

**THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

**Voting Members**

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

**Non-Voting Members**

Mrs. Melanie Chavaux, Part-time Associate Superintendent/Consultant  
Dr. Dale Graham, Math Curriculum Coordinator  
Dr. Bob Dechman, Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs and Accountability  
Mrs. Carol Gerald, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. John Hebron, Facilities Director  
Mr. Joey Holland, Deputy Superintendent for Finance  
Dr. Scott James, Associate Superintendent  
Dr. George Kornegay, Chief Operations Officer  
Mrs. Erin Rehberg, Digital Learning & Media Services Coordinator  
Dr. Scott Sweeting, System Science Coordinator  
Dr. Lisa Williams, Superintendent

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I. Call to Order

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Invocation/Blessing

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Agenda
- B. Warehouse supplies bid
- C. Fundraising requests
- D. Out-of-district students

Motion made by: Mr. Derwood Hickey

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay Streets

Voting: Mr. Dan Stewart - Yes

Mr. Charles Evans - Yes

Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes

Mr. Mark NeSmith - Not Present

Mrs. Leah Smith - Yes

Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Personnel report

Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans

Voting: Mr. Dan Stewart - Yes

Mr. Charles Evans - Yes

Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes

Mr. Mark NeSmith - Not Present

Mrs. Leah Smith - Yes

Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes

##### B. Ratify roofing bid award for buildings 330 & 340 at board office

Motion made by: Mr. Derwood Hickey

Motion seconded by: Mr. Charles Evans

Voting: Mr. Dan Stewart - Yes

Mr. Charles Evans - Yes

Mr. Derwood Hickey - Yes

Ms. Nancy Hiers - Yes

Mr. Mark NeSmith - Not Present

Mrs. Leah Smith - Yes

Mrs. Kay Streets - Yes

#### V. Board Training

##### A. Finance - Joey Holland

###### 1. FY 2019 amended budget

Mr. Holland gave an explanation as to why the FY 2019 budget needs to be amended.

###### 2. TRS update

Mr. Holland gave facts and figures about the Teachers' Retirement System and explained why school systems have to pay a high amount for employees. He also gave information about S.B. 175 and H.B. 109.

##### B. Strategic planning process & accreditation (Georgia Accrediting Commission & AdvancEd) – Bob Dechman & Melanie Chavaux

Mrs. Chavaux informed the board that the schools are going through the accreditation process now. Dr. Edie Baxley, Georgia Accrediting Commission, visited the middle school and high school and said they were accredited with quality.

Mr. Dechman explained the process for strategic planning and accreditation.

Mr. NeSmith arrived at the meeting at this time (6:26 p.m.).

##### C. Possible new & improved programs

###### 1. JROTC - Col. McLeod

Col. McLeod informed the board about prospects for establishing a JROTC/NDCC (National Defense Cadet Corps) program with cost estimates.

###### 2. MERIT Institute - Dale Graham

3. Dr. Graham reported on the middle school and high school MERIT programs and the MERIT Institute.

- D. Curriculum updates - Melanie Chavaux and Scott Sweeting
1. Summer professional learning  
Dr. Sweeting spoke to the board about summer Professional Learning Plans (PLP).
  2. Summer camps for students  
Dr. Sweeting announced that Summer STEM Camps will be held June 3-6 at Cross Creek School and a computer science camp will be held at the high school June 6-8.
  3. Textbook adoption (ELA and Science at TCCHS)  
Dr. Sweeting stated that textbook adoption (ELA and Science) for the high school would be recommended at the April board meeting.
- E. Digital Learning initiatives - Erin Rehberg
1. K-12 Computer Science Implementation Model District and Coding and Computer Science initiatives  
Mrs. Rehberg gave a power point presentation on K-12 Computer Science Implementation Model District and Coding and Computer Science initiatives. She also announced the high school's recent first place win at the Media Festival at RESA.
  2. Google Reference District  
Mrs. Rehberg announced that the school system has been invited to be a Google Reference District, which are school districts that demonstrate excellence and leadership through the innovative use of technology.
  3. Utilizing technology in student learning - VR equipment - Erin Rehberg and Scott Sweeting  
Mrs. Rehberg, with the assistance of Kathy Craven, media specialist at Thomas County Middle School, allowed the board to try out the Virtual Reality equipment that is being used at the middle school.
- F. Short break
- G. Facilities - Dusty Kornegay
1. BOE project  
Dr. Kornegay did a power point presentation of the buildings at the Board of Education that have been renovated and said the maintenance building is currently being renovated. The next building to be renovated will be the field house and it should be finished by football season.
  2. Garrison-Pilcher project  
Dr. Kornegay explained the timeline for the renovation at Garrison-Pilcher School and said the bid for the work would be awarded at the May board meeting with a construction start date of May 27.
- H. Executive session to review school safety plans  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Derwood Hickey  
Voting: Unanimously Approved
1. School safety plans - Scott James
- I. End executive session  
Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Voting: Unanimously Approved

- J. Board member ethics review and legislative updates - Bill Sampson  
Mr. Bill Sampson from Georgia School Boards Association presented the Whole Board Training on ethics and legislative updates. The annual training is required by the Georgia Board of Education.

VI. Adjournment

Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay Streets

Voting: Unanimously Approved

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Chairperson

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Secretary