

Board of Education  
Work and Executive Session Minutes  
December 12, 2022 6:00 P.M.  
Gilmer County, Georgia

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Watkins.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Brian Ridley, Lottie Mitchell, Carla Foley, Dana Berry, Derek Bowen, Ashely Stover, Melinda Fonteboa, Stephanie Burnette, Hollie Kiker, Trina Penland, Amy Kiser, Holly Kinsey, Paul Standard, Ashley Dewitt, Naomi Esparza, Tom Griffith, Katrina Kingsley, Matt Johnson, Lindy Patterson, Dana Penland, James Jones, Charles Walker, Tiffany Boyett, Sarah West, Jessica Chastain, Samantha Kelley, Patricia Partin and Emily Malone.

VISITORS PRESENT: Cassi Sanford, Audra Bolinger, Jim Sewell, Gina Watkins, Hannah Watkins, Jeff Watkins, Gillian Walker, Jon Walker, Holly Dick, Blake Reece, Paul Kiker Sr. Bobbi Sanders and Kendall Sanders.

Dr. Ridley recommended a motion approve 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 Cody Ray from Little Baptist

The Pledge was led by Dr. Ridley.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Assistant Superintendent Mr. Dana Berry recognized Ms. Cheri Shinpaugh as a TOTY nominee and for her hard work and dedication to the students of Mountain Innovation Program.
- CCMS Band Director Ms. Holly Kinsey recognized Nelson Jacinto for being a member of the District Honor Band.
- GHS Cheer Coach Naomi Esparza recognized Maely Prince, Lily Thurman and Kenzie Sewell for making the GACA All-Star Cheerleading Selection.
- GHS Football Coach Paul Standard recognized the following players for this football season's accomplishments. Recognitions are as follows; 7AAA Athlete of the Year-Will Kiker, 7AAA 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Region; Hunter Watkins, Hershel Defoor and Mason Smith, 7AAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Region; Isaac Rellinger, Brock Titus, Blake Reece, Blane Banks, Hunter Brown, Aspen Hataway, Bryson Daniel, Ian Berry and Kyle Cowart, 7AAA Honorable Mention; Grant Ballew, Isaac Freeman, Kendall Sanders, Marcello Valle and Aaron Walker.

**Consent Items:**

Dr. Ridley noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday December 15, 2022:

- Board Minutes:
  - November 14, 2022, Work; Executive Session
  - November 17, 2022, Regular Session

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

- a. CCRPI: Assistant Superintendent Ms. Lottie Mitchell spoke to the Board regarding Gilmer County Schools 2019 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) results. Ms. Mitchell explained to the Board how they are calculated and how the goals are set for each school district. The Georgia state Elementary Content Mastery CCRPI average is 63 and the average for Gilmer County Schools is 66.2. The Georgia state High School Content Mastery CCRPI average is 60 and the average for Gilmer County Schools is 71.6. Since 2017 the district average has been higher than the state average.
- b. EES-Fundations: Principal Melinda Fonteboa, Assistant Principal Ashley Stover along with academic coaches and teachers from EES presented to the Board how K-3 teachers use Fundations in the classroom. Fundations is an educational program designed to help students learn the different functions of a word.

**2. Parent and Community Engagement:**

- a. Community Outreach:
  - i. Shop with a Hero: Ms. Renee Green with the GBI along with officers from the Ellijay Police Department spoke to the Board regarding the Shop with a Hero Program. Various agencies throughout Georgia participate in this program along with the local East Ellijay Walmart. This program helps provide students with gifts for the holiday season. Students selected in grades 3-5 and are assigned a "Hero" to shop with for the day. Breakfast is donated by local restaurants and provided to students and parents before departure to Walmart. Bus transportation is provided to students and heroes for the police escorted right through town. Students are given gift cards and are allowed to shop with their hero for the day. The program began in 2019 and has benefitted several hundred families in Gilmer County.
  - ii. Firefighters Kids Christmas: Gilmer County Battalion Chief Mike Dempsey spoke to the Board regarding the Firefighters for Kids Christmas. Gilmer County Firefighters along with the City of Ellijay Firefighters raise money through donations from the community and local businesses to help provide Christmas for students in Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Clothes, shoes, blankets, toiletries, toys along with various other necessities are purchased with the donated funds. With help from Gilmer County Schools Maintenance Department and many volunteers' items are distributed to the elementary schools to be given to students. Firefighters Kids Christmas has benefitted students and families in Gilmer County since 2008.

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

- a. Personnel: Dr. Ridley noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.

**4. Operational Effectiveness:**

- a. Tentative 2023 Board Meeting Dates: Dr. Ridley presented the Board with the tentative 2023 Board Meeting dates. Dr. Ridley noted that these dates are for the Boards review only and can be modified as needed. A final draft will be present at the January 2023 Work Session and voted upon at the January 2023 Regular Session.
- 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 EE Food Services Management
  - Policy EEE Wellness Program
  - Policy GANA Infectious Diseases
  - Policy JCDAE Weapons
  - Policy JGFGB Concussion Management

Dr. Ridley 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 January.

- c. Compliance/Policy (Second Reading): Policies presented for first readings in October and have been posted on the GCSS website for public comment and also sent to GSBA for legal counsel review.
  - Policy BBA Board Officers

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in October. All policies have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. No changes received from GSBA legal counsel and no public input was received. Dr. Ridley noted that a recommendation for approval of these policies will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday December 15, 2022.

**5. Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – October 2022: Ms. Patricia Partin, Director of School Nutrition presented the School Nutrition Report – October 2022 to the Board.
- b. Budget Update:
  - i. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – December 2022: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
  - ii. FY2022 Financial Summary – October 2022: Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the FY 2022 Financial Summary for October 2022 to the Board.
  - iii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – December 2022: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for December 2022.

- iv. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – December 2022: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for December 2022.

**Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:**

- Dr. Ridley reminded the Board of the TOTY reception will be held before the Regular Session, Thursday November 17, 2022.
- Dr. Ridley reminded everyone that the Gilmer Sports Hall of Fame night will be Friday December 16, 2022 at the Varsity Basketball game.

**Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Pflueger to enter Executive Session for Real Estate, Personnel, School Safety Plans and Litigation. Motion carried. All voted Yes.

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

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Watkins to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17p.m.

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Dr. Brian Ridley, Superintendent

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Mr. Watkins, Chairman

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