shared as soon as year-end closing can take place.

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Mike Parker of SP Design. Mr. Parker presented the results of the Phase 1 study conducted at Toombs Central. There are many questions that will need to be answered by the Facilities Division of the Department of Education before any decisions can be made. Required usable acreage as well as water and sewage issues will be not to be considered for the current site; however, building at the current site may be possible. Paperwork from the study is ready to be sent to the Department of Education.
The board was given information on the proposed changes to the following system policies: DJE. Motion to accept by Mrs. Wilkes and second by Mr. Bellflower.

Mitch Bellflower- yes
Russ Benton- yes
Michael Grimes- yes
Jonathan Holland- no
Clint Williams- yes
Toni Wilkes- yes
Trent Akins- yes

A recommendation was made to approve the copier bid of Canon Solutions Direct to replace all current copiers in the system with new machines. Discussion was held regarding printing from the classroom to the copiers. The system is equipped with a management system that allows teachers to print to the copiers from their classrooms. The job is saved in the copier until the teacher can go to any machine in the school, scan their ID, and collect the copies at that time. The cost of the new machines with the management system is less that the current cost of operating the existing machines. The cost should result in major savings on instructional supply funds due to less dependence on inkjet printers for larger print jobs. A motion to accept was made by Mr. Bellflower and a second by Mr. Akins.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Akins, seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, the board approved the renewal of the superintendent’s contract.

Unanimously Approved

In another personnel issue, the transportation director requested to bring a former driver back in the role of substitute driver. The driver had resigned last month. It was agreed the driver be allowed to return as a substitute at this point.

In regarding legal counsel, Mr. Smith recommended Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins as the attorney of record for any educational issues. He also recommended Tom Everitt as the local attorney for any non-educational issues. Motion to accept by Mr. Grimes and seconded by Mrs. Wilkes.

Unanimously Approved

Regarding the solar eclipse scheduled to take place on Monday August 21, 2017, discussion was held concerning the various ways that surrounding systems are handling this unusual school day. After discussion, it was recommended that Toombs County Schools extend the school day to allow for the primary period of darkness to pass before releasing students. All schools will release that day at 3:15 PM that day.

During new business, Mr. Bellflower addressed that there is concern from other schools that LPS has elected to hold their school day from 7:15 until 3:30. It was discussed that the hours are different but the amount of time is the same as for all schools. The principal at each school has the ability to schedule staff as it best fits the needs of that school.
On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, seconded by Mr. Holland, the board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously Approved

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