

2004 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 8, 2004, 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 6:10 p.m.

Shiver led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shiver requested approval of the agenda. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the agenda.

Shiver stated the floor was open for nominations of school board officers for 2004. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke to nominate Tony Young as chair. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to close nominations for chair. The motion to elect Tony Young as chair passed on a 4-0 vote with Young abstaining. Shiver asked for nominations for vice-chair. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke to nominate Shirley Whitaker as vice-chair. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5-0 vote to close nominations for vice-chair. The motion to elect Shirley Whitaker as vice-chair passed on a 4-0 vote with Whitaker abstaining.

Shiver turned the meeting over to Chairman Young.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to schedule the Pickens County Board meetings in 2004 on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood to amend the minutes for the December 4, 2003, meeting to reflect the vote to approve Charles Black, Inc. as the Construction Manager for the Jasper Elementary School project. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes as amended for December 4, 2003.

Superintendent Shiver introduced and welcomed Mrs. Cynthia Bean as the Principal for Jasper Elementary School.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4095 students with a total of 48 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 93.89% attendance rate. Chairman Young commended the six principals for their efforts at improving attendance.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of December as \$5,815.92. The SPLOST balance for December is \$3,270,030.95. Burgess reported revenue collected as 43.72% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 45.92%.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reported that cosmetic improvements were made at each school during the Christmas holiday break.

Shiver invited the Board to attend a celebration at the Chamber of Commerce on February 5, 2004, certifying Pickens County as a Certified Literate Community. Steve Burnett and Jim Miranda of Transportation Consultants, Inc. presented to the Board a written report and summary of the bus garage/transportation department assessment.

School Improvement Specialist Lisa Smith presented a block scheduling committee report to the board. With block scheduling now in the fourth year of implementation, the results at this time are inconclusive. The data will continue to be compiled and a final report should be available August of 2006. Chairman Young requested that any prominent trends be reported to the board as they become available.

Dr. Shelia Frances requested 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.

Ballew presented a list of recommended surplus items. There was a motion by Mark, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to declare the items surplus. Superintendent Shiver recommended adopting the proposed school calendar option 2A for the 2004-2005 school year. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 3-2 vote, with Whitaker and Easterwood voting against to approve the 2004-05 school calendar as recommended by the superintendent.

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

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, February 5, 2004, 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, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Mark Mitton was not in attendance. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Young requested amending the agenda to delete Executive Session. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for January 8, 2004.

Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix presented the STAR student, Cory Watson, STAR teacher, John Braun, Valedictorian, Ginger Caylor, Salutatorian, Jensie Gise; and, Whitney Propes, GHSA State Softball Player of the Year. These teachers and students were recognized and congratulated by the board.

Cynthia Stallings spoke to the board about reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4087 students with a total of 55 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.3% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of January as \$6,448.43. Revenue collected for the month of January is \$7,508.46. The SPLOST balance for January is \$3,052,052.03. Burgess reported revenue collected as 70.07% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 53.02%. Burgess reported adjustments will have to be made to the budget in response to future 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.

Shiver reminded the board that a roles and responsibilities workshop for board members was scheduled for February 21, 2004. The local Future Farmers of America extended an invitation for the board to attend a luncheon and livestock show on the same date.

Shiver extended an invitation to the board to attend the Magna Cum Laude Award presentation to Mary Land, Thursday, February 12, 2004, at Pickens County Middle School with a band concert immediately following the presentation.

The Star Student and Star Teacher banquet sponsored by the Jasper Optimist Club will be held on February 26, 2004, at Jasper United Methodist Church.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the revised application and contract for state construction funding under HB 1187 for the Jasper Elementary School addition.

Camille Robinson came before the board to request a contribution of \$3,000.00 for the Certified Literate Community Project. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to grant the contribution request.

Ballew requested that the board renew its emergency shelter agreement with Grandview Health Care Center. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to renew the agreement.

Ballew presented items for surplus. There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to declare these items surplus.

Shiver recommended that a maximum class size resolution be adopted by the board and presented to the Georgia General Assembly. Chairman Young read the resolution into the public record. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote, to adopt the resolution. (See attachments.)

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

Board Comments:

- Young thanked the STAR students, STAR teachers and administration.
- Easterwood urged the board members to attend Legislation Day at the Capitol on February 11 and March 8, 2004.
- Board attorney Landrum clarified that the contract with Grandview Health Care Center is for an indefinite term with 30 days necessary to terminate.
- Middle school principals reported that student participation in the after school program is not optimal but the transportation made available has helped.

Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker. Mark Mitton was not in attendance. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Young requested amending the agenda to add executive session. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include executive session.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for February 5, 21, 24, and 25, 2004.

Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix and Wrestling Coach Sam Wigington presented PHS state wrestling finalists Brandon Rowland, D.J. Rau, Chad Wigington, and Jeremy Burnette. These students were recognized and congratulated by the board.

As a special presentation to the board in recognition of School Board Member Appreciation Week, Jasper Elementary School students Brooke and Brad Rutledge read the book Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4109 students with a total of 59 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.65% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of January as \$5,661.15. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of January was \$267,502.15. The SPLOST balance for January is \$2,965,064.06. Burgess reported revenue collected as 77.48% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 60.53%.

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 sent the three year certified asbestos inspection report to the state.

Superintendent Shiver talked to the board about changes in Georgia's curriculum, instruction, and testing programs along with our plans for implementing the proposed Georgia Performance Standards.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the guaranteed maximum price of \$1,257,832.00 to Charles Black Construction for the new media center and classrooms at Jasper Elementary School.

A motion was made by Whitaker, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to continue to use H. Lloyd Hill Architect and Associates Incorporated for our next school construction project.

A motion was made by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 6:58 p.m.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to return to open session at 8:00 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

A motion was made by Locke, seconded by Young, which passed on a 3 to 0 vote with Easterwood abstaining to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Young thanked those who prepared and attended the reception.
- Locke expressed appreciation for the gifts that she received.
- Whitaker thanked the JES students who came to read to the board.
- Easterwood thanked those who came to the reception.

Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Locke, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School 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 5:08 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to convene in executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Mitton arrived at the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to reconvene in open session.

Chairman Young reported that no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5-0 vote to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, March 17, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to convene in executive session to discuss pending litigation.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to reconvene in open session.

Chairman Young reported that no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, April 1, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Joan Locke, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include tentative approval of sections A and B of the online board policy manual.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the minutes for March 4, 9, and 17, 2004.

School Nutrition Program Director Melinda Edwards presented the food service sanitation inspection reports for all the schools. Edwards presented PCMS cafeteria staff with a certificate from the Georgia Department of Education recognizing excellence in student participation in the school nutrition program at their school. Chairman Young presented each cafeteria manager with a letter of commendation.

Attorney Phil Hartley of Harbin and Hartley Law Offices presented sections A and B of the online board policy manual for tentative approval. There was a motion by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5-0 vote to tentatively approve sections A and B of the online policy manual.

School Social Worker Lynn Palmer presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4071 students with a total of 64 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.8% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of February as \$3,705.11. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of February was \$267,180.25. The SPLOST balance for February is \$2,717,842.93. Burgess reported revenue collected as 80.46% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 68.68%. Mitton inquired about a debit for \$618,223.75 on the JBC

statement and stated that he did not see an explanation for it. Burgess replied she would have to check on it and stated she thought it was the transfer to the sinking fund account to pay the bond payment for the high school which is due in February. Burgess said she would verify this information and let him know.

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 \$4,592.00 was collected for the silent auction.

Pickens County Middle and Hill City Elementary Schools participated in the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. PCMS placed first and HCES placed third.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to nominate Tony Young as the delegate and Mark Mitton as the alternate for the GSBA Delegate Assembly in Savannah in June.

A motion was made by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to declare the items presented as surplus.

A motion was made by Locke, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal, 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; and, 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.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to return to open session at 9:03 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Locke, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote with Whitaker abstaining to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. Whitaker stated that she is the mother of three teachers who are employed by the school system. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Chairman Young noted that the decision to hold an executive session on March 17 was made after consultation with the board attorney, but the board would consider their action in light of the local newspaper's report and editorial. Young said the board would correct any procedural error as best they could and would provide full disclosure of the meeting's discussion to the fullest extent possible.
- Mitton thanked Tate Elementary School Principal Sherry Mullins for the yearbook.

Young made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 6, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which failed to pass on a 2 to 2 vote with Young and Mitton opposed to amend the agenda to include the appointment of a new board member.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which failed to pass on a 2 to 2 vote with Whitaker and Easterwood opposed to approve the agenda as presented.

Young called for a ten minute recess at 6:16 p.m.

Young called the meeting back to order at 6:19 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to amend the agenda to include the scheduling of a called board meeting to discuss the vacancy on the school board.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to include his question concerning the debit entry that was on the Jasper Banking Company statement in the April 1, 2004, minutes and approve the minutes as amended.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to schedule a called board meeting to discuss the vacancy on the school board. The called board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix presented Region 7-AAA literary meet winners, all state chorus, and band members: Corey Watson, second place, boys spelling; Alex Pauley, fourth place, girls dramatic interpretation; Harrison Kish, fourth place, boys dramatic interpretation; Will England, all state chorus; Charles Land, Samantha Cook, Valerie Stancil, Benjamin Stuart, James Land, Kevin Demarcus, and alternate Nato Singletary as all state band members. Shaddix announced that PHS is the Region 7-AAA girls track champions with two girls qualifying for state in five events. The two girls are Whitney Propes and Noni Rice. The PHS girls' golf team finished second in region competition and will go on to state next week. Those students are Mallory Chastain, Samantha Pinson, and Ashley Poole.

Hill City Elementary School Principal Carlton Wilson announced that HCES placed third out of eleven elementary schools in the state at the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. Wilson recognized Ms. Nikki Roohi as the coach. Wilson recognized the following students who competed: Courtney Clark, Kaleb Clark, Chandler Cook, Melissa Neese, Elika Roohi, Kellsie Waden, Frankie Sparks, Justin Weaver, and Cori Smith.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux reported that PCMS placed first out of five middle schools in the state at the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. LeMieux recognized the students who competed: Stephanie Berndt, C.J. Fellows, Jamin Baughman, Kayla Cross, Jaclyn McClain, J.R. Williams, Taylor Perry, Kendra Stowe, and Jodi Van Meter. The PCMS coaches were Janice Sly, June Gilbert, and Brenda Gorseth.

Janice Sly is the President of the newly formed Pickens County Reading Council. This organization is new for the community and will promote the joy and importance of reading to groups of all ages. Sly presented honorary memberships for the reading council to the board.

Superintendent Shiver presented sections A and B of the online board policy manual for approval. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve sections A and B of the online policy manual.

Superintendent Shiver presented sections C, D, E, and F of the online board policy manual for tentative approval. There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to tentatively approve sections C, D, E, and F of the online board policy manual.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4047 students with a total of 79 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 96.93% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of March as \$3,508.85. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of March was \$297,064.42. The SPLOST balance for March is \$2,570,765.56. Burgess reported revenue collected as 90.44% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 75.74%. Burgess confirmed that the debit entry on the February bank statement that Mitton had questioned at the April meeting was the bond payment for Pickens High School. Burgess also reported the Department of Audits conducted its exit interview. The interview was very positive and reflected well on the school system. We received two findings. One finding concerned travel expenditures incorrectly reported to the state due to a software problem. This problem has been corrected and will be monitored and verified for FY04. The second finding required additional segregation of duties related to the handling of school activity accounts. The schools currently limit the handling of funds to two people at each school. The Department of Audits requires three people to be involved in this process. We are making changes to comply with this finding.

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 Jasper Middle School kitchen additions are near completion. The JMS kitchen staff did not miss a day preparing meals for the students.

Superintendent Shiver reported that Pickens County Elementary and Middle schools received SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Accreditation. Pickens County Schools was one out of sixty-one school systems in Georgia to receive accreditation for all schools in the system.

Superintendent Shiver reported that there may be some possible modifications of the school attendance zones due to enrollment issues at Hill City Elementary School.

Ballew presented a list of items for surplus. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to declare the items presented as surplus.

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

Chairman Young read a disclosure statement describing the March 17 executive session and a proposal from the City of Jasper to the Pickens County Board of Education. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to offer the conveyance of the pumping station/sewer system to the City of Jasper for waiver of City of Jasper fees associated with the Harmony School Road projects. Chairman Young opened the meeting to any questions pertaining to this issue. No questions were posed to the Board.

Board Comments:

- Chairman Young expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Mrs. Locke during her time on the school board.

- Mitton thanked Hill City Elementary School Principal Carlton Wilson for the yearbook and the hat.
- Easterwood thanked Chairman Young, Board Attorney Phil Landrum III, Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew, and Superintendent Lee Shiver for working hard to resolve the issue with the City of Jasper.
- Mitton commended City Council Member Barry Cheshire for the efforts he has put forth trying to resolve this issue between the City of Jasper and Pickens County Board of Education.

Young made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes May 20, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Tim Butler, Patricia Wigington, Joe Wigington, and Lori Carver spoke to the board, asking them to consider waiving policy IKDB. The waiver of this policy would allow their children to participate in graduation ceremonies although they have not met all the criteria to earn a diploma.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to waive policy IKDB graduation ceremonies for this year. The board plans to develop a new pro-active policy designed to provide significantly more assistance to students who do not pass all sections of the Georgia High School Graduation Tests on the first attempt.

Mitton asked Attorney Phil Landrum how the board should handle appointing a new board member. Landrum said there were several different ways that the board could use to appoint a new board member. The board decided to place an advertisement in the Pickens County Progress for those that are interested in becoming a board member. Interested citizens should send in a letter of interest to the Board. The Board established a deadline of June 18, and will review the letters received at the July board meeting.

Easterwood asked Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix to comment about the decision the Board made to waive policy IKDB. Shaddix said the school will work diligently to put in place a more effective process to help students earn their diploma before graduation. Shaddix said it is his job to enforce board policy. Shaddix said it is important that our students and their parents have a clear understanding of the requirements of graduation well in advance.

Mitton thanked Shaddix for the efforts he has put forth for graduation. Chairman Young commended the high school for the number of graduates receiving a diploma.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

Anthony W. Young, Chairman

Lee A. Shiver, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 3, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pickens County Schools' new Transportation Facility for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include executive session.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the May 6, 2004 minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the May 20, 2004 minutes as submitted.

Marcia Jasperse thanked the board for allowing her to be a part of the block scheduling committee. Jasperse is concerned that block scheduling is taking time away from academics. Jasperse asked the board to allow the committee to continue to analyze more data.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total

system enrollment was 4015 students with a total of 80 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School won the Highest Monthly Attendance Banner with a 95.58% attendance rate.

Finance Director Amy Burgess discussed the SPLOST report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of April as \$3,033.29. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of April was \$238,424.29. The SPLOST balance for April is \$2,731,601.81. Burgess reported revenue collected as 95.74% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 83.11%. Burgess reported that the web transfer on the April bank statement of \$335,263.58 was designated funds for the Jasper Middle School renovations project placed into the SPLOST account.

Mitton inquired about the finding from state auditors requiring additional segregation of duties related to the handling of school activity accounts. Burgess said the schools previously limited the handling of funds to two people at each school. The Department of Audits requires three people to be involved in this process. The changes have been made to comply with this finding.

Assistant Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. The approximate cost of the softball field lights at Pickens High School is \$26,000.00. Ballew reported that final inspection on the Jasper Middle School kitchen additions and lunchroom has been done. Punch lists are being prepared for the kitchen additions and the lunchroom. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the purchase of a modular classroom for Hill City Elementary School. Ballew reported substantial completion for the new bus shop. Ballew met with Architect Steve Hill and gave him permission to start plans for the new elementary school. Ballew arranged for Jack Mullis, a Department of Education Facilities Representative, to meet with the Board on June 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Lee Shiver reported to the board that 91% of the third grade students met or exceeded the state reading standards on the CRCT. Shiver indicated he will present additional information concerning CRCT scores at the July board meeting. Shiver spoke to the board about the new student attendance laws.

Bryce Holcomb of Citigroup spoke to the board about refinancing the bonds for Pickens High School. Mitton expressed his concerns about the lack of participation from the local banks. Mitton said that the local banks did not have enough time to respond. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the refinancing of the Pickens High School bonds in the amount of \$7,655,000.00 to RBC Centura at an interest rate of 3.42%. The refinancing of these bonds will save the school system \$365,686.75. A resolution was read into the record by Chairman Young. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to accept the resolution as read. (See attachments.)

Ballew presented a list of items for surplus. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to declare the items presented as surplus.

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

Mimi Jo Butler spoke to the board about the National Register of Historical Places. Butler requested a letter of endorsement to send to the National Register from the board supporting an effort to add Tate Elementary School to the National Register.

School Improvement Specialist Lisa Smith from the North Georgia RESA made a presentation on behalf of the block scheduling committee. Smith provided comparative data on traditional and block scheduling from the 1995-1996 school year to the present. Smith said she would like for the committee to continue to study the effectiveness of block scheduling and compile additional data.

Young asked Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix if the changes in the sequencing of science courses had been done. Shaddix confirmed the changes.

Shiver said recommended changes in the Student Code of Conduct had not been finalized. Mitton asked if the changes could be presented to the board at their June 14 meeting. Shiver said he would have them ready.

Shiver presented sections C, D, E, and F of the online board policy manual for approval. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve sections C, D, E, and F of the online board policy manual. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve recommended changes to Capital Assets Thresholds Policy DIB.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Rehabilitation and Education Collaborative Agreement as recommended by Special Education Director Teresa Ware and Shiver.

Shiver requested for the principals' state supplements to be held harmless from recent state budget cuts and changes in the FTE count. A motion was made by Whitaker, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the additional local supplements totaling \$844.00. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 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))

The board took a five minute recess.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 10:08 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

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

Board Comments:

- Mitton thanked Engineered Structures, Inc., H. Lloyd Hill, and Coca-Cola for sponsoring the open house.
- Mitton said graduation was a great success and he thanked the staff.
- Mitton said we need to find a way to alleviate the traffic problems at PHS.
- Mitton asked Shiver if there was an update from the City. Shiver replied the City rejected the board's offer and suggested the need to pursue mediation subject to board approval in a public meeting.

Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

**Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 14, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to amend the agenda to include executive session to discuss personnel.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

Department of Education Facilities Representative Jack Mullis met with the board to discuss facilities. Mullis told the board about how systems earn money for instructional units. Mullis discussed funding for additions to the present high school compared with the construction of building a new high school. Mullis suggested that the school system consider revising the five year plan. He will meet again with Assistant Superintendent Ballew and Superintendent Lee Shiver in July.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded Mitton, which passed on 4 to 0 vote to tentatively approve policy JCDA Student Code of Conduct.

Mitton asked about a policy on drug testing students. Shiver said he would find some sample policies and provide those to him.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 7:35 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))

Chairman Young called for a five minute recess.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 10:55 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

Shiver asked to amend his personnel recommendations to include two additional teaching positions at Hill City Elementary School, and one each at Tate Elementary School and Jasper Middle School. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the personnel recommendations as amended.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4-0 vote to adjourn at 10:57 p.m.

Anthony W. Young, Chairman

Lee A. Shiver, Secretary
