

Talbot County Board of Education
Board Meeting
August 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Central Elementary/Middle/High School
Cafeteria

The Talbot County Board of Education met in regular session on August 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Mildred Biggs, Chairperson (D5); Mrs. Julia Leonard, Vice Chair, (D1); Mr. James Steverson, (D2); Mrs. Sharleta Hall, (D3); Ms. Nikki Waller (D4).

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Mildred Biggs at 6:00 p.m.
- Chair Mildred Biggs led the Moment of Silence.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Mildred Biggs.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Sharleta Hall to approve the August 15, 2023 agenda as amended (removal of executive session), seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0
- A motion was made by Mr. James Steverson to approve the July 11, 2023, and July 18, 2023 board minutes, seconded by Ms. Nikki Waller. 5-0-0
- Setting of the FY 2024 Millage Rate – Dr. Catrett presented that all requirements had been met to set the millage rate. Mr. Torrence Freeman, Chief Financial Officer presented the FY2024 millage rate of 13.35. This is a reduction from FY2023 of .006. This will be \$257,251 per mill to return \$3,434,303.00 with FLPA of \$109,192.85 for a combined total of \$3,543,495.85 for Maintenance and Operation of Schools.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Sharleta Hall to approve the setting of the FY2024 Millage Rate of 13.35, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 5-0-0
- **Action Items from Superintendent**
Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent

1. School Food Service

Ms. Mahone, Food Service Director

Food Service Report for July31, 2023

- Budget- \$659,000.00
 - Expended- \$20,534.33
 - Obligated- (247.35)
 - Balance- \$638,218.32
 - Percentage Spent - 3% Percentage Remaining - 97%
- Ms. Mahone presented a new menu item to the Board to sample. A charcuterie board along with beverages. Students are offered a choice of this a hot meal or a salad.

- Ms. Mahone informed the Board of the lunchrooms most recent Inspection Scores: They received their fourth 100 since December 2021. Job well-done!

2. FY2023 Budget Amendment

Mr. Torrence Freeman, CFO

- In 2023 revenue collected was \$7,022,574.89. This is made up from QBE, taxes and other revenue. The increase in property taxes and QBE made up the difference in estimated revenue collected and actually what was collected. To close out 2023 budget the tax commissioner will be asked if additional taxes are still being collected for FY2023.

Total expenditures for FY2023 was \$6,488,486.36. An amendment to the FY23 Budget in the amount of \$164,765 for the following items are as follows:

Item 2210 – Improvement of Instructional Services \$12,833;

Item 2300 - General Administration \$135,523; and

Item 2600 Maintenance and Operation \$3,649.

Some of these increases came from health care increasing in the middle of the year.

Function 2300 was due to some fund balance cleaning. Deficit in functions 2900 and 5000 will be corrected through ESPLOST.

- A motion was made by Mrs. Sharleta Hall to approve the amendment to the FY2023 budget, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0
- **Curriculum Update**
Mrs. Cynthia Epps
- GaDoe School Safety Webinar was August 10, 2023. We are required to do a school safety plan, have intruder drills and severe weather drills.
- Talbot County School District’s Commitment to Improving Student Outcomes:
 1. Signal the need for growth and change with strong leadership;
 2. Maintain a consistent focus on improving instruction for ALL students;
 3. Make visible improvements early in the school year; Track the data and share it. (scheduling, access to resources, improving discipline).
 4. Build a committed staff started with administration.
- Federal Program Directors and Coordinators are closing out the FY23 budgets and building preliminary FY24 budgets to be approved by October 31, 2023
- **Elementary/Middle/High School**
Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Principal
- First 3 weeks of school have been awesome. Most have complied with new policies for electronic devices and dress code.

- Upcoming Events:

1. Friday, August 18th – Football at Pataula Charter
2. Wednesday, August 23rd - Middle Football – home vs. Taylor Co.
3. Thursday, August 24th – Volleyball at Taylor Co.
4. Thursday, August 31st – Volleyball at Chattco

- Change to Football Schedule – new schedule is attached.

- **Guidance Counselor Report**

Dr. Jenie Carter

- The year has gotten off to a great start. There are several new students enrolled in all three schools. Only 13 students' requested class changes. Window for drop/add closed on Friday, August 12th.
- EMPOWER Youth Leadership Program sponsored by Flint Energies – 15 students have completed an application for this program. The program will consist of classes/ workshops on job readiness along with visits to technical colleges, industries and businesses in the region.
- REACH Scholarship Program for 2023-24 has been renewed and fully funded by Flint Energies. Five 8th grade students are in the process of completing their application for this program. Each participant will receive a \$10,000 scholarship provided they maintain a 2.5 GPA in core classes throughout high school.
- PSAT test is scheduled for October 24, 2023 to all 10th graders.
- ASVAB test will be scheduled for either October 18th or 19th.
- There are 16 dual enrollment students; 5 seniors and 11 juniors.

- **School Improvement Update**

Ms. Kimberly Hatcher, Coordinator

Started this summer with the GaDoe specialist working on the School Improvement Plan and other initiatives. We have planned, implemented and are monitoring the process. Processes and procedures are being set and streamlined so that they can continue in the years to come.

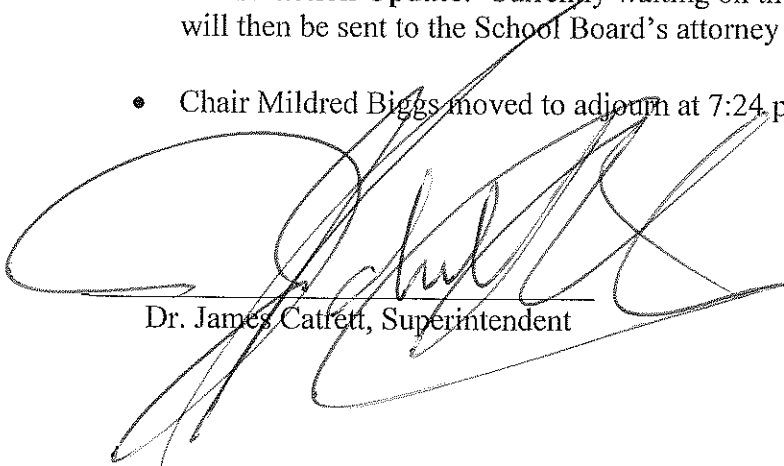
1. We are doing calibration walks whereby administrators go into the various classrooms and do observations. We are wrapping them up this week. The administration team comes back and de-briefs after the walks and discusses what needs improvement and then shares that with the staff.
2. Professional Development – our teachers and staff are receiving a plethora of training. We have provided individual training along with group training.

3. Operations – we are operating effectively from the front office to the media center to the classroom. Everyone is on the same page.
4. The governing board – is the school board. Together we are writing a book of success.


- **Superintendent Items**

Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent

- **American Rescue plan (ESSER III)** – Mr. Freeman – ESSER II expires September 30, 2023. We have expended 90% of this 1.3 million grant. The next grant is ESSER III – American Rescue Plan ends September 30, 2024 this is being used to purchase the TVs (interactive boards) in the classrooms. Under ESSER III there is a Safety Grant and Technology grant. These grants have been used for instructional supplies and towards summer school.
- **Cognia Accreditation** – Central Elementary/High School has been awarded accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The three listed regional agencies provide Talbot County Schools with a highly regarded accreditation that is recognized throughout the world.
- **GSBA Annual Conference** – A save the date was provided to the Board for the winter conference in Atlanta – November 30th – December 1, 2023.
- **Construction Update:** Currently waiting on the contract from Parrish Construction that will then be sent to the School Board’s attorney for review.
- Chair Mildred Biggs moved to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.



Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent



Mrs. Mildred Biggs, Chairperson