

HOLMES COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2015

The Holmes County School Board met in Regular Session Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at 701 East Pennsylvania Avenue in Bonifay. Board Members present: Sid Johnson – Vice-Chair, Debbie Kolmetz, Alan Justice and Shirley Owens. Also present: Superintendent Eddie Dixon, Board Attorney Luke Taylor, Administrators Jim Goodman, Carmen Bush, Donnita Butorac and Larry Zorn, Finance Officer Larry Hawkins and Resource Officer Greg Johnson. Chairman Rusty Williams was unable to attend.

Vice-Chair Sid Johnson presided as Chair and called the regular scheduled meeting to order and the adoption of the agenda. Shirley Owens moved to approve the agenda, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES REVISIONS (Tabled 01/20/15) - Debbie Kolmetz moved for the revisions to remain on the table until the Board has time to go over them and know what they are voting on, second by Shirley Owens which passed unanimously.

FACILITIES –

A. SURPLUS PROPERTY – A list of items was presented to be declared surplus and sold at public auction on 03/19/15. Debbie Kolmetz moved to approve, second by Shirley Owens which passed unanimously. S. min. p. ____

ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS –

- A. 2014-2015 CLASS SIZE REDUCTION COMPLIANCE PLAN – Shirley Owens moved to approve, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously. S min. p. ____
- B. SCHOOL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 06/30/15 – Shirley Owens moved to approve, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously. S. min. p. ____
- C. OVERNIGHT/OUT OF STATE TRIP – HCHS Culinary Arts to Orlando; PDLH FCCLA to Orlando – Shirley Owens moved to approve, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously. S. min. p. ____
- D. OUT OF COUNTY/STATE STUDENTS – Debbie Kolmetz moved to approve, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously. S. min. p. ____

The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Alan Justice and second by Shirley Owens as follows: Invoices, Warrant List, P.O.'s over \$3000, Budget Amendment (None), 01/20/15 Workshop and Regular Session Minutes and the Monthly Financial Report.

PERSONNEL – Superintendent Dixon made the following recommendations:

AMEND Beverly Sallas from Curriculum Coordinator to Assistant Principal at BES, effective 02/01/2015.

TERMINATE Danielle Ashcroft, Custodian at HCHS, effective 01/30/15 at 4:00 p.m.

Shirley Owens moved to approve, second by Alan Justice which passed 3-1 with Debbie Kolmetz voting against the recommendation stating she was voting no because she has had some comments about this, and had some teachers comments about this, they are not approving this and that's why she is voting no.

COMMENTS

Debbie Kolmetz stated for the record, “that our agenda process and the public speaking process at meetings needs some immediate attention and what happened at our last meeting should never have happened and what happened at this meeting today. The chairman said this person could not take their minutes and then the last meeting they could. We need some consistency and have one rule and make it across the board. At the last meeting the Chairman would not allow a citizen to speak because she was not a Holmes County resident. Nowhere in the Florida Statutes or the Holmes County policies did I find a rule that you must be a citizen of this county before you can speak before the Board. The three counties surrounding us said they had never refused anyone from the public the right to speak. Holmes County Policy Chapter 2.30 states all meetings shall be open, public and subject to Florida Statutes. So if a person lives in Walton County and they have a student in our county are they not allowed to speak about a problem they’re having with their child? I don’t think so and we need to address that members of the public have the right to speak and be heard. The Florida Statutes state every citizen has the right to speak at a public meeting and I think that person deserves an apology in writing for infringing on her rights to speak at this board meeting and this practice has got to end. I found nothing specific in our policies addressing details regarding a person from the public speaking.” Debbie Kolmetz then moved to make policy which provides guidelines for a person to speak before the school board under Item #2 Hearing From the Public. Alan Justice seconded the motion for discussion. Mrs. Kolmetz also stated for the record “The Florida Statutes and Attorney General ruling states a person requesting public records does not have to give their name, so why do we have to give the name and address of someone speaking to the Holmes County School Board when in this technological age all this is going around the world, these videos and that would be a privacy concern. In my opinion if you’re putting your name and address out there and everybody all over the country and the world can see that and if this is because this is the way we’ve always done it doesn’t mean it’s the right way, especially in this day we’re living in. I’m concerned we need to get all this straight in our local policies and I’m proud we did vote to table that policy then.” Mrs. Kolmetz then stated for the record “I feel the citizens of Holmes County are being denied their right to speak before this board and over the 2 years since I’ve been on this board we’ve not had one person placed on the agenda and that includes myself. I have asked to be put on the agenda and I was denied, I was not put on the agenda and this is not an acceptable policy. I mean if you put it in writing, do it in the time frame and you do it per the policy and you’re still denied the chance to speak and the fact that we haven’t had anybody speak in two years speaks volumes.” Mrs. Kolmetz then amended the motion to look over the policy at the next workshop and consider changes to be made, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously.

There being no further business Shirley Owens moved to adjourn, second by Alan Justice which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Rusty Williams, Chairman

Eddie Dixon, Superintendent