

# Thomas County Board of Education Minutes

July 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

## Attendees:

### Voting Members

Mr. Ken Harper, Board Member  
Mr. Chris Hayes, Board Member  
Mr. Mark NeSmith, Chair  
Mrs. Leah Smith, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Kay Streets, Board Member

### Non-Voting Members

Mr. Joey Holland, Deputy Superintendent for Finance  
Dr. Jim Rehberg, Director of Facilities and Operations  
Dr. Lisa Williams, Superintendent

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Kay Streets participated via teleconference. Ms. Nancy Hiers and Mr. Dan Stewart were not present.

## II. DEVOTIONAL – MRS. INEZ MCMULLEN, SIS CLERK AT GARRISON-PILCHER

## III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: June 14
- C. Bishop Hall board minutes: May 19
- D. Upcoming meeting: August 9 regular meeting
- E. Revised FY2023 System Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
- F. School Nutrition and School Food Service Bids
- G. Fundraising requests
- H. Out-of-district students

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

## V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Award of Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting – For the eighth time and fourth consecutive year in a row, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts has recognized the Thomas County School System for Excellence in Financial Management and Reporting. Thomas County School Superintendent Dr. Lisa

Williams and Board Chair Mark NeSmith presented the award to Deputy Superintendent for Finance Joey Holland at the July board of education meeting. Upon receipt of the award, Holland gave credit to the staff members in the system's finance department.

- B. FY22 Perfect Attendance Report – Sixty-five system employees had perfect attendance for FY22. COVID absences were not taken into consideration for this report.
- C. Pre-Planning Dates: July 25 – August 5
- D. Schedule of Open Houses
- E. Back-to-School faculty meeting (In an attempt to help decrease the chance of spreading illness system-wide due to the uptick of COVID cases, the back-to-school faculty meeting will be shared virtually with all system employees on Monday, July 25, 2022. Individual schools will hold their own faculty meetings.)
- F. Fountain Memorial Dedication, Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 8:30 A.M., TCBOE
- G. First Day of School for Students: August 8
- H. Draft of revised policy IEDA: Unstructured Break Time – first reading
- I. Draft of policy IKBB: Divisive Concepts Complaint Resolution Process – first reading
- J. Draft of policy IKBC: Material Harmful to Minors Complaint Resolution Process – first reading
- K. Draft of policy JRB: Parents' Bill of Rights – first reading
- L. Facilities Projects Updates – Dr. Jim Rehberg  
Dr. Rehberg shared a presentation on the facility projects that were being completed this summer and provided an update on the projects that were planned for the 2022-2023 school year.
- M. ESPLOST reports for June – Joey Holland

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. No individual provided the 24 hour notice required as a condition of addressing the Board

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Nature Studies Program Agreement - The school system is partnering with Marta and Jerry Turner to provide a Nature Studies Program for our students on the Turner's property as outlined in the agreement.

Motion made by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes

Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present

Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes

Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes

Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present

Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

- B. Ratify the purchase of replacement school furniture for TCMS and TCCHS

Motion made by: Mr. Ken Harper

Motion seconded by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes

Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present

Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

- C. CTAE grant applications – The annual CTAE grant applications were presented to the board for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

- D. FY2023 Board Training Plan

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

- E. Executive session for personnel

Motion made by: Mr. Ken Harper

Motion seconded by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

- F. End executive session

Motion made by: Mr. Ken Harper

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

G. Superintendent's Contract

A motion was made to approve the superintendent's contract.

Motion made by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

H. Personnel Report

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Yes

I. Approval to add an agenda item under New Business

A motion was made to add an item to the agenda under New Business regarding COVID leave for employees for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Not Present

J. COVID leave for employees

A motion was made to approve up to 5 days of COVID leave for employees who test positive during the 22-23 school year. The superintendent will provide the board updates periodically during the year on the number of staff that use COVID leave.

Motion made by: Mr. Chris Hayes

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ken Harper

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Not Present

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by: Mr. Ken Harper

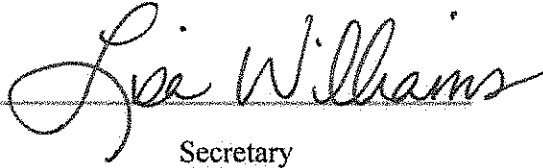
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Voting: Mr. Ken Harper – Yes  
Mr. Chris Hayes – Yes  
Ms. Nancy Hiers – Not Present  
Mr. Mark NeSmith – Yes  
Mrs. Leah Smith – Yes  
Mr. Dan Stewart – Not Present  
Mrs. Kay Streets – Not Present



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Chairperson



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Secretary