

The Bleckley County Board of Education met in regular session with the following board members present: Bill Baldwin, Derek Belflower, Mildred Bloodworth, Amy D. Williams and Kim Wright. District and school personnel present included: Superintendent Steve J. Smith, Curriculum Director Andrea Williams, BCHS Principal Trey Belflower, BCES Principal Janet DeLoach, BCES Assistant Principal Jenny Brooks, BCPS Principal Quent Floyd, BCPS Assistant Principal Emily Bryant, Teachers/FFA Sponsors Doyle Floyd and Walt Parks and the following additional school personnel: Gina Pearson, Cindy Felkins, Belinda Dyke, Gayle Rustin, Kin Fernandez, Melanie Collins, Jennifer Cole, Vonda Bryant, Johnna Rozar, Andrea Warren, and Christy Jones. Also in attendance were members of the BCHS Environmental Resources Team: Tucker Felkins, Blake Bohannon, Cooper Felkins, and Jacob Smith. Also present were media representatives James Tidwell and Samantha Adams, and stakeholders Mike Sasser, Jeff Smith, Jacob Smith, Lynsey Smith, Doyle Smith, Sandy Smith, Blake Bohannon, and Julie Floyd.

Chair Kim Wright welcomed guests opened the meeting with an invocation.

Superintendent Smith recommended that Item D.1. be moved to A.1. in order to allow the people being recognized to leave afterwards if they desired. On motion by Mr. Baldwin and second by Mrs. Bloodworth, the board approved the amended agenda for the meeting.

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Doyle Floyd to come forward and introduce the FFA Environmental Resources team and talk about their recent accomplishment. The team placed first in statewide competition among all FFA chapters in Georgia. Mr. Floyd noted that FFA does not compete in classes like athletics, so a AAAAAA school and an A school compete as if equal. The Board and Superintendent congratulated the team members and their sponsor, Mr. Floyd.

Mr. Smith then asked Mr. Quent Floyd, Principal of BCPS along with any and all of his staff to come forward. He and the Board congratulated BCPS on being named a Title I Reward School for FY16. Likewise, Mr. Smith asked Mrs. DeLoach, Principal of BCES along with all of her staff to come forward. He and the Board congratulated BCES on being named a Title I Reward School for FY16. He noted that both schools were named Reward schools because of high student achievement.

Members of the FFA Environmental Resources Team, their parents, and all school personnel except Mr. Smith and Dr. Williams departed at this time.

On motion by Mrs. Williams and second by Mr. Belflower, the following consent items were approved: (1) Minutes of the December 8, 2015 Board Meeting, 2) Minutes of the Special Called Board Meeting on December 17, 2015; (3) Overnight Field Trips, and (4) Fundraiser Requests.

Unanimously Approved

Superintendent Smith presented two policy changes: a reference change for current policy JB – Perfect Attendance to be known as JB-1, and a new policy JB – Attendance. He recommended that the Board adopt both changes. He also presented a draft of Policy GAMB – Possession of Weapons by Employees for discussion only. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Bloodworth and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to adopt the policy change from JB to JB-1.

Unanimously Approved

After some additional discussion a motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Belflower to adopt new policy JB – Attendance.

Unanimously Approved

Superintendent Smith discussed the upcoming Board Retreat/Strategy Session, and after some discussion the date was changed to February 9, 2016 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Board Training Room.

Superintendent Smith shared information with the board concerning SPLOST collections and vendor payments to Georgia Power, OEMC, and the City of Cochran Water/Sewer. He noted that while the water and sewer bill paid in December 2015 was the highest yet, a credit amounting to \$24,051 had been received on the BCHS bill. A reconciliation will be performed to insure the credit is appropriate. He shared Title I historical allocations, poverty data for our county, and legislative priorities for the District.

Superintendent Smith presented the financial reports for the first quarter of the fiscal year, indicating that 50% of the year had elapsed and the school system had expenditures representing 50.96% of the annual general fund budgeted expenditures. He also presented a summary of large amounts not in the budget, and without those, expenditures amounted to 49.74% of budget. He indicated that he anticipated the actual versus budget amounts to remain on target for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Smith then presented a facilities report which showed that the auction of surplus property would be moved to Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 10am due to the auctioneer having surgery. He presented a request to use the BCMS gym for gymnastics to benefit the high school and

middle school cheerleaders. He then recommended that the Board approve the request from Curt Gentry to use the BCMS gym at an ongoing cost of 10% of his revenue, which is estimated to amount to \$50 per use, with proceeds going to athletics to benefit the cheerleaders. After some discussion, Mr. Baldwin made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Mrs. Bloodworth seconded.

Unanimously Approved

Superintendent Smith presented school discipline reports, a staffing timeline for FY17, a brochure addressing FAQs of the upcoming SPLOST referendum, a summary of responses to the RFQs sent out regarding architectural services, and updated organizational charts for the school system. After some discussion, the Board recommended the list of architects be reduced from six to three to come before the Board for interviews. These interviews will be scheduled once the Superintendent and other district representatives narrow the list to three.

Mr. Smith reminded the Board that the positions of chair and vice-chair were elected to serve two-year terms, and only one year had elapsed since their election. He also reminded them that a Board member was elected annually to serve as legislative liaison for the current session of the Georgia General Assembly. Mr. Belflower nominated Mrs. Williams, and then asked that nominations be closed. Mr. Belflower seconded, and Mrs. Williams was elected as the legislative liaison for the 2016 session.

Unanimously Approved

Superintendent Smith recommended that the Board re-appoint Harben, Hartley & Hawkins, LLP as the school board attorney for 2016. On motion by Mr. Baldwin and second by Mrs. Williams, the board approved the recommendation.

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Smith discussed the recent SWSS/IE<sup>2</sup> application made to the Georgia Department of Education, and indicated that the State Board of Education approved the application at its meeting on December 10, 2015. He recommended that the Board approve the contract with the Georgia Department of Education to finalize the process. On motion by Mrs. Williams and second by Mrs. Bloodworth, the board approved the recommendation.

Unanimously Approved

On motion by Mrs. Bloodworth and second by Mr. Baldwin, the board voted to go into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring,

disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee (O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2)).

Unanimously Approved

On motion by Mrs. Williams and second by Mr. Baldwin, the board voted to exit executive session.

Unanimously Approved

On motion by Mrs. Williams and second by Mr. Belflower, the board approved the following personnel recommendations: to accept the **resignation** of Rhonda Hughes, BCES Nutrition Assistant Manager, effective immediately; to accept the **resignation due to retirement** of Belinda Dye, BCPS Teacher, effective at the end of this school year; to **hire** Tracy Vincent as a bus driver; to **promote** Vanessa Elvine to BCES Nutrition Assistant Manager; to **hire the following tutors** for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center: Taylor Paige Dykes, Deborah Jade Allen, Erica Renae Rickerson, Alton Caleb Floyd, Dallas Jade Francis, Abbigail Richardson, and Calli White; and to **add the following to the substitute teacher list**: Jana Taylor Foskey and Irma Quinones.

Unanimously Approved

On motion by Mr. Baldwin and second by Mrs. Bloodworth, the board voted to adjourn.

Unanimously Approved

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