

Budget Retreat Board Meeting Highlights
February 25, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met on Monday, February 25, 2020, at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Unfinished Business:

- Policy 3620 – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
There was some discussion regarding the policy. However, board members felt more clarification was needed. Chairman Felton asked Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Whitehurst to meet with Mr. Jeremy Wright, and bring their findings to the March 9th, 2020 board meeting.

The following Consent Agenda Items were presented for approval:

1. Central Middle School Ribbon Cutting Budget
2. Approval of \$2900.00 Donation to Educational Association For Excellence for GCHS HOSA Club
3. Approval of \$1000.00 Donation to Educational Association for Excellence for GCHS Robotics Team
4. Terracon Change Order
5. New Beginnings Daycare Fundraiser
6. Approval of \$2500.00 Donation to Educational Association for Excellence for Gates on the Go
7. 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar
8. Audit Contract with Donna Winborne, CPA, P.C.
9. Exceptional Children's Transportation Contract

The board questioned if the calendar committee had discussed the possibility of obtaining a waiver to allow the school calendar to align with the community colleges. Mr. Byrum shared that we do not meet the criteria for the waiver. We would have to be out of school for inclement weather for 10 or more days each year, for three years.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to increase the Central Middle School Ribbon Cutting Budget to \$750.00. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to approve Items One through Nine, on the Consent Agenda, with the additional amount for the Ribbon Cutting Budget. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent, Mrs. Chante´ Jordan, Director of Human Resources and Exceptional Children, and Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, presented a powerpoint with information regarding budget needs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Items discussed:

- School Resource Officers for each elementary school
- ROTC Program
- Alternative Education Center
- Athletic Track
- Upgrading facilities with use of proposed state wide bond referendum, if approved by state (details not known as this time)
- Filling staff vacancies based on retirement, resignations, transfer of current staff, and number of students at each school

Mrs. Jordan presented options to be considered regarding staff additions and reductions. The goal is to use reassignments to fill some positions. We will need to hire for some positions, but the reassignments will help keep this number at a minimum. Mrs. Tammy Boone, Assistant Superintendent, informed that the state requirements for class size maximum numbers for K-3, will be a factor in determining the number of teachers needed. Mrs. Sandra Pittman presented information about the budget requests to the county commissioners. In addition to the amount received in funding last year, we are requesting an additional \$459,400 for Local Budget Fund #2, and an additional \$1,442,780 for Capital Outlay. Mrs. Pittman stressed that it is difficult to project what is needed, since the state has not passed the 2019-2020 Budget as of this date. It was noted that we do not expect to receive any additional funds, from the county, over the amount we received last year.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to approve Mrs. Jordan’s personnel request option, allowing certified teacher retirement vacancies to be filled, add two additional months employment to the high school office bookkeeper position, reduction of office staff at the elementary schools, by reassignments to other positions, and to present the budget request to the county, without the request for school resource officers for each elementary school. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Call for vote was three yeses. Mr. Leslie Byrum voted no. Mrs. Glendale Boone did not vote. Motion was passed by majority vote.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Claire Whitehurst seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. The board members entered into closed session at 10:58 a.m.

The board members re-entered open session at 11:37 a.m.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion not to approve Ms. Lulu Eure's, request for the Community Center to reimburse volunteers for the fee paid for criminal background checks. This is a requirement by Gates County Schools, and other volunteers for the schools are not reimbursed for the amount they pay. Mrs. Claire Whitehurst seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to transfer Mr. Scott Corrente, Assistant Principal, at Gates County High School, to Assistant Principal at Central Middle School. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Tammy Boone presented the board with options for providing additional tutoring services for the elementary schools. Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to approve the use of Fund Balance to pay for 3 hours of additional tutoring, for two days a week at Buckland Elementary, and 3 hours of additional tutoring, for three days per week at T.S. Cooper Elementary. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Secretary

Chairman