

2005 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

Board Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 14, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Chairman Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to table approval of supplements for FY06, approval of policy JCDA Student Code of Conduct, and to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the June 9 and 20, 2005, minutes as submitted.

Buzz Whitacre spoke to the board about his business Worldnet and how they provide computers to students for a small fee per month. He requested permission to provide materials to students about his business.

George Anderson spoke to the board about favoritism in doing business with outside vendors.

Dr. Darryl Smith gave a presentation about "Help A Child Smile" a mobile dental program for kids.

Superintendent Lee Shiver said he would prioritize the board's goals and objectives that have been expanded by system employees.

Curriculum Director Peggy Andrews gave a presentation on test scores for the CRCT, EOCT, and AP exams.

Director of Federal Programs and Technology Information Services Susan Reeves gave a presentation on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Andrews informed the board that all schools make AYP, except Pickens High School . Because PHS did not make AYP, the system did not. The school system is appealing the state's designation.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of June as \$10,518.71. The SPLOST balance for June was \$4,429,674.71. Burgess reported general fund expenditures at 89.83% and revenue collected at 94.76%.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented the facilities update. Shaddix reviewed the maintenance work that has been done at the schools and reported that the indoor batting cage facility was ninety percent complete. The transportation department is working on new bus routes and getting buses ready for the new school year. The Pickens High School marquee was vandalized and has been fixed. Some of the floors have been redone at Jasper Middle School . The FFA building at Jasper Middle School is complete. The Pickens County canning plant is active and will be open through August.

Chairman Mitton said the board has put a lot work into preparing the budget, but the ongoing controversy involving the county board of assessors could jeopardize funding for our schools unless these issues are resolved in the near future. The parties involved are encouraged to resolve these differences as soon as possible for the sake of the financial integrity of our school system and the community good.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve a spending resolution for August. The spending resolution was read into the record by Burgess. (See attachments).

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve a resolution to apply for funds from HB 1187 for the new JES Media Center. Director of Special Projects Mike Ballew read the resolution into the record. (See attachments).

Regina Camp spoke to the board about a partnership agreement between Piedmont Mountainside Hospital and the Pickens County Board of Education. Chairman Mitton said he would like for the board attorney to look over the agreement before a decision is made.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the memorandum of agreement between Pickens County Family Connections and the Pickens County Board of Education.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve policy IHE Promotion and Retention. (See attachments).

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as submitted July 14, 2005. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton commended the principals, faculty, and staff for the good results of the test scores. He said that the GSBA Conference in Savannah was very good. He said he expects a great prosperous 2005-2006 school year.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. MARK MITTON, CHAIRMAN

Lee Shiver, SECRETARY

Called Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Tuesday, July 19, 2005, for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. following a policy committee meeting which began at 6:00 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Mitton, to approve the FY06 annual supplements as amended. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote with Easterwood, Young, and Chastain opposed.

There was a motion by Young to further amend the supplements. The motion was seconded by Easterwood, and passed on a 3-2 vote with Mitton and Trammell opposed to approve the supplements as amended by the board. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously, to approve policy JCDA Student Code of Conduct. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed on a 4-1 vote to approve the personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Easterwood to further amend the supplements previously approved in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mitton, and passed on a 3-1-1 vote with Young opposed and Chastain abstaining to approve supplements as further amended by the board.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 11:03 p.m.

G. MARK MITTON, CHAIRMAN

Lee Shiver, SECRETARY

Called Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Monday, August 8, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 9:22 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

G. MARK MITTON, CHAIRMAN

Lee Shiver, SECRETARY

Called Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Thursday, August 11, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 1:21 p.m. to discuss the future acquisition of real estate; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) and to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (OCGA 50-14-2).

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 3:30 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to recess the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to enter back into open meeting at 3:39 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 3:58 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3(6))

Superintendent Shiver was dismissed from the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Lee Shiver, SECRETARY

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 5:31 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

G. MARK MITTON, CHAIRMAN

Board Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 11, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to add executive session to discuss personnel and to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Young to approve the minutes for July 14 and 19 and after discussion Young withdrew his motion.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for July 14, 2005 as submitted and to approve the minutes for July 19, 2005 as amended.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

Tracy Rich requested that her son be transferred from Pickens County Middle School to Jasper Middle School.

Superintendent Lee Shiver presented the board with school board member training certificates. The certificates are from the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) and Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) recognizing the efforts of board members in improving their educational leadership skills, knowledge and abilities.

There was motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to select Ervin Easterwood as the boards' legislative liaison.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment as of the sixth day of school was 4223 students with a total of 5 dropouts to date.

Shiver provided a suggested prioritized list of the board's goals and objectives. The superintendent noted the significant in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding

state standards on the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) in reading, language arts, and math since 2000.

Bookkeeper Kathy Cagle presented the financial report. Cagle reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of July as \$10,378.70. The SPLOST balance for July was \$4,159,155.38. Cagle reported general fund expenditures at 90.24% and revenue collected at 101.5%.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve a spending resolution for September. The spending resolution was read into the record by Shiver. (See attachments).

Crossroads Alternative School Principal Dick Key requested an additional shared parapro position. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve an additional shared parapro position at Crossroads.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the Vocational and Technical Education Local Plan as presented by Career/Technology Director Shannon Gable.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 7:42 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended and approve the following additional positions: one special education teaching position at Hill City Elementary School, one teaching position at Jasper Elementary School, and one parapro position at HCES. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

Chairman Mitton said the Board's expectations for the Superintendent have never been higher, and that the Board will evaluate him next spring for future contract decisions.

Chairman Mitton said thank you to Ben Arp and that he appreciated him for his efforts over the years.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Trammell, to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. MARK MITTON, CHAIRMAN

Lee Shiver, SECRETARY

Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, September 8, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to add executive session to discuss personnel and to approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for August 8 and 11 as submitted.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Dolores Cochran in appreciation of her services as a school secretary. The board recognized Mrs. Cochran for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Steve Moore asked the board to allow his daughter to participate in the band program at Pickens County Middle School. Mr. Moore's daughter attends Wildwood Christian Academy.

Lisa Riley asked the board to allow the majorettes to twirl at all football games as a part of the band.

Kerry Johnson asked the board to allow majorettes to be included as full-time participants of the band to include away games and competition.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment is 4226 students with a total of 10 dropouts to date.

John Trammell entered the board meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of August as \$11,001.82. The SPLOST balance for August was \$4,210,197.64. Burgess reported FY05 general fund expenditures at 90.217% and revenue collected at 102.37%. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 5.29% and revenue collected at 8.92%.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 8:45 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed 4 to 0 with Young abstaining to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended including approval of unpaid leave for two teachers and extended work hours for PHS clerical staff. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

Chastain suggested a competition with Gilmer County to improve student attendance.

Easterwood thanked the staff for gathering items for the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

Young made a motion, seconded by Trammell, to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Monday, September 12, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a finance committee meeting which began at 6:21 p.m.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve the FY06 Budget in the amount of \$34,092,307.00

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Tuesday, September 20, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:19 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Emergency Called Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Wednesday, September 21, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. for an emergency called board meeting at the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Chairman Mitton said the reason for the emergency called meeting was to meet in executive session to discuss personnel issues. Chairman Mitton said the board would also address the mutual release of obligations under the current superintendent's employment contract and appoint an interim superintendent. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Pickens County Progress, WYYZ, WLJA, WCHK, Sunny 100, and ETC TV Channel 3. Notice was submitted at 11:50 a.m. on September 21, 2005 and confirmation was received. Notice included an agenda with listed items to be discussed and a press release with time, date, location, and reason for the emergency called board meeting.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6))

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:53 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to accept the mutual release of obligations under the current superintendent's employment contract as presented by Board Attorney Phil Landrum III. (See attachments).

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to appoint Mike Ballew as interim superintendent. Ballew's contract date is September 22, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Ballew's annual salary is \$110,000.00.

Board comments:

The Board would like to thank Dr. Lee Shiver for the work and leadership he has provided to the Pickens County School system since 1999. His efforts can be seen both in our classrooms and campuses. This Board and Dr. Shiver have come to a mutual contract release agreement, because of philosophical differences in our school system. It is the decision of this Board to appoint Mr. Mike Ballew interim superintendent of the Pickens County School system. Mike has been in the Pickens County School system for over nine years and has provided quality leadership during that time serving as teacher, transportation director, personnel director, director of special projects, and assistant superintendent. Mike has over thirty years experience in education. The Board has high expectations for our school system and the utmost confidence that Mr. Ballew can help lead our school system to achieve these goals.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phillip Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:26 p.m. to review an appeal from a Student Disciplinary Tribunal [Hearing Officer, Panel]; (OCGA 20-2-757).

In executive session the board unanimously approved to suspend said student until after the Thanksgiving Day Holidays. The student may return to school on Monday, November 28, 2005.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 5:57 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, October 13, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded, by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for September 8, 12, and 20, 2005 as submitted and to amend the minutes for the September 21, 2005 emergency called board meeting minutes to include emergency called meeting.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the amended minutes for September 21, 2005.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Andrea Wood in appreciation of her service as food service manager at Pickens High School. The board recognized Mrs. Wood for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Superintendent Ballew reported that all Pickens County Schools and Headstart/Pre-K received certificates from the Georgia Accrediting Commission stating that they were all accredited schools.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment is 4179 students with a total of 17 dropouts to date. We have five students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of September as \$10,186.81. The SPLOST balance for September was \$4,109,274.50. Burgess reported FY05 general fund expenditures at 90.21% and revenue collected at 102.37%. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 13.41% and revenue collected at 13.55%.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

Transportation Director Randall Young presented the Transportation Procedures Manual that was included in the board packets.

Jasper Middle School Principal Steve McDaniel requested Board approval for the eighth grade students from both Pickens County Middle School and Jasper Middle School to travel to Washington, D. C., May 18 through May 22, 2005. There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the field trip for the eighth grade students.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to invite the state facilities department to assist in the Pickens County Schools five year plan.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

The board congratulated Tate Elementary School Principal Sherry Mullins on her transfer as principal to Harmony Elementary School and TES Assistant Principal Deb Longshore on her promotion as TES principal.

Chairman Mitton thanked those responsible for getting the Transportation Procedures Manual together.

Easterwood requested Shaddix report unofficial findings from the structural engineer that visited Tate Elementary School concerning the structural integrity of the school. Shaddix reported one rotted truss, settling of the building, and the engineer reported the presence of asbestos shingles on one outside wall.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Tuesday, October 25, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phillip Landrum III was present.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a facilities workshop which began at 5:10 p.m.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to delete the approval of the FY06 budget, and add discussion of the FY06 budget, approval of the

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital contract, an executive session to discuss future acquisition of real estate, and approve the amended agenda.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the bus lease resolution. (See attachments).

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess reported the Pickens County tax digest is not available at this time. Burgess reviewed the timeline after the digest is received for final budget approval, required advertisements, and millage rate approval.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the Piedmont Mountainside Hospital contract.

Board Attorney Phillip Landrum left the board meeting at 7:28 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss the future acquisition of real estate (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)).

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 7:46 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, November 10, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the former Jasper Elementary School Media Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Chairman Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for October 6, 13, and 25, 2005 as submitted.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Linda Judkins in appreciation of her service as Learning Support Specialist at Jasper Elementary School. The board recognized Mrs. Judkins for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

Superintendent Ballew and the Board presented Curriculum Director Peggy Andrews with a certificate of recognition for being chosen as Educator of the Year from Educational Resources, Inc.

The Board and Ballew recognized Hill City Elementary School for receiving the Platinum Award from the Georgia Department of Education.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment is 4175 students with a total of 26 dropouts to date. We have 21 students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of October as \$10,133.10. The SPLOST balance for October was \$4,019,038.42. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 22.36% and revenue collected at 11.86%.

Ballew presented the FY05 final financial report. There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the FY05 final financial report. (See attachments.)

Burgess presented the FY06 budget. There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the FY06 budget as submitted. (See attachments.)

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented. (See attachments.)

Ballew said the regularly scheduled December board meeting will be held at the Pickens High School Auditorium.

Board Comments:

Trammell said he is pleased to decrease the 2005 millage rate. Trammell said it was good management from the central office, principals, and staff. He commended the administrators and staff. He mentioned that sales tax option over property tax will be discussed in the legislature.

Chairman Mitton said that the Governor Perdue wanted to provide more power to the local board of education.

Easterwood said he went to GSBA Advocacy Workshop and the sales tax option was the topic of discussion. Easterwood asked that people write letters to their representatives and senators voicing how they feel about sales tax over property tax.

Chastain said that the state would like to control education instead of the local boards.

Chairman Mitton said that vouchers may be used for Hurricane Relief. Chairman Mitton congratulated Joni Young for being selected as Teacher of the Year for the system and congratulated all the selected Teachers of the Year. Chairman Mitton said the Teacher of the Year banquet was wonderful and thanked those who put it together and thanked Regions Bank for sponsoring the banquet.

Trammell said good job at Leadership Pickens. He said he received several compliments from Leadership Pickens members about our school system.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Monday, November 21, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to amend and approve the agenda to include a SPLOST discussion and an executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel.

Superintendent Mike Ballew recommended to set the millage rate at 15.12. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the 2005 millage rate of 15.12.

Chairman Mitton opened the loan bids submitted by Jasper Banking Company and Chestatee State Bank. A loan bid was received after the bid deadline from Community Bank of Pickens County and was not opened. There was a motion by Young, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to accept the 3.99 percent loan bid from Jasper Banking Company.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess read the loan resolution into record. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the loan resolution as read. (See attachments)

Ballew and the Board discussed several items for SPLOST III.

Board Attorney Phillip Landrum entered the board meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Landrum presented draft referendum language for the SPLOST III ballot.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) and to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A 50-14-2).

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 7:12 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken in executive session.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Wednesday, November 30, 2005, at 4:30 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Jerry Chastain, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell.

Vice-Chairman Trammell called the board meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Superintendent Ballew reviewed draft resolution to the board.

Board Attorney Phillip Landrum entered the called board meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Landrum reviewed the draft resolution for the SPLOST III ballot to the board members. The board reviewed all contents of the draft resolution.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 5:43 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 8, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at Pickens High School for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the minutes for November 10, 2005 as amended and approve the minutes for November 21 and 30, 2005 as submitted.

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Lydia Waters in appreciation of her service as Receptionist at Jasper Middle School. The board recognized Ms. Waters for going above and beyond her expected duties and responsibilities.

The board recognized and presented a certificate of recognition to Pickens High School student Lauren Reece; she is involved in FFA and won state division champion market hog. The board recognized and presented a certificate of recognition to PHS student Chris Wright, he is involved in FFA and is the 2005 Tractor and Machinery Operations winner. The board recognized and presented certificates of recognition to the following groups: Jasper Middle School Football Team, Pickens County Middle School Softball Team, PHS Band percussion and auxiliary sections, PHS Softball, and PHS Football.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total

system enrollment is 4164 students with a total of 40 dropouts to date. We have 21 students with 15 or more days absent.

Assistant Superintendent Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of November as \$8,933.70. The SPLOST revenue collected for November was \$319,263.73. The SPLOST balance for November was \$3,316,386.85. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 30.24% and revenue collected at 16.79%.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve and adopt the SPLOST ballot resolution as presented and recommended by Superintendent Ballew. (See attachments).

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls requested approval from the board to allow the PHS baseball team to travel to Alabama for a baseball tournament. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to allow the PHS baseball team to travel to Alabama for a tournament.

The board scheduled the January board meeting for January 12, 2006, at 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix presented a list of surplus items. There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to surplus the items presented.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton asked about the water testing at Hill City Elementary School.

Shaddix replied that the steamer and dishwasher were continuing to clog. Shaddix had the water tested and the results were “hard water” but perfectly safe. To correct the problem we are having filters installed in the equipment.

- Chastain asked about the sealed bids. Shaddix said that the bids are for surplus property. The bids were due in on Saturday, December 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.
- Easterwood asked if the system charged the student for transportation to the baseball tournament in Alabama. Ballew replied that the booster club will cover the expense for this trip.

Easterwood made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

Called Board Meeting Minutes

December 29, 2005

The Pickens County Board of Education met Thursday, December 29, 2005, at 12:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Jasper Elementary School Media Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, and Ervin Easterwood. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to recess at 12:15 p.m.

The board returned from recess at 12:50 p.m.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 12:50 p.m.

G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

Michael L. Ballew, Secretary