

Board of Education  
Work and Executive Session Minutes  
February 22, 2021 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:** Michael Bramlett, Ronald Watkins (Chairman), Michael Parks, Joe Pflueger and Doug Pritchett (Vice-Chairman),

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Shanna Downs, Lauree Pierce, Dana Penland, Matt Johnson, Tiffany Boyette, Kelly Arnold, Stephanie Burnette, Josh Ghobadpoor, Rena Capstick, Nicole Pike, Carla Foley, Charles Walker, Kim Cagle, Lottie Mitchell, Mary-Melissa May, Lindy Patterson and Emily Plumley

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Lonnie Adams from FYN, Hope Bridges, Herman Clark, Amy Woodring, Payton Woodring and Mark Luchauer

Dr. Downs recommended approval for the Work Session agenda as presented with two additions. A request from the Board was received to add Calendar as the last item under Operational Effectiveness. Also, the addition of State Wrestling Duals Information as last item under Parent and Community Engagement. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett to approve the Work Session agenda. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Invocation was led by Eric Colson from Covenant Community.

The Pledge by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent introduced GHS Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Mr. Matt Johnson who introduced GHS swim coach Mary-Melissa May and assistant Swim coach Alton Guidry. Coach May and Coach Guidry recognized GHS junior Payton Woodring who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in both AAA State 100 Backstroke and AAA State 200 Freestyle.
- Mr. Johnson also introduced GHS Wrestling coach, Coach Ghobadpoor recognized the following Area V Traditional Champion wrestlers and runner-ups. The awards are as follows: Carson Farist, Arturo Gonzalez, Walter Lopez, Kellen Watts, Gaspar Perez, Ronald Pierce, Brock Sumner, Diego Jacinto, Abel Jacinto, Miguel Jacinto, Daniel Reynoso, Owen Moss, Dylan Galloway and Tony Olea. In the Girls Division Taylor Schiesser placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in State.

#### **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 25, 2021:

- Board Minutes:
  - January 25, 2021, Work and Executive Session
  - January 28, 2021, Regular Session
- Out of State and Overnight Field Trips (see attached)

**Superintendent's Report:****1. Academic Achievement:**

- a. MAP Growth Report Kindergarten – 2nd: Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Lottie Mitchell spoke to the Board regarding MAP testing and growth in Reading and Math amongst students in Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This testing helps teachers target areas where students may need extra instruction or where students may advance to the next level of learning. MAP testing is administered during the fall and spring to determine student growth.
- b. Clear Creek Elementary: Ms. Stephanie Burnett, Principal at CCES introduced Academic Coach, Ms. Dana Penland, Ms. Patricia Ellis and students from Ms. Ellis's who class presented their STEM projects to the Board. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and is offered as an enrichment to student who have tested for gifted. During STEM enrichment students are able to create projects using everyday items. It promotes creativity, problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills. Next year at CCES STEM enrichment will be offered to all students.

**2. Parent and Community Engagement:**

- a. Attendance Data: Ms. Lindy Patterson, Director of State and Federal Programs and Title XI Coordinator presented the Board with attendance data collected over the past 3 years. The number of days students have missed have declined which means students have been present for instruction. Overall student present at school in February 2021 was 90.87%.
- b. Wrestling Duals Information: Gilmer High School Principal Ms. Carla Foley spoke to the Board regarding the recent decision from Georgia Highschool Sports Association (GHSA). During the State Duals Championship North Hall High School wrestled an ineligible wrestler and was sited by GHSA. Due to the wrestler's ineligibility North Hall forfeited the State Duals Championship title. Ms. Foley spoke with GHSA officials regarding the title being awarded to Gilmer High School. By laws in the GHSA Constitution prevents the title from being awarded to any school in the event it is forfeited. Gilmer High School is not eligible to appeal this decision because the ruling does not involve GHS wrestlers.

**3. High Performing Culture and Workforce:**

- a. Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
- b. Annual School Personnel Renewal: Dr. Downs reminded the Board that last month district level staff was approved. Letters of intent were sent to staff to determine who wishes to return for the 21-22 SY. Based upon responses received principals and directors have made their recommendations for staff. At the regular session on Thursday, February 25, 2021 a recommendation will be made for these staff renewals for the upcoming year.
- c. Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES): Dr. Downs presented the Board with a presentation regarding the LKES used to evaluate district principals. The LKE system was developed by the Georgia Department of Education for the purpose to continually support the growth and development of school leaders. The system is used to provide district leaders with meaningful feedback, professional learning opportunities and the flexibility to innovate.

#### 4. **Operational Effectiveness:**

- a. **CCES Update:** Dr. Downs presented a video to the Board produced by 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 an aerial view of the property. All video updates can be found on the districts YouTube channel via the link found at [www.gilmerschools.com](http://www.gilmerschools.com).
- b. **Amended Board Training Plan:** Dr. Downs explained that each year districts are required to submit a district local board training plan for individual board member training and whole board training requirements resulting from an assessment identifying areas for board governance improvement. The training plan was previously submitted in September. Due to the change in the Board an amended plan must be submitted. A recommendation to approve the amended training plan will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday February 25, 2021.
- c. **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 2022 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 25,2021.
- 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 BCBK Executive Sessions
  - Policy BD Policy Development
  - Policy BD-R(1) Policy Development

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 at next month's meeting. Subject to feedback and public deliberations, these will be voted upon at the Regular Session in March.

- e. **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 GBC Professional Personnel Recruitment
  - Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities  
Grades 6-12
  - Policy IDFC Community Coaches

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in January. All policies have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. The policies received no public comment; however, changes have been recommended to Policy GBC Professional Personnel Recruitment to remove the word "lateral". Dr. Downs also received interests from the Board in amending Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities Grades 6-12. Policy IDFC Community Coaches received multiple recommendations from both GSBA Legal Counsel and Gilmer High School Athletic

Director. After brief discussion it was the wishes of the Board to table Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities until March. Dr. Downs noted that policies are set for approval at the Regular Session February 25, 2021.

- f. Calendar: Dr. Downs addressed concerns from the Board regarding the Calendar for the 2021-2022 SY. It is the wishes of the Board to set guidelines for the upcoming calendar in terms of the start and end dates. Dr. Downs notes as part of GCSS charter, School Governance Teams must have input as to school calendars. After receiving input from the attending principals and discussion from the Board it was determined that preplanning would not begin before August and post planning would go no later than the first week of June.

#### 5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – February 2021: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- b. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – December 2020: Dr. Downs presented the School Nutrition Report – December 2020 to the Board.
- c. Budget Update:
  - i. FY2020 Financial Summary – December 2020: Dr. Downs presented the FY 2020 Financial Summary for December 2020 to the Board.
  - ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – February 2021: Dr. Downs also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for February 2021.
  - iii. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – February 2021: Dr. Downs also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for February 2021.
  - iv. School Activity Accounts – December 2020: Dr. Downs also presented the Board the School Activity Accounts – December 2020.

#### **Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:**

- Dr. Downs announced that the Ladycats were hosting their first round of region play-offs at the GHS gym on Tuesday February 23, 2021.
- Dr. Downs also announced that the annual Board Retreat will be held at the LWEC professional learning room on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Public Budget Hearing at 4:00 p.m. also at the LWEC.

**Public Participation:** None

#### **Executive Session:**

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

**Adjourn:**

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Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Bramlett to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

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Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Mr. Watkins, Chairman

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