

Board of Education
Work and Executive Session Minutes
February 10, 2020, 5:30 P.M.
Gilmer County, Georgia

Gilmer County Board of Education

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Watkins.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Watkins (Vice-Chair), Jim Parmer, Tom Ocobock
Michael Bramlett (Chairman) and Doug Pritchett

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Shanna Downs, Daniel Marshall, Marianne Gudger, Lottie Mitchell, Katrina Kingsley, Stuart Sheriff, Sarah West, Charles Walker, Trina Penland, Linda Waters, Kim Cagle, Greg Burrell, Nicole Pike, Lauree Pierce and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Kayla Hudson, Obdulia Monraga, Charlotte Cook, Lillian Cook, Judy Bates, Samantha Weaver, Kade Miller, Lonnie Adams with FYN, Emmett Farist, Janie Farist and Herman Clark.

Dr. Downs recommended approval for the Work Session agenda as presented. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Parmer to approve the Work Session agenda. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

The Invocation was led by Brondy Davis from Tails Creek Baptist Church.

The Pledge was led by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- a. Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) Award: Dr. Downs congratulated Ellijay Elementary School (EES) who received the SSAS Award from the Georgia Department of Education for being in the 97th percentile in the state for academic gains among students.
- b. Honor Band: Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, introduced Mr. Joe Pflueger, Band Director from Gilmer High School who presented awards to students who participated in an Honor Band this year. The awards are as follows; 2019-2020 9th District, Young Harris College and Reinhardt University Honor Band – Elizabeth Chessner and Xandrea Dantin. 2019-2020 Young Harris College and Reinhardt University Honor Band – Mallory Layne and Valeria Cecilio. 2019-2020 Reinhardt University Honor Band – Maira Gonzalez. 2019-2020 Young Harris College Honor Band – Hannah Walker, Frida Nieto, Raul Gonzalez, Jasmin Wright, Kenneth Withrow and Alba Monraga-Telles. 2019-2020 9th District and Young Harris Honor Band – Jenna Cole. 2019-2020 University of Alabama Honor

Band – Nathaniel McClure. 2019-2020 9th District Honor Band and Georgia All-State Band – Kristen Von.

- c. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Essay: Ms. Cagle introduced Ms. Kayla Hudson with DAR who presented an award to this year's essay winner Lilian Cook who is a 5th grade student at Mountain View Elementary.
- d. Clear Creek Middle School (CCMS) Wrestling: CCMS Wrestling Coaches Walt Monroe and Bo Dorsey presented awards to the wrestlers who placed 3rd in the 2019-2020 State Duels Championship. The awards are as follows; Bregan Berry, Hayden Berry, Atalin Chastain, Harrison Chester, Kaleb Davis, Pascual Escobar, Carson Farist, Isreal Francisco, Koby Kincaid, Christopher Madden, Kade Miller, Trace Morton, Carter Ortis, Elias Ramirez, Alex Raymundo, Taylor Schiesser, Bryson Shubin-Gibbs, David Tercero and Aldin Tiniguar.

Consent Items:

Dr. Downs noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday February 13, 2020:

- Board Minutes:
 - January 9, 2020, Called Meeting
 - January 13, 2020, Work and Executive Session
 - January 16, 2020, Regular Session
- Out of State/Overnight Field Trips:
 - Academic Field Trips: (See Attachment)
 - Student Activities/Athletic-Based Field Trips: (See Attachment)
 - Fund Raising Request (None)

Superintendent's Report:

1. **Academic Achievement:** CCMS Response to Intervention (RTI) Program: Ms. Nicole Pike, Principal at CCMS introduced teachers Ms. Marianne Gudger and Ms. Tracy Jenkins. Ms. Gudger and Ms. Jenkins spoke to the Board about the RTI Program that is implemented at CCMS. Students are able to receive extra help in different areas of learning. Students are also able to go to the local community college and the high school to encourage learning and graduation. This helps students get an idea of the opportunities beyond school. With the program students MAPS scores have improved along with their level of learning.
2. **Parent and Community Engagement:** Mentoring Program: Ms. Lottie Mitchell, Chief Academic Officer and Mr. Daniel Marshall, Counselor at GHS spoke to the Board regarding the newly implemented Mentor Program at GHS. Collaborative On Rivers Edge (CORE) recently partnered with GHS to bring mentors to students. Mentors go through an application process along with fingerprinting and a background check. Once the application process is complete applicants attend training on becoming a student mentor. The mentor is required to meet with their student/mentee twice a month. Currently there are 47 active matches, 8 mentors waiting for a match and 4 mentees waiting for a match. There have been 277 reported sessions with 290.5 logged mentor

hours. Mr. Marshall encouraged anyone who would like to become a mentor to reach out to CORE to start the process.

3. **High Performing Culture and Workforce:** Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed further in Executive Session.
4. **Operational Effectiveness:**
 - a. Construction Update: Mr. Stuart Sheriff, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services updated the Board on the construction projects that have or will be taking place within the system.
 - Phase III of the GHS Renovation will take place this summer with bidding starting in early April and construction beginning at the end of May. Renovation will include new flooring, ceiling tiles and paint for the classrooms. Mr. Sheriff noted that with the end of Phase III the high school renovation will be complete.
 - Bids are currently being received for the construction of CCES. Bids will be received up until 3p.m. on Tuesday February 18, 2020. After the bid opening, the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be determined by Charles Black Construction. Once the GMP has been approved by the Board construction can begin and a concrete pad is expected to be in place 60 days after.
 - A survey team visited on Thursday February 6, 2020 to review the districts 5 Year Local Facilities Plan. The team commended the district on developing an excellent facilities plan designed to meet the instructional needs of the students in Gilmer County. The district received overwhelming positive feedback. A resolution to Approve Local Facilities Plan will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday February 13, 2020.
 - b. Legislative Delegate and Alternate: Dr. Downs spoke to the Board regarding the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) Delegate Nomination. Dr. Downs explained that school boards across the state is asked to nominate a delegate to represent his or her Board and to propose changes to the 2021 GSBA Legislative Positions if they wish to do so. Dr. Downs stated that a recommendation will be to nominate a delegate at the Regular Session on Thursday February 13, 2020.
 - c. Legislative Position Suggestions: Dr. Down referred to the packet in the Boards folder regarding the current legislative positions of the GSBA.
 - d. Compliance/Policy (First Reading): The following policies were presented for first reading in order to comply with recent changes in the law and/or GSBA recommendations to update the current wording:
 - Policy IHE Promotion and Retention
 - Policy IHF Graduation Requirements
 - Policy JGF Student Safety
 - Policy JGF(2) Seclusion or Restraint of Students
 - Policy GARH Employee Leaves and Absences

Dr. Downs explained that these policies will be posted on the GCSS Website for public review and comment before a second reading at the Board of Education Work Session on March 13, 2020. Subject to feedback and public deliberations, these will be voted upon at the Regular Session on March 19, 2020.

- a. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in September and have been posted on the GCSS website for public comment and also sent to GSBA for legal counsel review.
 - Policy AFC Emergency Closings
 - Policy CMA Administrative Rules
 - Policy DFK Gifts and Bequests
 - Policy GCRA (1) Drug Screening of Bus Drivers
 - Policy GCRG Classified Personnel Leaves
And Absences (rescind)

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in September and have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. The policies received no public comment. Policy GCRG Classified Personnel Leaves received legal suggestion to rescind due to the policy being redundant to Policy GARH Employee Leaves and Absences. Dr. Downs noted that policies are set for approval at the Regular Session February 13, 2020.

5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – February 2020: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- b. Nutrition:
 - i. School Nutrition Report – December 2019: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition, presented the School Nutrition Report for December 2019 to the Board.
 - ii. Student Participation Report – December 2019: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition, presented the School Participation Report for December 2019 to the Board.
- c. Budget Update:
 - i. FY2020 Financial Summary – December 2019 Ms. Penland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY 2020 Financial Summary- December 2019 to the Board.
 - ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – February 2020: Ms. Penland, Chief Financial Officer, also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for February 2020.

- iii. School Activity Accounts – December 2019: Ms. Penland, Chief Financial Officer, also presented the Board the School Activity Accounts – December 2019 to the Board.

Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:

- Dr. Downs advised the Board to check with the local courthouse for due date of the Board member's annual financial disclosure.
- Clear Creek Elementary will be built with a "Heritage Wall" Dr. Downs asked if anyone would like to contribute to the wall with memorabilia to please do so.
- The annual Board Retreat and Public Budget Hearing will be held on Friday March 20, 2020.
- Groundbreaking for Clear Creek Elementary is tentatively set for Friday March 20, 2020 after the Public Budget Hearing.
- Ladycats will be playing Northeast tonight at 7:00pm at Southeast Whitfield for the Region 6AAAA Championship. Ladycats at home for state playoff will likely be held Friday, February 14, 2020 pending win.
- Wrestlers will be competing at the State Traditional Championships on Thursday through Saturday. They will be attempting to win a team championship in addition to several individual titles.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Ocobock and second by Mr. Watkins to enter Executive Session for Real Estate, Personnel, School Safety Plans and Litigation. Motion carried. All voted Yes. Attorney Herman Clark also attended the Executive Session.

Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Ocobock to exit Executive Session. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Watkins and second by Mr. Ocobock all voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

Mr. Bramlett, Chairman

Submitted by: _____
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk