

Obion County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
September 4, 2018

The Obion County Board of Education met in regular session on September 4, 2018 at Hillcrest Elementary School. Board Chairman Fritz Fussell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Keisha Hooper led everyone in prayer. Dr. Leah Watkins called the roll. Mr. Fritz Fussell, Ms. Keisha Hooper, Mr. Barry Adams, Mr. Kyle Baggett, Mr. Tim Britt, and Mr. Jared Poore were present. Six members were present. Mr. Brian Rainey was absent. There was a quorum.

OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board members Barry Adams, Fritz Fussell, and Keisha Hooper began their new four-year term by taking their Oath of Office under the direction of Obion County Mayor Benny McGuire.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Hillcrest Principal, Mr. Travis Johnson introduced cross-country sponsor, Ms. Traci Orr. She introduced the boys and girls team members, shared their numerous accomplishments, and invited the Board to observe them in competition whenever possible.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND CHAIR PRO TEM FOR THE 2018 – 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Hooper made a motion to nominate Mr. Fussell to serve as Board Chairman. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Baggett made a motion to nominate Mr. Rainey to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Poore seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Baggett made a motion to nominate Ms. Hooper to serve as Chair Pro Tem. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Chairman Fussell made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting of August 6, 2018. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consists of the monthly personnel report; report of substitute teachers; report of monthly financial/business activity; and report of technology equipment declared surplus and disposed via most economical method. 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.**

OLD BUSINESS

On the second and final reading, Ms. Hooper made a motion to approve the following Board policy changes. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.309 – Zero Tolerance Offenses –TSBA recommended an amendment to Board Policy #6.309 that now includes assaults committed against school employees and school resource officers that result in bodily injury.

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.

Consider that /Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.305 – Family and Medical Leave – Dr. Watkins informed the Board that TSBA has recommended an amendment to Board Policy #5.305 reflective of current federal regulations, which specifically remove the previous limits set for allowable sick leave during maternity or paternity leave of absence.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #4.603 – Promotion and Retention – According to Dr. Watkins, the State Board made significant changes to its policy on promotion and retention. To be in alignment with State mandates, she recommended an amendment to Board Policy #4.603 as suggested by TSBA.

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 – Alternative School Programs.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.203 – Recommendations and File Transfers – Dr. Watkins recommended an amendment to Board Policy #5.203 – Recommendations and File Transfers as proposed by TSBA.

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.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider/Approve Paper Bid for the 2018 – 2019 School Year – According to Dr. Watkins, the vendor awarded the original paper bid was unable to fulfill its obligation. Therefore, a re-bid occurred and the following vendors submitted their bids for review:

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|----------------------------|----------|
| • Contract Paper | \$20,664 |
| • Howard D Happy | \$19,145 |
| • Lanzer's | \$21,875 |
| • American Paper and Twine | \$19,180 |
| • Wal Mart 88 Bright | \$17,479 |
| 92 Bright | \$20,527 |
| • J D Distributors | \$22,708 |

Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve the lowest paper bid meeting all specifications from Wal Mart for \$17,479 (seventeen thousand, four hundred seventy-nine dollars). Mr. Fussell seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Bid for Online Reading Program - Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the purchase of an online reading program that promotes reading comprehension for students in the school system. The lone bid, as submitted by Renaissance Learning, was for \$18,901.92 (eighteen thousand, nine hundred one dollars and ninety-two cents). Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Bid for Bread – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and Food Service Supervisor, Ms. Judy Denman, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve a bid for bread from Flowers Bakeries in the amount of \$25,415 (twenty-five thousand, four hundred fifteen dollars). Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Certification of Compliance with TCA §49-3-310(1)(A) – Furnishing of Required Textbooks – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the annual certification of compliance to the State Department of Education in regard to providing all required textbooks to all children in the System for the current school year. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Request to Declare Property Surplus and Dispose Via Most Economical Method – Dr. Watkins submitted a request from the Transportation Department to declare surplus six (6) school buses that are no longer of use to the System. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to declare surplus the above noted buses and to dispose via the most economical method i.e. sealed bid, auction, or scrap. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Appointment/Confirmation of Members to the Ethics Committee – According to Chairman Fussell, he is required by the Obion County School System's Code of Ethics Policy to appoint three (3) members annually to serve on the Ethics Committee. His appointment for the 2018 – 2019 school year are the following: Mr. Barry Adams, Ms. Nancy Hamilton, and Mr. Jared Poore. No action was required by the Board for this item.

Consider/Approve Overnight Student Trip(s) – According to Dr. Watkins, the following overnight field trips were submitted for Board approval:

- Hillcrest, History Club, March 21 – 25, 2019, Washington, D.C.
- Black Oak, History Club, March 21 – 25, 2019, Washington, D.C.
- OCCHS, Anglers Club, September 13 – 15, 2018, Gilbertsville, KY
- South Fulton High School, FFA, October 23 – 26, 2018, Indianapolis, IN

Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Fussell to approve the above noted overnight student field trip requests. Mr. Poore seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #1.701 – School District Planning – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and TSBA, a motion was made by Mr. Britt to approve the first reading of Board Policy #1.701 with the following exception:

Since this policy is mandatory under State law, on page 1, line one, retain the word “shall” develop and do not change to “may” develop. Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #3.212 – District Water Testing – Dr. Watkins stated that TSBA created new Board Policy #3.212 to address and/or reduce potential contamination of drinking water in public schools as they age. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve and adopt the first reading of Board Policy #3.212 as recommended by TSBA in its entirety. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #3.600 – Insurance Management – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the first reading of the following amendment to Board Policy #3.600 – Insurance Management:

- Page 1, line five, under the heading Liability, add “and students participating in work-based learning.”

Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #4.206 - Homebound Instruction – According to Dr. Watkins, the State has expanded this policy to include all students who qualify for homebound instruction based on a physical or mental condition. It had previously addressed only the needs of pregnant students.

Additionally, the State Board has added a new requirement that students must be absent from school for 10 (ten) days in order to qualify and the policy name (previously “Special Programs”) was retitled "Homebound Instruction".

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Chairman Fussell to approve the first reading of Board Policy #4.206 – Homebound Instruction in its entirety, as recommended by TSBA. Mr. Poore seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED.

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #4.608 – Transcript Alterations –

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the first reading to adopt Board Policy # 4.608 – Transcript Alterations as recommended by TSBA. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.106 – Application and

Employment – Dr. Watkins stated that TSBA added information to Board Policy #5.106 concerning the importance of checking the Department of Children’s Services and the Tennessee vulnerable person’s registries prior to the hiring of a new employee. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the first reading of Board Policy #5.106 – Application and Employment as recommended by TSBA. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.118 – Background

Investigations – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve the first reading of an amendment to Board Policy #5.118 which requires district employees to undergo background checks at least once every five (5) years. Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.6001 – Staff Dress Code –

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, TSBA, and the TN Association of Pupil Transportation, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve the first reading of the following amendment to Board Policy # 5.6001 – Staff Dress Code:

- “Drivers are to avoid wearing open-toed shoes, sandals, clogs, flip-flops, wooden soled shoes, and heels more than two inches in height.
- Shoes should be non-slip soles that cover the entire foot.”

Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #6.200 – Attendance –
According to Dr. Watkins, the excused absences list in Board Policy #6.200 has been modified to reflect the following changes:

- College visits and school sponsored activities are no longer excused absences; instead those students may now be counted as present.

Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the first reading of the above noted amendment to Board Policy #6.200 – Attendance. Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #3.2051 – Off-Duty Law Enforcement Officers on Campus – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and TSBA, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve the first reading to adopt Board Policy #3.2051 – Off-Duty Law Enforcement Officers on Campus with the following exception:

- On line one (1), change the wording from “may authorize” to “**shall authorize**” off-duty law enforcement officers to serve as armed school security officers during regular school hours when students are present on school grounds and during school-sponsored events.

Mr. Baggett seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #6.2001 – Attendance During Postsecondary Visits – In order to comply with State Board policies, TSBA has recommended a Board Policy to allow students to participate in college visits and school sponsored activities. Upon the recommendation of TSBA and Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Fussell to approve the first reading to adopt Board Policy #6.2001 – Attendance During Postsecondary Visits in its entirety. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #2.8051 – Credit Cards/Credit Lines – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins, a motion was made by Mr. Baggett to approve the first reading to adopt Board Policy #2.8051 – Credit Cards/Credit Lines. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

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

- Expressed her appreciation to Hillcrest Elementary for hosting the Board meeting and meal;
- Congratulated the cross country teams for their successful year thus far;
- She then yielded the floor to Assistant Director of Schools, Mr. Dale Hollowell to present updates on school safety measures.

Mr. Hollowell shared the following information in regard to school safety measures with the Board:

- There is a renewed commitment to safety being a number one priority in the schools.
- Exterior and interior doors are locked throughout the day.
- Drills are logged and reviewed by Mr. Hollowell and Mr. Heath Cunningham.
- Mr. Cunningham makes suggestions, diagnostic checks, and serves as a liaison with law enforcement.
- Emergency plans have been written and updated as needed.
- A safety grant was written for \$162,000 with Dr. Watkins, Mr. Adam Stephens, Mr. Cunningham, and Mr. Phil Graham providing input.
- Law enforcement visibility has increased in elementary schools.
- An anonymous reporting system for students has been purchased in which the identity of the reporter is kept safe.
- A private company will provide a canine unit which detects drugs, weapons, and ammunition.
- Upgrades for cameras, exterior locks, and additional 2-way radios are planned.
- Standard System ID badges, barriers, and shared communication are additional safety features.

Additionally, Dr. Watkins stated that her long term plan would include an upgrade to the camera systems with better technology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN

Chairman Fussell expressed his thanks to administrators/supervisors and to Dr. Watkins for her newsletters. Additionally, he requested that everyone remember Mr. Brian Rainey and his family in their prayers.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

The minutes were taken and typed by Diane Terry.

Fritz Fussell, Chairman

Dr. Leah Watkins, Director of Schools