

Board of Education  
Board Retreat and Budget Hearing Minutes  
March 18, 2022, 9:00 A.M.  
Gilmer County, Georgia

### **Gilmer County Board of Education**

Members and Staff present: Dr. Brian Ridley, Michael Bramlett, Doug Pritchett, Ronald Watkins, Michael Parks, Joe Pflueger, Trina Penland, Lottie Mitchell, Lindy Patterson, John Call, Jessica Chastain, Patricia Partin and Emily Plumley

Guest present: Dr. Allen McCannon, Georgia Leadership Associates

- I. The meeting was called to order at **9:00 am** by Chairman Ronald Watkins.
- II. Dr. Ridley recommended that the board approve the agenda for the retreat. Motion by Mr. Pritchett and second by Mr. Pflueger. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- III. Dr. Ridley explained that according to Roberts Rules of Order when a meeting resolves itself into Committee of the Whole, discussion is freer and limitations are removed regarding the number of times a board member can speak in a debate. Dr. Ridley recommended that the board resolve itself to a Committee of the Whole to participate in the annually required 3 hours of whole board training. Motion by Mr. Parks and second by Mr. Pritchett. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- IV. **9:00am-12:00pm**: Board participated in whole board training conducted by Dr. Allen McCannon from Georgia Leadership Associates. Dr. McCannon trained the Board as a committee of the whole on the following topics:
  - Guardians of Local Control
  - Policy & Board Members
  - Board Involvement in Governance
  - Inflation & Future Facility Plans
- V. **12:00pm-12:45pm**: Lunch
- VI. **12:45pm**: Board Self-Assessment
- VII. **1:15pm**: Dr. Ridley stated that the Strategic Plan is divided into 5 target areas. Each area is led by a district director with background in each said area. Once the Strategic Plan was adopted every board meeting has revolved around it and the goals therein. Topics were discussed as follows:
  - Academic Achievement – Lottie Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent of Academics
  - Parent and Community Engagement – Lindy Patterson, Director of Federal Programs and District Title XI Coordinator
  - High Performing Culture and Workforce – Dana Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
  - Operational Effectiveness – Jessica Chastain, Director of Student Services
  - Fiscal Accountability – Trina Penland, Director of Finance
  - Technology – John Call, Director of Technology

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- Nutrition – Patricia Partin, Director of Nutrition

- VIII. **4:00pm** Dr. Ridley recommend to move from Committee of the Whole to Regular Session to conduct the first of two required annual Public Budget Hearings. Dr. Ridley stated the public hearing has been advertised in the local paper, GCCSS website and posted outside the Administrative Technology Office as required by law. Motion by Mr. Parks second by Mr. Pritchett to move into Regular Session. Motion Carried. All voted Yes.
- Dr. Ridley noted that the advertisement for the budget hearing was in accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-167 which provides the opportunity for public comment on the budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Ridley stated the board is planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> required Public Budget hearing for the Regular Session in May. At which time the board will seek public input and approve the FY23 tentative budget for advertisement in the local media. Dr. Ridley explained a special called meeting would be held after advertising the tentative budget for the minimum of 14 days or the board will plan to approve the final budget at the boards Regular Session in June. Dr. Ridley stated the budget is primarily developed by working from this year's numbers and investigating possible changes towards next year.
  - Chief Financial Officer, Trina Penland and Dr. Ridley presented five-year budget projections focusing mainly on estimated changes in revenues and expenditures for FY23.
- XI. **Public Participation:** None
- X. **Adjourn:** Motion by Mr. Bramlett and second by Mr. Parks to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Motion Carried. All voted Yes. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Dr. Brian Ridley, Superintendent

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Mr. Watkins, Chairman

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emily Plumley, Board Clerk