The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, December 14, 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, Mr. Jonathan Holland, Mr. Michael Grimes, and Superintendent Richard Smith.

Visitors in attendance were: Juli Alligood, Reggie Roberts, Julie Spivey, Judy Helgren, Angie Wilds, Kayci Howell, Kathy Roberts, Rickey Roberts, Hank Roberts, Falyn Holland, Stacy Reese, Tonya Sharpe, Terresa Winge, Pam Riner, Judy Whitaker, Kenny Whitaker, Jennifer Davis, Tonawanda Irie, Miranda Kight, Barry Waller, Rustin Parker, Vivian Hart, Kip Hart, Darel Corley, Tabatha Nobles, Bill Benton, Sabrina Woodruff, and Melanie McLemore.

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

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

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Smith asked Mrs. Woodruff to come forward and recognize the Debra Brantley Special Education Teacher of the Year. GLRS Director Jeannie Morris joined Mrs. Woodruff and honored Kathy Roberts with this prestigious award. Mrs. Roberts was recommended by her principal, Dr. Judy Helgren who commended Mrs. Roberts for her caring nature. Mrs. Roberts not only expressed gratitude for the presentation but she further noted how much she loved teaching young, special needs children and watching them succeed.

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 November 9, 2017 meeting as amended, and the LPS Field Trip to Orlando, FL. There was a correction in the first paragraph of the minutes. Mr. Holland’s attendance had been omitted.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mr. Smith shared and read the Cornerstone Community Partnership Proclamation with the Georgia Great Promise Partnership. This partnership seeks to advocate the productivity and success of young people. Toombs County is one of only seven communities in the state to be recognized with this partnership. Mr. Smith commended the board of education on their support of the community and this program.

Monthly enrollment was shared with board members. While numbers were up from last month, we were still down about 23 students from last year.

The board was presented with the November Financial Reports, including the October SPLOST and Current Account Balance Reports. SPLOST was down 8% from last October. Further, the board was presented with account balances as of December 2017; they were presented with the general fund budget standing, the monthly cash flow report, and the general ledger.

Mr. Smith noted that information had been gathered from teachers and leadership team members concerning Hurricane Irma make-up days. Mr. Smith recommended that Toombs County Schools make-up two days
from the three days lost from the storm. On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and a second by Mr. Grimes, the board approved that February 16, 2018 and March 15, 2018, previously holidays, be the days made up.

Unanimously Approved

The board training date of January 18, 2018, is problematic for one board member. Board members agreed that the training could be moved to a later date. The date will be determined in the January meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Akins, 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. Grimes, 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

Unanimously Approved

On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and a second by Mr. Grimes, the board approved the following recommendations: Employment Recommendation: Angie Collins, pre-k teacher, TCES; Brittany Wheeler, Food Service Worker, TCHS.

Unanimously Approved

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

Unanimously Approved