The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 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, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, Mr. Trent Akins, and Superintendent Richard Smith.


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

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

Public Participation: Will Wright, brother of Dustin Wright, spoke on behalf of the family about the efforts taking place to honoring Dustin. He expressed gratitude to the system for the prayers and the ceremony taking place before the game on Thursday night. The class of 2007 would like to place a permanent monument at Booster Stadium in Dustin’s memory. Chairman Williams suggested that the group work with Superintendent Richard Smith and Athletic Director Bill Benton for that purpose. He also expressed to the family condolences on behalf of the system.

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 regular September 14, 2017, meeting and the September 21, 2017 called meeting.

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mr. Smith shared information about the REACH scholars who were honored on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Five students from Toombs County Middle School signed commitment letters worth $10,000 upon graduation from high school to be used toward a college education. Those students are David Copeland, Kodie Cortez, Esmerelda Medel, Marlana Ramsey, and Adrianna Williams.

Monthly enrollment was shared with board members. While numbers were up from last month, we were still down about 21 students from last year.

The October newsletter was shared with board members. The issue highlighted the efforts of staff and students during Hurricane Irma.

There will be a special ceremony before the Toombs County vs. Benedictine game on Thursday night at 7:10 PM to honor Sergeant Dustin Wright and his fellow soldiers who gave their life defending their country last week.

The board was presented with the September Financial Reports for June, July, and August including the September SPLOST and Current Account Balance Reports. SPLOST was down slightly over the same period one year ago.
Mr. Smith and Mr. Chambers shared that there is a lot of surplus equipment and asked that the board give permission to dispose of these surplus items through public auction. On a motion made by Mrs. Wilkes and a second by Mr. Grimes, the board approved to give permission to hold an auction for the purpose of disposing of the surplus equipment.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Grimes and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board approved the agriculture department to purchase a Grasshopper Model 729BT Mower to be used in the horticulture program through a four year finance agreement. The mower will be completely funded by the Perkins Program Improvement Grant.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and a second by Mr. Grimes, the board allowed Mr. Smith to seek a Tax Anticipation Note for the purpose of operation for the remainder of the year, only to be used if necessary to meet payroll and operational expenses.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Grimes and second by Mr. Akins, the board voted to make up 2 student days missed due to Hurricane Irma.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower, seconded by Mr. Grimes, 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. 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 and a second by Mr. Akins, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: Melissa Boyett, teacher; Traci Shiver, receptionist; Suzanne Smith, extended day; Nancy O’Neal and Kathy Brown, Contracted Services. One classified resignation was approved: Glis Cribb, bus driver.

Unanimously Approved

The following policy updates recommended by GSBA, will be available for public review for one month, and brought before the board in November for action: JBCCA(2) & JBC.

Mrs. Anna Bullard gave a report on the 21st Century Grant Program. Services are provided for after school programs for students in grades one through eight. Over 155 students are served, and there are at least 300 applicants for the program. On a motion by Mr. Benton and a second by Mr. Bellflower the board accepted the $350,000 21st century grant funds for the FY2018 operation of the program, and an additional $20,000 GOSA grant funds for reading/literacy within the program.

Under new business, Mr. Holland asked that there be a teacher council to be established to make suggestions and voice complaints. Mr. Williams suggested that a few people from each school could be added to the existing Superintendent’s Advisory Council. Mr. Holland indicated that a few board members should be invited to attend as well. Further, Mr. Williams suggested that a working student council might be a good way to involve students in solving issues that our system faces.

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

Unanimously Approved