

Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 10, 2008, 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: Mark Mitton, Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, and Jerry Chastain. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Vice-Chairman Chastain called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance update to the board including an update on the renovations and additions to Pickens High School .

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY08 general fund expenditures at 98.69% and revenue collected at 100.39%. The June SPLOST II balance was \$612,157.55 and interest paid was \$1,601.10. The June SPLOST III balance was \$5,848,469.87, interest paid was \$27,730.12, and revenue collected was \$327,864.45. Burgess reported that our exit interview with the Department of Audits had been conducted the past week. We received an excellent review with no findings.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for June 12, 2008 as presented.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus property submitted.

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

Board Comments:

- Mitton encouraged everyone to vote.
- Chastain commented that school would be starting on August 5, 2008.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Neighbors, to adjourn at 5:21 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Mark Mitton, Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, John Trammell, and Jerry Chastain. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

The called board meeting was followed by facilities workshop.

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

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed 4-0 vote to approve the agenda as submitted.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed 4-0 vote to go into executive session at 4:05 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 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).

Board member Mark Mitton entered the board meeting at 4:06 p.m.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 5:02 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the personnel action report. (See attachments.)

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, September 11, 2008, 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: Mark Mitton, John Trammell, and Shane Neighbors. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

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

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the victims in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Participant Jenny Page spoke to the board requesting consideration to reinstate her employment in transportation.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented total enrollment as 4522 students and drop-outs as 8.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance update to the board including an update on the renovations and additions to Pickens High School.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY08 general fund expenditures at 102.82% and revenue collected at 105.92% and FY09 general fund expenditures at 5.64% and revenue collected at 7.96%. The August SPLOST II balance was \$383,000.79 and interest paid was \$1,247.58. The August SPLOST III balance was \$5,242,194.22, interest paid was

\$23,585.90, and revenue collected was \$366,695.32. Burgess reported to the board that she had received the tax digest from the county.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for August 14, 2008 as presented.

There was a motion made by Neighbors, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve revisions to policies EEE Wellness Policy, Policy JBC School Admissions Policy, and approval of the new policy JBC(1) Homeless Students.

A motion was made by Neighbors, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve rescheduling the October 9, 2008 board meeting to Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the emergency roof replacement for JES building 2060 and approval of the FY10 Capital Outlay Facilities Application.

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

Neighbors made a motion, seconded by Trammell, to adjourn at 5:29 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Mark Mitton, Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, John Trammell, and Jerry Chastain.

The called board meeting was followed by a workshop.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include final FY08 financial statement, FY09 tentative budget approval, and approve the agenda as amended.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session 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 Neighbors, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 5:10 p.m.

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

Superintendent Ballew presented the FY08 year end financial statement. No action was required.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve the FY09 budget.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to tentatively set the 2008 millage rate at 14.47.

Neighbors made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 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: Mark Mitton, John Trammell, Ervin Easterwood, Jerry Chastain, and Shane Neighbors.

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

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented Chairman Trammell and principals with certificates from the Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc. certifying that all Pickens County Schools and the Board of Education are accredited with quality. The principals were recognized by the school board.

CTAE/Assistant Principal Shannon Gable introduced Dr. Pete Brannan and Dr. Ron Barker from Industry Certification in Technology Certification. Dr. Brannan and Dr. Barker recognized Pickens High School CTAE Teacher Angela Quarles for completing Industry Certification requirements for her program area.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented total enrollment as 4507 students, 15 or more absences as 12, and drop-outs as 5.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance update to the board including an update on the renovations and additions to Pickens High School. Shaddix reported that the FFA Ag. Facility would be 10,800 square feet.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY09 general fund expenditures at 15.81% and revenue collected at 6.16%. The September SPLOST II balance was \$383,994.70 and interest paid was \$993.91. The September SPLOST III balance was \$4,655,706.46, interest paid was \$23,165.96, and August revenue collected was \$337,251.35.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for September 11, 2008 and called minutes for September 16, 2008 as presented.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus property as presented.

There was a motion by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Mitton opposed to approve a field trip to Disney World in Orlando Florida for the Pickens band, chorus, and dance class in March.

A motion was made by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the Washington D.C. Trip for both middle school eighth grade classes in May.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the Final FY09 Budget. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve and set the millage rate at 14.47 mills. Chairman Trammell said on behalf of the board thanks for all the hard work put forth to bring the budget together. He said it is a good budget and the board is thankful for a solid financial footing.

Burgess reported that a loan may be necessary to cover expenditures through November and December until the tax revenue is received. Ballew opened the sealed bids and presented the bids as follows: Jasper Banking Company 3.66% fixed, Community Bank of Pickens County 4.99% fixed, and United Community Bank 2.95% fixed. Ballew reported he would give Burgess time to review the notices before any action is taken.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4 to 0 vote with Chastain abstaining to nominate and designate Jerry Chastain as our Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Legislative Liaison to represent Pickens County Schools.

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

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve Ballew's recommendation to accept the lowest bid submitted by United Community Bank of 2.95% for the Tax Anticipation Note.

Board Comments:

Chastain said that the field trip requirements for students held very high standards and guidelines for parents and students to perform and apply.

Mitton said congratulations to PHS CTAE Teacher Angela Quarles.

Trammell congratulated the Pickens High School Football Team on their victory against Gilmer County Bobcats.

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

John Trammell, Chairman Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for a called board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Mark Mitton, Shane Neighbors, Ervin Easterwood, John Trammell, and Jerry Chastain. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Trammell called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Dr. Hugh Dickens, Chairman of the Advance-Ed Quality Assurance Review Team presented an oral preliminary exit report to the board. Dr. Dickens said that Superintendent Mike Ballew would receive the final report in 30 days. Dr. Dickens also noted that Federal Programs Director Susan Reeves did a very good job preparing for the visit.

In his review, Dr. Dickens did report that the QAR team would be recommending to Advance-Ed SACS/CASI that the Pickens County School System be granted full District Accreditation. This would be done at Advance-Ed's next meeting. This means that all Pickens County Schools and the School District are fully accredited.

Chairman Trammell stated on behalf of the board that the interviews were very thorough and that they appreciate the review team coming to our system to do the quality assurance review for our systems accreditation. Chairman Trammell invited them to visit again.

Superintendent Comments:

Ballew thanked Dr. Dickens and the QAR Team for all their hard work and time that was put in to review our system for accreditation. Ballew thanked the board, Assistant Superintendent Tommy Qualls, Susan Reeves, principals, teachers, staff, and all stakeholders for the support that was given and that he truly appreciated all of it.

Board Comments:

Neighbors and Mitton said everyone did a great job and was appreciative of all the support.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 1:54 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John T. Trammell, Chairman Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, November 13, 2008, 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: Mark Mitton, John Trammell, Ervin Easterwood, and Shane Neighbors. 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 Neighbors, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as submitted.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix reported that all of our school lunchrooms and Pickens County Headstart/Pre-K received perfect scores on their inspections. Shaddix introduced School Nutritionist Melinda Edwards to announce all of the school food service managers, their names are as follows: Andrea Wood at PHS, Penny Millsaps at HES, Glenda Bryant at HCES, Joan Goss at PCMS, Nancy Wilson at JMS, Kathleen Stone at TES, and Brenda Smith at JES. These managers and their staff received certificates of appreciation and were recognized by the school board.

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented total enrollment as 4485 students, 15 or more absences as 21, and drop-outs as 20.

Shaddix presented a maintenance update to the board including an update on the renovations and additions to Pickens High School. Shaddix reported that the run off election will be held on December 2, 2008 and our facilities would be used again for voting.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY09 general fund expenditures at 23.84% and revenue collected at 10.65%. The October SPLOST II balance was \$384,960.05 and interest paid was \$965.35. The October SPLOST III balance was \$3,906,875.97, interest paid was \$19,679.48, and August revenue collected was \$332,836.23.

There was a motion by Neighbors, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for October 14, 2008 and called minutes for October 22, 2008 as presented.

There was a motion made by Mitton, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to approve the loan resolution as presented. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve Policy DIB Financial Reports, Capital Assets Thresholds.

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

Board Comments:

Neighbors said he had eaten lunch at TES cafeteria last week and the food was great and inexpensive.

Mitton said he was looking forward to a good Thanksgiving Day meal at one of our schools this week.

Trammell asked for everyone to drive safely due to the heavy fog.

Neighbors made a motion, seconded by Mitton, to adjourn at 5:29 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2008

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 11, 2008, 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: Jerry Chastain, John Trammell, Ervin Easterwood, and Shane Neighbors. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

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

Hill City Elementary School Principal Carlton Wilson announced the Hill City Troop number 288 Boy Scouts. It was necessary for the troop to attend a public meeting to meet further goals.

Easterwood led the invocation.

Hill City Troop number 288 Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Jasper Middle School Principal recognized the sixth grade math team and faculty sponsors. The team tied for 4th place out of 15 teams competing at the Berry mathematics competition. JMS student Blake Wilson placed 2nd individually out of 60 students.

Superintendent Mike Ballew announced JMS has earned the silver award from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement for making great gains in student achievement. Ballew presented a banner to Principal Bruce Godfrey from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux recognized the sixth grade math team and faculty sponsor Mrs. Carrie Stephens. Stephens announced the sixth grade math team finished first place at the Fall 2008 Berry College Math tournament. PCMS student Victoria Haughwout placed 3rd individually out of 60 students.

Attendance Office Shelley Cantrell presented total enrollment as 4487 students, 15 or more absences as 71, and drop-outs as 26.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a maintenance update to the board including an update on the renovations and additions to Pickens High School. Shaddix reported that he adjusted hours for some employees of the maintenance

department so that they could work in the schools after the students were gone home. Plans for the new agriculture building will be available soon.

School Improvement Specialist Susan Reeves presented the board with a summary of major technology projects and accomplishments from July 1, 2009 through December 1, 2008.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY09 general fund expenditures at 31.45% and revenue collected at 17.98%. The November SPLOST II balance was \$385,834.17 and interest paid was \$874.12. The November SPLOST III balance was \$3,041,347.91, interest paid was \$14,506.38, and September revenue collected was \$347,601.36.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for November 13, 2008 as presented

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Neighbors, which passed unanimously to give final approval for revised policy DIB Financial Reports, Capital Assets Thresholds. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Neighbors, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to schedule the January regular board meeting for Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Comments:

Chairman Trammell said he had received a compliment from someone referencing our administration and staff about how efficient our tax dollars are being spent. He and the board appreciate all administration, faculty and staff for all they do.

Easterwood said he would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He also asked for everyone to remember those that are sick.

Chastain said he met a Pickens High School Student at Ingles and he asked that student what kind of change would he like to see in the school system and that student replied he would like to be allowed more absences. Chastain thanked the Principals for the schools great attendance.

Chastain made a motion, seconded by Neighbors, to adjourn at 5:47 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

John Trammell, Chairman Michael L. Ballew, Secretary