

MINUTES
CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 28, 2021

The Calhoun County Board of Education met on October 28, 2021 at 4:37 p.m., in the Administrative Building of the Calhoun County Board of Education, 4400 McClellan Boulevard, Anniston, Alabama, following a Board Member Work Session. Notice of this meeting was properly posted and provided to those who had requested direct notification.

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by President Burt. Mr. Almaroad opened in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members present were: Mr. Burt, Mrs. Amerson, Mr. Almaroad, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Webb and Mr. Winn, establishing a quorum. Ms. Samantha Smith, Attorney, Calhoun County Schools, was also present.

Mr. Burt asked for Board Member nominations to represent our county at the AASB 2021 Delegate Assembly to be held December 2, 2021. Mr. Burt volunteered to attend as a delegate. Mrs. Amerson was also chosen, and Mr. Webb was chosen as the alternate. All Board Members were in agreement with the choices.

Mr. Burt called for the ballots for the AASB District 6 Director. The vote was unanimous for Marita Watson, Jacksonville Board of Education.

Mr. Burt then presented Certificates of Achievement from AASB (Alabama Association of School Boards) to the following Board Members:

Lisa Amerson, Level 3; Julie Hood, Level 3; Michael Webb, Level 3

Mr. Turner presented Mr. Burt with a gold date plate from AASB for his achievement of Master – 2nd year.

Mr. Turner asked that Action Item Number 4 be moved forward and voted on. On a motion by Mr. Almaroad and seconded by Mrs. Amerson, Action Item 4 was moved forward.

On a motion by Mrs. Hood and seconded by Mr. Almaroad, the Mask Mandate Expiration was approved.

There had been requests from the Public sent in to address the Board about the Mask Mandate. Mr. Burt welcomed Mr. Wes Jones and read the rules and regulations and stated the time was limited to three minutes per addressee.

Mr. Wes Jones addressed the Board first. He stated his concern over the mask mandate and said the Board Members had overreached their power by putting the mask mandate in place in September, 2021. While he was sympathetic to the loss of life in the school system, he thought the masks affected the “normalcy” needed in the schools. His opinion was the board was not being consistent and that it was affecting the students’ education and grades. He stated that he understood that navigating a pandemic is hard and he respected the board members positions, but he felt they could have a better plan going forward.

Mr. Burt welcomed Ms. April Brown to the floor and read the rules and regulations to her and stated the time limit of three minutes for her to address the board.

Ms. April Brown took the floor as the second member of the public who had requested to address the Board. Ms. Brown brought a parent petition that she had gotten together against the mask mandate. She stated that she would never allow her children to be masked again. She also said the Board Members were not putting the health of the children first when they placed a mask mandate in place, and stated the mask were strictly “theatrics”. She said she would like to know

how they had come up with the conclusion to order a mask mandate, and that she felt like the Board was violating her First Amendment rights.

Mrs. Amerson commented that the Career Technical Academy had a fantastic open house. She said there were great things going on in the Nursing Program and that the Cosmetology Program was booming. Mr. Turner asked Kevin Lockridge, Principal of the Career Academy about what programs had been added. Mr. Lockridge said they had been able to add Drafting and Electronics through Gadsden State Community College for this school year. Mr. Burt added that there was a possibility that the Career Academy may be getting their own School Resource Officer instead of having to share one with other schools.

Mr. Turner announced that Seth Taylor, Principal of Pleasant Valley High School, had been chosen as the District 6 Principal of the Year and congratulated him on such an achievement.

Following all comments and discussions, Mr. Godwin presented the Monthly Budget Percent Analysis Comparison, Local Revenue Collections Analysis, *Helping Schools Tag* Sales, Financial Statements, Expenditure Report, and Bank Reconciliations for Board and public view.

On a motion by Mrs. Amerson and seconded by Mrs. Hood, Personnel Addendums B and C were added to the Agenda.

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Turner, the following actions were taken. The vote was unanimous unless otherwise noted.

On a motion by Mrs. Amerson and seconded by Mr. Almaroad, the minutes of September 16, 2021, and September 21, 2021, were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Almaroad, the minutes of the September 16, 2021 Employee Transfer Hearing were approved.

On a motion by Mrs. Amerson and seconded by Mrs. Hood, the declaration of Surplus Items were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Almaroad and seconded by Mrs. Hood, Personnel Items A were approved.

On a motion by Mrs. Amerson and seconded by Mrs. Hood, Personnel Addendum B was approved.

On a motion by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mrs. Amerson, Personnel Addendum C was approved.

After President Burt cited the need for an executive session to discuss the general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, mental health, or job performance of certain Board employees, a motion was made by Mr. Almaroad and seconded by Mr. Webb to enter into executive session at 5:15 p.m. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Burt stated that the session could last as long as two hours, and they would adjourn from executive session as all Agenda Items had been taken care of prior to the executive session.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Almaroad and seconded by Mr. Webb. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Date Adopted

Tobi Burt, President

Donald A. Turner, Jr., Superintendent