Decatur County Board of Education
August 17, 2017

NO WORK SESSION

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J. Sydney Cochran, Chairman

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Tim Cochran, Secretary
The Decatur County Board of Education met for its regular monthly meeting on August 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur County Schools Support Center. Members present were: Dr. Sydney Cochran, Chairman, Mr. Jacky Grubbs, Mr. Kelvin Bouie, Sr., Mr. Keith Lyle, Mr. Winston Rollins and Mr. Bobby Barber.

Dr. Cochran called the meeting to order. Mr. Jacky Grubbs gave the invocation. The inspirational message was provided by Potter Street Elementary. Mrs. Amanda Boyett led the inspiration with excerpts from Ron Clark’s book, Move Your Bus.

Mr. Bouie made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Grubbs gave a second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Grubbs made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Rollins made the second to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION and PRESENTATIONS:

- 2017/2018 Susan Johnson Continuing Education Scholarship Award – Presented by April Aldridge and Mr. Sean Johnson to Mary Jo Boutwell.

SUPERINTENDENT COCHRAN’S REPORT

- Enrollment Update – 5146 students – down by 76 from 2016-17. Board will be updated after October FTE Count.
- SACS Visit – November 5th-8th – Mr. Cochran explained the 5-year accreditation process. Informed board members they could be called upon to address areas of governance.
- Meal Schedule for Board Members was provided. Purpose of scheduled breakfasts/lunches was to establish stronger professional relationships and fellowship. Superintendent and two different board members will meet periodically.
- August 29th – Community Meeting in Attapulgus at 6PM at City Hall. BMS, HMS, WBE, and BHS will be involved in the process along with district leaders. Team will share district initiatives, responds to questions, and engage parents in the work of the district through effective communication.
- Board Training – Monday, September 18th at 5PM
- Reminder-GSBA December 1st-2nd in Atlanta, GA - Mr. Winston Rollins and Mr. Kevin Bouie, Sr. are scheduled to attend along with Superintendent Cochran. Other interested members will need to notify Superintendent Cochran.
Lighting Detectors- Representatives will begin installing the detectors the week of August 21-24, 2017.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

I. Administrative Services Report:

A. Financial: Tim Matthews, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the FY17 year end results as of June 30, 2017 which was 4% under budget. Mr. Matthews noted that SPLOST receipts were down 4½% in 2016-17 from the prior year.

B. School Food Service: Mrs. Debbie Purcell, SFS Director, reported the year ended 5% under budget for 2016-17. New software and training needs were high budget items for the month of July 2017. The school year was off to a great start.

C. Dr. April Aldridge, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, reported that SACS Accreditation was forthcoming. Dr. Aldridge discussed the Strategic Plan and the system non-negotiables. She encouraged board members to visit the schools, sit in classrooms, and engage in the learning with teachers and students.

D. Kathy Varner, Federal Programs Director, reported the District’s CNA and Improvement Plans have been approved by Georgia Department of Education. The budget spending will be geared towards meeting the goals established in both plans. Mrs. Varner also reported that approximately 100 parent volunteers had been trained for 2017-18. The system is focused upon soliciting catching the early readers. Volunteers are needed who will come into the schools and read to students.

E. Steve Dunn, Technology Director, reported his team of techs were in the process of selecting a group of teachers to serve as a part of a MODEL TEACHER CLASSROOM. The teachers would review various software and classroom tools. The team would provide feedback about the effectiveness/ineffectiveness of those items being considered for future implementation.

F. Roy Mathews, Principal of BHS, gave a very thorough overview of the goals and strategic operation plans being implemented at BHS for 2017-18. The primary focuses were on teaching and learning, school culture and climate, grounds and facilities, athletics, and school safety. Very informative presentation.

G. Mrs. Letitia Austin, Principal at BMS, provided a thorough overview of the initiatives and goals at BMS. School Highlights included student voice, peer tutoring, school beautification, and TIES. Areas of focus included consistency, excellence, community engagement, and common language among staff. New initiatives involved implementing data talks, enhancing 21st Century Afterschool Program, and collaboratively planning for student success.

ACTION ITEMS:
1. Recommended Approval of Policy JRA – Student Data Privacy Compliance. Motion was made by Mr. Bouie. Mr. Grubbs made a second to the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Approval of Overnight Field Trips- Motion was made by Mr. Barber to approve overnight field trips. Mr. Grubbs made a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. The following field trips were approved: HMS -Jekyll Island (3/28-3/30), BHS – Y Club (Nov 15-17) and eight FFA Trips.

3. Approval of 2017/2018 21st Century Grant – Superintendent Cochran explained that due to funding cuts, less students would be served at elementary and the 21st Century Program would experience staff cuts. Motion was made by Mr. Bouie to approve the grant. Mr. Grubbs made a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

4. Recommended consideration and approval of Waiver Resolutions- The resolution allows the DCBOE to authorize the Superintendent Cochran to increase the class size maximums to exceed the current state requirements by 1 to 8 students in the groups designated in the resolution. Mr. Barber made a motion to approve the Waiver Resolution. Mr. Bouie gave a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

5. CTAE Local Plan for FY18 – Mr. Rollins made the motion to accept the CTAE Local Plan for FY 18. Mr. Bouie gave a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

6. Tax Mileage Rate- Superintendent Cochran gave a brief explanation about the mileage rate. He explained the rollback rate would have been a bit higher. The mileage rate for 2017-18 is 15.94 per thousand valuations on all taxable property in Decatur County, Georgia. Mr. Bouie provided the motion. Mr. Grubbs gave a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

7. Personnel – Motion was made by Mr. Bouie to accept the personnel recommendations. Mr. Barber provided a second to the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Barber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Grubbs gave a second to the motion. Motion was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned.