The Toombs County Board of Education met for its regular meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2018, 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, and Mr. Michael Grimes.

Visitors in attendance included: Kip Hart, Dorsey Hart, Rosemary Wickstrom, Anna Bullard, Noah Bullard, Ellie Bullard, Sabrina Woodruff and Carmen Roberts

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

On a motion by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. Akins, the board approved the consent agenda for the meeting which included the minutes of the July 12, 2018 regular meeting; the Local 165 Day Salary Schedule for Nurse’s and the Tax Hearing Notice Dates which are set for Thursday Aug. 30th at 11:00am and 6:00 pm as well as Thursday Sept. 13th during the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting at 6:30pm.

Unanimously Approved

During the Superintendent’s Report, Mr. Waller informed the Board of the Leadership Retreat which was held at the Toombs County Board of Education on July 26, 2018. School and System Improvement Planning and long term strategic planning for the Toombs County School System was the focus of the retreat.

On July 28, 2018, a community Back-to-School Bash was held at STC and all Toombs County Schools participated. The Bash was well attended by the community and appreciation was given to all those who participated and donated items to make this event successful for the students in our county.

On August 8, 2018 the Toombs County School System Social Media Team (ECHO TEAM) met to determine the venues which would be utilized to further enhance the Voice of the Toombs County School System. Each school in the Toombs County School System will have their own Twitter, Instagram and Facebook page and they will work to communicate with the public the positive contributions of their students, teachers and supporting community members.

August 9, 2018 was Open House in the Toombs County School System and Mr. Waller reported all schools experienced a successful Open House and the staff members are ready for the 1st Day of School on August 10, 2018.
Mr. Waller presented the board with the monthly financial reports which included the:

- July SPLOST Report
- General Fund Budget Report (Tentative)
- General Fund Monthly Cash Flow Report
- June Check Register for Fund 100, General Operations
- Amazon Purchases
- Ameris Account Balance

No action was required.

Mrs. Anna Bullard presented to the board and the public information regarding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. Mrs. Bullard reported that the Toombs County School System received a Grant Allocation of $350,000.00 for FY19. Mrs. Bullard reviewed the data for the 21st Century students, who attended the program during FY18, and the results, as measured by Georgia Milestones, indicated increased academic outcomes for its students. Although the 21st Century Program focuses on increased academic achievement for its students, the overall goal of the program is to develop the “whole child.” Academics, Arts, Social/Emotional Development and Physical Activities are utilized to grow each child for the purpose of individual productivity and giving back to the community. Mrs. Bullard thanked the Toombs County Schools for their support of the program. On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes, and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board voted to approve the $350,000 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Budget for FY19.

On a motion by Mr. Bellflower and 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
Jonathan Holland-Yes
Toni Wilkes-Yes
Clint Williams-Yes
Michael Grimes-Yes

On a motion by Mr. Grimes and seconded by Mr. Bellflower, the board voted to come out of executive session.
On a motion by Mrs. Wilkes and seconded by Mr. Akins, the board approved the following personnel recommendations:

Certified Employment Recommendations:  Kathy Roberts, TCES 49% SPED Pre-K Teacher

Classified Recommendations:  Greg Thompson, Bus Driver; Corbie Shaw, Food Service Assistant, TCHS; Melissa Joyce, Food Service Assistant, TCMS

Classified Resignations:  Traci Shiver, Receptionist; Norris Kennedy, Bus Driver; Nancy Simpson, Bus Driver; Rachel Denmark, Food Service Assistant; Amanda Singleton, Paraprofessional; Rex Johnson, Night Watchman

Mr. Waller provided the Board with information regarding a System-Wide Tailgate which will be held on September 7, 2018. All employees and their families are invited to “Tailgate” prior to the home football game. Donations for food will be provided by the schools and the board office. This event will be coordinated with the schools and additional information will be forthcoming to all.

Mr. Waller presented the board with updates regarding the State Security Grant allocation of $43,000.00. Currently, options for increased security include the addition of secured entryways for the schools of Toombs Central Elementary and Lyons Upper Elementary. Additionally, the addition of buzzers and cameras for Lyons Primary School and Toombs County Middle School’s front entryways is being considered. Quotes for these additions are being obtained.

In a partnership application process with the Lyons Police Department, Mr. Waller informed the Board that a Federal Security Grant if received would have a substantial impact on the additional security that could be provided to the school system, as well as providing resources for the Lyons Police Department. Further meetings with the Lyons Police Department will be held in the upcoming weeks.

On Saturday, September 8, 2018, a Remembrance Walk to Remember will be held to honor those fallen on September 11, 2001 and also dedicated to those who have lost their lives to ensure our freedoms. The Remembrance Walk will begin at STC and will end at TCHS. The Toombs County High School Auditorium will be utilized for this remembrance event.

No Old Business was presented.

Under New Business, Mr. Grimes expressed gratitude to the Board Members and to the Toombs County School System Employees who provided condolences to him during his family’s most recent loss.

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

Unanimously Approved