

2003 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 9, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present. Superintendent Lee Shiver called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Shiver led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shiver requested approval of the agenda. Mitton requested to amend the agenda and add item XXI. Board Comments. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended. Easterwood requested to amend the agenda to move item XV. Contract Bus Garage/Facility Architect and item XVI. Bid Opening for Bus Garage/Facility Construction Manager to follow executive session. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 5-0 vote to amend the agenda as requested.

Shiver stated the floor was open for nominations of school board officers for 2003. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker to nominate Tony Young as Chairman. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to close nominations for chairman. The motion to elect Tony Young as Chairman passed on a 4-0 vote with Young abstaining. Shiver asked for nominations for vice-chairman. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker to nominate Mark Mitton as Vice-Chairman. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to close nominations for vice-chairman. The motion to elect Mark Mitton as Vice-Chairman passed on a 4-0 vote with Mitton abstaining.

Shiver turned the meeting over to Chairman Young.

Chairman Young announced the finance, facilities, personnel, and policy committees. The Finance Committee members are Shirley Whitaker, Ervin Easterwood, and Mark Mitton. Mark Mitton will chair the Finance Committee. The Facilities Committee members are Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, and Joan Locke. Ervin Easterwood will chair the Facilities Committee. The Personnel Committee members are Shirley Whitaker, Mark Mitton, and Joan Locke. Shirley Whitaker will chair the Personnel Committee. The Policy Committee members are Joan Locke, Ervin Easterwood, and Shirley Whitaker. Joan Locke will chair the Policy Committee. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the committees as presented.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to schedule the Pickens County Board meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to appoint Attorney Phil Landrum III of Landrum and Landrum to represent the Pickens County Board of Education.

Chairman Young requested approval of the minutes for the December 5, 2002, meeting. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for December 5, 2002.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4042 students with a total of 43 dropouts to date. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 93.44% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of December as \$4,295.29. The SPLOST balance for December is \$1,978,309.61. Burgess reported revenue collected as 37.38% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 45.16%. Burgess reported adjustments have been made to the current budget in response to recent state budget cuts.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all schools. Ballew stated that we are looking into adding additional parking and storage at Hill City Elementary School. Whitaker asked about the emergency road at Pickens High School. Ballew gave the board all quotes received for the emergency road. Mitton stated that they would look at these quotes and take them into consideration at a later date. Easterwood asked about renovations to the lunchroom at Jasper Middle School and also replacing the windows. Renovations to the lunchroom at Jasper Middle School are slated as a SPLOST project. Ballew stated that Jasper Elementary School and Jasper Middle School had windows that needed to be replaced.

Mr. Mark Willis of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) made a presentation about online board policy manuals. GSBA offers a service that updates policy manuals, provides links to legal references, converts hard copy manuals to online, and includes one year of maintenance after completion.

Burgess requested approval for system insurance coverage. Burgess said she called several other school districts about their coverage for school insurance and the GSBA package was highly recommended. The GSBA coverage is \$46,000.00 less than our previous insurer and, according to Burgess, provides better coverage. The total cost from GSBA is \$267,645.00. Burgess read the Risk Management Resolution into the record. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the Risk Management Insurance with GSBA. Burgess read the Resolution for the

Workers Compensation Pool into the record. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on 5-0 vote to approve the Workers Compensation Pool Insurance with GSBA. (See attachments)

Dr. Shelia Frances came before the board to request that the board continue as fiscal agent for Pickens County Family Connections at no cost to the board. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to continue as fiscal agent for Family Connections.

Chairman Young asked the audience if they had any opinions they would like to voice pertaining to the scheduling of the 2003-2004 school calendar. Whitaker and several people from the audience asked that the first day of school be moved to after Labor Day, or no earlier than the last week of August. Chairman Young thanked the audience for their discussion. There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to set the calendar aside for discussion in a workshop at a later date.

The videotape for the board meeting was changed at 7:25 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to have a facilities workshop to consider the feasibility of purchasing the H.D. Lee Building.

Marcia Jasperse made a presentation to the board that questioned the effectiveness of block scheduling at Pickens High School. After discussion there was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on 5-0 vote to have a workshop to evaluate block scheduling.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to refer Public Participation Policy (BCBI/KCA) to the policy committee for amending.

Shiver asked that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel recommendations and property acquisitions. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 7:59 p.m. 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; (OCGA 50-14-3(6)) to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

After discussion in executive session, the board reconvened in open session at 11:08 p.m. Chairman Young reported there was a motion by and a second, which passed on 5 to 0 vote to return to open session.

A motion was made by Locke, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-1 vote with Mitton opposing to relieve Coach James Brazzell of his basketball coaching duties and salary supplement for the basketball coaching duties effective January 9, 2003.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the contract with H. Lloyd Hill Architects for services rendered for the construction of bus garage/facility.

Bids were opened for the bus garage/facility construction manager. The companies that provided bids and their percent amounts as read by Young are as follows: The Austin Company, 2% construction management fee-construction cost and 6.5% general conditions fee construction cost; Engineered Structures, 5% construction management-fee construction cost and 13% general conditions fee construction cost; Smith & Green, 5% construction management-fee construction cost and \$184,699.00 general conditions fee construction cost; H&M Company, Inc. did not provide a bid in their packet. The Facilities Committee will set up a workshop to look over the bids.

Mitton asked about the vandalism at Pickens High School that occurred the night before the Gilmer County football game. Campus Police Chief Randall Young stated there will be a hearing Friday, January 10, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. to work out a plea agreement. Whitaker asked why the high school was charging \$5.00 per person to get into the games and said that she felt like that was too much. Pickens High School principal Lloyd Shaddix replied that the amount charged was recommended by the region, and that it is the amount charged by all other schools in our region except Fannin County. Whitaker asked why some of our schools are listed on the Internet as P-5. Curriculum Director Susan Reeves said that the P-5 designation is necessary to account for the pre-school children in the FTE count to receive state funds.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 11:30 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Monday, January 20, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton,

Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present. Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Easterwood asked the audience to express opinions about dates to begin school this fall. Most people from the audience who spoke asked that school begin in September or no earlier than the last week in August due to church revival schedules.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:10 p.m. and resumed at 8:25 p.m.

Mitton made a recommendation to include the observance of Presidents Day on February 16, 2004 on the 2003-2004 school calendar option 2. The board had no objections.

The videotape for the board meeting was changed at 8:50 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to table approving the school calendar until the February 6, 2003, board meeting.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Facilities Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2003

The Facilities Committee met on Wednesday, January 22, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, and Shirley Whitaker.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, February 6, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony

Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation.

Chairman Young requested a moment of silence for the lives lost in the recent space shuttle Columbia tragedy. The Pledge of Allegiance was said after the moment of silence.

Shiver requested amending the agenda to add the election to participate in the State Health Benefit Plan. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to amend the agenda and move item XI, Approval of Construction Manager for Bus Garage Facility, to follow executive session. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for January 9, 2003. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on 5-0 vote to amend the minutes submitted for January 20, 2003, to include the discussion of observing Presidents Day on February 16, 2004, on the option 2 school calendar for 2003-04.

Lloyd Shaddix, Principal of Pickens High School, presented the STAR students and the STAR teachers to the board. These teachers and students were recognized and congratulated by the board.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4068 students with a total of 48 dropouts to date. Jasper Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.00% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of January as \$4,254.62. Revenue collected for the months of December and January is \$510,563.58. The SPLOST balance for January is \$1,922,995.18. Burgess reported revenue collected as 72.34% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 52.68%. Burgess reported adjustments have been made to the current budget in response to recent state budget cuts.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. An employee fell down a dirt bank at Tate Elementary School; maintenance installed steps at this area to try to prevent this from happening again. Another handicap ramp was added to Pickens County Middle School. The gas lines to the field house at Jasper Middle School were replaced. Ballew is having total surveys done at Jasper Elementary School and Jasper Middle School. Topographical surveys are being made of certain areas at Jasper Elementary

School and Jasper Middle School in or around the area for construction. Ballew reviewed the savings for workers compensation for the past three years. The Appalachian drug task force K-9 unit visited Jasper Middle School and Pickens County Middle School unannounced. No drugs were found at either campus.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to elect to participate in the State Health Benefit Plan.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Locke and Mitton opposing to approve 2003-2004 school calendar option 3. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Locke and Whitaker opposing to approve the March 21 date as a regular school day for all classes and delay making any further decisions about making up the other two missed school days (Jan 17 and 23) until the March board meeting (or later) in case more bad weather occurs.

Ballew updated the board on the progress toward providing an emergency road in and out of PHS. Ballew provided figures on the cost of the emergency road. Ballew stated that the figures for the emergency road would go up if we had to purchase dirt.

The board and the superintendent recognized Jerry Andrews for his 20 years of service to the board of education and dedication to the children of Pickens County. The Georgia School Boards Association provided Mr. Andrews with a pin to commemorate his service as a board member.

Ballew presented items for surplus. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to declare these items surplus.

Toni Haynes came before the board to request adding a summer school program to Pickens High School.

Stacy Bruce, PTO President at Tate Elementary School, asked the board to allow the PTO to put in a new playground for the kindergarten and first grade with PTO funds. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to allow the playground as requested contingent upon Ballew's oversight of the project.

Shiver asked that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel recommendations. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, but no vote was taken. Shiver then asked to include the discussion of pending litigation and property acquisitions in executive session. A new motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 8:07 p.m. 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; (OCGA 50-14-3(6)) to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or

potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2) to discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

After discussion in executive session, the board reconvened in open session at 9:40 p.m. Chairman Young reported there was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke to end executive session and return to open session. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to table agenda item IX, Construction Manager for the Bus Garage Facility. Board Comments:

- Locke asked about the status of a block scheduling committee.
- Locke scheduled a policy meeting for Tuesday, February 18, 2003, at 4:00 p.m.
- The use of special education bus monitors as bus drivers was questioned.
- The superintendent was asked about his attendance at the Winter Georgia Association of Education Leaders Conference in Atlanta.
- Locke told Ms. Haynes that they the board would look into her request about summer school at Pickens High School.

Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Mitton, to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for January 20, 2003.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to move item III, Approval of Construction Manager for Bus Garage Facility, to follow executive session.

Chairman Young allowed Jane Waller to speak at this called meeting with no objections from the board. Mrs. Jane Waller, a parent and member of the Pickens High School Advisory Council, asked the board to revisit the school calendar and change the start date.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

Locke left the meeting during executive session.

After discussion in executive session, the board reconvened into open session at 4:13 p.m. Chairman Young reported there was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on 4-0 vote to return to open session. Chairman Young reported no action was taken during executive session.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve Engineered Structures Incorporated as the Bus Garage Facility Construction Manager.

With no further business, Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Mitton, to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Finance Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2003

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, at 4:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as submitted.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for February 6 and February 11, 2003, as submitted.

Director of Instruction Susan Reeves presented the two best spellers from every school (excluding Pickens High School). Reeves recognized Katie Sherrod as the winner of the system spelling bee. The board congratulated these students.

Lloyd Shaddix, principal of Pickens High School, presented the Valedictorian for the Class of 2003, Laura Adams, and the Salutatorian, Elizabeth Young. Shaddix recognized the PHS wrestling team members who represented PHS at the state meet. These students, Brandon Rowland, Jason Hancock, Zack Marshall, Chad Wigington, and Jerry McGardner, and Coach Sam Wigington were recognized and congratulated by the board.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4-1 vote, with Whitaker opposing to approve the 2003-2004 school calendar option 2 as previously submitted and amended. Chairman Young stated that he had met with the architect recently to discuss the lunchroom renovations at Jasper Middle School, and was pleased to learn that the kitchen will be operable to prepare meals for students during construction. Easterwood stated that the lunchroom renovations could take 6-8 months.

Mitton thanked all those who sent him e-mails and who expressed concerns about the school calendar.

School Social Worker Lynn Palmer presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4008 students with 68 dropouts to date. There are 294 students in the school system that have 15 or more absences. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 92.55% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of February as \$3,630.74. Revenue collected for the month of February is \$260,818.49. The SPLOST balance for February is \$2,093,965.99. Burgess reported revenue collected as 78.65% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 60.29%. Burgess reported a MacAleer software glitch that has affected state tax withholding for some employees.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. The plumbing defect at Hill City Elementary School will be fixed during spring break. The survey and topographical maps of Jasper Middle School have been completed. The greenhouse at Jasper Elementary School has been completed. Amicalola Electric has drilled the holes for the light poles, and power has been run to the scoreboard at the Pickens County Middle School baseball field. Pickens High School had a windscreen installed at the tennis courts. Horseshoe pits and courts, a 40 x 40 landscaped memorial garden, and an increased patio area are to be constructed at PHS at no cost to the school system. Ballew approved the area for the new playground funded by the Tate Elementary School PTO. Ballew stated that boiler inspections were performed in the system and all passed. The pre-bid conference for the bus garage will be Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., at the Jasper Elementary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street. Bid openings for the bus garage will be Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at 3:30 p.m., at the PHS auditorium. Some restitution has been collected for damages done to Pickens High School the night before the Pickens vs. Gilmer football game. The city is changing their garbage pick-up to a trash compacting system. Ballew is seeking quotes and bids for new dumpsters. Mitton inquired about the VISY recycling program. Ballew said the VISY recycling program is working out very well.

Shiver reported that the Pickens and Jasper Middle School bands received superior ratings at the band festival.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on 5-0 vote to approve the contracts with Steven Hill for the construction projects at Jasper Middle School and Jasper Elementary School.

Dr. Kathleen Thompson, the art teacher at Jasper Elementary School, described a new grant that she has secured for our students that focuses on character development.

Ballew presented items for surplus. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to declare these items surplus.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve the Parent Involvement Policy (JCAAA). (See attachments)

Steven William Nolan asked the board to examine the policies at PHS related to the selection of senior superlatives and student disciplinary records.

Melvina Carlan, William Beecken, Peggy Andrews, Sherry Mullins, Debbie Roper, Chris LeMieux, Lloyd Shaddix, and Cathy Hays addressed the board and thanked them for reconsidering the 2003-2004 calendar option 2.

Shiver asked that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel recommendations. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 8:14 p.m. 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; (OCGA 50-14-3(6))

After discussion in executive session, the board reconvened in open session at 11:00 p.m. Chairman Young reported there was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to end executive session and return to open session. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Mitton inquired if our school system used any software to protect against offensive and pornographic websites.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 11:05 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, April 3, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended to include the additional minutes.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for March 13, January 22, and February 25, 2003, as submitted.

Lloyd Shaddix, principal of Pickens High School, presented the All State Band members: James Land, Charlie Land, Kevin Demarcus, Nathan Kincaid, Valerie Stancil, and Hayley Gallagher. These students were recognized and congratulated by the board. Shaddix recognized two students that were nominated and selected to participate in the governor's honors program: Robbie Glenn as a full participant and Elizabeth Jasperse as an alternate.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4011 students with 76 dropouts to date. There are 358 students in the school system that have 15 or more absences. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.45% attendance rate. Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of March as \$4,282.72. Revenue collected for the month of March is \$250,311.15. The SPLOST balance for March is \$2,207,385.41. Burgess reported revenue collected as 80.21% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 67.46%. Burgess reported that the software glitch that affected state tax withholding for the employees has been corrected by the MacAleer company.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Security lights and a fence have been installed at the new playground area at Tate Elementary School. The lights at the baseball field have been installed. Ballew is gathering the costs for placing the power lines underground at Jasper Middle School. Bid openings for the bus garage will be Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at 3:30 p.m., at the PHS auditorium.

Shiver reported that State School Superintendent Kathy Cox decided to give the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) to the fourth, sixth and eighth grades. Shiver said that all Pickens County schools were again accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Shiver said our new website is up and running at www.pickenscountyschools.org.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on 5-0 vote to approve the Georgia Transmission Corporation Release and Indemnification Agreement. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the additional costs for installation of PCMS baseball field lights.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the Parent Involvement Policy (JCAAA). (See attachments)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on 5-0 vote to approve Tony Young and Mark Mitton as the delegate and the alternate to the GSBA assembly.

Shiver asked that the board go into executive session to discuss personnel recommendations. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session after a five minute recess at 8:00 p.m. 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; (OCGA 50-14-3(6))

After discussion in executive session, the board reconvened in open session at 10:42 p.m. Chairman Young reported there was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4-0 vote to end executive session and return to open session. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session. Chairman Young reported that Whitaker dismissed herself and left the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve basketball supplements for Ricky Wilson and Keshia Hall. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 3-1 vote with Easterwood opposed to renew the superintendent's contract through June 2005.

Thelma Cagle addressed the board about her concerns regarding the Georgia Sunshine Law and open records requests.

Board Comments:

- Mitton stated that more information needs to be available to our students about scholarships.
- Mitton stated his concerns about the dropout rate and the necessity for an alternative school here in Pickens County.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 10:55 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended to include surplus items under superintendent's reports.

Chairman Young said he would make an exception in our public participation board policy to allow an out of county participant to address the board.

Lauri Shaw-wood spoke to the board about her concerns regarding the Georgia Sunshine Law, freedom of information, and truancy.

Thelma Cagle spoke to the board about her concerns regarding accountability.

George Anderson spoke to the board about his concerns regarding the Georgia Sunshine Law, compliance, and made a number of open records requests. (See attachments.)

Tammy Moody spoke to the board about her concerns regarding accountability.

Dale and Stephanie Sparks spoke to the board about the attendance zones and requested that the board rezone the area in which they live. They would like for their child to attend an elementary school closer to their home.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for April 3, 2003.

Lloyd Shaddix, principal of Pickens High School, presented the All State Chorus members and Region Seven Triple A Literary winners: first place boys solo, Will McCurdy; third place boys spelling in the region, Cory Watson; third place girls essay winner, Leanna Edwards; fourth place girls solo, Kaylee Siniard; fourth place dramatic interpretation, Elizabeth Young; fourth place in the state boys solo, Will McCurdy. Will England represented Pickens High School in the Georgia All State Chorus. The board recognized and congratulated the students.

Shaddix stated that Pickens High School raised \$5,212.51 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients campaign, which made PHS the number one fundraising school in Georgia for this charity.

Bess Dickerson, a student member of the Principal's Advisory Committee at PHS, advocated the Pickens High School campus becoming tobacco free.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 3996 students with 81 dropouts to date. There are 452 students in the school system that have 15 or more absences. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.79% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported revenue collected as 85.79% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 68.24%. Burgess reports that she has not received an official midterm nor has she received the allotment sheet from the state.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Georgia Marble donated a spirit rock to Pickens High School. There was a break-in at Jasper Middle School during spring break. The culprits were apprehended. The plumbing problem at Hill City Elementary School was fixed during spring break.

Ballew presented surplus items. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to declare the items surplus.

Shiver reported that North Georgia RESA Apprenticeship Program had publicly thanked the board for participating in the program.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the easement alongside the board's property for the county to improve and widen Harmony School Road.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$1,982,213.00 for the construction of the bus garage facility on Harmony School Road, exclusive of the fueling station which is being bid separately.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Mitton asked what has been done to provide more information to the students about scholarships.
- Chairman Young said he was interested in participating in a GSBA sponsored Roles and Responsibilities workshop with other board members.
- Locke asked what has been done about having summer school at Pickens High School.
- Easterwood stated that he would like to have a workshop to start working on getting the policy manual and job descriptions manual together.

Shiver reported that a records page has been added to our website that describes how to ask for open records and the associated costs and time involved.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 22, 2003, at 4:30 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Chairman Young requested to amend the agenda to include a presentation from Thelma Cagle. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include Thelma Cagle's presentation. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

Thelma Cagle said she would like to present Tate Elementary School with close to 500 books on behalf of the Tate Primary Advocates for Children's Education. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve Charles Black as the construction manager for Jasper Middle School's kitchen additions and lunchroom renovations.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on 5-0 vote to accept the guaranteed maximum price of \$177,239.00 for the fueling station at the new bus garage facility.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to adjourn at 4:46 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 5, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda.

George Anderson spoke to the board about Standards of Conduct, professionalism concerning educators through Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for May 1 and May 22, 2003.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 3962 students with 86 dropouts to date. Jasper Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.00% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported revenue collected for May as 91.05% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 82.01%. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of April as \$4,475.28. The SPLOST balance for April is \$2,187,453.05.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done and that needs to be done over the summer. Ballew said he would like to have a groundbreaking ceremony for the new bus garage facility at the Harmony School Road property.

Shiver reported that the Report from the Capitol was available and can be viewed at www.gssanet.org.

Ballew presented a list of recommended surplus items. There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to declare the items surplus.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the conveyance of Harmony School Road right-of-way property along with an easement addendum to Pickens County.

Transportation Director Charlie Wright reported on the bus inspection to the board. There were 68 busses inspected. There were four busses put out of service that did not pass inspection and three of those were back in service within three days.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the spending resolution. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve Capital Assets Thresholds Policy (DIB). (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve Capital Assets Policy (DIB-R). (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve Promotion and Retention Policy (IHE). This policy becomes effective July 1, 2003. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the vocational and technical education local plan as presented by Vocational/Technical Director Ron Hunter..

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the agriculture local plan.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

Ballew reported that a portable classroom would be moved from Jasper Elementary School to the Pickens High School campus.

Board Comments:

- Easterwood said the Pickens High School graduation ceremony went very well.
- Mitton thanked the school staff for a great school year.
- Mitton said he would like some more information on having a tobacco free campus. He also inquired about adopting a policy for a tobacco free campus.
- Locke said she wanted to have a policy workshop. Locke inquired about the ePolicy.

The video tape of the board meeting was changed at 8:40 p.m.

- The board scheduled a finance committee meeting, a facilities committee meeting, and a called board meeting for June 12, 2003.
- Mitton suggested that the board packet be copied front and back.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 12, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board

members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include board comments. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. 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; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to return to open session at 12:05 a.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken during executive session.

Board comments:

- Easterwood asked Mitton to talk to a Georgia School Boards Representative about our policy manual while at the summer conference in Savannah.
- Easterwood requested to conduct a personnel committee meeting to discuss job descriptions. The meeting is set for July 18, 2003, at 8:00 a.m.
- Easterwood requested a committee review of the effectiveness of block scheduling.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to adjourn at 12:15 a.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY