

Board of Education  
Work and Executive Session Minutes  
April 17, 2023 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. Pritchett.

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Brian Ridley, Carla Foley, Kelly Smith, Stephanie Burnette, Samantha Kelly, Patricia Partin, Iottie Mitchell, Jason Richards, Allison Speece, Lindy Patterson, Devin Adams, Darcie Pritchett, Charles Walker, Tom Griffith, Melinda Fonteboa, Derek Bowen, Katrina Kingsley, Bob Sosebee, Trina Penland, Dana Berry, Sarah West, James Jones, Jessica Chastain and Emily Malone.

VISITORS PRESENT: Lyric Lowman, Beau Lowman, Mark Troxell, Bailey Troxell, Xiaoxing Troxell, Ava Smith, Finn Smith, Alex Morales, Boni Morales, Ian Haggerty, Carolyn McClinden, Della Richards, Hezekiah Richards, Sonya Richards, Joshua Burrell, Devin Watkins, Dana Queen, Joe Queen, Richard Ames, William Hunter, Samuel Ames, Zachery Ames, Karen Underwood, Lance Adams, Melissa Whittemore, Michael Whittemore, Anna Phillips, Billy Cook, Charolette Cook, Emily Gusic, Amy Harper, Anne Harper and Maria Garcia

Dr. Ridley recommended a motion to approve the Work Session agenda as presented. Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks to approve the Work Session agenda. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

Invocation was led by Dan Rosser of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

The Pledge was led by Dr. Ridley.

Presentations and Recognitions:

- Mr. Dana Berry, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Tom Griffith, Director of Maintenance and Facilities recognized maintenance staff member Dwayne McPherson for his hard work and 17yrs of dedication to Gilmer County Schools.
- EES Principal Dr. Melinda Fonteboa recognized Xiaoxing Troxell as the winner of the NSDAR American History Essay contest.
- District principals recognized each school's winners of the Young GA Authors contest. Winners are as follows; CCES- Hezekiah Richards, Finn Smith, Adelaide Cook & Blair Whitaker; EES-Bonnie Snider; MVE-Lissette Garcia-Garcia; CCMS-Molly Nguyen, Mallory Morris & Lilyan Cook; GHS-Lillian Altman and Jacquelyn Gonzales Santos.

- Ms. Elizabeth Smith, GHS recognized the following students as winners of the Rotary Club's Laws of Life Essay Contest. Winners are as follows; Anna Harper, Jonatan Aguilar-Espinoza, Ian Haggerty and district winner Lyric Lowman.
- Ms. Darcie Pritchett and Ms. Allison Speece, CCMS recognized the following students for their achievements at MathCon. Recognitions are as follows; Zachery Ames, Lian Hup, Ryker Hice, Alexander Morales, Riley Underwood, Toryn Adams, Kaden Lowman, Owen Freeman, Joshua Burrell, Devin Watkins, Magdalene Thompson, Carly Whittemore, Mikaila Brewer, Lilyan Cook, Madison Patterson and Dawson Richard.

#### **Consent Items:**

Dr. Ridley noted to the Board that the following Consent Items will be proposed for approval at the Regular Session on Thursday April 20, 2023:

- Board Minutes:
  - March 13, 2023, Work; Executive Session
  - March 16, 2023, Regular Session
  - March 24, 2023, Board Retreat
- Out of State and Overnight Field Trips

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

##### **1. Academic Achievement:**

- a. Georgia Milestones: Ms. Nicole Pike, Director of Compliance and Assessment and Ms. Sarah West, CCMS Principal spoke to the Board regarding the Georgia Milestones and how the district plans to implement it this school year.

##### **2. Parent and Community Engagement:**

- a. Summer STEM Camp and Seamless Summer: Assistant Superintendent Ms. Lottie Mitchell and Director of School Nutrition Ms. Patricia Partin spoke to the Board regarding the collaboration between the Seamless Summer Program and the Summer STEM Camps. The Seamless Summer Program will run for 7 weeks and the Summer STEM Camps will be held for 2 weeks.
- b. SY 2024-2025 Academic Calendar: Dr. Ridley reminded the Board at last month's Regular Session the Board approved 3 different proposed 2024-2025 SY calendars to be sent to staff and voted upon. After review of the votes proposed calendar C was most favored. Dr. Ridley noted that on Thursday a recommendation for approval will be made and the SY 2024-2025 Academic Calendar will be moved to the Consent agenda.
- c. Reappointment of Wendy Well-Gilmer Library Board: Dr. Ridley explained to the Board the Sequoyah Regional Library System needs Board approval to reappoint Ms. Wendy Wells, CCES Media Specialist to serve another 3yr term on the Gilmer Library Board. Dr. Ridley noted that on Thursday a recommendation for approval will be made and the Reappointment of Ms. Wells will be moved to the Consent agenda.

### 3. Operational Effectiveness:

#### a. High Performing Workforce:

- i. Personnel: Dr. Ridley noted that personnel will be discussed in Executive Session.
- ii. Salary Schedules/Supplement Schedules: Dr. Ridley presented the Board with the Salary and Supplement Schedules for the 23-24SY and noted a few of the changes. A recommendation for approval of the Salary Schedules/Supplement Schedules will be made on Thursday.

#### b. Operational Services:

- i. 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 BHB Nepotism
  - Policy DC Annual Operating Budget
  - Policy IDDD Gifted Student Programs
  - Policy JBCC Student Assignment
  - Policy BCBBD Board Meeting Agendas

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 May.

- ii. 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 BDH Suspension of Policies Waivers
  - Policy BE School Board Records
  - Policy ED Student Transportation Management

The policies have been on the district website since the meeting in March. All policies have been submitted to GSBA legal counsel for review. GSBA legal counsel recommended to rescind Policy BDH Suspension of Policies Waivers due to the districts Charter By-Laws Policy BDH is no longer necessary. No public input was received. Dr. Ridley asked that these policies be moved to the Consent Agenda and also noted that a recommendation for approval of these policies will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday April 20, 2023.

#### c. Maintenance and Facilities:

- i. ESSER Projects Construction Manager: Dr. Ridley explained to the Board that a bid was sent out for ESSER funded projects throughout the district. One bid was received from Charles Black Construction Company coming in at 4% with a max overhead cost of 8% for the projects. Dr. Ridley noted that a recommendation for approval to accept the bid from Charles Black Construction Company will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday.

- ii. Poultry Research Facility Project: Dr. Ridley spoke to the Board regarding the poultry research facility which will be located on the Clear Creek campus. This facility is sponsored up to \$400k by Pilgrim's Pride and will be the first in the United States that serves student K-12. A bid package was sent out for construction of the facility and one bid was received from Fairmount Poultry. Dr. Ridley noted that a recommendation for approval to accept the bid from Fairmount Poultry will be made at the Regular Session on Thursday.

## 5. **Fiscal Accountability:**

- a. Nutrition: School Nutrition Report – February 2023: Ms. Patricia Partin, Director of School Nutrition presented the School Nutrition Report – February 2023 to the Board.
- b. Budget Update:
  - i. Purchasing Policy Expenditures and Approvals – April 2023: Expenditures and Approvals were presented for informational purposes only and exempt from Board approval.
  - ii. FY2023 Financial Summary – February 2023: Ms. Trina Penland, Director of Finance presented the FY 2022 Financial Summary for February 2023 to the Board.
  - iii. 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures – April 2023: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2015 ESPLOST Expenditures for April 2023.
  - iv. 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures – April 2023: Ms. Trina Penland also presented the Board the 2020 ESPLOST Expenditures for April 2023.
- c. Certification of the March 2023 ESPLOST Election Results: Dr. Ridley spoke to the Board regarding the 2023 ESPLOST election results. Dr. Ridley noted a recommendation for approval for the Certification of the March 2023 ESPLOST Election Results at the Regular Session on Thursday April 20, 2023. This certification is required due to the recent passing of the ESPLOST in the March Election.

**Superintendent's Announcements/Comments:** Dr. Ridley reminded the Board of the upcoming Family Literacy Night in April. Dr. Ridley also noted that the annual Board Retreat will be held on March 24, 2023 at the LWEC Professional Learning Room followed by the districts first of two Annual Budget Hearings.

**Public Participation:** A parent in the audience spoke to the Board and Dr. Ridley regarding parent input on the district's academic calendars. She was concerned that parents did not have a say so in recent calendars approved by the Board. Dr. Ridley addressed her concern and noted that parent input is received through the schools SGT meetings. Dr. Ridley also offered to speak with her after the meeting to collect further details.

## **Executive Session:**

Motion by Mr. Pflueger and second by Mr. Callihan 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. Parks to exit Executive Session. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.

**Adjourn:**

Motion by Mr. Callihan and second by Mr. Pflueger to adjourn. All voted Yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Dr. Brian Ridley, Superintendent

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Doug Pritchett, Chairman

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