

# 2007 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

## Board Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 11, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

The board meeting was preceded by a facilities meeting, which began at 4:00 p.m.

Superintendent Mike Ballew called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ballew stated the floor was open for nominations for school board chairman for 2007. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed 4-0 with Trammell abstaining to carry on officers and committees as they were in 2006 including replacing board member Tony Young with newly elected board member Shane Neighbors to serve on the committees that Young served on. Ballew turned the meeting over to Chairman Mitton. The Facilities Committee members are Easterwood, Neighbors, 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 Neighbors, Easterwood, and Trammell. Neighbors will chair the Policy Committee. The Finance Committee members are Chastain, Neighbors, and Trammell. Chastain will chair the Finance Committee.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include Harmony School Road property surplus.

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

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4257 students with a total of 25 dropouts to date. We have 76 students with 15 or more days absent.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance projects report. Shaddix reported that the Fine Arts room at Jasper Elementary School is coming together quickly. Maintenance has begun to get Pickens High School grounds ready for the new addition. New drains have been installed at Harmony Elementary School. Shaddix has been working with County Extension Agent Rick Jasperse about a spider issue at Hill City Elementary School.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of December as \$4,347.82. The SPLOST revenue collected for December was \$273,677.02. The SPLOST balance for December was \$1,872,245.02. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 37.90% and revenue collected at 42.61%. Burgess said that we did not have to use the loan. Burgess said that state auditors were here as of Monday, January 8, 2007.

Superintendent Ballew said that we now have the ability to contact all parents and school employees in minutes referencing school closings. Crisis Communication allows the school system to call in a message referencing school closings and it puts out the call to everyone in minutes.

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.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the December 14, 2006, minutes as submitted.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux requested permission for a field trip to the University of the South in Tennessee for the PCMS Robotics Team. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the field trip for the PCMS Robotics Team.

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

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to surplus Harmony Elementary School property in three tracts of .103 acres.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to surplus the Harmony Elementary School property in three tracts of .103 acres and provide a quitclaim deed to Pickens County Government.

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton said he was looking forward to working with new board member Shane Neighbors and to a good year.
- Neighbors thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the board.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, February 8, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

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

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

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

Chairman Mitton stated that the board and the superintendent had a board retreat in January at Brasstown Valley. The board was able to discuss several issues and expectations. The board discussed their roles and responsibilities at that time.

Vice-Chairman Trammell resigned as Vice-Chairman on the board.

Chairman Mitton resigned as Chairman on the board.

The board meeting was then turned over to Superintendent Ballew.

Superintendent stated the floor was open for nominations for school board chairman for 2007. There was a motion by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed with a 3-0 vote with Trammell abstaining to nominate and approve John Trammel as school board chairman.

Ballew turned the meeting over to Chairman Trammell.

Chairman Trammell thanked the board for nominating him as chairman and said he would do his best as chairman.

Chairman Trammell stated the floor was open for nominations for school board vice-chairman. There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed with a 3-0 vote with Chastain abstaining to nominate and approve Jerry Chastain as school board vice-chairman.

Chairman Trammell announced the finance, facilities, and personnel committees. The Facilities Committee members are Easterwood, Neighbors, and Chastain. Easterwood will chair the Facilities Committee. The Personnel Committee members are Easterwood, Neighbors, and Mitton. Mitton will chair the Personnel Committee. The Finance Committee members are Chastain, Neighbors, and Mitton. Chastain will chair the Finance Committee. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the 2007 committees as presented by Chairman Trammell.

Chairman Trammell reported Hill City Elementary School received national recognition for narrowing the achievement gap between higher and lower performing student groups during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years. Achievement scores were raised for students in math and

reading socioeconomic disadvantaged and nondisadvantaged students.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4263 students with a total of 37 dropouts to date. We have 125 students with 15 or more days absent.

Easterwood enters meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance projects report. Shaddix reported that maintenance department has been focusing close attention to the plumbing system since it has been so cold. The parking lot at Tate Elementary School is 80% complete. The grading work on the parking lot is a joint effort with our maintenance department and the Pickens County Road Department. Waster water from Tate Elementary School was tested by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. We will be required to perform additional monitoring and testing over the next two years. The Fine Arts building at Jasper Elementary School is now being painted. Lockers have been installed inside the classrooms at Harmony Elementary School. Proposals for lawn care maintenance at Harmony and Hill City Elementary Schools and Pickens County Middle School have been sent out for estimates.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of January as \$5,164.54. The SPLOST revenue collected for January was \$326,185.24. The SPLOST balance for January was \$1,383,096.88. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 45.46% and revenue collected at 68.04%. Burgess said that state auditors were here for two weeks and they are not finished with our audit.

Superintendent Ballew opened the bank bids. The bids were opened in the following order: Jasper Banking Company, Community Bank of Pickens County, Chestatee State Bank, Bank of North Georgia, and United Community Bank. Chestatee State Bank bid only on the SPLOST account. All other banks bid on the following accounts: general fund, food service, SPLOST, and the sinking fund. These bids will be evaluated by finance department of the Central Office and by the finance committee and the superintendent will bring a recommendation to the board.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the January 11, 2007, minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the 2007-2008 school calendar as submitted.

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

Board Comments:

- Mitton wanted to schedule a workshop to discuss redistricting for board member areas of coverage. Chairman Trammell scheduled a workshop for Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Board Conference Center

Chastain made a motion, seconded by Mitton, to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Called Board Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on February 28, 2007, at 5:20 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

The called board meeting was preceded by a finance meeting which began at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to add approval of bank bid to the agenda.

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

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve Superintendent Ballew and Finance Chair Jerry Chastain recommendation to accept United Community Banks proposal to service the following accounts for the Pickens County School system: General Fund, SPLOST III, Sinking Fund, and Food Service.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:31 to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

There was a motion made by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Trammell said no action was taken in executive session.

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

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, March 8, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell 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 Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to include approval of bid bond acceptance to the agenda.

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

Jasper Middle School Principal Steve McDaniel recognized Taylor Boggus a sixth grade student. Boggus placed first among all contenders at the math competition at Berry College.

McDaniel recognized Michael Land an eighth grade student. Land placed first in the Lanier Chapter of the Georgia Mathcounts Competition held at the University of Georgia on February 9. He traveled with the math team to Berry College and again placed first in the competition.

McDaniel recognized the seventh grade first boy's basketball region champions. The team won the North Georgia Middle School Basketball Tournament on February 10. Team members are: Sam Crawford, Wesley Easterwood, Aries Johnson, Spencer Jones, Morgan Kephart, Brannon McCoy, Jake Ledbetter, Adam Phares, Tyler Stargel, Jason Walker, and J.T. Weyman.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux recognized the All State and All District Band participants. Students are Ethan Rutledge, Mitchell Ball, and Russ Smith.

LeMieux recognized the PCMS First Lego League Robotics Team. The team coach's William and Jeanne Beecken went over the teams' winnings, research, and what the team has been involved in.

LeMieux recognized the eighth grade girl's basketball team for winning the 2007 Regional Basketball Championship. Team members include: Kayla Byrom, Jazmine Goss, Chelsea Coleman, Kelli Johnson, Jamie Waterman, Kayla Barnard, Madison Eubanks, Laurin Hardin, Emily Anderson, Carlee Prather, Kristin Garner, Brittany Carroll, and Dominique Ray.

LeMieux recognized the sixth grade math team for winning the 2007 Spring Berry College Math Contest. Team members included Brett Robertson, Paul Tran, Lynn Tran, Bryan Morris, Cheyenne Hass, Ashton McWhirter, Tiffanie Rainoff, and David Lee.

Superintendent Mike Ballew announced that the week of March 12-16 was School Board Appreciation week and presented the school board with certificates.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was

4268 students with a total of 41 dropouts to date. We have 191 students with 15 or more days absent.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance projects report. Shaddix reported that Ellijay Telephone Company installed a new phone at Tate Elementary School (TES). New carpet flooring was installed in Computer Lab at PCMS. New carpet flooring was installed in the Technology Lab at Pickens High School (PHS). The new tables are in for installation into the new board meeting area. Hill City Elementary School lawn service has been bid out. PCMS and Harmony Elementary School HES lawn services are being bid out. The School Dude program is up and running the reports produced were distributed to the board.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of February as \$3367.69. The SPLOST revenue collected for February was \$352,131.88. The SPLOST balance for February was \$1,526,747.20. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 53.20% and revenue collected at 74.62%. United Community Bank has won the bank account bid and we will be transferring all that information. Burgess reported that she will provide a large portion of the FY08 budget to them at their next Finance Committee Meeting on March 27, 2007.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the February 8 and 28, 2007, minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve surplus items as presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the bond resolution and the intercept resolution presented by Bryce Holcomb of Citigroup and Matt Nichols of Sutherland Asbill and Brennan. (See attachments).

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:58 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3(6)).

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Trammell reported no action was taken in executive session.

The board pulled Kaye Chastain, Amanda Neighbors, Freda Trammell, and Lindsey Mitton off the personnel list to be voted on separately.

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

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve Kaye Chastain's retirement. Chastain abstained from this vote because Kaye Chastain is his spouse.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, 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.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve Amanda Neighbors as a teacher fifty percent at Tate Elementary School. Neighbors abstained

from this vote because Amanda Neighbors is his spouse.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve Lindsey Mitton as a substitute teacher for Pickens County Schools. Mitton abstained from this vote because Lindsey Mitton is his daughter.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:41 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 27, 2007**

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 6:29 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

The called board meeting was preceded by a finance meeting which began at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

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

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:32 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))

Board Attorney Phil Landrum III left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 7:40 p.m.

Chairman Trammell said no action was taken in executive session.

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

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed on a 4-0 vote with Mitton abstaining to include a discussion referencing technology to the agenda.

There was a motion made by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to accept the agenda as amended.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as submitted. (See attachments.)

Board members Easterwood and Mitton left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

There was a brief discussion referencing technology in Pickens County Schools.

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed on a 3-0 vote to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 12, 2007**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, April 12, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Chairman Trammell thanked Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix for job well done on the new board room and thank you to all who were involved.

Chastain led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion made by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

Board Chairman Trammell said on behalf of the board that the PTO plays an important role in our school system. He said good things happen to our school system on behalf of the PTO. Community/Parent Involvement Coordinator Amelia McIntyre presented certificates of recognition to all the PTO officers and to the Parent Advisory Council officers. McIntyre said that they are heroes in our schools and many thanks to them.

Superintendent Mike Ballew said that all Pickens County Schools are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS). Ballew presented certificates to all the school principals.

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls recognized Dwayne Daniels. He will represent Pickens High School and Pickens County in the Governor's Honors Program in the area of Technology Education.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4237 students with a total of 53 dropouts to date. We have 240 students with 15 or more days absent.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance projects report. Ballew reported that the plans for the new addition at Pickens High School were at the state for review.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 61.01% and revenue collected at 81.28%. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST II in the month of March as \$4,138.70. The SPLOST II balance for March was \$1,363,006.60. The SPLOST III revenue collected for March was \$337,925.82. Chastain requested Burgess summarize the audit results presented at the last Finance Committee. Burgess summarized the information presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the February 28, 2007 minutes as amended and approve March 8, 27, and 29, 2007 minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed 3-0 vote with Chastain and Neighbors abstaining to nominate Jerry Chastain as delegate and Shane Neighbors as alternate delegate for the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) delegate assembly in Savannah.

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Trammell said that new board meeting room was a very nice set-up. He also wished good luck to all on the Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) that will be administered next week.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Called Board Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 7:18 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:20 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; (OCGS 50-14-3 (6)); to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to leave executive session at 8:59 p.m.

Chairman Trammell stated that no action was taken during executive session.

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 9:00 p.m.

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

There was a motion made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2007

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

Chairman Trammell said this week is teacher appreciation week and on behalf of the board we thank the teachers for the great job they do in our schools.

Superintendent Mike Ballew and Chairman Trammell recognized the 2007 retirees and presented them with a plaque. Retirees included Kaye Chastain, Freda Trammell, Jeanne Beecken, Robert Kimmer, Debbie Lawson, and Sara Fowler.

Pickens County Reading Council President Cheryl Carter presented Jasper Middle School 2007 Reading Bowl Team 3rd place winners, Pickens County Reader of the year finalists, and the Bob W. Jerrods Reading Achievement Award winner. Pickens High School Teacher and Reading Bowl Team Coach Mrs. Sharon Rasco presented the PHS Reading Bowl Team 3rd place winners.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux recognized students that received the national award called United States Achievement Academy in cheerleading.

Pickens High School Wrestling Coach Sam Wigington recognized the PHS wrestling team for their participation in the state wrestling tournament. PHS Girls Basketball Coach Byrom and Coach Thomas recognized the PHS Girls Basketball team as the 2006-2007 sub-region champions. PHS Technology Education Teacher Ms. Quarles recognized students that participated in the Technology Student Association Achievement Program (TSA) and those students did qualify to compete at the national TSA conference in June. Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls recognized a student for placing second at Skills USA State Conference in plumbing.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4206 students with a total of 61 dropouts to date. We have 288 students with 15 or more days absent.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance projects report. Shaddix reported that Jasper Elementary Schools Fine Arts Building was renovated for less than \$15.00 per square foot.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 68.97% and revenue collected at 86.78%. The April SPLOST II balance was \$1,494,669.50, interest paid was \$3,811.07. The April SPLOST III balance was \$188,067.49, interest paid was \$1,452.97, and revenue was \$388,160.09.

There was a motion by Neighbors, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the

April 12 and 26, 2007 minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus property submitted as surplus.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed on a 3-2 vote with Chastain and Easterwood opposed to annex the Harmony School Road property to the City of Jasper upon the review and approval by the board attorney. (See attachments.)

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

Board Comments:

- Chairman Trammell said thank you to Pickens County Government for their assistance to Shaddix and the maintenance department. Trammell said it was good to see two government entities working together.
- Mitton said that annexing the Harmony School Road property to City of Jasper is government entities working together. Mitton said congratulations to all the retirees.
- Chastain thanked all faculty and staff for the improvements on attendance.
- The Board, Ballew, and Burgess thanked Donna Golden for the reception prepared for the retirees.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:11 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2007**

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include public participation and an executive session.

A motion was made by Neighbors, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

Kim Fountain, Lisa Riley, Lisa Roland, Dawn Dobson, and Melissa Moss spoke to the board concerning cheerleading try-outs at Pickens High School.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:34 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; (OCGS 50-14-3 (6)); to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Trammell stated that no action was taken during executive session.

Chairman Trammell made a statement concerning PHS procedures for cheerleading tryouts.

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

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:56 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 7, 2007**

The Pickens County Board of Education held a called meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held at the Board Conference Center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper, Georgia. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Shane Neighbors, G. Mark Mitton, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

There was a motion made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to delete executive session and approve the amended agenda.

A recommendation was made by Superintendent Ballew to accept a guaranteed maximum price for the alterations and additions to Pickens High School from Charles Black in the amount of \$15,662,876.00. A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to accept the guaranteed maximum price of \$15,662,876.00.

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

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 4:13 p.m.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 14, 2007**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, June 14, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at 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: Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

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

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include executive session.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Board Attorney Phil Landrum III entered the board meeting.

Federal Programs Director Susan Reeves presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4211 students with a total of 67 dropouts to date. We have 404 students with 15 or more days absent.

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented a report on SPLOST II. Projects completed in SPLOST II are bus shop facility, kitchen renovations at Jasper Middle School, seven new classrooms and a new media center at Jasper Elementary School, full construction of Harmony Elementary School, five new busses, technology infrastructure, and Pickens High School bond payments.

Reeves provided the board with a technology update.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 76.54% and revenue collected at 93.43%. The May SPLOST III balance was \$550,624.72, interest paid was \$1,301.56, and revenue was \$364,887.47.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the May 10, 15, and June 7, 2007 minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve revisions to policy BBFA Local School Councils and to tentatively abolish policy IKDB Graduation Ceremonies.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus property submitted as surplus.

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve a spending resolution for July. Ballew read resolution into record.

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the FY08 tentative budget.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:42 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 returned to open session at 6:10 p.m.

Chairman Trammell reported no action was taken in executive session.

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

Chastain made a motion, seconded by Neighbors, to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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John Trammell, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary