

Board of Education
Work and Executive Session Minutes
March 16, 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. Bramlett.

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, Lindy Patterson, Kim Cagle, Trina Penland,
John Call, Linda Waters, Bob Sosebee and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Steve Dusek, Lonnie Adams, Robbie Bills and Herman Clark.

Dr. Downs recommended approval for the Work Session agenda with minor changes. Dr. Downs spoke to the Board about the current guidelines regarding COVID-19 and large gatherings. With the guidelines in place there will be no presentations and recognitions at this time. Motion by Mr. Ocobock and second by Mr. Watkins to approve the Work Session agenda. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

The Invocation was led by Steve Dusek from The Orchard Church.

The Pledge was led by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions: Tentatively rescheduled for the Work Session on April 13, 2020.

Consent Items:

Dr. Downs noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday March 19, 2020:

- Board Minutes:
 - February 10, 2020 Work and Executive Session
 - February 13, 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:** Dr. Downs noted that Mountain View Elementary was scheduled to have students give a presentation. That presentation has been tentatively rescheduled for the Work Session on April 13, 2020.

2. **Parent and Community Engagement: 2020-2021 Academic Calendars:** Dr. Downs explained that an email was sent to parents, students and staff of the Gilmer County School System with a link to the 2020-2021 calendar survey. Each link could only be used once and a spreadsheet was created to verify that each email was only able to vote once. The district received 1,538 responses to the survey. Calendar #1 which is almost identical to Cherokee County and similar to Cobb and Paulding Counties was preferred and received 60% of the votes. Calendar #2 which is similar to recent Gilmer calendars received 28.74% of the votes. Calendar #3 which is similar to Fannin County received only 10.66% of the votes. Dr. Downs add that based on the response from the districts stakeholders a recommendation to approve Calendar #1 for the 2020-2021 School Year will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday March 19, 2020.
3. **High Performing Culture and Workforce: Personnel:** Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed further in Executive Session.
4. **Operational Effectiveness:**
 - a. **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 JAA Equal Educational Opportunities
 - Policy JB Students Attendance
 - Policy JBC(1) Homeless Students
 - Policy JBC(3) Social Security Numbers
 - Policy EBBF Safety Inspections
 - Policy DIE Fraud Prevention

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 April 13, 2020. Subject to feedback and public deliberations, these will be voted upon at the Regular Session on April 16, 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 IHE Promotion and Retention
 - Policy IHF Graduation Requirements
 - Policy JGF Student Safety
 - Policy JFG(2) Seclusion or Restraints of Students
 - Policy GARH Employ Leaves and Absences

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in February and have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. The policies received no public comment. The district has received feedback from administration and from legal counsel. Changes made to Policies IHE Promotion and Retention, IHG Graduation Requirements and GARH Employee Leaves and Absences were discussed. Dr. Downs noted that policies are set for approval at the Regular Session March 19, 2020.

5. Fiscal Accountability:

- a. Phase II GHS Renovation Resolution: Dr. Downs noted that the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) Facilities division requires a resolution by our district to apply for entitlement funds for the GHS Phase II Renovation. A recommendation for approval of the resolution will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday March 19, 2020.
- b. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – March 2020: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- c. Nutrition:
 - i. School Nutrition Report – January 2020: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition, presented the School Nutrition Report for January 2020 to the Board.
 - ii. Student Participation Report – January 2020: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition, presented the School Participation Report for January 2020 to the Board.
- d. Budget Update:
 - i. FY2020 Financial Summary – January 2020 Ms. Penland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY 2020 Financial Summary- January 2020 to the Board.
 - ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – March 2020: Ms. Penland, Chief Financial Officer, also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for March 2020.

Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:

- Dr. Downs updated the Board on the district's plan regarding COVID-19. At this time Gilmer County Schools will take the closure day by day unless instructed otherwise.
- Clear Creek Elementary will be built with a "Heritage Wall" Dr. Downs asked if anyone would like to contribute to the wall with memorabilia from any Gilmer County Elementary School that has been closed to please do so.
- The annual Board Retreat and Public Budget Hearing will be held on Friday March 20, 2020. The Board Retreat will be held at the Larry Walker Education Center and then recess to move to the Administrative and Technology Office for the Public Budget Hearing at 2:15 p.m.

- Groundbreaking for Clear Creek Elementary set for Friday March 20, 2020 after the Public Budget Hearing has been canceled in light of recent events. This event will not be rescheduled to allow the construction to begin.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session:

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

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Ocobock and second by Mr. Parmer all voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

Mr. Bramlett, Chairman

Submitted by: _____
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk