

Board of Education
Work and Executive Session Minutes
March 15, 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. Downs, Lottie Mitchell, Jessica Chastain, Jordan Hice, Nicole Pike, Lauree Pierce, Trina Penland, Linda Waters, Kelly Arnold, Stephanie, Burnette, Lindy Patterson, Bob Sosebee, Matt Johnson, Kim Cagle, Charles Walker, Les McDaniel, Tina McDaniel and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Jud Hall, Jim Parmer and Mark Luchauer

Dr. Downs recommended approval for the Work Session agenda as presented. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett to approve the Work Session agenda. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Invocation was led by Shane Duggan from New Hope Baptist Church.

The Pledge by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent introduced GHS Athletic Director and Assistant Principal Mr. Matt Johnson who in turn introduced GHS Boys Basketball Coach Jordan Hice. Coach Hice recognized Region 7AAA All Region players Cade Carter and Honorable Mention Braden Jenkins who also received.
- Mr. Johnson also introduced GHS Girls' Basketball Coach Susan Nunn. Coach Nunn recognized Region 7AAA All Region players Ellie Callihan, Hope Colwell, Emma Callihan and Honorable Mention Emma Deaton.
- Ms. Cagle introduced CCMS Boys Basketball Coach Chad Miller. Coach Miller recognized Boys 7th grade Basketball Region Champions players are as follows; Chase Little, Mason West, Keegan Bryant, Boston Teague, Victor Bennett, Jaden Sevech, Cameron Quinn, Douglas "Bubba" Callihan, Alex Miltiades, Connor Nelson, Peyton Chancey and Preston McVey.
- Ms. Cagle also introduced CCMS Girls Basketball Coach Jessica Hensley. Coach Hensley recognized Girls 7th grade Basketball Region Champions players are as follows; Bree Burnette, Addie Vick, Chesley Griggs, Gracie Gaitunaglou, Gracie Pritchett, Emma Kate Bramlett, Makayla Martin, Sarah Dale, Madison Hall, Kynslie Anderson, Kenley Thompson, Jaylee McDaniel, Jenna Mosley, Marley Hopkins and Emma Cagle.

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 18, 2021:

- Board Minutes:
 - February 22, 2021, Work and Executive Session
 - February 25, 2021, Regular Session
- Out of State and Overnight Field Trips (see attached)

Superintendent's Report:

1. Academic Achievement:

- a. MAP Growth Report 3rd – 5th Grade: Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Lottie Mitchell and Ms. Lauree Pierce, Ellijay Elementary School Principal spoke to the Board regarding MAP testing and growth in Reading and Math amongst students in 3th – 5th 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 Middle: Ms. Nicole Pike, Principal at Clear Creek Middle School introduced the Board Assistant Principal, Ms. Sarah West, CCMS teachers Ms. Cathy Sampson and Ms. Perian Michael along with Instructional Technology Specialist, Mr. Rob McCart. Ms. Pike and her team presented the Board with information on how CCMS prepared students for virtual learning using tools such as Google Classrooms, Google Meets, Screencastify and classroom cameras.

2. Parent and Community Engagement:

- a. Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Education Research Facility Proposal: Mr. Mike Bushey, GHS Young Farmers teacher introduced Mr. Randy Long from Pilgrim's Pride who spoke to the Board regarding the building of a poultry research facility located on the Clear Creek campus. Pilgrim's Pride has recently been allocated funds to spend within the community in which it resides. The facility tentative plans consist of two buildings with meeting rooms in the middle. These rooms will be multipurpose and will be used for education. The facility will be a working chicken farm that will allow students to see the process of raising chickens from the early stages to the processing plant. Mr. Bushey noted that the Board will be updated once more details are finalized.
- b. 2021-2022 Academic Calendars: Dr. Downs explained that an email was sent to parents, and staff of the Gilmer County School System on March 8, 2021 with a link to the 2021-2022 calendar survey. Each email could only be used once and a spreadsheet was created to verify that each email was only able to vote once. The district received 772 responses to the survey. Calendar #1 received 38.21% of the votes. Calendar #2 received 9.2% of the votes. Calendar #3 received 52.59% of the votes. Dr. Downs noted that a recommendation to adopt the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday March 18, 2021.

3. High Performing Culture and Workforce:

- a. Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
- b. Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES): Dr. Downs presented the Board with a presentation regarding the TKES used to evaluate certified teachers. Similar to the Leader Keys Effectiveness System (LKES) the TKE system was developed by the Georgia Department of Education for the purpose to continually support the growth and development

of teachers. 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 through the halls 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.
- 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 BDH Suspension of Policies/Waivers
 - Policy BE School Board Records
 - Policy ED Student Transportation

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 April.

- c. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in February and have been posted on the GCSS website for public comment and also sent to GSBA for legal counsel review.
 - Policy BCBK Executive Sessions
 - Policy BD Policy Development
 - Policy BD-R(1) Policy Development
 - Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in February. All policies have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. Policies BCBK, BD and BD-R(1) received no public comment; however, two public comments were received regarding Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12. No changes from GSBA legal counsel was received. Dr. Downs noted that policies are set for approval at the Regular Session March 18, 2021.

5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – March 2021: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- b. Purchase Requests: Dr. Downs spoke to the Board regarding purchase requests received by the district. Dr. Downs noted that these requests are set for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday, March 18, 2021. The requests are as follows:
 - Bus Purchase to not exceed \$95,000
 - 3 District Vehicles to not exceed \$75,000
 - CCES Playground Equipment to not exceed \$75,000
 - GHS Jazz and Concert Band Equipment to not exceed \$85,000

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- c. \$1000 One-time COVID Payment for staff from State of Georgia: Dr. Downs shared with the Board information regarding the \$1000 One-time COVID payment for staff from State of Georgia. A motion to approve the one-time \$1000 bonus for all GCSS staff with be made at the Regular Session on Thursday March 18, 2021
- d. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – January 2021: Ms. Linda Waters, Director of School Nutrition presented the School Nutrition Report – January 2021 to the Board.
- e. Budget Update:
 - i. FY2020 Financial Summary – January 2021: Dr. Downs presented the FY 2021 Financial Summary for January 2021 to the Board.
 - ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – March 2021: Dr. Downs also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for March 2021.
 - iii. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – March 2021: Dr. Downs also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for March 2021.

Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:

- Dr. Downs shared with the Board that the first round of COVID vaccinations have been administered to staff.
- Dr. Downs reminded everyone that Pre-K registration will be held at the LWEC on Tuesday March 30, 2021 from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Then Kindergarten registration for 2021-2022 school year will begin on Monday March 29, 2021. Information regarding both Pre-K and Kindergarten registration can be found on the district's website.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks 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:

Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Parks to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

Mr. Watkins, Chairman

Submitted by: _____
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk