

2004 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 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, Mark Mitton, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to include approval of a supplemental bond resolution.

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

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

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the June 3 and June 14, 2004, minutes as submitted.

The public participant who had requested to be on the agenda was not present.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented the financial report. Shiver reported interest paid for the month of May as \$3,098.03. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of May was \$276,057.88. The SPLOST balance for May is \$2,725,522.50. Shiver reported revenue collected as 97.65% of the budget's projections and expenditures as 90.16%.

Mitton inquired about the item listed as "other taxes" on the financial statement.

Bookkeeper Kathy Cagle explained that the railroad equipment car tax was budgeted in one revenue account but was booked in a different account due to changes in the disbursement of funds.

Shiver told the board that the state had approved a two percent raise in the teacher salary schedule beginning in January. Shiver explained to the board that the system could distribute the increase over the fiscal year starting in July, unless the board objected.

Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew presented the facilities update. Ballew reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Ballew reported that four new floors have been installed at Tate Elementary School and an additional air conditioning unit was installed in the cafeteria. Canopies have been

installed at the bus loading areas of Pickens High School. The softball field lights should be installed in the middle of July. A new intercom system and new windows are currently being put in at Jasper Middle School. Architect Steve Hill will be here next week to do the punch list for the Jasper Middle School kitchen and lunchroom additions. There will be some repairs to the tile at Hill City Elementary School. The portable unit for Hill City Elementary School will cost \$30,400.00. A new road has been cut in for Jasper Elementary School's new Media Center. Steve Hill's office is working on the plans for the new school. Ballew said he would contact the contractor about the lighting outside of the transportation facility to come on at night.

Shiver presented the Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) and other assessment results. Shiver reported the scores for all grade levels by school and explained how they compared with the state.

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.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve a spending resolution for July. The spending resolution was read into record. (See attachments).

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Vocational and Technical Education Local Plan as presented by Vocational/Technical Director Ron Hunter.

The video tape was changed at 8:10 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Agriculture Education Local Plan as presented by Vocational/Technical Director Ron Hunter.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to tentatively approve board policy IHF(5) related to graduation requirements.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to hold a policy workshop followed by a called board meeting on July 12, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to defer tentative approval of section G of the online board policy manual to the policy workshop on July 12, 2004.

The board asked Attorney Phil Landrum to make sure all the board vacancy seat applicants meet the requirements for serving on the board.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to defer approval of the annual supplements to the July 12 policy/finance workshop for discussion.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to amend the time for the policy/finance workshop from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 12, 2004.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 8:38 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 Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 9:20 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

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

A supplemental resolution for the refinancing of the Pickens High School bonds was read into record. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the supplemental resolution. (See attachments).

Board Comments:

- Chairman Young said that Mrs. Kathy Cowart passed away this week and will be sorely missed.
- Easterwood attended the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) delegate conference in Savannah. He said it was a good meeting and he appreciated the fellowship.
- Mitton told Ballew he appreciates all his hard work and service to the Pickens County School system.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Monday, July 12, 2004, for a finance/policy workshop which began at 5:00 p.m. followed by a called board meeting.

These meetings were held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. 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 board meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4-0 vote to amend the agenda to include a spending resolution for August and to discuss dates for mediation between the Board and the City Council.

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

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

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to tentatively approve section G of the online policy manual as amended.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve a spending resolution for August. (See attachments).

Superintendent Lee Shiver and the board discussed dates for mediation between the Board and the City Council. The Board directed the Superintendent to contact the City Council's office and offer July 28 and 29 as possible meeting dates.

Attorney Phil Landrum discussed some options to the board on how to interview the applicants for the board seat vacancy. The board will conduct those meetings in an open forum. The board decided to place an advertisement in the Pickens Progress asking the public to send in questions they would like the board to ask the applicants during interviews.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the annual supplements as proposed.

Board Comments:

- Easterwood said that the local businesses are asked to give donations almost everyday. Easterwood asked Shiver to discuss with the leadership team a plan to offer something in return for donations. Superintendent Shiver replied that businesses should ask for a letter signed by the principal authorizing any fundraiser that requests donations.

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 5, 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 6:06 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 approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the July 1 and July 12, 2004, minutes as submitted.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented the board with school board member training certificates. The certificates are from the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) recognizing the efforts of the Board in improving their educational leadership skills, knowledge and abilities.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of June as \$3,768.62. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of June was \$368,136.87. The SPLOST balance for June is \$3,004,023.27. Burgess reported there will not be a general fund statement until a budget is in place.

Mitton inquired about the final payment for the new bus garage and the kitchen additions and at Jasper Middle School and the bus garage. Director of Special Projects Mile Ballew replied that we have not made final payments on these projects.

Ballew presented the facilities update, and reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools. Ballew reported voicemail updates and reconstruction to the drain system at Tate Elementary School. The softball field lights have been installed at Pickens High School. A new intercom system and new windows have been installed at Jasper Middle School. Pickens County Middle School received new tables in their cafeteria. Ballew reported substantial completion for the Jasper Middle School kitchen and lunchroom additions. Voicemail has been updated at Hill City Elementary School.

Voicemail was installed at Jasper Elementary School. The portable unit at Hill City Elementary School has been set up for classroom use.

Shiver recommended Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation for the Georgia School Board Association Partnership Commendation. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to nominate Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation for the GSBA award.

Shiver presented corrected Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores for Hill City Elementary School and Pickens County Middle School.

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

Attorney Phil Landrum reported that all the applicants for the board seat vacancy met the requirements for serving on the board. Landrum told the board that one of the candidates had withdrawn. Landrum said he would run an article in the Progress asking the public to submit questions for board member interviews.

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve board policy IHF(5) related to graduation requirements. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve section G of the online board policy manual.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 7:24 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))

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 7:28 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken.

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Young thanked all the principals for a smooth start on the new school year and affirmed what a difficult job they have. He said great things are going to happen this year.
- Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented enrollment for the first day of school. Principal Sherry Mullins was presented with an award for the highest attendance for last year at Tate Elementary School. Cantrell reported that 16 dropouts said they were going

to get their GED. Nine of the 16 are actively enrolled, but no one in the group has completed the GED.

- Mitton asked how many students participated in retaking the graduation test. Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix replied that nine students participated.
- Chairman Young asked about paving the road behind Hill City Elementary School. Easterwood replied he thought it would be paved within the next year.
- Shiver introduced Supervisor of Operations Mr. Tom Keating to the board.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Called Board Meeting Minutes

August 24 , 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, August 24, 2004, for a facilities workshop which began at 6:00 p.m. followed by a called board meeting. These meetings were held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. 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 board meeting to order at 8:55 p.m.

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

The board discussed how they will interview the applicants for the board seat vacancy.

The board discussed elements of the FY05 budget.

The video tape was changed at 10:27 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to adjourn at 11:10 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Called Board Meeting Minutes

August 26 , 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 26, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. for a called board meeting. This meeting was held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. 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 board meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Chairman Tony Young thanked interviewees Jerry Chastain, Melissa Hirtle, Cherie Martin, Annelle Bagwell, and the audience for coming to the meeting. Young stated that holding a position on the board was difficult. Young explained how the interviews would be conducted. The Board proceeded to interview the candidates. Following the interviews, Young thanked the candidates and the audience.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes September 2, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, September 2, 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 6:07 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 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to add discussion of board vacancy.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to amend the agenda to add executive session.

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

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the August 5, 24, and 26, 2004, minutes as submitted.

Pamela McManious asked the board to consider allowing her daughter Erin McManious to go back to Pickens High School. Erin is currently attending Crossroads Alternative School. Erin spoke to the board and said that she had learned her lesson and would like to return to PHS.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented the Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation (AEMC) with the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Partnership Commendation Award. AEMC Chief Executive Officer Mr. Bob Payne was present to receive the award. Chairman Young read a resolution honoring AEMC.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 2-1 vote with Young opposing and Whitaker abstaining to table the Pickens County Board of Health Memorandum of Understanding until a provision was included to insure 24..hour supervisory responsibilities on the part of the Board of Health.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4210 students with a total of 12 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School had the highest attendance rate at 97.67%.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of July as \$3,585.96. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of July was \$321,890.88. The SPLOST balance for July is \$2,841,951.62.

Mitton inquired about the final payment for the new bus garage and the kitchen additions at Jasper Middle School. Burgess replied that we have not made final payments on these projects.

Supervisor of Operations Tom Keating presented the facilities update, and reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at all the schools.

Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew said he is evaluating another access road for Pickens High School. He met with two contractors and discussed a way to relieve some of the congestion at PHS. Ballew will order a portable building for PHS for classroom use. The bus garage has not received final completion. A security system was installed at the bus garage. Jasper Middle School kitchen additions and lunchroom renovations are almost complete. The Jasper Elementary School Media Center has had the heating and air installed and some of the brick has been laid. Construction for the media center is on schedule. Ballew reported that the school on Harmony School Road needs to be built to FTE funding size.

Pickens High School Principal Lloyd Shaddix presented SAT scores. Shaddix reported a 19 point drop in the 2004 average senior class SAT score compared to 2003. There was an increase of 16 students taking the test. Shaddix said that the PHS SAT scores were still above the state average.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve a spending resolution for September. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 3 to 1 vote with Mitton opposing to tentatively approve the FY05 Budget.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the additional salary supplements. (See attachments.)

Keating 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.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Pickens High School Chorus travel to Disney World on December 2, 2004.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 3 to 0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. Chairman Young abstained from the vote. His mother is Susan Young and her name was on the list of personnel recommendations as a substitute teacher. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go into executive session at 7:13 p.m. to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 USC 1232g.)

Chairman Young called for a five minute recess.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to go back to open session at 7:42 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

Mitton said he appreciated all the candidates that applied for the board seat vacancy. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote to appoint Jerry Chastain to fill the board seat previously held by Joan Locke.

Whitaker made a motion, seconded by Mitton, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

**Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 8, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. for a called board meeting. This meeting was held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the board meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

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

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed on a 3-1 vote with Mitton opposed and Chastain abstaining to tentatively approve the 2004 millage rate of 15.87.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

Anthony W. Young, Chairman

Lee A. Shiver, Secretary

**Board Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, October 7, 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, Jerry Chastain and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the September 2 and 8, 2004, minutes as submitted.

Pickens County Middle School Math Chair Jeanne Beecken recognized math regional champions. Students in Carrie Stephens' sixth-grade class at Pickens County Middle School (Brandon Cantrell, Nick Cantrell, Mac Hope, Kyler Mullins, Katie Stocker, Brian Westbrook, and Addie Wofford,) won the Region 5 championship of the Georgia Math League.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed on a 5-0 vote to select Ervin Easterwood as the Legislative Liaison for 2005.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4181 students with a total of 23 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School had the highest attendance rate at 96.74%. We have seven students with 15 or more days absent. Cantrell thanked Mr. Chastain for participating on the attendance protocol committee.

Supervisor of Operations Tom Keating presented the facilities update, and reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at the schools. Keating reported flood damage at three of our schools due to heavy rain from the hurricane.

Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew said the access road beside the softball field will be paved next week. Ballew ordered a portable unit for PHS for classroom use. The portable should be delivered by October 29, 2004. Ballew has received the paperwork for final completion of the bus shop. The Jasper Elementary School Media Center has had all of the brick laid and construction is ahead of schedule.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for the month of August as \$5,217.55. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of August was \$247,739.06. The SPLOST balance for August is \$3,046,781.04. Burgess presented the final financial report for FY04. Burgess reported expenditures at 13.54% and revenue collected at 4.23%.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Mitton opposing to approve the FY05 Budget of \$33,126,769.00. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Mitton opposing to approve the 2004 millage rate of 15.87.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to tentatively approve the proposed attendance zone changes.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to approve the Pickens County Board of Health Memorandum of Understanding.

Keating presented a list of items for surplus. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by

Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to declare the items presented as surplus.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to tentatively approve section I Instruction for the revisions of the online board policy manual.

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

Board Comments:

- Easterwood requested a facilities meeting for October 19, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.
- Mitton visited Pickens County Middle School and was impressed with the ropes course. He said there was a lot of vacant space at PCMS. Mitton said he would like to see a study done to see the pros and cons of combining the middle schools by pulling the sixth and seventh grades together and pulling the eighth and ninth grades together.

The video tape of the meeting was changed at 7:48 p.m.

- Whitaker asked the other board members about releasing Roger McClure from his contract. A called board meeting was scheduled to discuss personnel on October 19, 2004, following a facilities committee meeting.
- Chastain attended the attendance protocol committee meeting and said that Superintendent Lee Shiver represented the school system well.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

**Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 19, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. for a called board meeting. This meeting was held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Shirley Whitaker.

Chairman Young called the board meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

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

There was a motion by Whitaker, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-1 vote with Young opposing to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess discussed a tax anticipation note for November. Burgess said that according to the tax commissioner's office the taxes will not be due until December 30, 2004. The fund balance begins to dwindle prior to this due date and it may be necessary that we obtain a loan.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

Anthony W. Young, Chairman

Lee A. Shiver, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2004

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pickens High School Auditorium for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include executive session to discuss pending litigation.

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

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the October 7 and 19, 2004, minutes as submitted.

The board recognized the Jasper Middle School football team and the Pickens High School football and volleyball teams. The board presented proclamations to each of the head coaches for these teams.

Julie Hickman spoke to the board requesting to name the Pickens High School gymnasium to honor Roy Cowart, a former teacher and coach at the school. The issue was referred to the facilities committee for review.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4150 students with a total of 37 dropouts to date. Tate Elementary School had the highest attendance rate at 96.70%. We have 26 students with 15 or more days absent.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented the financial report. Shiver reported interest paid for the month of September as \$4,910.20. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of September was \$306,220.62. The SPLOST balance for September is \$3,133,994.32. Shiver reported expenditures at 20.91% and revenue collected at 12.24%.

Supervisor of Operations Tom Keating presented the facilities update, and reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at the schools. Drainage problems at Tate Elementary School have been addressed. Pickens High School bleachers have been reconditioned. Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) risk management representatives visited some of our facilities and attended the monthly safety meeting. These representatives will provide a trip report on their assessment. Dyer Roofing will waterproof and re-caulk portions of the Pickens High School roof.

Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew said the softball parking lot was complete. Ballew said the portable unit for PHS is on campus and is currently being wired for computers. The Jasper Elementary School media center internal work is almost complete. Civil engineers are working on the new elementary school site.

Keating presented a list of items for surplus. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Mitton opposing to declare the items presented as surplus. Mitton made suggestions for improving the listing of surplus items.

Chairman Young opened the loan bids submitted by Community Bank of Pickens County, Jasper Banking Company, and Chestatee State Bank. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to accept the 1.95 percent loan bid from Community Bank of Pickens County.

Chairman Young 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)

Shiver proposed Tony Kellogg of Hinton Milling Company as a business community representative for the Hill City Elementary School Advisory Council. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the School Advisory Council representative as recommended.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the proposed attendance zone changes. Students that reside at Mountainside Manor located on Bill Hasty Boulevard are zoned to attend Jasper

Elementary School and Pickens County Middle School.

The video tape was changed at 7:30 p.m.

Ballew requested approval for the Harmony Elementary School Construction Manager. Ballew said there were six companies that bid: Charles Black Construction, Engineered Structured Incorporated, Mecos Builders Incorporated, HEERY Construction, H&M Construction, and Winter Construction. There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to select Charles Black as the construction manager for Harmony Elementary School.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve Section I (Instruction) for the revisions of the online board policy manual.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve Section J (Students) for the revisions of the online board policy manual.

There was a motion made by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve a half-time counselor position at Hill City Elementary School.

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

There was a motion made by Young, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:54 p.m. 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 may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

The board took a five minute recess.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to go back into open session at 8:46 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

Board Comments:

- Mitton inquired about the status of his request status of his request for the administration to a reorganization of grades 6-9. Shiver replied that an initial draft is almost complete.
- Mitton asked about our response to the Grand Jury report. Shiver said he would copy the findings and his response to the board.
- Easterwood and Whitaker thanked PHS staff for allowing the board to hold their meeting at Pickens High School.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

ANTHONY W. YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

**Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 2, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Shirley Whitaker. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to approve the November 4, 2004, minutes as submitted.

Whitaker said that she has really enjoyed serving on the board of education. Young said that she has attended seventy-two consecutive regularly scheduled board meetings.

Mitton entered the board meeting at 6:16 p.m.

The board recognized the Jasper Middle School sixth grade math team. They traveled to Rome, Georgia and competed against twenty-five other middle schools from throughout North Georgia. The JMS sixth grade math team won the competition. JMS student Michael Land had the highest overall score. JMS math team members included: Michael Land, Jessica Gratzner, Emily Talley, Taylor Goble, Jessica Bradley, Joseph Bates, Justin Weaver, Ryan McGehee, and Tyler Weaver. The JMS math team coach is Carol Wilson.

Jasper Elementary School Art Teacher Dr. Kathleen Thompson attended the Georgia Art Education Association annual conference in Savannah. Thompson received an award from the Georgia Art Education Association for the support given to the fine arts program. Thompson presented this award to the superintendent and to the board.

Special Education Director Teresa Ware presented a certificate to Chairman Young honoring the Pickens County School System for excellence in the education of students

with disabilities by increasing the percentage of fully certified teachers. The certificate was received from the Georgia Department of Education Division for Exceptional Students.

Pickens County Certified Literate Community Program. Director Camille Robinson requested \$3,000.00 from the school system to help fund the literacy program.

Garland Pinholster asked to name the Pickens High School gymnasium to honor Roy Cowart, a former teacher and coach at the school.

Superintendent Lee Shiver reported that he had attended Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) redelivery training in Brasstown Valley. The Georgia Performance Standards which are replacing the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) and will be phased in through 2008. Shiver will bring updates as furnished by the Department of Education.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4115 students with a total of 45 dropouts to date. Hill City Elementary School had the highest attendance rate at 96.24%. We have 63 students with 15 or more days absent. Shiver noted that the tardy/early check-out report requested by Easterwood and presented to the board clearly showed a significant problem with the frequency and number of students who check out early or are tardy to school.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of October as \$4,974.38. The SPLOST revenue collected for the month of October was \$314,438.87. The SPLOST balance for October is \$3,304,456.95. Burgess reported general fund expenditures at 27.87% and revenue collected at 18.74%.

Supervisor of Operations Tom Keating presented the facilities update, and reviewed all the maintenance work that has been done at the schools. Roofing and drainage problems at Tate Elementary School and Pickens High School have been addressed.

Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew submitted the new elementary school plans to the state. The bus garage total came in under budget by \$2,564 and the Jasper Middle School kitchen and lunchroom renovations came in under budget by \$44,523 Jasper Elementary School's seven new classrooms are ready. The third grade will be moving into these classrooms next week. Ballew reported a quote of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to alter the railroad crossing signals to accommodate the third lane for the entrance to Pickens High School. Ballew said he would bring the information on the metal building to the next facilities meeting. Georgia Department of Education Chief Architect Ron Nance gave verbal approval for the elementary school.

Keating presented a list of items for surplus. A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to declare the items presented as surplus.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to allow the Jasper Middle School Cheerleaders to travel to Orlando, Florida, to participate in the 2005 Capital One Bowl pre-game performance.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Whitaker opposed to approve Section J (Students) for the revisions of the online board policy manual.

There was a motion Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to schedule a board meeting for January 6, 2005, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Chairman Young told Garland Pinholster the board is waiting on some written options that concern naming the gym and said the board would schedule another facilities meeting and prepare to take some action.
- The board recognized Whitaker for her time on the board and said they would miss working with her.

Young made a motion, seconded by Whitaker, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

CHAIRMAN

LEE SHIVER, SECRETARY

**Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2004**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 for a called board meeting. This meeting was held at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Shirley Whitaker. Attorney Phil Landrum was present

Chairman Young called the board meeting to order at 8:51 p.m.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Whitaker, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 8:52 p.m. to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 USC 1232g.) and 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 Ervin, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 10:01 p.m. Chairman Young reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Whitaker, which passed on a 5 to 0 vote to adjourn at 10:02 p.m.

Chairman

Lee A. Shiver, Secretary