

Thomas County Board of Education
Minutes
May 8, 2018, 7:00 PM

Attendees

Voting Members

Mr. Derwood Hickey, Chair
Mr. Dan Stewart, Vice Chair
Mr. Charles Evans, Board Member
Ms. Nancy Hiers, Board Member
Mr. Mark NeSmith, Board Member
Mrs. Kay Streets, Board Member
Mrs. Leah Smith, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Mrs. Melanie Chavaux, Associate Superintendent
Mrs. Carol Gerald, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Joey Holland, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Dr. George Kornegay, Superintendent
Dr. Lisa Williams, Associate Superintendent

I. Call to Order

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the auditorium in order to recognize a large number of outstanding students.

II. Devotional - Al Whatley, teacher at Thomas County Upper Elementary School

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: April 10
- C. Bishop Hall Board minutes: March 15
- D. Upcoming meeting: June 12
- E. Resolutions for retiring employees and teachers of the year
- F. Resolutions for outstanding students
- G. Fundraising requests
- H. Out-of-district students

Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Voting:

Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes
Mr. Charles Evans - Yes
Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes
Mr. Mark NeSmith - Yes
Mr. Dan Stewart - Yes
Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes
Mrs. Leah Smith - Not Present

IV. Board originated items

- A. Recognition of outgoing board member

Mr. David Dawson was recognized for serving district 5 on the Thomas County Board of Education from January 29, 2013, through May 4, 2018. His resignation was due to his move out of district five.

B. Appointment of board member

A motion was made to appoint Leah Smith to fill the unexpired term of the district 5 board member, Mr. David Dawson.

Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay Streets

Voting

Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes

Mr. Charles Evans - Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes

Mr. Mark NeSmith - Yes

Mr. Dan Stewart - Yes

Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes

Mrs. Leah Smith - Not Present

C. Installation of new board member

Ms. Vickie Burnette, Thomas County Probate Judge, swore in Mrs. Leah Smith as the new Thomas County board member for district 5. Chairman Hickey congratulated Mrs. Smith and welcomed her to the Thomas County Board of Education.

D. Election of new board vice-chair

A motion was made, due to the resignation of David Dawson, vice chairman, to elect Dan Stewart as the new vice chairman.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Charles Evans

Voting: Unanimously Approved

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Presentation of donation from Envision Credit Union for REACH Scholarship - Mrs. Lee Bryant

Dr. Kornegay explained that REACH Scholarships are funded through a partnership with local sponsors and the state of Georgia for aspiring students with a financial need. Dr. Kornegay introduced Mrs. Lee Bryant from Envision Credit Union, who presented the first REACH donation in the amount of \$1,500 to the school system.

B. Request to address the board: Jennifer Williams Ivey

Mrs. Ivey, on behalf of the Williams family, thanked the board for their kindness, generosity and acceptance in dedicating and naming the Thomas County Administrative Offices after the late Earl and Faye Williams.

C. Recognition of retiring employees and teachers of the year

D. Recognition of outstanding students

E. Recess to allow guests who would like to be excused to leave; board meeting continued in boardroom following a brief break

F. Update on International Studies Program - Mrs. Kelly Arno, French Teacher, TCCHS

Ms. Arno gave the board details of the International Skills Diploma and an update on the International Travel Program.

G. Report on diesel spill near Garrison-Pilcher - Chad Gunter, Advanced Environmental Technologies

Mr. Chad Gunter from Advanced Environmental Technologies reported on the diesel spill

recently near Garrison-Pilcher School and said he had a successful report for the board. He explained that a gentleman had driven 45 miles from a terminal with 3000 gallons of diesel fuel and while at the Murphy Station near the school, he dumped 2000-3000 gallons of diesel fuel into a creek. He said it made its way to the creek behind the school and up to the north bypass but it has been cleaned and the person that dumped the diesel fuel has been arrested and is in jail. Mr. Gunter said that after taking the last sample, it showed that there is no additional diesel range organics in the creek and there were no fumes in the classroom air conditioners that were tested. He recommended taking another sample in three to six months as a precaution.

- H. Literacy for Learning, Living, and Leading in Georgia Grant Award - Mrs. Melanie Chavaux
Dr. Kornegay said the school system had recently been awarded a 1.4 million dollar grant to promote literacy. Mrs. Melanie Chavaux led the grant writing team and she shared an overview of the grant. She said the L4 GA grant is Literacy for Living, Learning and Leading and much of the work with this grant would be a continuation of the work that is being done with the 2.7 million dollar Striving Readers grant.
- I. Draft of June 12 regular meeting agenda
- J. Bishop Hall graduation May 25, 6:30 p.m., TCBE gym
- K. TCCHS graduation May 26, 10:00 a.m., board members will assemble in principal's office at 9:00 a.m.
- L. Graduation diploma list
- M. Financial report - Joey Holland
- N. Presentation of Tentative FY19 Budget - Joey Holland

VI. Budget hearing

Chairman Hickey declared the budget hearing open. No one at the hearing had any comments so Chairman Hickey declared the budget hearing closed.

VII. New Business

- A. CTAE grant application
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay Streets
Voting: Unanimously Approved
- B. Technology bids for annual replacements
Motion made by: Mrs. Kay Streets
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart
Voting: Unanimously Approved
- C. Bid approval on TCCHS paving project
Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Hiers
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Leah Smith
Voting: Unanimously Approved
- D. Bid approval on TCMS athletic fields paving and storm drainage project
Motion made by: Mr. Dan Stewart
Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith
Voting: Unanimously Approved
- E. Tentative FY2019 budget approval
Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay Streets
Voting: Unanimously Approved

F. 401(a) Retirement Plan

Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Voting: Unanimously Approved

G. Personnel report

1. Personnel Report

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Leah Smith

Voting: Unanimously Approved

2. Personnel Report Addendum

A motion was made to hire Ms. Sheri Stewart for the Parental Engagement position.

Motion made by: Mrs. Kay Streets

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Voting: Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes

Mr. Charles Evans - Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes

Mr. Mark NeSmith - Yes

Mr. Dan Stewart - Abstain

Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes

Mrs. Leah Smith - Yes

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans

Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart

Voting: Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary