

Board of Education
Work and Executive Session Minutes
May 18, 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: Michael Bramlett (Chairman), Ronald Watkins (Vice-Chair)
Jim Parmer, Tom Ocobock and Doug Pritchett

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Shanna Downs, Trina Penland, Kim Cagle, Lottie Mitchell,
Lindy Patterson, Bob Sosebee, Linda Waters and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Lonnie Adams from FYN, Herman Clark and Robbie Bills

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

Invocation was led by Ryan Ocoboock

The Pledge by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Dr. Downs recognized the Optimist Club of Gilmer County for honoring this year's graduates. Members made handmade signs displaying seniors name and lined them on the roads throughout the city.
- Dr. Downs thanked the community for the overwhelming support in donating food to Gilmer Schools food pantry and the emergency fund. Dr. Downs noted that several students have been receiving food on a weekly basis from the high school. The emergency fund is set aside when the district's social worker identifies the need of a student.
- Dr. Downs recognized Gilmer County's Christian Learning Center (CLC) for donating over 100 goody bags to those who help distribute meals to students.
- Dr. Downs announced that Gilmer County Schools earned the award of Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting for FY19.

Consent Items:

Dr. Downs noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday May 22, 2020:

- Board Minutes:
 - April 13, 2020, Work and Executive Session
 - April 16, 2020, Regular Session
 - April 27, 2020, Called Meeting

Superintendent's Report:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Summer Enrichment Plans: Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Ms. Lottie Mitchell, Chief Academic Officer spoke to the Board regarding summer enrichment plans for students. Ms. Cagle announced to the Board that Summer Support will be offered to students with disabilities 4 days a week for the month of June. Students who are registered will receive 30 minutes of support daily via virtually or over the phone. Ms. Mitchell explained that grades PK-8 will have access to Choice Boards. The boards will offer various creative, hands-on activities that involve critical thinking in every content area. Students may request a board in a higher or lower level based upon their individual needs. Students who were issued Chromebooks grades 6-11 will be allowed to keep them over the summer. Each school will offer educational links either via the school's website or social media. Ms. Mitchell also explained that with funds provided by the L4GA grant books will be available for students and siblings at the summer feeding sites and also at the library kiosks through out town. Ms. Mitchell also announced that along the walking trail at the park there will be a "Story Walk" which will run along the 2-mile trail. Posts with laminated inserts of a book will be in the ground so all who walk the trail can stop and read a book a long the way. The stories are interchangeable and will rotate every 6 weeks.
2. **Parent and Community Engagement:** Open House in July: Ms. Lindy Patterson, Director of Federal Programs announced that schools have planned to hold "End of the Year" celebrations beginning the second week in July, considering large gathering regulations are lifted. Students will be able to retrieve belongings from lockers, receive yearbooks, pay any over due fines and return sports equipment, instruments etc. List of dates and times will be posted on the district's website, each of the school's individual website and social media.
3. **High Performing Culture and Workforce:** Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
4. **Operational Effectiveness:**
 - a. Fuel and Disposal Bids: Mr. Bob Sosebee, Director of Facilities presented the Board the results of the bids for fuel and disposal for SY20-21. A recommendation for approval of the fuel and disposal bids will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday May 21, 2020. They are as follows:
 - Fuel – Thomas Oil
 - Oil – Cherry Log Petroleum
 - Propane – Appalachian Propane
 - Batteries – Voltex

- Tires –
 - New Tires – Snider Tire Inc.
 - Retread Tires – Snider Tire Inc.
 - Mounted Tires – Hensley Tire Co.
 - Filters – O’Riley Auto Parts
- b. 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 GAAA Equal Opportunity Employment
 - Policy GAE Complaints and Grievances
 - Policy GAMA Drug-Free Workplace
 - Policy GBKA Professional Personnel Lay-Off

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 June 22, 2020. Subject to feedback and public deliberations, these will be voted upon at the Regular Session on June 25, 2020.

- c. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in June and have been posted on the GCSS website for public comment and also sent to GSBA for legal counsel review. Dr. Downs noted no changes have been recommended.
- Policy DFC Federal Funds
 - Policy FGAD Architects Responsibilities in Facilities Projects
 - Policy GCRH Classified Personnel Vacations

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in April and have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. The policies received no public comment. Dr. Downs noted that policies are set for approval at the Regular Session May 21, 2020.

5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – May 2020: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- b. Nutrition:
- School Nutrition Report – March 2020: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of Nutrition presented the School Nutrition Report - March 2020
 - Student Participation Report – March 2020: Ms. Waters also presented the Student Participation Report – March 2020.
- c. Budget Update:

- i. FY20-21 GCSS Athletic Supplements: Dr. Downs presented the Board with the FY20-21 GCSS Athletic Supplements. A recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday May 21, 2020.
- ii. FY2020 Financial Summary – March 2020: Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the FY 2020 Financial Summary for March 2020 to the Board.
- iii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – May 2020: Ms. Penland also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for May 2020.
- iv. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – May 2020: Ms. Penland also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for May 2020.
- v. School Activity Accounts – March 2020: Ms. Penland also presented the Board the School Activity Accounts for March 2020.

Superintendent's Announcements/Comments: None

Public Participation: None

Executive Session:

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

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Watkins all voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

Mr. Bramlett, Chairman

Submitted by: _____
 Emily Plumley, Board Clerk