

Board of Education  
Work and Executive Session Minutes  
April 12, 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, Sarah Thorne, Ashley Stover, Lauree Pierce, Lottie Mitchell, Darcie Pritchett, Lindy Patterson, Nicole Pike, Amy Kiser, Bob Sosebee, Lynne Barnes, Jennifer Payne, Ashley Adgate, Charles Walker, Chandra Teague, Devin Adams, Carla Foley, Stephanie Burnette, Jessica Chastain, Trina Penland and Emily Plumley

VISITORS PRESENT: Herlinda Vicente Vicente, Alex Fowlkes, Alicia Lopez, Candelaria Velasquez, Crystal Chastain, Colbie Rogers, Brent Grimes

Dr. Downs recommended approval for the Work Session agenda as presented with one minor to change to add Georgia Power as the first item under Parent and Community Engagement. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett to approve the Work Session agenda with the addition. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Invocation was led by Sid Webb from First Baptist Church.

The Pledge by Dr. Downs.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Ms. Kim Cagle, Assistant Superintendent recognized Carlos Hernandez-Jimenez as Gilmer County Schools 2021 ESOL Exemplary Learner. Ms. Cagle also introduced Mr. Charles Walker, Principal at Mountain View Elementary. Mr. Walker recognized Ms. Sarah Thorne as Gilmer County Schools 2021 Exemplary ESOL Teacher.
- Ms. Cagle also introduced Gilmer Schools principals who recognized his or her Georgia Young Authors participants and winners. The recognitions are as follows; CCES- Hezekiah Richards-K, Layla Grimes-1<sup>st</sup> and Halle Mae West-4<sup>th</sup>. MVE- Nolan Handley-2<sup>nd</sup>, Morgan Mooney-3<sup>rd</sup> and Madison Erale-5<sup>th</sup>. CCMS- Ashley Quisquina-Arrega-7<sup>th</sup> and Audrey Adgate-8<sup>th</sup>. GHS – Cassie Pritchett-10<sup>th</sup> and Kaitlyn Grice-11<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Cagle also introduced CCMS Boys Soccer Coach Aaron Evans who recognized the team for becoming the Mountain League Champions. The awards are as follows; Landon Hamby, Carter Gearhart, Miguel Reynoso Andres, Keller Baughman, Jeyson Morales, Johnathan Perez, Erique Paiz-Raymundo, Jeremy Jacinto, Eddy Tzun, Keby Puac, Angel Garcia, Brayner Ortiz, Alex Tercero, Bryan Perez, Deyson Lopez, Carlos Vicente, Jorge Flores, Tayln Curtis, Christian Ambrosio, William Engel, Fredy Ramirez, Daniel Vargas, Alex Marshall and Carlos Morin.

**Consent Items:**

Dr. Downs noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021:

- Board Minutes:
  - March 15, 2021 Work; Executive Session
  - March 18, 2021 Regular Session
  - March 30, 2021 Called Meeting
- Out of State and Overnight Field Trips (see attached)

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

- a. Stanford Study: Ms. Ashley Stover, GHS Dual Enrollment and Testing Coordinator spoke to the Board about a recent study conducted by Stanford University. Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA) data are based on the standardized accountability tests in math and Reading Language Arts (RLA) administered by each state to all public-school students in grades 3–8 in each school year from 2008–09 through 2017–18. Data was gathered in 3 areas, average test scores, learning rates and trending in test scores. The district rated 0.39 below the national average in test scores. However, learning rates for the district was 28% higher than the national average and surrounding counties. The trend in testing scores has also risen an average 0.04 over the past 9yrs.
- b. Mountain View Elementary: Mountain View Elementary Principal Mr. Charles Walker introduced Mountain View's English Learners teachers who presented to the Board about the English Learners Afterschool Program at Mountain View Elementary. The program has anywhere from 60-70 K-5 students, 7 teachers, lunch room staff, bus drivers, translators and administration. Students receive a snack before they engage in learning. Students receive extra instruction in ELA and Math. Afterschool transportation is provided for the students as well. The afterschool program meets in the fall and spring.
- c. Clear Creek Middle Data: Clear Creek Middle Principal Ms. Nicole Pike introduced Academic Coach Krista Garland who spoke to the Board regarding MAP data at CCMS. Teachers at CCMS use MAP data to drive instruction and improve student outcomes. Data shows no impact to learning loss in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and continue to be above the grade level normal. However, learning loss was found in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and teachers developed a plan to close the gap. Spring data shows that learning loss was recovered and the gap had decreased.

**2. Parent and Community Engagement:**

- a. Georgia Power Easement: Mr. Tom Hoopes from Smith Real Estate addressed the Board regarding a county wide project with Georgia Power. Mr. Hoopes along with representatives from Georgia Power explained to the Board that throughout Gilmer County Georgia Power will be burying powerlines. Some of those powerlines are located on school property and construction will need to take place during school hours. After discussion from the Board it was determined that a recommendation will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021 to approve Georgia Power working on school property with the contingency that they adhere to a schedule that will not impact the schools or traffic.

- b. Boys and Girls Club of North Georgia: Ms. Cassie Rasco and Ms. Jessica Wells spoke to the Board regarding the Boys and Girls Club of North Georgia. Ms. Rasco and Ms. Wells explained to the Board the importance of the Boys and Girls Club and how it helps students and parents with afterschool care. Ms. Rasco also presented future plans for their new facility which will be able to better serve the needs of Gilmer County families.
  - c. School Supplies: Dr. Downs shared with the Board that Gilmer County Schools will be using a portion of our CARES/Loss of Learning funds to purchase school supplies for all students for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The intent is to relieve the burden of school supplies from parents. As it gets closer to the start of the new school year communication will be sent to parents for plans of distribution.
  - d. Clear Creek Elementary Cafeteria Dedication: At the request of the Board a dedication plaque has been ordered for the cafeteria at Clear Creek Elementary so that it may be dedicated to the memory of Ms. Linda Waters. The dedication will be held at a later date after the school year has begun.
- 3. High Performing Culture and Workforce:**
- a. Superintendent Search: Dr. Downs introduced Dr. Sandy Addis of Georgia Leadership Associates and King Cooper and Associates who represents one of two agencies in our state that helps Board of Educations in hiring a new superintendent. Dr. Addis explained to the Board the process of selecting a new superintendent and the services offered to Boards. After discussion by the Board it was determined that a recommendation will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021 to approve services offered by King Cooper and Associates.
  - b. Personnel: Dr. Downs noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
  - c. Salary Schedules: Dr. Downs presented the Board with the FY22 Classified Salary Schedule. Dr. Downs noted that a recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021.
- 4. Operational Effectiveness:**
- a. Chromebook Policies and Procedures: Mr. John Call, Director of Technology presented the Board information regarding the districts Chromebook Policies and Procedures. Mr. Call explained the benefits of the district self-insuring Chromebooks verses having full-insurance.
  - b. 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](http://www.gilmerschools.com).
  - 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 JBCC Student Assignment
    - Policy IDDD Gifted Student Programs
    - Policy DC Annual Operating Budget

- Policy BHB Nepotism

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 May.

- d. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in March and have been posted on the GCSS website for public comment and also sent to GSBA for legal counsel review.
  - Policy BDH Suspension of Policies/Waivers
  - Policy BE School Board Records
  - Policy ED Student Transportation

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in March. All policies have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. No changes from GSBA legal counsel or public comment was received.

5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – April 2021: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
- b. ERATE Equipment Purchase: Dr. Downs explained to the Board that it is necessary to move forward with the ERATE Equipment Purchase to get the best price. Purchasing the equipment now for \$1,999,399.50 will allow the district to receive reimbursement of 80% once installed after July 1, 2021.
- c. Stadium Lighting: Dr. Downs addressed the Board concerning the lighting at Huff Mosely Stadium. Lighting at the stadium is outdated and in need of an upgrade. Two quotes were received through the Cooperative Purchasing Agency. Musco was chosen with a bid of \$243,000. A recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021.
- d. Real Estate Update: Dr. Downs updated the Board on the possible land purchase of some property owned by Georgia Power. Dr. Downs noted that real estate will be discussed further in Executive Session.
- e. CCES Office/Teacher Furniture: Dr. Downs spoke to the Board regarding the purchase of office furniture and teacher desks for Clear Creek Elementary. Furniture will be purchased through Cooperative Purchasing Agency. A recommendation for approval to not exceed \$103,579.48 will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021.
- f. FY21-22 GCSS Athletic Supplements: Dr. Downs presented the Board with the updated Athletic Supplements for the upcoming school year. A recommendation for approval will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 15, 2021.
- g. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – February 2021: Dr. Downs presented the School Nutrition Report – February 2021 to the Board.

h. Budget Update:

- i. FY2020 Financial Summary – February 2021: Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the FY 2021 Financial Summary for February 2021 to the Board.
- ii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – April 2021: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for April 2021.
- iii. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – April 2021: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for April 2021.
- iv. FY20 GA DOE Audit Clearance Letter – Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the FY20 GA DOE Audit Clearance Letter.

**Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:**

- Dr. Downs shared with the Board that a proposal is being developed by an engineer to address the wash issue at Gilmer High School.
- Dr. Downs announced that in house custodial services began this week.

**Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Mr. Bramlett 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:**

Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Bramlett to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Mr. Watkins, Chairman

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