

Obion County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
October 1, 2018

The Obion County Board of Education met in regular session on October 1, 2018 at Obion County Central High School. Board Chairman Fritz Fussell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jared Poore 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.

NEW STAFF MEMBER RECOGNITION

Prior to the Board meeting, a reception for new employees was held in the OCCHS Commons Area. At the Board meeting, the following new employees were introduced to Board members and the audience in attendance:

- Anna Nunnery, Educational Assistant (BO)
- Sandi Bigham, Biology I and Environmental Science teacher (OCCHS)
- Donna Bowers, Special Education Geometry teacher (OCCHS)
- Amy Fisher, Health Science teacher (OCCHS)
- Carol Walsh, Special Education teacher (OCCHS)
- Deborah Curtis, Nurse (SFMHS)
- Dr. Leah Watkins, Director of Schools
- Laura Hudson, Biology teacher (OCCHS)
- Jean Little, Junior and Senior English teacher (OCCHS)
- Debbie Richardson, Algebra I teacher (OCCHS)
- Sheila Grooms, Food Service (OCCHS)
- Mary Beth Kennedy, Food Service (OCCHS)
- Judy Liebenow, Bus Driver (HC)
- Natoshia Mancini, Health Science teacher (SFMHS)
- Stuart Watson, Agriculture teacher (OCCHS)
- Stephen Penick, Occupational Therapist
- Laura Plunk, ABA Behavior Therapist
- Jonathan Martin, Custodian (OCCHS)
- Samantha Wheatley, Grades 7 and 8 Math teacher (RM)
- Kaitlyn Laubach, Grade 8 Math teacher (SFMHS)
- Brad Barbour, Technology (Board Office)

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Several OCCHS students were recognized for outstanding achievements and ongoing educational efforts. They included members of the OC Anglers; Teaching as a Profession Class students; and OCCHS Band student leaders.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve minutes from the meeting of September 4, 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 monthly financial/business activity. Upon the recommendation of Chairman Fussell, a motion was made by Mr. Poore to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hooper seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

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

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #1.701 – School District Planning – Dr. Watkins and TSBA recommended the following amendment to Board Policy #1.701:

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.

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. She recommended the adoption of Board Policy #3.212 as proposed by TSBA in its entirety.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #3.600 – Insurance Management –Dr. Watkins recommended the following amendment to Board Policy #3.600 – Insurance Management:

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

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".

Dr. Watkins recommended the approval of the above noted Board Policy #4.206 - Homebound Instruction in its entirety, as proposed by TSBA.

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #4.608 – Transcript Alterations – Dr. Watkins recommended the adoption of Board Policy # 4.608 – Transcript Alterations as proposed by TSBA.

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. Therefore, she recommended the amendment to Board Policy #5.106 – Application and Employment as proposed by TSBA.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.118 – Background Investigations – Dr. Watkins recommended an amendment as proposed by TSBA to Board Policy #5.118 which requires district employees to undergo background checks at least once every five (5) years.

Consider/Approve Amendment to Board Policy #5.6001 – Staff Dress Code – Dr. Watkins, TSBA, and the TN Association of Pupil Transportation recommended 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.”

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.

She recommended the above noted amendment to Board Policy #6.200 – Attendance as proposed by TSBA.

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #3.2051 – Off-Duty Law

Enforcement Officers on Campus – Dr. Watkins recommended the adoption of 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.

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. Dr. Watkins recommended the adoption of Board Policy #6.2001 – Attendance during Postsecondary Visits in its entirety as proposed by TSBA.

Consider/Approve Adoption of Board Policy #2.8051 – Credit Cards/Credit

Lines – Dr. Watkins recommended the adoption of Board Policy #2.8051 – Credit Cards/Credit Lines.

NEW BUSINESS

21st Century Community Learning Center Grant – Nikki Netherland – Ms.

Netherland shared the following points of interest with the Board regarding the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant:

- Afterschool programs receive funding from two different grants that total \$482,703 (four hundred eighty-two thousand, seven hundred three dollars).
- Programs at Black Oak, Ridgemont, and South Fulton Elementary Schools receive LEAPs (Lottery for Education Afterschool Programs) state grant funds of \$199,313 (one hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred thirteen dollars) per year for three (3) years.
- Programs at Hillcrest, Lake Road, OCCHS, and South Fulton Middle/High receive federal grant 21st CCLC (21st Century Community Learning Centers) monies at \$283,390 (two hundred eighty-three thousand, three hundred ninety dollars) per year for five (5) years.
- For the 2017 – 2018 school year, 706 (seven hundred six) students were served by the afterschool programs.
- The two grants specifically set criteria with an emphasis on at- risk students. Risk factors may include attendance, behavior, possible failures, state custody, incarceration of one or more parents, and low test scores.
- Both grants have four State mandated performance goals pertaining to academics, improved behavior, better attendance, and family engagement.
- Each school has developed activities to meet the above noted goals.
- Partnerships were created with several area agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals to provide various programs and special services.
- Approximately 170 (one hundred seventy) individuals are employed in the after school programs.

Data Review – Adam Stephens, the System’s Data Coach and RTI Specialist, shared the following points of interest with the Board:

- The State Dept. of Education has designated Hillcrest and Lake Road Elementary Schools as Reward Schools for the previous school year (2017-2018). This distinction honors schools with improved overall student academic achievement and growth in all student groups.
- A rise in the graduation rate was due to increased numbers in the graduating class with a higher percentage of students completing requirements for graduation.

- In his synopsis of data presented, Mr. Adams explained that districts have an assigned number based on progress made in certain categories such as absenteeism or graduation rate, and within each subgroup (economically disadvantaged or English language learners). Additionally, the State sets a target goal for districts to reach based on student data.
- Based on four (4) categories (marginal, satisfactory, advancing, or exemplary), the final data numbers are averaged and assigned to one of the four categories.
- The Obion County School System has been designated by the State as “advancing” which translates into “meeting growth expectations on average”.
- Additionally, Mr. Adams briefly reviewed district and school-level growth scores from the TN Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) data, specifically emphasizing strengths, areas that are at expectation, and areas of improvement.

Consider/Approve Report of Local Education Agency Compliance – According to Dr. Watkins, an annual compliance report is required by the TN Dept. of Education to ensure that local education agencies comply with all state laws and State Board of Education rules. Upon her recommendation, a motion was made by Ms. Hooper to approve the 2018 LEA Compliance Report for Obion County Schools. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Appointment of Members to the Textbook Adoption Committee – Upon the recommendation of Dr. Watkins and Mr. Dale Hollowell, a motion was made by Mr. Fussell to approve the appointment of members to the textbook adoption committee as presented for the following groups of textbooks for the 2018 – 2019 School Year: Marketing, Finance and Business, Social Studied 3-5, Social Studies 6-8, Social Studies 9-12, and World Languages. Mr. Poore seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consider/Approve Bid for Microsoft License Renewal – According to Dr. Watkins, the following bids were received for a Microsoft License Agreement:

- Gov Connection, Inc. - \$37,374.34
- CDW - \$34,224.00

Upon her recommendation and the recommendation of the Technology Department, a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve the lowest bid, meeting all specifications, from CDW for \$34,224.00 (thirty-four thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars) for the above noted item. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

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

- Expressed her congratulations to Hillcrest and Lake Road Elementary Schools for their designation as Reward Schools for the last school year;
- Thanked Mr. Adam Stephens for presenting the School District's Data Review and said there would be several questions in regard to the data presented;
- Emphasized the wide variety of opportunities available to students in the school system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADJOURN

Chairman Fussell expressed his appreciation to the principals and supervisors for their attendance at the Board meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 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