

2006 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 12, 2006, at 6:30 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 John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Superintendent Mike Ballew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ballew stated the floor was open for nominations for school board chairman for 2006. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed 4-0 with Mitton abstaining to elect Mark Mitton as chairman. Ballew turned the meeting over to Chairman Mitton.

Chairman Mitton asked for nominations for vice-chairman. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed 4-0 with Trammell abstaining to elect John Trammell as vice-chairman.

Chairman Mitton announced the finance, facilities, personnel, and policy committees. The Facilities Committee members are Easterwood, Young, and Chastain. Easterwood will chair the Facilities Committee. The Personnel Committee members are Easterwood, Trammell, and Chastain. Trammell will chair the Personnel Committee. The Policy Committee members are Young, Easterwood, and Trammell. Young will chair the Policy Committee. The Finance Committee members are Chastain, Young, and Trammell. Chastain will chair the Finance Committee. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the committees as presented by Mitton.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the December 8 and 29, 2005, minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to schedule the Pickens County Board meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Judy Cunningham in appreciation of her service as Learning Support Specialist at Tate Elementary School. The board recognized Ms. Cunningham for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Ballew presented a certificate to Special Education Director Christine Barker 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.

Ballew presented a certificate to the board from Family Connections. This certificate recognized

the board for their contributions to Family Connections.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4171 students with a total of 48 dropouts to date. We have 73 students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of December as \$7,913.20. The SPLOST revenue collected for December was \$320,099.29. The SPLOST balance for December was \$3,357,372.94. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 37.52% and revenue collected at 31.14%. Burgess said that we did not have to use the loan. Burgess said that state auditors would be here March 20, 2006. Burgess touched base on the 65% bill.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating or a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go back into open session at 8:08 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton said it was the intention of the Pickens County Board of Education to enter into negotiations with Mr. Mike Ballew for the purpose of obtaining his services as Superintendent of our school system. Chairman Mitton told of Mr. Ballew's experience in education and what different jobs he has held throughout his nine years in Pickens County. Chairman Mitton said you may view Mr. Ballew's resume and biography at www.pickenscountyschools.org or you may request a copy at the Pickens County School's Central Office at 159 Stegall Drive, Jasper, Georgia.
- Jasper Middle School Principal Steve McDaniel introduced his new Assistant Principal Mr. Neil Howell to the board.
- Trammell said he appreciated everyone's patience during executive session.
- Chairman Mitton said he attended an open house for the new batting cage facility. Chairman Mitton said he was very impressed by the facility and expected only the best.
- Trammell said thank you to all those that contributed locally and thank you to the personnel and others spent a lot of time on this project for it to come together.
- Easterwood said that the batting cage facility was an impressive complex.

Chastain made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference 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 John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Chairman Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to add a facilities discussion, an executive session, and approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the January 12, 2006, minutes as submitted.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Pat Holliman in appreciation of her service as Secretary/Bookkeeper at Tate Elementary School. The board recognized Mrs. Holliman for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls presented the STAR student, Christina Graves; STAR teacher, Roger Bennett; Valedictorian, Elizabeth Gibson; and, Salutatorian, Jacob Gise. Jacob Gise was not present at this board meeting. These students and teacher were recognized and congratulated by the board.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4153 students with a total of 58 dropouts to date. We have 121 students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of January as \$7,966.82. The SPLOST revenue collected for January was \$311,568.32. The SPLOST balance for January was \$2,157,943.69. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 45.56% and revenue collected at 54.78%.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

Ballew presented the school organizational plan, which is a component of the five year plan. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the school organizational plan.

The City of Jasper has requested easements on A.W. Lawson Boulevard on Jasper Middle School property. Also, the city has requested easements on Harmony Elementary School and Pickens County Schools Transportation properties. These easements are for water lines and sewer lines. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III has prepared easements for each request. A motion was made by Trammell, seconded Easterwood, which passed unanimously to authorize Chairman Mitton to sign easements to provide to the City of Jasper.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to go into

executive session at 5:31 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 Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 5:47 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

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

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to accept the superintendent's contract as prepared by Board Attorney Phil Landrum III and the members of the Pickens County Board of Education.

Board Comments:

- Trammell said he is looking forward to working with Superintendent Mike Ballew and his administrative staff. He feels the board is making good stride.
- Chairman Mitton said thank you for the effort put forth by the board and Ballew during the retreat. The board has a lot to work on. Mitton said he was glad to have Ballew on board.
- Easterwood asked the staff to be sure to write their legislator referencing house bill 390. He welcomed Ballew permanently and said Ballew does an excellent job with facilities.
- Chastain said he appreciates the business knowledge of the central office staff and said that Ballew is an exceptional leader.

Superintendent Ballew said he has worked for the Pickens County School system for nine years. He appreciates serving the people of Pickens County. He is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 5:54 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to move up recognition of PCMS Nettles Basketball Teams, PCMS Sixth Grade Math Team, and PCMS Chorus Student making it item number VIII and approve the agenda as amended.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the February 9, 2006, minutes as submitted.

Superintendent Mike Ballew said that the week of March 13, 2006 was board member appreciation week. Ballew said that he appreciated the board and all that they do.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Teresa Harrington and Ginger Willingham in appreciation of their service as bus drivers. The board recognized Ms. Harrington and Ms. Willingham for going above and beyond their expected duties and responsibilities.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux presented for board recognition the regions champ PCMS Nettles Basketball Team; the 2006 Berry College winning sixth grade math team, Brooke Smith, Damien Allen, Brandon McClain, Alyce Cuilla, Ben Duncan, Chandler Cook, Hannah Keeter, and Shannon O'Dell; and PCMS Chorus Student Stephanie Berndt who was chosen for Georgia All State Middle School Chorus.

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls presented the Salutatorian, Jacob Gise; the Governor's Honor's students Chrysanna Chapman for Technology and Jessica Wegenstein for Visual Art; and John Rellinger as the Drug Awareness poster winner for the state of Georgia for 2006. During Red Ribbon Week Rellinger's poster will be used for the state campaign. These students were recognized and congratulated by the board. Wegenstein was not present.

Tate Elementary School Principal Deborah Longshore presented the Pickens County Spelling Bee winner Qaism Raza. Qaism is in the fifth grade at TES.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4170 students with a total of 63 dropouts to date. We have 170 students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of February as \$4,383.04. The SPLOST revenue collected for February was \$354,332.63. The SPLOST balance for February was \$1,829,763.63. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 52.93% and revenue collected at 71.40%. Burgess reported we have collected funds for QBE and several grants. Burgess reported a deadline for purchase orders is March 31, 2006.

LeMieux presented Success Maker to the board. LeMieux stated all elementary and middle school

principals all want to purchase success maker for use in their instruction program. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to allow Pickens County elementary and middle schools to enter into contract with Success Maker for \$470,603.39.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:12 p.m. to discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) 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 action 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).

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:37 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

Qualls presented Governors Honors nominee Jessica Wegenstein for Visual Arts. Wegenstein was recognized and congratulated by the board.

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

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve Kaye Chastain as a teacher at Pickens High School. Chastain abstained from this vote because Kaye Chastain is his spouse.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve Freda Trammell as a teacher at Pickens High School. Trammell abstained from this vote because Freda Trammell is his spouse.

Board Comments:

- Trammell said thank you to those who provided gifts for the board.
- Chairman Mitton said the SPLOST vote will be March 21, 2006. Chairman Mitton said that the SPLOST is very important to our school system.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell which passed unanimously to nominate Tony Young as Delegate for the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference in Savannah.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell which passed unanimously to nominate Ervin Easterwood as Alternate for the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference in Savannah.

- Chairman Mitton and Easterwood said they and the board appreciate the hard work and effort that Mrs. Peggy Andrews has given to Pickens County Schools. Mrs. Andrews is retiring as of June 30, 2006.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met Monday, March 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a finance committee meeting which began at 5:10 p.m.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to include an executive session and approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve tabulation of facility priorities.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:38 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))

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Chairman Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the March 9 and 27, 2006, minutes as submitted.

Superintendent Mike Ballew said that all Pickens County Schools are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. Ballew presented a certificate to the board.

Pickens County Reading Council President Janice Sly presented the Pickens County Reading Council exemplary Readers of the Year: Jasper Elementary School grades K-2 Chase Garland; Hill City Elementary School grades 3-5 Taylor Boggus; and Jasper Middle School grades 6-8 Michael Land; Pickens High School local and state winner Christie Hightower; English as a Second Language Jasper Middle School student Stephany Navarro; Reading Achievement Award Pickens County Middle School student Arthur Bray. These students were presented with achievement certificates and congratulated by the board.

Pickens County Middle School Media Specialist Janice Sly and Jasper Middle School Media Specialist Cheryl Carter presented the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Winning teams from PCMS and JMS. These students received certificates of recognition and were congratulated by the board.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Dianne Fox in appreciation of her service as a headstart teacher. The board recognized Ms. Fox for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Pickens High School Vocational Director Shannon Gable presented the state winning FFA Poultry Evaluation Team: Roy Lee Fowler, Thomas Turcotte, Jason Segars received highest individual score, and Junior Chapman received second highest individual score. Gable presented Chris Wright as the state winner of the Agriculture Proficiency Award in Agriculture Sales. These FFA members were given certificates of recognition and congratulated by the board. Gable said Chrysanna Chapman was chosen for Governor's Honors in technology and will be attending Valdosta State College for six weeks this summer.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4157 students with a total of 68 dropouts to date. There are 241 students with 15 or more days absent.

Superintendent Ballew reported on construction at Harmony Elementary School.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report.

Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of March as \$4,500.45. The SPLOST revenue collected for March was \$364,137.13. The SPLOST balance for March was \$1,912,641.07. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 60.89% and revenue collected at 77.40%.

Chairman Mitton thanked all those who voted for SPLOST. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to validate resolution of SPLOST election results. Ballew read resolution into record. (See attachments.)

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

Public participant Gary Needham asked the board to reinstate his position as a school bus driver.

Public participant Sharon Prather spoke to the board on behalf of Gary Needham. Prather asked the board to reinstate Mr. Needham to both positions he held with back pay.

Public participant Larry Prather was not present.

There was a motion by Chastain to approve personnel excluding Tyler Mitton. Trammell requested an executive session to discuss personnel. Chastain withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:07 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial action 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).

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:57 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

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

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve Tyler Mitton as a substitute teacher. Mitton abstained from this vote because Tyler Mitton is his son. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- The board welcomed three new assistant principals as their principals introduced them.
- The board thanked those for voting for the SPLOST. The SPLOST financially helps out our schools. The board offered their condolences to the Collins family in Pickens County.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Chairman Mitton reminded the audience that the current week was teacher appreciation week and thanked all teachers for the job they do.

Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator Ben Arp spoke to the board about the Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP). There are currently 14 students involved in YAP at Pickens High School. Arp introduced Brittany Glover a student apprentice teacher at Hill City Elementary School. Glover spoke about her duties and her assignments as a YAP student.

Principal of Pickens High School Tommy Qualls stated that Jessica Wegenstein was chosen for Governor's Honors Program in Valdosta. Qualls introduced Career and Technology Director Shannon Gable to recognize PHS vocational students who had received honors in the VICA/Skills USA program and who will be representing PHS at the national conference in Missouri. Those students are Kathy Keck, Ashley Burgess, Brandi Chadwick, and Marissa Knight. The advisor for VICA/Skills USA is Debbie Grimes. Gable also recognized FFA members who had received honors in state FFA competition. Ali Pettigrew made the semi-finals in the state creed speaking contest. Josh Jarrett, Russell Davis, Michael Hancock, and Ethan Fields placed third in the State Farm Business Management Contest. Andy Bishop was named the state winner in the FFA quiz contest. Lauren Reece was chosen as the state winner in the junior prepared public speaking contest. Lauren delivered her speech on stage in front of over 2500 FFA members and guests at the convention.

Public participant Diane Boyle spoke on behalf of the bus drivers to request that the Board of Education increase salary and compensation for drivers.

Public participant Marguerite Kirschenbauer spoke to the board to update them on parent group activities in support of the gifted program.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4173 students with a total of 76 dropouts to date. There are 308 students with 15 or more days absent.

Superintendent Mike Ballew gave a construction update on Harmony Elementary School. HES is progressing on schedule and nearing completion.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of April as \$4,742.03. The SPLOST revenue collected for April was \$348,342.10. The SPLOST balance for April was \$2,265,725.20.

Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 68.96% and revenue collected at 83.09%. Burgess reported that SPLOST collections are 1.6 million dollars below projection. Burgess reported that we received one finding from audit concerning school activity accounts.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the April 13, 2006, minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the proposed attendance zones. Ballew reported that rising fifth graders may remain at the school they are attending currently and parents must provide transportation for those who wish to stay.

Board Attorney Phil Landrum III entered the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the five year facilities plan.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to surplus items as submitted.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Easterwood and Young opposed to approve 2006-2007 supplements as submitted.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve Wellness Program Policy EEE.

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton thanked those who attended and those who hosted the retirement reception. Chairman Mitton sent condolences to the Puckett family on the death of their daughter.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include an executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation and to approve the amended agenda.

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented certificates of recognition from the Georgia Department of Education for Title I Distinguished Schools. The certificates were given to the Principals of Hill City Elementary School, Tate Elementary School, and Pickens County Middle School for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three consecutive years.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4152 students with a total of 84 dropouts to date. There are 379 students with 15 or more days absent.

Superintendent Mike Ballew gave a construction update on Harmony Elementary School. HES is progressing on schedule and nearing completion. A grand opening ceremony was scheduled for July 23, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.

Maintenance projects was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Ballew reported that all our carpeted gym floors were replaced with hardwood floors. Chairman Mitton said congratulations to Melinda on the cafeteria scores.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of May as \$5,476.50. The SPLOST revenue collected for May was \$304,593.51. The SPLOST balance for May was \$1,384,063.21. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 76.60% and revenue collected at 89.14%.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the May 11, 2006, minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve Wellness Program Policy EEE. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve surplus items as amended.

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

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to enter executive

at 5:35 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)) 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; (OCGA 50-14-2).

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:31 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton welcomed Dr. Nonnie Weeks as the new principal at Jasper Elementary School.
- Trammell said that in workshops/committee meetings they often speak of a variety of programs/issues. In speaking about these issues/programs it does not mean the board is against them. The board is inquiring about programs or expenses so the board can make an informed decision.

Easterwood made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met Wednesday, June 26, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include superintendent reports.

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

The spending resolution was read into the record by Superintendent Mike Ballew. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve a spending resolution for July. (See attachments).

The board discussed the draft 2006-2007 Student Code of Conduct with Ballew and the principals.

Ballew reviewed the Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) scores with the board.

Ballew discussed possible random drug testing for all extra-curricular activities in Pickens County Schools.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary