The November 10, 2015 regular meeting of the Echols County Board of Education was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chester Register.

Board members present were Bo Corbett, Rocky Crosby, Richard Hendley, Chester Register and Florence Staten.

Following the invocation and pledge to the flag, The Superintendent asked to add 3 items to the agenda. Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the October20, 2015 meeting minutes with correction. Richard Hendley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

VISITORS

The Board recognized the sportsmanship, accomplishments and efforts of clubs and sports teams who have competed during the fall season. Students listed are those in attendance at the meeting.

Drama 1st place Region -Annaliese Hamm with Emily Borchert and Chelsea Crouch

Forestry Hank Majeski with Miranda Carter, Brooke Smith, Will Vedder, Avery Wood

Softball – 3rd place state Rebecca Hill and Kameron Coggins, Logan Hill, Makayla Barrett, Alyssa Ellenberg, Avery Wood, Tyler Carter, Kassi Church, Logan Bennett, Logan George, Morgan Hill, Maci Courson, Taela Johnson, Bethany Tanner

Cross Country 1st place regionals Vince Hamm and Andres Abeja

FFA 2nd place nationals Lindsey Herring, Rose Coleman , Elizabeth Coleman ,Justin Sandlin, Court Hambrick, Emily Leonard, Tristan Carter, Payton Tomlinson

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Ms. Staten informed the Superintendent that November payroll is usually prior to Thanksgiving and asked if we plan to do that again. The Superintendent stated she would check to see if funds are available for an early payroll.

Mr. Hendley asked for further verification on a company called Admin Arsenal. The Superintendent said she would verify and report back. Richard Hendley made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable register. This was seconded by Rocky Crosby. Motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Mr. Rosser informed the Board that our graduation rate is 90.6% due to the hard work of Ms. Black and the high school staff. He reviewed Georgia Milestones End of Course Tests. He advised the Board that the results will not be public from the state until 11/16 and should be kept confidential until that time. We are at or above state average in most cases.

Mr. Rosser advised the Board that more students either have permission from parents to leave at lunch or are 18 years old and can sign themselves out creating a defacto “Open Campus” situation. The Board felt that this concept was fine as our in loco parentis status ends when students sign out.

Mr. Beale reviewed Georgia Milestones grades 3-8 end of grade tests. He pointed out that we have opportunities for growth in some areas and in other areas we are “knocking it out of the park.” He stated that we are working toward consistency across all teachers in all grades.

The Superintendent updated the Board on the progress of the individual teams meeting regarding the Strategic plan.

Dr. Jewell presented the updated MVC proposal for review; the Board asked for specific answers as to details. The Superintendent advised the Board that new ABM contract adds $300 per month, instead of $450. All quotes for the HVAC work at the K-8 building were reviewed. KPurchase is being reviewed as a free solution to automating our purchasing process. The Board was informed that bids on the septic maintenance contract will be in before the next Board meeting and that an RFP for waste disposal services will be issued on 11/11/15.

An energy review is in process to see if savings can be had in this area. There are buildings on campus that have no fire pulls. The Board declined to act on this. There was a minor bus incident involving minimal damage to the bus and no injuries on 11/2.

Dr. Jewell advised the Board that we have an independent CPA who will do our financials for $4500. We are close to reaching a final price for a band aid solution this year. We are also looking at the feasibility of recovering Medicaid funds and finalizing a vendor for completing ACA requirements for the District.

Summaries from written reports:

Federal: The Title IIA audit sowed money drawn down but not spent. We returned that money to the State, However, the Title IIA specialist has stated we will get the money back in carryover as this was considered a one-time error. 15 migrant students attended College Day at VSU, a first. The public can see the new state testing site at <http://experience-ga.ctb.com> for end of course testing.

SPED: Special Education will receive $ 8407.42 for Medicaid. The principals have contributed $800.00 for wellness incentives. Our approved budget in state funds for professional learning is 18099.00.

Tech: E-rate work will happen in December. We are looking at adding cameras at the high school. We continue to have needs in several areas for computers and infrastructure. Some items will need to wait until the next round of e-rate due to the cost. (13000+)

FIELD TRIPS

Florence Staten made a motion to approve the field trip, 6/13-17 4 H Summer Camp grades 4-6 Hampton GA (Justin Shealey) Rocky Crosby seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

FUND RAISING REQUESTS

Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve a fund raising request for MS Student Council – Winter Dance 12/17(Crawford) 5-8 Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUESTS are principal discretion.

FACILITIES REQUEST

Florence Staten made a motion to approve the facilities request for ECHS Alumni – Reunion -3/12 (Highsmith and Deloach, Old Caf and auditorium. Richard Hendley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Rocky Crosby made a motion to award the HVAC bid to Paul King. Florence Staten seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Superintendent informed the Board of the pricing and options for vehicles to address the needs of FFA and other small groups. The Board will receive more information on total financing implications at the next Board meeting. The Board attorney has stated the use of Global School Services poses no legal issues.

Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the expenditure of PE equipment for $2228.74(ES) and $807.92(HS) pending verification of the brand name of several products on the list. Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Florence Staten made a motion to approve the purchase of School Dude IT to replace the Janus system. Rocky Crosby seconded. Motion passed 5-0. The maintenance tracking system failed to have a motion to approve.

Mr. Register asked the Board to think about a date in December for the Superintendent’s evaluation.

Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the 2016 Board meeting dates as presented. The start time will continue to be 7:30 to allow for Board members to have time before the meeting and the end of work. Bo Corbett seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

POLICY

Florence Staten made a motion to introduce the policies as listed. Richard Hendley seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

* 1. GAGD-Staff Nepotism New
  2. JKB Student Solicitation CHANGE
  3. BCBI-Public Participation CHANGE (exhibit)
  4. IHC-Class Rank CHANGE

Florence Staten made a motion to adopt the polices as listed. Bo Corbett seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

a. DJEA Purchasing Authority CHANGE

b. DJEAC Purchasing or Credit Card Use – NEW

c. GAD Professional Learning Opportunities CHANGE

d. JCDAG Bullying CHANGE

e. JGCD Medication CHANGE

f. JGI Child Abuse or Neglect CHANGE

Rocky Crosby made a motion to move into Executive session to discuss personnel issues.at 9:34. Florence Staten seconded the motion.

Florence Staten made a motion to exit Executive session at 10:13. Richard Hendley seconded.

PERSONNEL

Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the hiring of Bobby Walker as bus driver. Florence Staten seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Bo Corbett made a motion to approve the hiring of Edith Martin and Katy DeLoach as substitute teachers. Rocky Crosby seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Richard Hendley made a motion to approve the resignation of David Hambrick, bus driver. Florence Staten seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Bo Corbett made a motion to have the Superintendent send a letter to Rosa Robinson to clarify work done earlier this year. Richard Hendley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM by Chester Register.

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Chester Register, Chair Virginia Jewell, Superintendent