The August 11, 2015 regular meeting of the Echols County Board of Education was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chester Register.

Board member present were Bo Corbett, Rocky Crosby, Chester Register and Florence Staten.

Following the invocation and pledge to the flag, Rocky Crosby made a motion to approve the agenda. Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Florence Staten made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2015 called meeting. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Six retirees were recognized for their years of service and dedication to the district via the reading of resolutions for each person. Mr. Register read each resolution individually for each of the following: Evelyn Howell, Tim, Ragan, Jeanne Roberts, Rosa Robinson, and Charlotte Strickland. Diane Carter was not present.

Mr. Register introduced the new superintendent, Virginia Jewell and read a letter of welcome from the Georgia School Boards Association. Mr. Rosser and Mr. Beale then introduced each of their new staff members. Introduced were; Jennifer Carter, Jennifer Culpepper, Cindy ones, Adrien O’Brien, Anetta Smith, Melanie Wilson, Amy Witherspoon, Jody Allen, Denise Clayton, Jay Hamlett and Matt Lukens.

Pictures for the newspaper were taken and a reception followed prepared and served by Karen Stone and our Culinary students.

Budget and Finance:

Dr. Jewell recommended three changes to current salary practice in order to be consistent with employees . Florence Staten made a motion to adjust AG stipends to reflect the state schedule of 38 days at the state rate. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Rocky Crosby made a motion to set all para schedules to a 7.25 hour day with an additional 30 minute unpaid lunch. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Florence Staten made a motion to set substitute pay at $65 per day for uncertified substitutes and $85 per day for certified substitutes. Subs serving 11 to 30 consecutive days in the same classroom will receive an additional $25 per day beginning day 11. Long term substitutes serving 31or more consecutive days who have been contracted from the first day of service to serve as a long term substitute, will be compensated at T-4 Step 0 daily rate on the certificated pay scale. Rocky Crosby seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

The Board was informed of the Bright to the Start, Carl Perkins and Title IIIC Migrant Funds awarded this year.

Elementary Principal’s Report

Mr. Beale reported an increased number of 19 students and the need to add an additional Kindergarten section and reduce a grade 1 section. Dr. Jewell informed the Board this was the most cost effective solution for the enrollment issue.

High School Principal’s Report

Mr. Rosser reported an increase of 14 students at the high school. Increased enrollment in 9th grade prohibits us from accepting any additional out of county students at this time.

Our dual enrollment program has 16 students leaving campus for courses and 48 students participating in on campus course in Criminal Justice and Nursing.

Mr. Rosser is currently finalizing the design for the ventilation system in the AG shop. Once the design is finalized, the system will go out for bid. Rocky Crosby made a motion to allow the Superintendent to approve the lowest bid at such time as bids are received. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rosser informed the Board of the intent of the Culinary programs to sell meals to non-students in order to expand the Culinary program ‘s curriculum and provide students practical experience.

The Superintendent’s report included informational updates on transportation, capital projects, and the status of PreK classrooms as well as an update on the status of budget finalization and revenue.

Eighteen field trip requests were submitted and recommended to the Board. Bo Corbett made a motion to approve the recommended field trips listed on the agenda. Rocky Crosby seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Five fund raising requests were submitted and recommended to the Board. Bo Corbett made a motion to approve the recommended field trips listed on the agenda. Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

One facilities request was submitted and recommended to the Board. . Florence Staten made a motion to approve the recommended field trips listed on the agenda. Rocky Crosby seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

POLICY

Dr. Jewell recommended approval of the following policies:

* GCRB (Classified) – Change in annual leave for long term employees.
* JCAC (Harassment Students) - Minor edit and addition of administrative regulations
* GAEB (Harassment Staff) – Minor edit
* GBRJ-R (Substitute Pay) – Change in pay scale
* GCB (Classified) – Minor edit

Bo Corbett made a motion to approve the Administrative regulations and policies as presented. Florence Staten seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

A new policy was introduced.

* DIE ( Fraud, Abuse, Waste and Corruption) Needed for Title I funded schools

Rocky Crosby made a motion to introduce the policy and administrative regulations as presented. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Dr. Jewell recommended the purchase of School Check-In software to be used at the building level as principals need. Discussion ensued as to how the software would be implemented. Mr. Crosby noted that the implementation must be done thoughtfully. Mr. Rosser concurred. Implementation will be at the discretion of the principals. Florence Staten made a motion to approve the purchase. Bo Corbett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

PERSONNEL – None

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jewell recommended Board officially approve the Strategic plan developed in Spring of 2015 with the addition of a goal pertaining to operations. Florence Staten made a motion that the Board adopt the strategic plan with the addition of a 5th goal “Implement process and policies that ensure optimal use of district resources in creating a 21st century learning environment.” Bo Corbett seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:06 PM by Chester Register.