

**Obion County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**August 6, 2018**

The Obion County Board of Education met in regular session on August 6, 2018, at the Board Office. Board Chairman Fritz Fussell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Barry Adams led everyone in prayer. Dr. Leah Watkins called the roll. Mr. Fritz Fussell, Mr. Brian Rainey, Ms. Keisha Hooper, Mr. Barry Adams, Mr. Kyle Baggett, and Mr. Tim Britt were present. Six members were present. Mr. Jared Poore was absent. There was a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon the recommendation of Chairman Fussell, a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the agenda. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING(S)**

Upon the recommendation of Chairman Fussell, a motion was made by Mr. Rainey to approve minutes from the meetings of June 26, 2018, and July 17, 2018. Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda consists of the monthly personnel report; report of substitute teachers; and report of assignment of Board owned vehicles. Upon the recommendation of Chairman Fussell, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Consider/Approve Director's Participation in CEO Professional Development Program* – According to Dr. Watkins, this item requires annual approval from the Board for the Director of Schools to participate in the State's Executive Development Program for Public School Leaders, Component III - CEO Leadership Institutes. Traditionally, the State Department of Education has paid the Director of Schools a \$1000 (one thousand dollar) supplement to attend 10 (ten) meeting during the fiscal year. However, the Commissioner of Education has not yet made a determination as to whether this supplement will be paid for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. Regardless of the determination, the Board would incur no financial obligation.

Upon Dr. Watkins' recommendation, a motion was made by Chairman Fussell to approve the Director's participation in the CEO Professional Development Program for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Declaring Textbooks Surplus and Authorize Disposition by Most Economical Method* – Dr. Watkins submitted a request to declare surplus textbooks which are no longer of use to the System and dispose of them via the most economical method. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Rainey to declare the textbooks surplus and to dispose of them via the most economical method, i.e., sealed bids or via recycling if no bids are received. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Recognize School Support Organizations in Compliance with TCA §§49-2-604 and 49-2-605* – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Baggett to recognize compliant school support organizations as presented. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Janitorial Supplies Bid for the 2018 – 2019 School Year* – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and Maintenance Supervisor Phil Graham, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve bids as presented on the accompanying spreadsheet for the purchase of janitorial supplies for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve General Student Activity and Athletic Funds Budgets for the Individual Schools* – Upon Dr. Watkins' recommendation, a motion was made by Chairman Fussell to approve the general student activity and athletic funds budgets as presented for the individual schools. Mr. Rainey seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Discussion of Safety Grant Submission* – Dr. Watkins expressed her gratitude to the school principals and safety team for their diligent efforts concerning grant proposals for school safety. Additionally, she shared the following list of proposals with the Board:

Non-recurring:

- Upgrade analog camera systems to digital for 3 (three) elementary schools
- Upgrade camera servers at OCCHS and SFHS

- Upgrading electric strike plates for 6 schools
- Installing electric locks for special education classrooms
- Two-way radios @ \$300 (three hundred dollars each) – 37 (thirty-seven) requested
- Security gates at OCCHS
- Reflective safety vests for RM
- Lanyards/Name tags for visitors, subs, volunteers for all schools

Recurring:

- Detection dogs
- Using off duty law enforcement for student arrival times
- Safety Supplement
- Anonymous Reporting System (STOPIT) grades 6-12

Since the above noted item was for information only, no action was required by the Board.

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #4.606 – Graduation Activities*

– According to Dr. Watkins, the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) has recommended a change to Board Policy #4.606 – Graduation Activities to include a revised list of student awards and achievements that must be noted at graduation. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #4.606 as recommended by TSBA. Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.309 – Zero Tolerance*

*Offenses* – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Rainey to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #6.309 – Zero Tolerance Offenses, which now include assaults committed against school employees, and school resource officers that result in bodily injury. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #4.605 – Graduation*

*Requirements* – According to Dr. Watkins, TSBA has recommended an update to Board Policy #4.605 that includes a new alternate academic diploma made available to special education students. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Baggett to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #4.605 – Graduation Requirements as noted above. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.305 – Family and Medical*

*Leave* – Upon Dr. Watkins' recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Rainey to

approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #5.305 – Family and Medical Leave, which reflects current federal regulations that specifically remove the previous limits set for allowable sick leave during maternity or paternity leave of absence. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #4.603 – Promotion and Retention* – According to Dr. Watkins, the State Board has made significant changes to its policy on promotion and retention. Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and TSBA, a motion was made by Mr. Britt to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #4.603 - Promotion and Retention. Mr. Fussell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.319 – Alternative School Programs* – For better alignment with the current TSBA updates, Dr. Watkins recommended an amendment to Board Policy #6.319. Upon her recommendation, Mr. Baggett made a motion to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #6.319 – Alternative School Programs as noted. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.203 – Recommendations and File Transfers* – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Britt to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #5.203 – Recommendations and File Transfers as proposed by TSBA. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.300 – Code of Conduct* – In order to be in alignment with current State law, Dr. Watkins recommended an amendment to Board Policy #6.300 – Code of Conduct. Mr. Fussell made a motion to approve the first reading of the above noted amendment. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.314 – Corporal Punishment* – Dr. Watkins stated that TSBA has recommended an amendment to Board Policy #6.314 regarding the administering of corporal punishment to students with disabilities. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Rainey to

approve the first reading of an amendment to the above noted policy as recommended. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Dr. Watkins shared the following points of interest with the Board:

- We have had a great start to the school year.
- Principals have been mindful of reduced access to the buildings and have already begun drills for the first month of school.
- The safety committee has met twice regarding the safety grant and principals have conducted plant evaluations with law enforcement to assist in identification of needs.
- She expressed thanks to parents and staff for the smooth transition into the new school year.
- She acknowledged her appreciation to the local news media for their assistance in providing information to the communities regarding the start of the new school year.
- Mr. Keith Hamilton, retired training executive for Bridgestone Americas, presented a program about mechatronics at the Union City Rotary Club meeting last fall. Because of this meeting, OCCHS Principal Greg Barclay, Guidance Counselor Heather Kendall, Obion County Economic Development CEO Lindsey Frilling, and CTE Director George Leake visited Warren County High School to observe implementation of mechatronics at their school. The group was excited but discovered that a gift through this program would require matching funds of \$180,000 to get the program up and running. In a recent conversation between Mr. Leake and County Mayor, Bennie McGuire, it was suggested that the program could possibly be of interest to County Budget Committee members. This morning, the budget committee agreed that the program would be of benefit to the County and recommended the appropriation of \$180,000 from county debt service to go toward the matching funds for full implementation of the mechatronics program.

Funding will go toward the purchase of equipment this year to be ready for the beginning of the 2019 – 2020 school years. The first year's program will consist of one class of Mechatronics I and a current OCCHS teacher will be available to teach the class. Mr. Leake can address any questions regarding the class.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN**

Chairman Fussell expressed his appreciation to the News Media.

Mr. Adams acknowledged his appreciation for the positive public relations (PR) in the elementary schools.

Ms. Hooper thanked Mr. Leake for the follow-up work he has done in regard to the Mechatronics program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

The entire meeting was recorded and stored as an electronic copy.

The minutes were taken and typed by Diane Terry.

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Fritz Fussell, Chairman

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Dr. Leah Watkins, Director of Schools