

2003 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 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. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to delete item XII. tentative approval of school admissions policy IHE from the agenda.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to add executive session to the agenda.

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 Whitaker, to allow Georgia Association of Educators representative Bob Garmon more than five minutes to speak to the board, pursuant to board policy BCBI/KCA. The motion failed by a 3-2 vote with Easterwood and Whitaker voting for, and Locke, Young, and Mitton voting against.

Garmon spoke in support of mechanic Charles Ledbetter's desire to be bus shop foreman.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for June 5 and June 12, 2003.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported revenue collected for June as 97.73% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 88.92%. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of May as \$4,974.02. The SPLOST balance for May is \$2,675,698.84.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. The grading for the new bus garage facility is close to completion.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve a spending resolution for August. Burgess read the resolution into the record. (See attachments.)

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

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve Promotion and Retention Policy (IHE). (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCDA). (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 8:05 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)

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 10:28 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve six additional teaching positions as recommended by the superintendent: 1 consumer science, ½ band director, ½ math at Pickens High; 2 positions at Hill City Elementary, and, 2 positions at Pickens County Middle.

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:

- Chairman Young thanked the central office for their help with the auditors.
- Mitton said we do not give ourselves enough credit for the good job that we do in our roles. He also said to evaluate ourselves on what we can do better.
- Locke said to thank Carol Stancil for making copies of the policy manuals for the board members.

- Easterwood said he thinks we should copy the policy manual and give it to Ms. Grimmett at no charge.
- Mitton suggested that he would like any recommendations from the principals or faculty of those people who have gone beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to improve our school system and help other people. He would like to have those people recognized by the board. Mitton also said for everyone to feel free to e-mail him at gmmitton@tds.net
- Easterwood thanked Hill City Elementary School Principal Carlton Wilson for having summer school at his school.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 10:44 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 5:00 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, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the amended agenda to include personnel recommendations, proposed maintenance salaries for FY04, and final approval of student code of conduct policy JCDA.

Financial Director Amy Burgess provided some information from the Georgia School Superintendents Association. Information included anticipated additional budget cuts for FY04 for programs such as media operations, transportation, administration, and staff development. Burgess informed the board that the tax digest from the county was not available at this time. A finance committee meeting was scheduled for August 7, 2003, at 6:30 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the supplement adjustments for the principals. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the FY04 annual supplements. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to accept the guaranteed maximum price of \$924,033.00 for Jasper Middle School's kitchen additions and lunchroom renovations.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the personnel recommendations as recommended by the superintendent.
There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the proposed maintenance salaries for FY04. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the student code of conduct policy JCDA. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 7, 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. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was amended to delete item VII. (i.e. Big Dragon Hearts), add Shelley Cantrell to talk about enrollment issues, and add executive session. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for July 3 and July 22, 2003.

George Anderson spoke to the board about open records violations and favoritism.

Georgia Association of Educators representative Bob Garmon asked the board to restore Mr. Charles Ledbetter's family coverage health insurance benefit or increase his salary by an equivalent amount.

Rhonda Mullins spoke to the board about allowing Hill City Elementary School buses to drive by her daycare and drop off students, or allowing her children and other children to attend Jasper Elementary School.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported SPLOST revenue collected for June as \$278,809.77. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of June as \$4,993.38. The SPLOST balance for June is \$2,965,233.03. Burgess said the audit exit interview went very well.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Hill City Elementary School's additional parking is completed, adding about fifty more parking spots. A facilities committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2003, at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell spoke to the board about enrollment issues. Family A has attended Pickens County Schools for seven years and lives on Sassafras Parkway inside of Dawson County. Family B has attended Jasper Elementary School since kindergarten and the family resides on Sassafras Parkway, which is also inside Dawson County. Family C has attended Pickens County Schools for five years and their residence is Price Creek Road in Talking Rock inside Gilmer County.

Superintendent Shiver spoke to the board about the local impact of the No Child Left Behind Act. All three Pickens County elementary schools met Adequate Yearly Progress. Pickens County Middle School (PCMS) is listed as a needs improvement school. Jasper Middle School did not meet AYP, but is not listed as a needs improvement school because the school has been open for only one year. The administration is appealing the designation of PCMS.

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

Shiver proposed Stacy Bruce of Crescent Bank as a business community representative the Tate Elementary School Advisory Council. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the School Advisory Council representative as recommended.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 9:30 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the supplements as recommended. (See attachments.)

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve the FY04 budget in the amount of \$30,329,135. (See attachments)

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

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve Susan Reeves to work forty-nine percent of regular employment time as Coordinator of Federal Programs and Technology Information Services, along with a two-year contract to begin July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2006.

Board Comments:

- Easterwood told the principals that he appreciated them and to be careful and have a good year. Easterwood gave special thanks to Mr. Steve McDaniel for the accomplishments that were made during Jasper Middle School's first year.
- Locke thanked Burgess for her hard work on the FY04 budget.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, September 4, 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. 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.

The agenda was amended to move item VII. (i.e. Big Dragon Hearts) to after approval of the minutes and add executive session prior to personnel. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for August 7 and August 26, 2003.

The first Big Dragon Hearts award was awarded to Arvel Townsend in appreciation of his outstanding service and dedication to improving our school system and going above and beyond his expected duties and responsibilities. Mr. Townsend has been employed with the Pickens County Board of Education for 43 ½ years.

Freida O'dell spoke for Martha Bland who would like the board to annul the tribunal waiver that she and her son David Bland signed, opting for David to attend Crossroads Alternative School for the 2003-04 school year.

Lauri Shaw-Wood spoke to the board about open records requests and the Constitution.

Wendy Roberts spoke to the board about special education and the federal law requiring school districts to comply.

Barbara Kiewel spoke to the board about attendance, the truancy policy, and the negative effects the policies had on legitimate absences.

Georgia Association of Educators representative Bob Garmon spoke to the board about Transportation Director Charlie Wright issuing letters of admonishment to Deb Ledbetter and Glenda Grimmett. Mr. Garmon said these letters did not include specific reasons for the accusations. He would like a detailed letter explaining the accusations or issue a letter of apology to Ms. Ledbetter and Ms. Grimmett.

Glenda Grimmett spoke to the board about an admonishment letter she received from Transportation Director Charlie Wright. Ms. Grimmett would like a detailed written explanation of what she did to warrant an admonishment of this nature or a letter of apology.

Jim Fowler spoke to the board to voice his support of the board and the administration of the school system. He also spoke to the board about outside agitators spending his tax dollars.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented certificates to the board issued by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA). These certificates recognize board members' efforts in improving their educational leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4,138 students with 37 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won a plaque for having the highest yearly average daily attendance for the 2002-03

school year. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 97.87% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported SPLOST revenue collected for July as \$274,244.23. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of July as \$5,782.04. The SPLOST balance for July is \$2,979,794.91. Burgess reported that the school system received one audit finding and that was because there was not a fixed asset program in place.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. The piping for the new bus garage facility has begun and the base may be installed next week.

Shiver spoke to the board about the local impact of the No Child Left Behind Act. The administration has appealed the designation of PCMS but has not yet heard the outcome of that appeal. Shiver reported that the final CRCT school, system, and state summaries are not available at this time. Shiver reported he received a letter from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools congratulating the school system for being designated a "Super District for Quality Schools."

Ballew presented a list of recommended 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 proposed the following business community representatives for approval as members of School Advisory Councils: Reeder Burch (Crescent Bank) for Pickens High School; Kirk Garner (Ace Hardware) for Jasper Middle School. There was a motion made by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the School Advisory Council business representatives as recommended.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the Pickens High School choral field trip to Disney World on December 4, 2003 through December 7, 2003.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 USC 1232g.) 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 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).

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 11:13 p.m. 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 as amended. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve two additional teaching positions at Jasper Middle School as recommended by the superintendent.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve a pay schedule adjustment for the SASI clerks as recommended by the Superintendent.

Board Comments:

- Locke told Shiver that she appreciated him. Locke also said she knew that he had to put up with a lot right now.
- Mitton thanked Burgess and Kathy Cagle for their hard work on our FY02 audit.
- Mitton inquired about how PHS was communicating to the senior class about scholarships. PHS Principal Lloyd Shaddix stated that there was a senior newsletter to be released and a senior night for the seniors and their parents.
- Easterwood thanked the staff for how the year has started. He would like everyone to know that he appreciates all they do.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 11:21 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Monday, September 15, 2003, at 6:00 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 6:10 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the amended agenda to include Georgia School Boards Association Beacon Award and executive session.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to nominate Norval Vollwirth of WYYZ for the GSBA Beacon Award.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve the 2003 millage rate of 14.89. (See attachments) The board scheduled three public hearings, in accordance with state law, for concerned citizens to respond to the proposed property tax increase and to make their opinions on the increase known to the board. The hearings have been scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and Thursday, October 2, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D.B. Carroll Street.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to allow families A and B who have nonresident students to stay enrolled in Pickens County Schools for the remainder of FY04. These families must pay tuition to continue enrollment in Pickens County Schools beginning FY 05. Chairman Young stated there would be no more exceptions for Sassafras Parkway out-of-county students. The current policy will be modified. (See attachments)

The video tape was changed at 7:40 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, to require family C to pay tuition to continue education in Pickens County Schools. The motion failed by a 3-2 vote with Young and Mitton voting for and Easterwood, Whitaker, and Locke voting against.

The board took a ten-minute recess at 7:47 p.m. and returned at 7:57 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Young, Mitton, and Locke voting for and Easterwood and Whitaker voting against the request for family C to pay tuition to continue education in Pickens County Schools. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, 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 Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to return to open session at 9:09 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken during executive session.

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

September 25, 2003

A Public Hearing concerning the millage rate was held on Thursday, September 25, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Shirley Whitaker, and Joan Locke.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, October 2, 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. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was amended to postpone item VI. Resolution Honoring PHS 4-H Students to the November meeting and add executive session prior to personnel. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for September 4 and September 15, 2003.

Dale and Stephanie Sparks asked the board to allow their children to attend school in Pickens County even though they reside in Gilmer County. The Sparks asked the board to reconsider their earlier decision concerning school enrollment.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 5-0 vote to designate Ervin Easterwood as the Georgia School Boards Association Legislative Liaison.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. All schools registered at least 95% in attendance for the month of September 2003. Total system enrollment was 4,141 students with 44 dropouts to date. Jasper Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.87% attendance rate.

Superintendent Shiver announced the attendance incentive program by Vernie Jones Ford and expressed his appreciation for their support.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported SPLOST revenue collected for August as \$274,244.23. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of August as \$5,130.99. The SPLOST balance for August is \$3,060,174.74. Burgess reported revenue collected as 4.78% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 22.50%. Burgess discussed the need to approve a tax anticipation note before November, possibly at a called board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Ballew reported that he had met with the architect about getting plans completed to submit to the state so that he can begin the bidding process for the new media center and classroom additions at Jasper Elementary School.

Shiver reported on the 2003 Criterion Referenced Competency Tests CRCT scores and distributed copies of score reports. Principals made reports to the board about their school's performance.

Shiver reported that the Department of Education had contacted him and the Adequate Yearly Progress appeal at Pickens County Middle School had been approved.

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

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the FY04 budget. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the millage rate of 14.89. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the special education VI-B supplements. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session to review an appeal from a student disciplinary tribunal {Hearing Officer, Panel}; (OCGA 20-2-757)

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back to open session. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote 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; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

There was a motion made by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back 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.)
Board Comments:

- Young thanked the principals for their reports on test scores.
- Easterwood encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at 5:30 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 5:30 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda.

Chairman Young opened the loan bids. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to accept the 1.49 percent loan bid from Jasper Banking Company.

Finance Director Amy Burgess read the loan resolution into record. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the loan resolution. (See attachments)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, November 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.

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

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Shiver asked the Board to amend the agenda to include Bob Garmon as a public participant. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood with Mitton abstaining to amend the agenda.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote, with Mitton opposing, to approve the amended agenda adding executive session as Item 13.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, that passed on a 5 to 0 vote that the minutes from the October 22 meeting be changed to reflect an adjournment time of 5:45 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes as amended for September 25, October 2, and October 22, 2003. Superintendent Shiver introduced a proclamation to recognize Elizabeth Jasperse for her accomplishments in 4-H. The proclamation was read into the record by Chairman Young. Superintendent Shiver introduced a proclamation to recognize Katy Morgan, Kayla Dobbs and Cameron Buchanan for their 4-H accomplishments. This proclamation was read into the record by Chairman Young.

Sandy Gwin and Cindy Ragsdale spoke to the Board about concerns related to an employee's job performance.

Bob Garmon asked the Board to reconsider termination of an employee.

Norman Pope, Director of Planning and Development for Pickens County, presented the Board with a growth and development update.

Superintendent Shiver recommended to the Board that the January meeting be moved to January 8, 2004. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to move the January Board meeting to January 8, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Five of the six schools registered at least 95% attendance for the month of October 2003. Total system enrollment was 4,125 students with 45 dropouts to date. Pickens County Middle School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.98% attendance rate. Cantrell recognized the following donors to the Attendance Incentive Program: Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Jasper Banking Company, Pizza Hut, Moore Furniture, Garner Ace Hardware, Becky Denny State Farm Insurance Agency, Royston Corporation , Georgianna Place and Vernie Jones Ford Company.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported SPLOST revenue collected for September as \$210,906.70. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of September as \$6,149.58. The SPLOST balance for September is \$3,181,850.67. Burgess reported revenue collected as 21.27% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 30.19%. Burgess informed the Board that no funds have been borrowed this year.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. The Transportation Department has received three new buses and a draft of the bus driver manual is complete. Ballew reported that a consulting firm will be making efficiency recommendations beginning in November, 2003.

Ballew reported that Construction Supervisor Charles Dunn has been hired for the Harmony School Road project. The Jasper Elementary School construction manager bid will be opened December 2, 2003, at 2 p.m. at the Central Office. The drilling testing requested by the State of Georgia has been completed successfully.

Shiver informed the Board that school staff would be wearing the national colors in celebration of Veteran's Day on November 14, 2003, and all veterans will be invited to have lunch at the school of their choice.

Ballew presented a list of recommended surplus items. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to declare the items surplus. Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux requested Board approval for the eighth grade students from both Pickens County Middle School and Jasper Middle School to travel to Washington, D. C. April 1 through April 4, 2004. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the field trip for the eighth grade students.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote 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; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go back 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 4 to 1 vote with Easterwood opposing, to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- The Board selected Saturday, November 22, 2003, as a day to schedule GSBA training. If training for that date is unavailable, the Board members will attend the GSBA conference in Atlanta.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2003

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 4, 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 was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Shiver asked the Board to approve the agenda. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote, to approve the agenda.

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, that passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2003, meeting

Darlene Childers spoke to the Board about concerns related to an incident involving a student and bus driver.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment is 4,111 students. Hill City Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.82% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported SPLOST revenue collected for September as \$264,770.41. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of September as \$6,386.40. The SPLOST balance for September is \$3,520,608.44. Burgess reported revenue collected as 28.33% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 38.02%. Burgess informed the Board that no funds will need to be borrowed this year.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Ballew informed the Board that an agreement has been reached with the City of Jasper regarding water hookup and the pumping station at Pickens County Middle School. Ballew reported that he had met with Georgia Power regarding installing underground power at Jasper Middle School.

Ballew informed the Board that Transportation Consultants, Inc. has completed the transportation system evaluation and will present the findings of the evaluation at the January 8, 2004, board meeting.

Superintendent Shiver presented the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation from the North Georgia Community Action, Inc.

Superintendent Shiver informed the Board that the error in the report made by the Office of Student Achievement issued by the Georgia Department of Education has been corrected and the graduation rate at Pickens County High School exceeded the state level

average. The dropout rate for Pickens County was below that of the state average in 2002-03.

Superintendent Shiver reminded the Board members that the next monthly board meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Shiver recommended approval of a board resolution that would increase the per diem compensation for board members from \$50 to \$100. Shiver read the resolution into public record. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the resolution.

Jasper Middle School Principal Steve McDaniel requested Board approval for the Jasper Middle School cheerleaders to travel to Orlando, Florida December 28, 2003, through January 2, 2004. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the trip for the Jasper Middle School Cheerleaders.

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

Ballew recommended that the Board approve Charles Black, Inc., as the Construction Manager for the Jasper Elementary School addition. * There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve Charles Black, Inc. as the Construction Manager for the Jasper Elementary School addition.

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

Board Comments:

- Mitton expressed appreciation to the Pickens County Board of Education staff for their efforts toward energy cost effectiveness.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

* Amended minutes per board meeting of January 8, 2004

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY