

# 2006 Board Meeting Minutes Archive

## Finance and Called Board Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 7, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference 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.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a finance committee meeting which began at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve policy JCDA Student Code of Conduct 2006-2007.

School Board Attorney Phil Landrum III spoke to the board referencing water and sewer issues at Harmony Elementary school.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed 3-2 with Mitton and Young opposed to approve a four percent raise on the portion on Kelly Eubanks salary that Pickens County Schools is responsible for.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 13, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:10 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.

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented certificates of recognition from the Georgia Department of Education for achieving high student participation in the school lunch and/or breakfast program. Ballew presented certificates to Jasper Middle School, Pickens County Middle School, and Pickens High School. Ballew announced the cafeteria inspections scores and thanked the foodservice for their hard work and dedication.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented an overall yearly attendance report. The reports included average daily attendance, 15 or more absences, office of student achievement reports, elementary and middle school tardies and absences, and high school tardies.

Superintendent Mike Ballew gave a construction update on Harmony Elementary School. HES is progressing on schedule and nearing completion. The Architect Steve Hill is preparing a punch list for Harmony Elementary. The grand opening ceremony was rescheduled for July 30, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.

Maintenance projects was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of June as \$3,231.65. The SPLOST revenue collected for June was \$375,834.09. The SPLOST balance for June was \$1,172,612.28. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 95.02% and revenue collected at 94.74%.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the June 8, 28, and July 6, 2006, minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve Child Abuse and Neglect Policy JGI.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve School Admissions Policy JBC.

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve the FY07 budget in the amount of \$37,012,919.00

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented on July 13, 2006. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Chairman Mitton thanked all administrators, faculty and staff for working hard to make Adequate yearly Progress (AYP).
- Chairman Mitton thanked Pickens County Government for their cooperation in getting Harmony School Road prepared for the increase in travel due to our new elementary school opening.
- Chairman Mitton reported that the board attended the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Conference in Savannah. This conference presented a lot of good information to the board.
- Chairman Mitton and Easterwood asked the audience how they like e-board and

welcomed their comments.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Facilities and Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 27, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference 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.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a facilities committee meeting which began at 3:15 p.m.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:33 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 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 6:10 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken.

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

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

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 10, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 10, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Tony Young, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Board Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Mitton led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed on a 4-0 vote to amend the agenda to include an executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation and to move approval of the vocational local plan immediately after recognitions. Executive session will be held prior to personnel recommendations.

There was a motion by Young, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the agenda as amended.

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls recognized the Skills USA Health Knowledge Bowl Team. The team won first in state and went on to be national champions in Kansas City. Chairman Mitton presented certificates to team members Brandy Chadwick, Marissa Knight, Ashley Burgess, Kathy Keck, and Academic Coach Debbie Grimes.

Career and Technology Director Shannon Gable presented the FY07 Career and Technology Agricultural Local Plan. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed on a 4-0 vote to approve the FY07 Local Plan as presented.

A maintenance project report was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Shaddix reported that surveys had been completed at three schools that day.

Board member Jerry Chastain entered meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented an attendance report. Total enrollment for the fifth day of school was 4,243 students.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY06 general fund expenditures at 96.44% and revenue collected at 101.82%. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 1.82% and revenue collected at 1.19%. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of July as \$3,138.68. The SPLOST revenue collected for July was \$394,010.09. The SPLOST balance for July was \$1,176,352.14.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the July 13 and 27, 2006 minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve Policy JGI Child Abuse and Neglect, Policy JBC School Admissions, and Policy JCDA Student Code of Conduct. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the

surplus items as submitted.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed on a 5-0 vote to go into executive session at 6:06 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 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).

Board Attorney Phil Landrum III entered meeting at 6:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Trammell, which passed on a 5-0 vote to return to open session at 6:52 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken.

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Easterwood, which passed on a 5-0 vote to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as amended. (See attachments.)

Board Comments:

- Superintendent Mike Ballew thanked the public for attending the Grand Opening celebration at Harmony Elementary School on July 30, 2006.

Young made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## **Facilities & Called Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 6, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, at 6:05 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Tony Young, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

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

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include public participation.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the

agenda as amended.

Crystal Ellinger asked the board to allow her child to attend a school out of her attendance zone.

Toni Haynes spoke to the board referencing her employment with Pickens County Schools Transportation Department.

Superintendent Mike Ballew and the Board discussed the North Georgia Mountain Education High School's becoming a State Charter School. Mountain Education High School's are currently operated by seven North Georgia school districts.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:26 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 7:37 p.m. Chairman Mitton reported no action was taken.

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

Ballew and the Board had a discussion referencing a dress code committee.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 14, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, September 14, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Tony Young, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chastain 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.

Superintendent Mike Ballew presented the board members with their training certificates provided

by Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for receiving the six hours required training.

Ballew reported that all Pickens County Schools and Headstart/Pre-K received certificates from the Georgia Accrediting Commission stating that all schools were accredited with quality. Ballew presented the certificates to the principals.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4303 students with a total of 7 dropouts to date.

A maintenance project report was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Shaddix reported that Pickens County Middle School was having their first football game on their field that day. Shaddix reported that the Capital Outlay Project Application needed to be signed so that the projects at Pickens High School and Tate Elementary School will receive state funding.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 5.48% and revenue collected at 6.87%. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of August as \$2,304.95. The SPLOST revenue collected for July was \$356,840.95. The SPLOST balance for August was \$998,303.35.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Young, which unanimously to approve the August 10 and September 6, 2006 minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Young, which passed on a 4-0 vote to nominate Jerry Chastain as the Georgia School Boards Association Legislative Liaison. Chastain abstained from this vote.

A motion was made by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus items as submitted.

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to approve of intergovernmental agreement regarding the governance and operation of the Mountain Education Center to become a state charter school.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve a trip to Disney World for the Pickens High School Band, Chorus, and Dance Team in December 2006.

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

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Easterwood, to adjourn at 5:33 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Called Board Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met Friday, September 29, 2006, at 12:00 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: John Trammell, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and Ervin Easterwood.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

Superintendent Mike Ballew recommended to tentatively set the 2006 millage rate at 15.02. There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the tentatively set 2006 millage rate of 15.02.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 12:16 p.m.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2006

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, October 12, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include tentative approval of the 2006 millage rate.

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

Superintendent Ballew and the Board recognized Hill City Elementary School for receiving the Platinum Award from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement for the second year in a row.

The award was given to HCES for Greatest Gain in meeting or exceeding academic standards.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4,303 students with a total of 12 dropouts to date.

A maintenance project report was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Shaddix reported that Tate Elementary School property survey is complete. Renovations at Jasper Elementary School for a fine arts building is underway.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess presented the FY06 general fund final report that was submitted to the state. Burgess reported FY07 general fund expenditures at 14.95% and revenue collected at 14.13%. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of September as \$2,293.67. The SPLOST revenue collected for September was \$464,625.07. The SPLOST balance for September was \$1,172,622.00.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the September 14 and 29, 2006 minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve Policy LEBA Parent Involvement. (See attachments).

A motion was made by Chastain, seconded by Mitton, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus items as submitted.

Ballew recommended to tentatively set the 2006 millage rate at 15.22%. A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to tentatively approve the 2006 millage set at 15.22%.

Public participant Patricia Rodriguez asked the board to review her employment with the Pickens County Schools Transportation Department for the last four years. Rodriguez requested the board to allow her to continue her employment.

A motion was made by Mitton to approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented. Chastain requested to pull Rodriguez personnel recommendations aside. Mitton withdrew his motion.

Chastain made a motion, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 5:50 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)).

Attorney Phil Landrum III entered the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 6:01 p.m. Chairman Mitton said no action was taken in executive session.

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

Board comments:

- Trammell wanted to publicly say good job to the middle and high school football and softball teams.

- Chastain said the athletics were doing a great job as well as the high school band.
- Mitton said good job to all faculty and staff.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Called Board Meeting Minutes & Workshop**

**October 25, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 5:58 p.m. for a called board meeting at the Board Conference Center. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Jerry Chastain, Mark Mitton, Ervin Easterwood, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

The called board meeting was immediately preceded by a workshop which began at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Mitton called the board meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to amend the agenda to include personnel recommendations.

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

A motion was made by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to go into executive session at 6:05 p.m. to consider a matter involving the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a student's educational records; (20 USC 1232g.) to discuss or deliberate upon the employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA 50-14-3 (6)) to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending 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).

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to return to open session at 8:10 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 approve the superintendent's personnel recommendations as presented. (See attachments.)

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve to

give to the City of Jasper a ten foot easement located on the Jasper Middle School campus.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, November 9, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Center on D. B. Carroll Street for the regular monthly board meeting. The following board members were present and received per diem compensation: Ervin Easterwood, Mark Mitton, Jerry Chastain, and John Trammell. Attorney Phil Landrum III was present.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Chastain led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Phil Landrum III entered the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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

Career and Technology Director Shannon Gable presented the FFA members who placed second in the National FFA Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event. Those students are Junior Chapman, Roy Fowler, Jason Segars, and Thomas Turcotte.

Jasper Middle School sixth grade students participated in the math competition at Berry College. JMS students math team placed first in the math competition. JMS sixth grade math team includes Meghan Childers, Taylor Boggus, Ashley Thompson, Amber Shields, Hannah Land, Brienna Deems, Dylan Childers, and Justin Lanier. JMS also placed in the individual competition. Meghan Childers won first place and Taylor Boggus won second place. The math coach is Tammy Duncan.

Attendance Officer Shelley Cantrell presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4,287 students with a total of 15 dropouts to date. We have 20 students with 15 or more days absent.

A maintenance project report was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Shaddix reported that asbestos was found in the glue under the old floor tiles. Shaddix will have the asbestos abated over the holiday break.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund report was incorrect and she would submit a corrected report to the board via e-mail. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of October as \$3,504.18. The SPLOST revenue collected for October was \$386,341.46. The SPLOST balance for October was \$1,502,850.15.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve the October 12, 25, and November 3, 2006 minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to surplus property located in Nelson.

There was a motion by Mitton, seconded by Easterwood, which passed unanimously to convey property to the City of Nelson for the express purpose of providing recreational opportunities for the residents of City of Nelson. Should this property cease to be owned by the City of Nelson or should this property be used for purposes other than recreational opportunities for the residents of the City of Nelson, the property shall immediately revert back to the Grantor herein. (See attachments.)

A motion was made by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the surplus items as submitted.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to approve Policy LEBA Parent Involvement. (See attachments).

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the Washington D.C. field trip for the eighth grade students at Pickens County Middle School and Jasper Middle School.

Burgess reported that a loan may be necessary to carry finances through November and December until the tax revenue is received. Chairman Mitton opened the sealed bids and Superintendent Mike Ballew presented bids as follows: Crescent Bank 6.65%, Chestatee Bank 5.35%, Community Bank of Pickens County 4.625%, Jasper Banking Company 5.35%, Regions Bank, 3.84%, and United Community Bank 4.68%. There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to accept the bid from Regions Bank at a fixed rate of 3.84%. The board authorized Chairman Mitton and Ballew to execute the loan documents.

David Fann explained a situation at Pickens High School. Fann asked the board to give him an explanation of termination.

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 said the Board would like to send their condolences to the Shipp family.

Easterwood said he appreciated Shaddix for all he has done for Pickens County Schools.

Mitton made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 5:49 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 14, 2006**

The Pickens County Board of Education met on Thursday, December 14, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Conference 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.

Chairman Mitton called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Easterwood led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Hill City Elementary School (HCES) Paraprofessional Ann Bruce. Ms. Bruce performed the Heimlich Maneuver on two students at HCES when they became choked at lunch. Also, the Big Dragon Heart award was awarded to Harmony Elementary School Teacher Belinda Howard. Mrs. Howard performed the Heimlich Maneuver on another teacher when she became choked while they were eating lunch. The board recognized Ms. Bruce and Mrs. Howard for acting so quickly, calmly, and responsibly when others required their

assistance.

Superintendent Mike Ballew reported that Pickens County Head Start received the Center of Distinction award. The Head Start will become a Center of Distinction through Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Pickens County was recognized for providing the highest quality of care to preschool children. Pickens County Head Start is one of the first headstart programs in Georgia to participate and receive this recognition.

Ballew presented certificates to Special Education Director Christine Barker. The certificates were in recognition for excellence in the education of students with disabilities by educating young children in the least restrictive environment, by transitioning students to their desired postsecondary outcomes, and by increasing the percentage of students who meet or exceed state achievement standards.

Pickens High School Principal Tommy Qualls announced that Mary Alice Jasperse was the 2005 State Winner in the 4H Entomology project and Hamilton Buchanan is the 2006 State Winner in the 4H Poultry project. The board congratulated them on their win.

Qualls introduced the PHS fastpitch softball team: Robbi Brown, Kimberly McDaris, Meagan Stephens, Lindsey Logan, Jenna Padgett, Jordyn Hammontree, Sadie Walker, Caity Carver, Mary Alice Jasperse, Jenna Jarrett, Whitney Shirley, Brittany Sutton, Erica Hutson, Jessica Buchanan, and Sarah Pinson. This season the Nettes team finished with a record of 21-15. They were runner up in the Cass Leadoff Challenge and finished as the region first place team with a 9-1 regular season record and once again qualified for state sectionals. The board recognized and congratulated the PHS fastpitch softball team.

Pickens County Middle School Principal Chris LeMieux introduced the PCMS fast pitch softball team: Chelsea Coleman, Kayla Barnard, Madison Eubanks, Kayla Byrom, Lauren Hardin, Jazmine Goss, Kelli Johnson, Megan Dixon, Tamra Harrah, D.J. Goss, Hillary Wheeler, Savannah Bryant, Samantha Bryant, and Kennedy McTaggart. PCMS fastpitch softball team completed a perfect 2006 winning season and won both the regular season and regional tournament trophies this year. This is the 2nd consecutive year that the PCMS fastpitch softball team has won the regional softball tournament. Congratulations to coaches Tina and Billy Wheeler for their coaching efforts.

Federal Programs and Curriculum Director Susan Reeves presented the attendance report. Total system enrollment was 4,274 students with a total of 23 dropouts to date. We have 53 students with 15 or more days absent.

A maintenance project report was provided by Supervisor of Operations Lloyd Shaddix. Shaddix reported that Jasper Elementary School 5 th grade building is now asbestos free. Shaddix reported that Pickens County Government was trading out some work (including clearing an area for Tate Elementary School parking) for the use of Pickens County Schools Gymnasiums.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Amy Burgess presented the financial report. Burgess reported FY07 general fund revenue at 17.88% and expenditures at 30.56%. Burgess reported interest paid for SPLOST in the month of November as \$3,718.74. The SPLOST revenue collected for November was \$457,396.35. The SPLOST balance for November was \$1,611,454.68. Burgess told the board that the auditors would be here on January 8, 2007 for one month.

There was a motion by Chastain, seconded by Young, which passed unanimously to approve the November 9 and 29, 2006 minutes as submitted.

There was a motion by Easterwood, seconded by Trammell, which passed unanimously to schedule the January board meeting for January 11, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.

There was a motion by Trammell, seconded by Chastain, which passed unanimously to approve the Disney World Trip for the seventh and eighth grade band students at Jasper Middle School.

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

Board comments:

- Chairman Mitton said congratulations to all those who were recognized tonight
- Chairman Mitton said it has been an honor to serve on the board with member Tony Young. He thanked Young for all the work he has done while on the board. He presented a plaque to Young from the board for his four years of service on the Pickens County Board of Education.
- Trammell said he has enjoyed working with the Tony Young. Trammell wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Easterwood said it has been great working with Young and he looks forward to working with new board member Shane Neighbors.
- Chastain said job well done to Young.
- Young said he has enjoyed serving on the board.

Trammell made a motion, seconded by Chastain, to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

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G. Mark Mitton, Chairman

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Michael L. Ballew, Secretary