

Talbot County Board of Education  
Board Meeting  
March 16, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.  
Central Elementary/ Middle/ High School  
Virtual

The Talbot County Board of Education met in regular session on March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Anton Turner (D1), Mr. James Steverson, Vice Chair (D2), Mrs. Sharleta Hall, Chairperson (D3), Mr. Carlton Mahone (arrived late)(D4), and Mrs. Mildred Biggs (D5).

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharleta Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- Chair Sharleta Hall led the Moment of Silence.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Sharleta Hall.
- A motion was made by Mr. James Steverson to approve the March 16, 2021 agenda seconded by Mrs. Mildred Biggs. 4-0-0
- A motion was made by Mr. Anton Turner to approve February 2, 2021 and February 16, 2021 board minutes, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 4-0-0

1. School Food Service

*Ms. Andrea Mahone, Food Service Director*

**Food Service Report for February 28, 2021**

- Budget- \$595,000.00
- Expended- \$281,812.88
- Obligated- (\$18,030.26)
- Balance- \$313,187.12
- Percentage Spent- 47%                      Percentage Remaining- 53%

2. School System Finance

*Mrs. Chemia Henderson, Finance*

**Financial Report for February 28, 2021**

- Budget- \$6,873,139.00
- Encumbered- \$ 21,787.80
- Expended- \$416,437.78
- Percentage Spent- 62%                      Percentage remaining- 38%
- *Reports given*
  - Expenditure Summary
  - Check Register 431937-431974

○ Curriculum Update

*Mrs. Cynthia Epps, Assistant Superintendent*

Assessment and Accountability – School systems’ testing. Richard Woods, State Superintendent sent correspondence that the U.S. Dept. of Education is requesting schools do a waiver for 2020-2021 accountability. It would provide flexibility during the pandemic such as the 95% participation rate and other aspects of the testing. Georgia asked to have testing waived the Federal Government said no. The rate was reduced to 0.1%. Testing will be done in the spring beginning May 10, 2021 for Georgia Milestone. There is a reduction in the rate to be applied for the children’s grades. Teacher observations have been waived due to the pandemic.

Teacher and student observations – the 95% teacher participation has been removed federally. Children should not be brought into the school district solely for taking the Georgia Milestone. Testing time will be reduced.

Vaccinations will be available to all education staff by the middle of March.

Department of Public Health - Return to School – recommends a time based return for covid19 after 10 days since symptoms first appeared and 24 hours after the last fever. Un-vaccinated persons will need to quarantine for 14 days. Fully vaccinated individuals with exposure do not have to quarantine provided it has been two weeks since their last shot.

Parent Survey – The survey has been completed. It was posted for three weeks on the school district web site. Thirty-five people responded. A full report will be given to the board members at the next meeting. Mr. Freeman and Ms. Steverson did a great job on this survey.

○ Elementary/Middle School

*Mrs. Brenda Walker, Director*

Academic focus – this has been an extremely difficult year. Students will be recognized for the good work they do. 106 students were honored for their grades with a hall walk and they were presented with treats and music. Virtual students had a drive up parade and were given treats too. Middle grade students have done virtual backyard tours. Middle grade students will be celebrated next week

○ High School

*Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Principal*

Second nine weeks six students made the honor roll. We are celebrating our students for their hard work. Mid-term progress reports went out last week.

Spring break is March 22 – 26, 2021.

○ Guidance Counselor  
*Dr. Tarleton, Counselor*

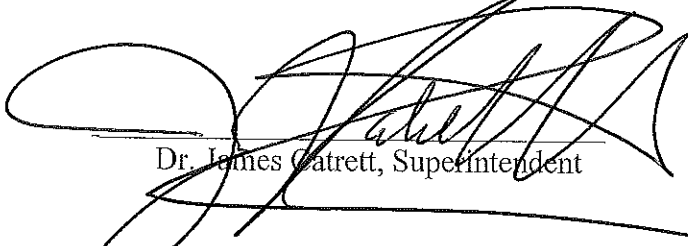
Nine Voorhees scholarships have been awarded to our students. We have two students entering the military; two employment; three to technical school and 31 to college. One student may make a high enough score on the March SAT to be our STAR student. The ASVAB will be given a second time in April.

Moorehouse's Upward Bound Program is conducting sessions virtually this summer. Students will be paid double this summer in order to increase participation. One student will graduate with a certification from Columbus Technical College due to dual enrollment. The guidance department is working closely with individuals and groups to obtain scholarships for our seniors.

○ Superintendent Items  
*Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent*

- Covid Threat – Mrs. Epps - The Department of Health and our county nurse state the numbers are declining. Threat level is still high for Talbot County. Our status is changing from high to medium high. Anticipate some change after spring break and Easter.
- Covid-19 update – Mrs. Walker – two charts show the difference from March 2 to March 16, 2021. Talbot County has had an increase by six in two weeks.
- Virtual Learning – Friday, April 9, 2021 – Teachers will receive their second vaccine for covid19 on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 85 % have been vaccinated. As of next year covid19 sick leave will not be provided. Students will receive virtual learning on this date due to the unknown side effects that teachers may have from the shot.
- Mrs. Epps has been meeting with GEMA concerning the threat of severe weather coming in Friday. She will be briefed again on Wednesday. Students may be virtual if the weather is severe Friday.
- Calendar 2021-2022 final approval – Mr. Taylor presented the calendar. We are returning to a normal calendar.
- Mrs. Mildred Biggs made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 5-0-0
- GSBA Delegates – Ms. Sharleta Hall, Chairperson appointed Mr. Anton Turner as a delegate to represent Talbot County Schools with GSBA; Mrs. Mildred Biggs will serve as the alternate delegate.
- Contracts 2021-2022 – these will be presented at the April 6, 2021 board meeting.

- Prom – April 10, 2021 – Mr. Taylor – Lights, Camera, Action – Hollywood is the theme. There will be security at the prom. Covid19 guidelines will be strictly followed.
- School Board Appreciation – Board members will be celebrated at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. You are greatly appreciated for your service to the Talbot County Schools.
- Chair Sharleta Hall moved to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.



Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent



Mrs. Sharleta Hall, Chairperson