

Board Meeting Highlights
Regular Session
March 6, 2017

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 6, 2017 at T.S. Cooper Elementary School, beginning with closed session at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Felton called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The following board members were present: Glendale Boone, Leslie Byrum, Ray Felton, and Claire Whitehurst.

Mr. Byrum made a motion to amend the agenda to add Item No. Eleven – Field Trip Request for Buckland Elementary First Grade to attend the Ringling Bros. Circus in Hampton, Virginia, on March 30, 2017, and Item Twelve – Approval for Dr. Williams to present 2017-2018 Budget Request to Natalie Rountree, County Manager. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

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

Mrs. Kristi Steiner-Winn, teacher at T.S. Cooper, spoke during the Public Comments section. She extended an invitation for everyone to attend the 3rd annual Community Arts Night, on March 24th 7:00 p.m., at the Gates County High School gym. The Arts Disciplines from all 5 schools will have students present “Gates County, My Home”, a historical journey looking back at the history of Gates County.

During the Academic Report, Mr. Jeremy Wright, Principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary, gave highlights of events at their school, including information about their Makerspace Program and also creative ways the students celebrated Black History Month. Mr. Wright shared that he had attended a conference during the summer last year, and learned about the Makerspace idea. Mrs. Mary Hobbs was awarded a Bright Ideas Grant to purchase materials. A 3-D printer has been purchased for the program. The students are given the opportunity to work with their hands, and it encourages them to be creative. A video presentation showed the students and staff participating in the program. It has proven to be a great success.

Student Advisor Dylan Eure provided a powerpoint with Good News from the schools.

During the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Williams talked about his visit to one of the schools and the reading of one of Dr. Seus’s books pertaining to conflict resolution. He also had participated in the Makerspace program. He informed that an Architectural Firm Selection Committee had conducted interviews for the Central Middle School Project that morning, and a recommendation would follow later in the meeting. He recognized boards members, Leslie Byrum, Glendale Boone and Claire Whitehurst, with certificates from the North Carolina Schools Boards Association, honoring their successful completion of school board training during the 2015-2016 school year. He thanked the board for their dedication to the students of Gates County.

In the Report from the Board, Mrs. Whitehurst noted that Graylen and Kelly Boone had been recognized as influential people in our area, in an insert in the Gates County Index. Jonathan Jones and his staff, from the credit union, were also recognized.

Mrs. Boone thanked Mrs. Tammi Ward and the calendar committee for their hard work in preparing the 2017-2018 proposed calendar. She also indicated that she and Mr. Felton had

served on the Architectural Firm Selection Committee, and she found that to be very interesting. She also encouraged attendance at the Buckland/T.S. Cooper Battle of the Books on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., at the Gates County Public Library.

Mr. Blanchard gave the Financial Report for month eight, and provided a financial update on the New Beginnings Daycare.

Dr. Williams approved the following out-of-district requests for the 2017-18 school year:

- Landon James Buck to attend Central Middle School
- Riley Nicole Buck to attend Buckland Elementary School
- Victor Rountree to attend Central Middle School
- Calleigh Lynette Williams to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School

He also approved the following out-of-district request for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year:

- Jenna Deane Godley to attend Buckland Elementary School

During Unfinished Business Mr. Blanchard informed that bids were requested from accounting firms, for the purpose of selecting an accounting firm for our audit. He presented findings from the Auditor Selection Committee. Those serving on the committee were: Janet Lilley, Bookkeeper, Buckland Elementary School, Steve Harrell, Accounting Specialist, Dr. Paula Simpson, School Nutrition Director and Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer. The committee met on March 2, 2017 and reviewed submissions from the following: Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA, Donna H. Winborne, CPA, PC and Petway, Mills & Pearson, PA. Each member of the committee rated the companies on a point value system ranging from 1 – Not Acceptable to 5 – Excellent. After careful consideration, the committee is recommending Donna H. Winborne, CPA, PC as our audit firm.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2017 Regular Session
2. Policy 2330 – Board Meeting Agenda
3. CMS Softball Team Fundraiser
4. GES Pre-K & Kindergarten Field Trips
5. Medicaid Contract
6. Buckland Elementary Kindergarten Field Trip
7. CMS Band Students Field Trip
8. Gates County High Field Trips
9. 2017-2018 School Calendar
10. TEACCH Autism Agreement
11. Buckland Elementary First Grade Field Trip
12. Permission for Dr. Williams to present 2017-18 Budget Request to County Manager

During New Business Dr. Williams read a statement regarding the Architectural Selection for Central Middle School as follows:

The Architect Selection Committee met today March 6, 2017, to develop recommendations for the selection of an Architectural Firm for the construction and revovation of Central Middle School (the “Project”) and to hire a contract manager. The committee has reviewed proposals submitted by each of the firms and also heard project specific presentations from the architectural firms. The selection process has included the use of good faith efforts to notify minority firms of the opportunity to submit qualifications for consideration by the Committee. No work product or design, other than examples of prior completed work, has been solicited, submitted or considered by the Committee as part of the selection process. The Committee, having considered the demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required for the Project without regard to fee other than unit price information at this stage, finds that the best qualified firms are, in order, as follows:

Architect Selection
<u>Central Middle School</u> 1. Pinnacle Architecture 2. Oakley Collier Architects 3. McKissick Associates 4. JKF Architecture

The Superintendent recommends that the Gates County Board of Education authorize the school attorney, Mr. John Leidy, to negotiate a proposed contract for the services needed in connection with the Project at a fair and reasonable fee with the best qualified firm listed above. If a contract cannot be negotiated with the best qualified firm, negotiations with that firm should be terminated and initiated with the next best qualified firm. No contract shall be binding until approved by the Board.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ray Felton, Chairman, Gates County Board of Education
Glendale Boone, Vice-Chairman, Gates County Board of Education
Natalie Rountree, County Manager, Gates County
Linda Hofler, Madam Chair, Gates County Commissioners
Jack Owens, Vice-Chairman, Gates County Commissioners
Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer, Gates County Schools
Johnny Greene, Maintenance Department, Gates County Schools
Dr. Bary Williams, Superintendent, Gates County Schools

Mr. Felton informed that the vote for Pinnacle Architecture, as the selected firm, was unanimous by all committee members.

The following personnel items were approved:

1. VOLUNTEER
Wanda Harrell –T.S. Cooper Elementary School – Retired Teacher Assistant

2. TUTOR
Regina Hurdle – T.S. Cooper Elementary School – Retired Certified Teacher
** Due to Nepotism policy – Ms. Hurdle cannot work at Buckland Elementary.

3. ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER

Ann Brinkley – Gates County High School – Agriculture Teacher at GCHS

4. SUBSTITUTE DRIVER

Lakeshia Langley

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The April regular session board meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, at Gates County High School. Closed Session will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by an open session at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mrs. Boone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion, and board members approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 6:57.