

Board of Education  
Regular Session Minutes  
March 18, 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 Chairman Mr. Watkins. Mr. Watkins thanked everyone for being at the meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Watkins (Chairman), Doug Pritchett (Vice-Chair), Michael Parks, Joe Pflueger and Michael Bramlett

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Dr. Shanna Downs, Joy Wingate, Lauree Pierce, Stephanie Burnette, Melinda Fonteboa, Lynne Barnes, Jennifer Payne, Trina Penland, Jessica Chastain, Amy Kiser, Charles Walker, Bob Sosebee, Kelly Arnold, Lottie Mitchell, Lindy Patterson and Emily Plumley.

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Kayann West, Chad DeBoard, Lonnie Adams from FYN and Jason Smith

Dr. Downs recommended approval of the Regular Session Regular Session Agenda as presented. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

The Invocation was given by Danny Townsend from Flat Creek Baptist.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent, Dr. Shanna Downs.

#### **Public Participation:**

- Ms. Lynne Barnes teacher at Ellijay Elementary spoke to the Board regarding the calendar choice for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Ms. Kayann West also spoke to the Board regarding the calendar choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Consent Items:** Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks to approve the Consent Items. Motion Carried. All both voted Yes, as follows:

- Board Minutes:
  - February 22, 2021, Work and Executive Session
  - February 25, 2021, Regular Session
- Out of State/Overnight Field Trips:
  - Academic Field Trips (See Attachment)
  - Student Activities/Athletic-Based Field Trips (See Attachment)

**Superintendent's Report:**

- a. High Performing Culture and Workforce:
  - i. Personnel: Dr. Downs recommended approval of personnel as discussed in Executive Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Personnel was placed on display for the public information during this meeting. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Bramlett to approve personnel. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- b. Parent and Community Engagement:
  - i. 2021-2022 Academic Calendars: Dr. Downs noted as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021 that the district charter requires that School Governance Teams have input on the development of school calendars. 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 asked that a recommendation be made to adopt the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar. Mr. Watkins recommended Calendar #1 for approval. Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Pflueger to adopt Calendar #1. Motion Carried. Mr. Watkins, Mr. Parks, and Mr. Pflueger voted Yes. Mr. Bramlett and Mr. Pritchett voted No.
- c. Operational Effectiveness:
  - i. Policies: Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second motion by Mr. Bramlett to move the following policies from the table and approve the second reading, with the changes as discussed at the Work Session Monday March 15, 2021. Motion Carried. All voted Yes, as follows:
    - i. Policy BCBK executive Sessions
    - ii. Policy BD Policy Development
    - iii. Policy BD-R(1) Policy Development
    - iv. Policy IDE(3) Competitive Interscholastic Activities  
Grade 6-12
- d. Fiscal Accountability:
  - i. Clear Creek Elementary Purchases: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the following purchases for Clear Creek Elementary as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Approvals are as follows:
    - i. Playground Equipment – Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Watkins. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
    - ii. Media Center Furniture – Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Pritchett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
  - ii. District Vehicle Purchase: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the District Vehicle Purchase as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

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- iii. Bus Purchase: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the Bus Purchase as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Pritchett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- iv. \$1000 One-time COVID Payment for staff from the State of Georgia: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approved the \$1000 one-time COVID payment for staff as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Motion Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- v. Jazz and Concert Band Instruments: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approved the purchase of Jazz and Concert Band Instruments as discussed at the Work Session on Monday March 15, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Watkins. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- vi. Budget: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the FY2020 Financial Summary – January 2021, 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – March 2021, 2020 ESPLOST – March 2021. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Bramlett to approve the financial reports. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

**Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:**

- Dr. Downs announced the Ladycats defeated Ringold on Monday night with a score of 67-39. The girls' basketball team will advance to the next round Friday night at Greater Atlanta Christian. The number of spectators has been capped at 30%, in the event it is live streamed GHS will have a link on their Facebook page for those wishing to watch.
- Dr. Downs also spoke to the Board regarding the GSBA Summer Conference scheduled for June in Savannah. Though the platform has not been confirmed as to virtual or in person, Dr. Downs asked that the Board members look at their calendars to confirm a spot when registration becomes available.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Bramlett to adjourn the Regular Session. Motion Carried. All voted Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

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Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Mr. Watkins, Chairman

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