

Board of Education
Work and Executive Session Minutes
December 14, 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, Carla Foley, Trina Penland, Matt Johnson, Lottie Mitchell, Linda Waters, Charles Walker, Bob Sosebee, Lauree Pierce, Stephanie Burnette, Todd Gearhart, Katrina Kingsley and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Julie Mullins, Drexell Staley, Joe Pflueger, Cody Bearden and Michael Parks

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. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Invocation was led by Pastor Cody Bearden from Boardtown Church of Christ.

The Pledge by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent introduced Principals; Stephanie Burnette – CCES, Nicole Pike – CCMS and Carla Foley – GHS who presented awards to each of the schools Veteran's Day 2020 Poster/Essay winners. Poster Contest winners are as follows: CCES – Maylee Bramlett – 3rd Grade, Celi Domingo – 4th Grade and Elaniah Cox – 5th Grade. Essay Contest winners are as follows: CCMS – Gracie Gaitanoglou – 7th Grade and Deacon Shull – 8th Grade. GHS – Jaxon Frady, Emily Chesser, Rosa Puac and Carlos Hernandez Jimenez.
- Ms. Cagle also introduced GHS Athletic Director, Matt Johnson who presented the 2020 AAA Softball 2nd Team All State award to Macy Hamby and Jasmine Staley.
- Octavia Bushey was presented an award for being the National FFA Champion in Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship.

Consent Items:

Dr. Downs noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday December 17, 2020:

- Board Minutes:
 - November 16, 2020, Work and Executive Session
 - November 19, 2020, Regular Session
- Out of State and Overnight Field Trips (see attached)
- Fundraising Requests (see attached)

Superintendent's Report:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Parent Student Handbook: Dr. Downs reminded the Board that the Parent Student Handbook was approved in the summer for the 20-21SY. Since the handbooks approval it has come to the attention of the high school administration that minor changes need to be made. This change will meet the needs of virtual students. Courses such as CTAE are not available for the virtual option which it is a current requirement for graduation. Dr. Downs asked the Board to consider allowing a world language to be used as a substitution for those courses. Dr. Downs noted that if it was the wishes of the Board a recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday December 17, 2020 to allow the change in the Parent Student Handbook.
2. **Parent and Community Engagement:** Little Free Libraries: Ms. Katrina Kingsley, Pre-K Director spoke to the Board regarding the Little Free Libraries that can be found throughout the community. Funding from the LAGA Literacy grant has helped put books in the hands of children in Gilmer County through these library kiosks. The books are free to those who wish to take one and there are currently 7 Little Free Libraries are in place with an 8th location coming soon. There are over 100,00 libraries in over 100 countries throughout the world. Ms. Kingsley thanked everyone that has been a part of the project and encouraged the community to take advantage of the books offered.
3. **High Performing Culture and Workforce:** Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
4. **Operational Effectiveness:**
 - a. CCES Update: Dr. Downs presented a video to the Board from Breaux & Associates Architects showing the progress that has been done on Clear Creek Elementary School (CCES). The video featured a look inside of the school and highlighting areas such as the gym, common area and hallways.
 - b. 2021 Board Meeting Dates: Dr. Downs reminded the Board that each year the Board sets and approves Board meeting dates for the upcoming year. Board meeting dates are planned around holidays, breaks and professional learning events. Included in the Board packets is a Board meeting calendar. After discussion it was the wishes of the Board to table the 2021 Board Meeting Dates until January when new Board members will take seat on the Board.
 - c. 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 EE Food Services Management
 - Policy EEE Wellness Program
 - Policy GANA Infectious Diseases
 - Policy JCDAE Weapons
 - Policy JGFGB Concussion Management

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 January 25, 2021. Subject to feedback and public deliberations, these will be voted upon at the Regular Session on January 28, 2021.

- d. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in November. Dr. Downs noted that one policy, one exhibit and one rule is recommended for Board approval.
- Policy BBA Board Officers
 - Policy BCBI-E(1) – Public Participation in Board Meetings-Request
 - Policy BCBI-R(1) Public Participation in Board Meetings

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in November. All policies 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 December 17, 2020.

5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. CCES Kitchen Equipment Purchase: Dr. Downs spoke to the Board regarding the kitchen equipment purchase at CCES. Equipment prices are expected to rise in the beginning of 2021 therefore Board approval is needed to secure the price reflected in the attached quotes. Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition added that the equipment will be stored with the vendors until they are installed closer to completion date. Dr. Downs noted that a recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday December 17, 2020.
- b. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – December 2020: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- c. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – October 2020: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition presented the School Nutrition Report – October 2020 to the Board.
- d. Budget Update:
- i. FY2020 Financial Summary – October 2020: Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the FY 2020 Financial Summary for October 2020 to the Board.
 - ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – December 2020: Ms. Penland also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for December 2020.
 - iii. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – December 2020: Ms. Penland also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for December 2020.

Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:

- Dr. Downs updated the Board on the number of positive COVID-19 cases with the district. The number of positives cases have had a small spike while the number of those quarantined has risen. Dr. Downs announced that Gilmer County Schools will not shut down before Christmas break due to the spike. Dr. Downs also noted that for some student's school is a safe haven with a warm meal and positive reinforcement. Updated COVID-19 numbers can be found on the district's website.

Public Participation: None

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Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Ocobock and second by Mr. Pritchett to enter Executive Session for Real Estate, Personnel, School Safety Plans and Litigation. Motion carried. All voted Yes. Attorney David 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 to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

Mr. Bramlett, Chairman

Submitted by: _____
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk