

August 11, 2011

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and will receive per diem compensation: John T. Trammell, Ervin Easterwood, Wendy D. Lowe, Dan Fincher, and Byron Long. School Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was in attendance

Chair Lowe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Fincher led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Trammel, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented

Public Participant Mick Fritz with the Pickens County Tea Party shared compliments and support for the local professionals in operating the Pickens County School System. He shared his observations of the school system and concerns with rising costs of education due to federal and state regulations.

Public Participants Donna Tucker and Michelle McElwaney requested transportation to make two stops inside of Bethany Moorings subdivision due to safety concerns at the bus stop.

Public Participant Jane Davis requested that the bus stop location be moved from the corner of her property to somewhere else in the Bethany Moorings Subdivision. She reported that the bus stop was an unsafe location, traffic issues, parents and students throwing trash and walking on her property.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the seventh day enrollment as 4,448 students. Harmony Elementary School received the banner for Highest Yearly Attendance provided by Garner Ace Hardware. Cantrell updated the board on the "School's In Don't Be Out!" campaign and the new truancy ordinance.

Director of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance report to the board. An open house to tour the new Culinary Arts lab at PHS is scheduled for September 8th between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Shaddix reported that 80% of the students were eating lunch in the school cafeterias.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported the FY12 General Fund revenue as 3.76% and expenditures as 4.08%. Burgess reported the SPLOST III July revenue as \$338,103.96, interest as \$1,461.94, and balance as \$2,109,070.91.

Superintendent Ben Desper presented several student achievement slides to display how well the students of Pickens County Schools were doing as far as CRCT tests, graduation rates, attendance, and GHSGT and how they compared to other surrounding counties.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Long, which passed unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes for July 14, 2011.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the spending resolution for September 2011. (See attachments.)

Board Member Ervin Easterwood was nominated to be a member of the Attendance Protocol Committee.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Fincher, which passed unanimously to approve to surplus the items presented for surplus.

A motion was made by Lowe, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 8:01 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 or 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 Lowe, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 10:28 p.m.

Chair Lowe reported no action was taken in executive session.

A motion was made by Long, seconded by Fincher, which passed unanimously to approve Phillip Landrum, Lonnie Dikowski, and Harold Eddy to represent the Board of Education for mediation in the Court of Appeals on Wednesday, August 17th and anytime thereafter.

A motion was made by Long, seconded by Fincher, which passed unanimously to approve personnel recommendations as presented. (See attachments.)


Board Comments:

- Long said he appreciated everyone for coming to the board meeting and for staying late.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Fincher, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 10:38 p.m.



Wendy D. Lowe, Chair



Ben Desper, Secretary