Toombs County Board Minutes
November 9, 2017, Page 1 of 3

The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Clint Williams, Chairman, Mr. Russ Benton, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mitch Bellflower, Mrs. Toni Wilkes, Mr. Trent Akins, and Superintendent Richard Smith. Michael Grimes was not in attendance.


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

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

Unanimously Approved

Kevyn Perez, student at TCHS, is being recognized with the Leadership without Limits Award from the University of Georgia. Mr. Larry Smith, the director of Migrant Programs, shared that Kevyn attended a summer program at the University of Georgia. In September, his family attended the parent migrant meeting in Perry, and there, Kevin was awarded a plaque for his outstanding participation and leadership at the summer program. He shared an inspiring presentation with the board of education and guests.

Mr. Smith recognized that all of the schools had been awarded certificates from the Georgia Accrediting Commission. Each school was denoted as “accredited with quality.”

Mr. Smith asked Mrs. Sears to speak about the Teacher of the Year Program. Mrs. Sears stated that teachers were selected by their peers to represent their schools. Mrs. Sears assembles a team from outside the school district to score the teachers to determine the system teacher of the year. Lyons Primary honored Jessica Toole; Lyons Upper Elementary honored Hollie Braddy; Toombs Central Elementary honored Andrea Kelley; Toombs County Middle honored Whitney Burkett; and Toombs County High honored Joey Montford. The 2018 Teacher of the Year for the Toombs County School System is Miss Whitney Burkett. The board of education recognized and congratulated all teachers on their accomplishments. Miss Burkett will represent TCS well at the state level competition.

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 October 10, 2017 meeting.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mr. Smith shared information concerning the recently released 2017 CCRPI scores. All schools saw improvement in these scores. TCHS saw a 3.9 point increase to a 66.3 CCRPI score; TCMS had a 4 point increase to make a 61.2 CCRPI score; TCES had a 6.3 point increase
Toombs County Board Minutes
November 9, 2017, Page 2 of 3

to make their 2017 CCRPI score an 89.3; LUES had an 8.3 point increase for a CCRPI score of 82.1. The board of education congratulated all schools on their efforts in improving schools.

Monthly enrollment was shared with board members. While numbers were up from last month, we were still down about 17 students from last year.

The board was presented with the October Financial Reports for including the September SPLOST and Current Account Balance Reports. SPLOST was up from last month. Further, the board was presented with account balances as of November 6, 2017; they were presented with the general fund budget standing, the monthly cash flow report, and the general ledger.

The board had previously approved the possible use of the Tax Anticipation Note to meet payroll for November. Due to the fact that the federal funds are slower to reimburse than anticipated, the TAN will be necessary to make payroll before Thanksgiving break as is the precedent.

On a motion by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, the board approved the policies placed on the table last month. The first policy is JBCCA(2), which includes the language regarding kinship caregiver and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the second policy is JBC, which includes a provisions for specific language “in compliance with current state and/or federal accountability requirements.”

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower and seconded by Mr. Akins, the board approved the replacement of the carpet at the board of education office. Graham Floor Covering submitted the low bid of $17,500. A deduction of $1,199.00 if the carpet is demolished by the school system.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mrs. Wilkes, 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 Mr. Holland and a second by Mr. Benton, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: Kaitlyn Stokes, teacher, Toombs County Middle School; Grayson Johnson, paraprofessional, LPS; Yolanda Springer, Food Service Worker, TCHS; Sherri Simmerly, Bus Driver, TCS; Crystal Rollins, Paraprofessional, TCES; Jennifer Cloud, Paraprofessional, TCHS. Also, the board accepted the following resignations: Rachel Cowart, teacher, TCES; Angela Kerns, teacher, TCMS; Carmen Rodgers, Paraprofessional, TCES. The board further accepted the retirement notice of Sherry Burton, Paraprofessional, LPS.

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower and a second by Mrs. Wilkes, the board approved Brenda Lee Thomas as paraprofessional at TCMS.

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

In other information, the board was presented a copy of the S & P Global Bond rating report. TCS has maintained its AA+ bond rating.

Further, the board was given a close-out letter from the GADOE on the 2016 audit. All findings have been corrected and closed.

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

Unanimously Approved