

**Thomas County Board of Education Meeting**

**7/21/2015 7:00:00 PM**

Boardroom

200 N. Pinetree Blvd.

Thomasville, GA 31792

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**Attendees - voting members**

Mr. Charles Evans	Chair
Mr. Mark NeSmith	Vice Chair
Mr. David Dawson	Board Member
Mr. Derwood Hickey	Board Member
Ms. Nancy Hiers	Board Member
Mr. Scott Morgan	Board Member

**Attendees - other**

Dr. George H. Kornegay	Superintendent
Ms. Katie Eidson	Nutrition Director
Ms. Carol Gerald	Administrative Assistant
Mr. John Hebron	Facilities Director
Mr. Joey Holland	Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mrs. Lisa Williams	Assistant Superintendent for Planning, Policy, & Student Services

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**II. Devotional - Richard Potter, assistant principal at Garrison-Pilcher School**

**III. Approval of Consent Agenda (attachment A)**

Motion made by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Motion seconded by: Mr. David Dawson

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: June 9, 2015
- C. Bishop Hall meeting minutes: May 21, 2015
- D. Upcoming meetings: August 11, 2015
- E. Fundraising requests
- F. HB 91 graduates
- G. Amended Nutrition bid recommendation to correct clerical error
- H. Out-of-district students

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Perfect attendance report (attachment B)  
Dr. Kornegay presented the board with the list of employees with perfect attendance for the 2014-2015 school year.
- B. Tour of schools, Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 a.m., beginning with breakfast at TCCHS
- C. Draft of August 11 regular meeting agenda
- D. Back to School Blitz, Saturday, August 1, 9:00-11:00a.m., TCCHS Gymnasium
- E. Planning Grant Application for Early Literacy-GOSA  
Dr. Kornegay informed the board that the system is in the early stages of applying for a planning grant for early literacy from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Consideration was given to partnering with the public library so programming could be at the library and branches to reach children before they become school age. It would also provide help for parents to learn to work with their children.

- F. Opening system-wide faculty meeting, July 28, 8:30 a.m., BOE auditorium Nancy Hiers arrived at the meeting at this time, 7:10 p.m.  
Dr. Kornegay said that the agenda for the opening system wide meeting would consist of an education code of ethics training by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, workplace safety by the workers' compensation carrier, mandated annual updates, and celebrations and goal setting for the year.
- G. Report on Department of Justice Letter of Finding on the State GNETS Program Dr. Kornegay called the board's attention to a copy of a letter addressed to the governor regarding illegal discrimination against students in the GNETS program, which is known as the Pathways Program in the school system, because they are not allowed sufficient contact with their peers. The letter outlined steps to take to alleviate the discrimination.
- H. Facilities update - John Hebron  
Mr. Hebron gave a presentation on summer projects in the schools.
- I. Update on Community Eligibility Provision for free lunch  
Ms. Katie Eidson reported on the Community Eligibility Provision and stated that the high school would also be eligible for the program, which provides free lunch for students, for the coming school year.
- J. Report on Partnership with Georgia Pines  
Mrs. Lisa Williams said that Georgia Pines had applied for and received the GP APEX grant and they would be partnering with the school system. The grant would provide mental health counseling for Thomas County students.
- K. Purchasing or Credit Card Use Policy (DJEAC) - 1st reading  
Mrs. Williams explained that this new policy is the result of H.B. 192.
- L. Revision of Absences and Excuses Policy (JBD) - 1st reading  
Mrs. Williams explained that the change in this policy is to give the principal or superintendent, at their discretion, the authority to excuse student absences.
- M. Revision of Weapons Policy (JCDAE) - 1st reading  
Mrs. Williams said that the change in this policy would allow school officials greater discretion in reporting offenses to law officials.
- N. Revision of Bullying Policy (JCDAG) - 1st reading
- O. Mrs. Williams stated that this policy adds cyber bullying to the original policy and encourages anyone with knowledge of bullying to report it.
- P. Revision of Medication Policy (JGCD) - 1st reading  
This policy, according to Mrs. Williams, allows nurses and authorized employees to dispense levalbuterol sulfate, if available, to students in distress regardless of whether or not they have a prescription.
- Q. Revision of Child Abuse or Neglect Policy (JGI) - 1st reading  
Mrs. Williams said that the revision of this policy requires the person reporting to DFACS not to change the initial report.
- R. Suicide Prevention Policy (JGJA) - 1st reading  
Mrs. Williams stated that this policy requires all certified staff to obtain suicide training.
- S. Financial report (attachment C)
- T. Presentation of FY16 Tax Digest summary (attachment D)  
Mr. Joey Holland presented information about the FY16 tax digest.

## **V. New Business**

- A. Tentative approval of millage rate (attachment E)  
Mr. Joey Holland, assistant superintendent and chief financial officer for the school system, explained that there are two important items affecting the millage: the change in the law for advalorem taxes in 2013 and the Forrest Land Protection Act. He said people were beginning to get rid of older vehicles that they were paying an annual tax on and Longpine

Plantation had been added to Forrest Land Protection Act exemption. He said the recommended 2015 roll back millage rate is 14.666, compared with the 2014 millage rate of 14.696.

Motion made by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- B. Set date for called meeting for final millage rate

After a short discussion, the board voted to meet on August 7 at 7:00 a.m. for final approval of the millage rate.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- C. Approval of Title I Parental Involvement policy (attachment F)

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- D. Ratify purchase of band equipment (attachment G)

Mr. Morgan made a motion to move the purchase of the band equipment from FY15 to FY16. He amended his motion to ratify the purchase of band equipment.

Motion made by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- E. Ratify purchase of technology equipment (attachment H)

Motion made by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Motion seconded by: Mr. David Dawson

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- F. Decision on HB 91 graduates

- G. Approval to have graduation ceremony with Bishop Hall at their December graduation.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Voting: Unanimously Approved

- H. Approval of personnel report (attachment I)

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Hiers

Motion seconded by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Voting: Unanimously Approved

## **VI. Adjournment**

Motion made by: Mr. Scott Morgan

Motion seconded by: Mr. David Dawson

Voting: Unanimously Approved

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Chairperson

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Secretary