

Board of Education  
Regular Session Minutes  
May 20, 2021 6:00 P.M.  
Gilmer County, Georgia

### **Gilmer County Board of Education**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Bob Sosebee, Lottie Mitchell, Jessica Chastain, Joshua Snider, Lynne Barnes, DeAnne Steinburg, Jennifer Payne, Stephanie Boling, Beth Mooney, Trina Penland, Lindy Patterson, Melinda Fonteboa, Hollie Kiker and Emily Plumley.

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Dana Berry and Paul Kiker

Dr. Downs recommended approval of the Regular Session Regular Session Agenda as presented Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks to approve the Regular Session agenda with the noted change. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

The Invocation was given by Seth Teegarden, Minister

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

#### **Public Participation: None**

**Consent Items:** Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett to approve the Consent Items with the removal of the FFA trip and the addition of a baseball overnight trip. Motion Carried. All both voted Yes, as follows:

- Board Minutes:
  - March 10, 2021, Board Retreat
  - April 15, 2021, Work and Executive Session
  - April 17, 2021, Regular Session
- Out of State/Overnight Field Trips:
  - Academic Field Trips (See Attachment)
  - Student Activities/Athletic-Based Field Trips (See Attachment)
- Fund Raising Requests (See Attachment)

**Superintendent's Report:**

- a. Parent and Community Engagement:
  - i. Ellijay Apple Festival Transportation Agreement: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the Ellijay Apple Festival Transportation Agreement with Ellijay Apple Festival Inc. as discussed at the Work Session on Monday May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Bramlett to approve the Ellijay Apple Festival Transportation Agreement. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- b. High Performing Culture and Workforce:
  - i. Personnel: Dr. Downs recommended approval of personnel as discussed in Executive Session on Monday May 20, 2021. Personnel was placed on display for the public information during this meeting. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Pflueger to approval personnel as discussed with changes highlight in yellow discussed. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- c. Operational Effectiveness:
  - i. Masks on Buses: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to change the district mask policy from mandatory to optional on buses. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
  - ii. Band Request to Waive Policy IDE(3): Dr. Downs stated based upon feedback from administrators and the districts athletic directors a recommendation to waive policy IDE(3) for Band will not be made. Mr. Watkins asked for motion to waive Policy IDE(3) for Band. Motion by Mr. Pflueger second motion was not received. Policy IDE(3) will be considered dead on the table and will remain the same.
  - iii. Policies: Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second motion by Mr. Pritchett to move the following policies from the table and approve the second reading as presented at the Work Session Monday May 20, 2021. Motion Carried. All voted Yes, as follows:
    - i. Policy JBCC Student Assignment
    - ii. Policy IDDD Gifted Student Programs
    - iii. Policy DC Annual Operating Budget
    - iv. Policy BHB Nepotism
- d. Fiscal Accountability:
  - i. Amended FY21-22 GCSS Academic Supplements: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the Amended FY21-22 GCSS Academic Supplements as discussed at the Work Session Monday May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
  - ii. Georgia Power Property Purchase: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the contract for the purchase of the Georgia Power property approved at the Regular Session April 17, 2021 to be signed electronically. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks to approve the electronic signing of the Georgia Power property contract. Motion Carried. Mr. Pritchett, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Parks and Mr. Bramlett voted Yes. Mr. Pflueger abstained.

## Gilmer County Board of Education (Regular Session) Minutes, May 20, 2021

- iii. Local Supplement Increase: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve a 2% increase to be applied to the classified salary schedule and the Gilmer local supplement schedule as discussed at the Work Session May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes,
  - iv. Bus Purchase: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the purchase of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Bond Bus for \$89,700 as discussed at the Work Session May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
  - v. Fuel Bids: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the Fuel Bids as discussed at the Work Session May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. Mr. Pritchett, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Parks and Mr. Bramlett voted Yes. Mr. Pflueger abstained.
  - vi. Budget: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the FY2020 Financial Summary – March 2021, 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – May 2021, 2020 ESPLOST – May 2021 and the School Activity Accounts – March 2021. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Parks to approve the financial reports. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
  - vii. Banking Service Approval: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the banking service contract with Bank OZK as discussed at the Work Session May 17, 2021. Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Bramlett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- e. FY 2022 Budget:
- i. Dr. Downs explained that the district has worked through the process of creating a tentative budget by following the budget development calendar. The process began last fall with the admin team reviewing needs and foreseen changes to initiative and plans for the upcoming year. During this time meetings were held with principals and department heads and the first Public Budget Hearing on March 10, 2021 as part of the annual Board Retreat to allow for public comment. Dr. Downs noted that this was the second Public Budget Hearing and was advertised on the district’s website as well in the local newspaper. Dr. Downs opened the floor for public comment and no comment was received.
  - ii. Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the Board with the FY 2022 tentative budget.
  - iii. Approval to Advertise FY 2022 Tentative Budget: Dr. Downs recommended a motion to approve the FY 2022 Tentative Budget for advertisement. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes. Dr. Downs noted that a recommendation for the final approval and adoption of the FY 2022 Tentative Budget will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday June 24, 2021.

**Superintendent’s Announcements/Comments: None**

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pritchett to adjourn the Regular Session. Motion Carried. All

Gilmer County Board of Education (Regular Session) Minutes, May 20, 2021

voted Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shanna Downs, Ed.D., Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Watkins, Chairman

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