

**LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**The Liberty County Board of Education met for a Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 5:30 PM with the following members in attendance:**

Lily H. Baker, Chair  
Verdell Jones, Vice Chair  
Dr. Valya S. Lee, Superintendent

Carolyn Smith - Carter  
Dr. Yvette F. Keel  
Marcus Scott IV  
Carol Guyett - absent  
Marcia Anderson

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Baker called the meeting to order.

**Pledge to Flag and Moment of Silence**

The Board and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and paused for a brief moment of silence.

**Inspiration**

Inspiration was provided by students from the Pre – K Center under the direction of Mrs. Railey and Mrs. Sidbury.

**Certificate of Compliance**

Superintendent Dr. Valya S. Lee certified that we were in compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.

**Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Dr. Yvette Keel and seconded by Mrs. Verdell Jones, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda. Mrs. Carol Guyett was absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Mrs. Marcia Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Verdell Jones, the Board approved the minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 28, 2017, with a unanimous vote. Mrs. Carol Guyett was absent.

**Superintendent's Report**

Technology Update – Melissa Roberts Executive Director of Charter Innovations

**Recognitions**

**--Board Member Appreciation--** Lily Baker, Verdell Jones, Carol Guyett, Yvette Keel, Carolyn Carter, Marcia Anderson, Marcus Scott

Governor Deal declared this week, March 13-17 as School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia. We join in a statewide celebration to salute the efforts of our local school board members. March 13-17, 2017 is School Board Appreciation Week in Georgia. As constitutional officers of Georgia, school

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board members are responsible for setting educational policies, employing school personnel, providing buildings and equipment, operating a transportation system, and disbursing school funds. As community leaders, school board members serve as advocates for the children in local public schools and must study, evaluate, and decide what actions are in the best interest of those students. The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) sponsors the celebration. The mission of GSBA is to ensure excellence in the governance of local school systems by providing leadership, advocacy and services, and by representing the collective resolve of Georgia's elected boards of education.

On behalf of Dr. Valya S. Lee and the Liberty County School System, "Board Members, we appreciate your commitment to the staff and students of Liberty County!"

--**American Cancer Society Presentation**- Ms. Karen Bell from the Liberty County Relay for Life had a special presentation.

--**Bradwell Institute's Friends Helping Friends**- Charles Moon & Students

Friends Helping Friends is a special organization at Bradwell Institute that connects special-ed students with their general-ed peers. General-ed students help special-needs students with their academics and motor skills, spend time in their classrooms, play outside and escort them to buses. Friends Helping Friends was recently recognized at the Georgia State House of Representatives where they were given a certificate from Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp which read, "I, Brian Kemp...do hereby proclaim Friends Helping Friends as an Outstanding Georgia Organization. May this Outstanding Georgia Organization be afforded every courtesy as a Goodwill Ambassador from Georgia in its organization to other states, to nations beyond the borders of the United States of America, or wherever it may hereafter do business or reside." We are so proud of this outstanding group of young people and their sponsor, Mr. Moon, for the work they are doing to promote unity and acceptance at their high school.

**AP Honor Schools** - Liberty County High & Bradwell Institute

In February 2017, our two high schools Bradwell Institute and Liberty County High School were named Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools by Georgia State School Superintendent Richard Woods. Both schools received the *AP Access and Support* honor as well as the *AP STEM School* honor. Bradwell Institute also received the *AP Humanities School* honor, and Liberty County High received the *AP STEM Achievement School* honor.

AP courses and exams are administered by the College Board, which also administers the SAT. AP courses are one of several ways Georgia students can access college-level learning opportunities while in high school. Students who receive a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams are often eligible to receive college credit for those courses. Congratulations to both of our high schools for helping their students to become college and career ready!

-- **PBIS Powerhouse Schools (MMS, FLE, BGE, LES)**

Two schools are chosen each month for the PBIS Powerhouse of the Month award based on the greatest percentage of decrease in the number of office discipline referrals, out of school suspension days, and in school suspension days as compared to the same month last year.

**December:** Midway Middle & Frank Long Elementary. Congratulations to our PBIS Powerhouses for the Month for December!

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**January:** Button Gwinnett Elementary & Liberty Elementary. Congratulations to our PBIS Powerhouses for the month of January.

#### **--Leah Nixon-Liberty County Special Education Teacher of the Year**

We are honored to present Leah Nixon as Liberty County's Special Education Teacher of the Year. Leah is a Special Education Teacher at Lyman Hall Elementary School. She is one of those CoTeachers who makes CoTeaching work for her students. She is not only a structured and effective teacher, she is kind and nurturing. Leah also serves as a Special Education Contact on her campus and is efficient and organized. She is an excellent communicator and earns the respect of anyone who works with her. Her principal, Jason Stickler, describes Mrs. Nixon as solution oriented and willing to go above and beyond to make sure that students, parents, and staff are taken care of. She is a natural leader who is respected among her peers. She is a tremendous---he said to emphasize "tremendous" asset to LHE! Congratulations Leah Nixon!

#### **--Extra Mile- Mike Cooper**

Tonight's extra mile recipient unfortunately is under the weather and couldn't be here. Mike Cooper has been with the LCSS Maintenance and Operations department since February 2003. He has vast knowledge and experience in construction and maintenance. Mike has taken up specialty responsibilities such as paint project estimations, various roofing techniques, and material knowledge. Mike is always willing to stay later or schedule work after students and personnel leave for the day. He takes on the jobs that others may be somewhat fearful of...removing bee hives, climbing tall ladders to access roofs, and digging holes in tight areas to repair damaged water lines. For the last 4 months while a fellow co-worker was out, Mike has really gone the extra mile. Not only has he maintained his 4 schools, BOE bldg., and Olvey Field complex, he has taken on the majority of work for 5 more schools, Transportation Complex and College and Career Academy. This school system is very lucky to have such a dedicated and hardworking staff member. On behalf of Dr. Valya S. Lee, Superintendent of Schools, we appreciate Mr. Mike Cooper for always going that extra mile!

#### **Audience Participation**

None

#### **Action Items**

**Consent Agenda February 28, 2017**

#### **SY 2017-2018 School Calendar**

##### **Background Information:**

Surveys were conducted among stakeholders to determine the most critical components to be considered for the 2017-18 school year. In a second survey, two calendar options were provided to LCSS staff for vote. The majority of staff indicated that Calendar Option 2 was the preferred calendar for 2017-18.

**Recommendation:** Approval

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Funding Source:** N/A

##### **Alternate Delegate GSBA**

Mrs. Lily Baker requested an Alternate Delegate to attend the GSBA summer conference. Mr. Marcus Scott will be the Alternate Delegate.

**Out of State Travel**

**Background Information:**

- Bradwell Institute tennis team requests to travel to Bluffton, South Carolina, to compete in a tennis match.
- Carmen Williams and Vicki Torres request permission to attend the MUNIS conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- SGMS Gifted/Advanced Team wishes to travel to Orlando, Florida, to visit NASA and Sea World.
- SGMS YLiT-ME club requests permission to travel to colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Approximately fifty Frank Long Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students request permission to travel to Washington, D.C.
- John Lyles, Jocelyn Chapman, and Joy Simmons seek approval to participate in the annual EDULOG conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The following individuals request to attend NMSI training as follows:
  - o William Parker – Jacksonville, Florida
  - o Annette Payne – Jacksonville, Florida
  - o Tracy Austin – Jacksonville, Florida
  - o Sue Bell – St. Louis Missouri
  - o Brian Nixon – Dallas, Texas

**Recommendation:** Review the out-of-state travel requests as presented.

**Fiscal Impact:**

MUNIS conference - \$2,539.00 per person

EDULOG conference - \$2,712.60 per person

**Funding Source:**

MUNIS – General Fund – Finance Department Budget

EDULOG – General Fund – Transportation Department Budget (2 persons)

EDULOG – Title IV,B – Department of Exceptional Learning (1 person)

*NOTE: The remaining requests do not involve District funds. All costs associated with the other requests will be the responsibility of Principal accounts, parents, and the NMSI grant as applicable.*

**Coordinator of Military Family Support Services**

**Background Information:**

The attached job description for a Coordinator of Military Family Support Services is for a position that Dr. Lee is requesting for SY 2017-18. The position would be in support of military

impacted students and families currently enrolled in our schools and those who would be transferring in after the school year begins.

Responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Prepares and implements a school based military students and families support plan.
  - Collaborates with school MFLAC to support the needs of individual students, groups of students, families and the total school program as it relates to the military impacted.
  - Provides orientation for new military impacted students entering the school.
  - Maintains accurate and up-to-date service records.
  - Assists as necessary with the ongoing testing and evaluation program.
  - Interprets test results to students and parents.
  - Provides individual and group counseling.
  - Develops with the Student Support Specialists, Social Workers, RTI Coordinators and other staff a crisis intervention plan unique to military students.
  - Provides support and alternatives rather than decisions in the counseling process.
  - Assists with job placement information regarding available jobs in the community.
  - Assists with transitioning of students to include scheduling and student class assignments, extracurricular activities, and welcoming of families.
  - Ensures the integrity of the Interstate Military Compact is maintained and assists with resolving transfer of challenges and conflicts related thereby.
- Provides professional learning and development for all responsible parties on the Interstate Military Compact
- Maintains oversight of Ft. Stewart's newly established military Youth Ambassador Program and implementation of other associated events and activities in support of military impacted students and families.
  - Serve as the key communicator of information related to school affairs, events, and activities to Ft. Stewart and military families by way of website social media.

**Recommendation:** The Superintendent recommends that the LCBOE approve the position of Coordinator of Military Family Support Services for SY2017-18.

**Fiscal Impact:** The compensation package (salary and benefits) will be comparable to that of a curriculum specialist and student services specialist. An exact amount will be taken from the specialist salary scale based on level of education and years of experience.

**Funding Source:** Impact Aid

**Motion:** On motion by Mrs. Verdell Jones and seconded by Mrs. Marcia Anderson, the Consent Agenda from February 28th was approved with a unanimous vote. Mrs. Carol Guyett was absent.

**Executive Session.**

On motion by Mrs. Verdell Jones and seconded by Dr. Yvette Keel, the Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

**Executive Session was called to order at 6:07 p.m.**

**Session then opened with a presentation of personnel recommendations.**

- **Certified Staff**

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the following recommendations for certified staff.

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Position/Location</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Relihan, Janric    | Grade 1 Teacher LES      |
| Ryan, Cassandra M. | Assistant Principal SGMS |

- **Classified Staff**

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the following recommendations for classified staff.

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Position/Location</u>                 |
|----------------|--|
| Fox, Stephanie | School Nutrition Director Central Office |
| McGee, Eugene  | Custodian MMS                            |
| Smith, Tatjana | Technology Secretary Central Office      |

- **Resignations**

Superintendent Lee recommended the Board accept the following resignations:

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Position/Location</u>                         |
|----------------------|--|
| Browning, Charles    | Math Teacher BI                                  |
| Bush, Loraine        | English/Language Arts Teacher LFMS               |
| Cantu, Sarahi        | Sp Ed Paraprofessional HLC                       |
| Cockrell, Sara       | Grade 3 Teacher FLE                              |
| Cooke, Linda         | Special Education Teacher- General Curriculum LE |
| Doolittle, Jeffrey   | Custodian LCHS                                   |
| Eason, Marilyn       | 9-12 Teacher/Program Facilitator HLC             |
| Funston, Victoria    | Grade 5 Teacher WPE                              |
| Golembeski, Sherryle | Grade 3 Teacher LHE                              |
| Harris, Celestine    | Grade 5 Teacher BGE                              |
| Hiltbrunner, Phil    | Special Education Teacher- General Curriculum BI |
| Hines, Natalie       | Bookkeeper MMS                                   |
| Hodges, Merry        | Grade 5 Teacher LHE                              |
| Holston, Crystal     | Special Ed Teacher- General Curriculum FLE       |
| Kerins, Marissa      | Math Teacher LCHS                                |
| Kidwell, Marisa      | Grade 1 Teacher LHE                              |
| Killough, Thomas     | Math Teacher LCHS                                |
| Kirkland, John       | Grade 3 Teacher WPE                              |
| Lindsey, Shirley     | Kindergarten Teacher LHE                         |
| Moody, Christina     | Grade 3 Teacher FLE                              |
| Moore, Shaniqua      | Bus Driver Transportation                        |

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Mothershed, Demetrick  
Newman, Cynthia  
Ortiz, Victoria  
Payne, Carolyn  
Pollock, Carl  
Poole, Sarah  
Roberts, Leah  
Ross, Tammy  
Staggs, Jeffery  
Sweet, Gloria  
Taylor, Wade  
Thompson, Denise  
Thornton, Ashley  
Towne, Marvin  
VanBelkun, JoAnna  
Vaughn, Lisa  
Watts, Lyn

Custodian MMS  
Grade 1 Teacher FLE  
Grade 3 Teacher FLE  
Math Teacher LCHS  
Health & Physical Education Teacher BI  
Music Teacher TCE  
Pre-K Teacher Pre-K  
Bus Driver Transportation  
Media Specialist LCHS  
Grade 2 Teacher LHE  
Music Teacher LHE  
Science Teacher LFMS  
Remedial Reading Teacher LFMS  
Bus Driver Transportation  
Social Studies Teacher BI  
Parent Mentor-DEL Central Office  
Special ED Teacher- General Curriculum JME

**CERTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS 2017-18**

(The LCSS reserves the right to affect a transfer of any employee to any other location under its jurisdiction)

**Bradwell Institute**

Porter, Scott

**Joseph Martin**

Brewer, Baylee

**Liberty County High School**

White, Eddie

**Pre-K Center**

Latson, Pertrona

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER:**

Yolanda Rawls  
Vanessa Rucker  
Barbara Weaver

**SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER:**

Scodrrion Marbury

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**Motion to Adjourn Executive Session** was made at 7:25 p.m. with a unanimous vote.

**Motion to enter Open Session** was called to order at 7:25 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Verdell Jones and seconded by Mrs. Marcia Anderson.

**Motion:** On recommendation by Dr. Lee, on motion by Mrs. Verdell Jones, and seconded by Mrs. Marcia Anderson, the Board approved the personnel as presented to include not accepting the resignation of Sheron Daniel. Mr. Marcus Scott opposed the vote.

**Motion to Adjourn Open Session.**

There was no further business, and on motion by Mrs. Marcia Anderson and seconded by Dr. Yvette Keel, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 at p.m. with a unanimous vote.



Secretary



Board Chair