

Board of Education  
Board Retreat and Budget Hearing Minutes  
March 20, 2020, 9:00 A.M.  
Gilmer County, Georgia

### **Gilmer County Board of Education**

Members and Staff present: Dr. Shanna Downs, Michael Bramlett, Doug Pritchett, Ronald Watkins, Jim Parmer, Tom Ocobock, and Emily Plumley

Guest present: Dr. Sam DePaul, Director of North Georgia RESA

- I. The meeting was called to order at **9:00 am** by Chairman Michael Bramlett.
- II. Dr. Downs recommended that the board approve the agenda for the retreat. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Ocobock. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- III. Dr. Downs explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order when a meeting resolves itself into Committee of the Whole, discussion is freer and limitations are removed regarding the number of times a board member can speak in a debate. Dr. Downs recommended that the board resolve itself to a Committee of the Whole to participate in the annually required 3 hours of whole board training. Motion by Mr. Parmer and second by Mr. Ocobock. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- IV. Board participated in whole board training conducted by Dr. Sam DePaul from North Georgia RESA. Dr. DePaul trained the Board on Board Roles and Responsibilities as a committee of the whole.
- V. Athletics: Dr. Downs presented the Board with a presentation prepared by Matt Johnson, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Gilmer High School. The presentation consisted of improvements made and achievements within the athletic department over the past year.
- VI. Dr. Downs stated that the Strategic Plan is divided into 5 target areas. Each area is led by a district director with background in each said area. Once the Strategic Plan was adopted every board meeting has revolved around it and the goals therein. Dr. Downs presented the Board a brief summary of the updated Strategic Plan. The board reviewed and discussed each section of the strategic plan offering suggestions for edits to the strategic plan.
- VII. Operational Effectiveness: Facilities: Dr. Downs introduced Doug Breaux with Breaux and Associates Architect and Allen Mauney with Charles Black Construction Company. Mr. Breaux and Mr. Mauney presented and discussed with the Board the final plans for Clear Creek Elementary School.
- VIII. **2:00 pm** Dr. Downs recommended to move from Committee of the Whole to recess to move to the Administrative and Technology Office to conduct the Public Budget Hearings. Motion by Mr. Ocobock second by Mr. Watkins to recess. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

**IX. 2:15pm** Dr. Downs recommended a motion to reconvene from recess and Committee of the Whole into Regular Session to conduct the first of two required annual Public Budget Hearings. Dr. Downs stated the public hearing has been advertised in the local paper, GCCSS website and posted outside the Administrative Technology Office as required by law. Motion by Mr. Watkins and second by Mr. Parmer to move into Regular Session. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

- Dr. Downs noted that the advertisement for the budget hearing was in accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-167 which provides the opportunity for public comment on the budget for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Downs stated the board is planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> required Public Budget hearing for the Regular Session in May. At which time the board will seek public input and approve the FY21 tentative budget for advertisement in the local media. Dr. Downs explained a special called meeting would be held after advertising the tentative budget for the minimum of 14 days or the board will plan to approve the final budget at the boards Regular Session in June. Dr. Downs stated the budget is primarily developed by working from this year's numbers and investigating possible changes towards next year. Dr. Downs explained that 85% of GCCSS annual budget is personnel and that there is a projected increase in cost for selected positions. Dr. Downs explained that due to the Governor's proposed salary increases for teachers and staff, the district is projecting to spend another \$250K as a net cost to the system. The reason being is that the state has only allocated funds for earned positions. Dr. Downs stated that the district has staff beyond what is "earned" from the state. Dr. Downs also noted that for the first time in several years TRS has decreased from 21.14% to 19.06%. There had been an increase in TRS over the recent years going from 11.41% in FY13 to 21.14% in FY20.
- Chief Financial Officer, Trina Penland and Dr. Downs presented five-year budget projections focusing mainly on estimated changes in revenues and expenditures for FY21.

**XI. Public Participation:** None

**X. Adjourn:** Motion by Mr. Ocobock and second by Mr. Pritchett to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Motion Carried. All voted Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

---

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

---

Mr. Bramlett, Chairman

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk