

Bessemer Board of Education  
April 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Summary

Pursuant to the Governor's First Supplemental Order dated March 18, 2020, the Bessemer Board of Education met in a Regular Board Meeting via Zoom on April 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Members Present: Mrs. Vera Eades, Mr. Jerome Cook, Mr. Lee Jones, Mrs. Renna Scott, Mrs. Remeka Thompson, Mr. Amos Rembert, and Mr. Samuel Morris. Members Absent: None. Mr. Cook Called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda, Minutes and Financial Report

- Agenda – Mrs. Scott moved and Mr. Morris seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- March 16, 2020 Minutes - Mrs. Thompson moved and Mrs. Eades seconded, Voting (6-1): Mrs. Eades, Mr. Jones, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Rembert, and Mr. Morris voted to approve; Mrs. Scott recused
- March 31, 2020 and April 6, 2020 Minutes – Mrs. Eades moved and Mrs. Thompson seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- Financial Report (March 2020) - Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Thompson seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved

Legal Items

Attorney Bolling reported that there were two new legal items, a special education matter and another matter filed in the circuit court over the weekend. He is working to try to get the issues resolved and will provide details via email.

Director Reports

- Mr. Reginald Mitchell said there are no new additions to the maintenance report.
- Mr. Gary Richardson reported that hardware installation has been completed at the central office, Jonesboro, and BCMS and they are installing the hardware at Hard. He said the hardware installation should be completed for all sites by next week. Mr. Richardson said there is no tower at BCMS. He said he spoke with Mr. Mitchell and was told that the tower at BCMS was removed to prevent thieves from climbing the tower to steal the air conditioners. After discussion, board members requested that they look into getting service for the middle school area.
- Dr. Marcy Burroughs provided an update on the eLearning program. She said we are using a blended learning approach (Acellus and paper-pencil packets). Dr. Burroughs stated the district has created a helpline, a parent contact form for parents to update their contact information online, and a FAQ section on the website. She said there are 15 seniors who are not on track to graduate and that the counselors and teachers are working with them.

She also reported on Virtual Summer Programs

- a. Summer School and Summer Enrichment is scheduled June 8–July 23, 2020
- b. Summer Book Club – Students Grades K-3

Information/Discussion Items

- Maintenance Report
  - a. Jonesboro is still being cleaned and he is checking on quotes for blinds at New Horizon.
  - b. He sent a letter to board members to share with anyone interested in the roofing project at Hard and BCMS gym. Interested parties should meet him at his office on April 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. so they can visit the sites.
- Summer Work Schedule – Four (4) day work week, 7:30 a.m. -5:15 p.m., Monday-Thursday, June 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020 (with the exception of the July 4<sup>th</sup> week)
- Hiring Incentives for hard to fill teaching areas (English-Language Arts, Mathematics, and Special Education). Teacher Criteria – traditional certified teacher new to the content-area positions outlined (\$3,000.00 year one August, \$2,000.00 year two August, \$1,000.00 year three August)

## Board Action Item

Approved CSFO 3% contract raise retroactive to February 20, 2020. Mrs. Eades moved and Mrs. Thompson seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved

## Action Items: New Business – Superintendent Recommended Approval of the following items:

- Personnel Report
  - a. Dr. Jeter pulled and removed item #14 from the Personnel Report
  - b. Approval of Personnel Action Report (Items 1-13, 15, A-CC), Mrs. Thompson moved and Mr. Jones seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- Public Relations Contract, Mrs. Jennifer Gonsoulin, in the amount of \$40,000.00, August 2020 – May 2021 - Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Thompson seconded, Voting (6-1): Mr. Jones, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Rembert, and Mr. Morris voted to approve; Mrs. Eades voted against
- District Literacy Educational Specialist Job Description - Mrs. Eades moved and Mrs. Thompson seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- District Math/Science Educational Specialist Job Description - Mrs. Thompson moved and Mrs. Eades seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- Abrams Donations (\$9,058.00 from Senator Dunn and \$3,000.00 in materials/supplies from Mr. Chester Porter) - Mrs. Thompson moved and Mr. Jones seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- BCHS Band Uniforms - Approval of lowest responsible bidder, Stanbury, LLC in the amount of \$43,728.00, for 100 Marching Band Uniforms, Mrs. Thompson moved and Mr. Jones seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- BCHS Band Instruments Approval of lowest responsible bidder, Washington Music Center in the amount of \$55,054.50, for Band Instruments, Mrs. Thompson moved and Mr. Jones seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved
- Sign-On & Recruitment Incentive for hard to fill teaching areas specific to the needs of BCS (English-Language Arts, Mathematics, and Special Education). Teacher Criteria – traditional certified teacher new to the content-area positions outlined (\$3,000.00 year one August, \$2,000.00 year two August, \$1,000.00 year three August), Voting: Mrs. Scott moved and Mr. Morris seconded, Voting: Unanimously Approved. The payments will be in a separate check.

## Superintendent Report

- a. Dr. Jeter requested a Called Board Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Dr. Jeter thanked the board and others for their support.
- c. Dr. Jeter will provide board members with an overview of the principal mentors' report.
- d. Dr. Jeter reported that CNP has started back providing pre-packaged meals to students on Tuesdays and Fridays.

## Scheduled Meetings

- a. Work Session: Thursday, May, 14, 2020, 5:30 p.m., tentatively scheduled at the Central Office
- b. Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m., tentatively scheduled at the Central office

## Adjournment

Mrs. Thompson moved without objection to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m., Voting: Unanimously Approved