Trenton, Florida
February 4, 2025

The Gilchrist County School Board met in Board Room 14-002 on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 4:00 PM with the following members present:

Deen Lancaster-Chair, Susan Owens – Vice Chair, Christie McElroy, Tammy Moore

Also present were Gina Geiger, Superintendent of Schools, Linda Gartin, Assistant Superintendent, and Lindsey Lander, Gilchrist County School Board Attorney.

Mr. Brett Wasden, BHS FFA Advisor led us in the opening ceremonies. Upon completion of the opening ceremonies, the following business was transacted.

AGENDA

The Chair amended the agenda for good cause. The amendment consisted of the following:

ADDITIONS TO THE CONSENT AGENDA

5. C.1. Approval of ranking for Contractor of new school.

7.B.1.

Appointment

Stephanie Parales, Paraprofessional, Band, BHS, effective 2/02/2025; Julie Fricke, 21st Century & Title Coordinator, DO & BHS, effective 2/3/2025; Isaiah Ryker, Paraprofessional, ESE, BHS effective 2/10/2025; Kendall Hartzog, Clerk, Guidance, BHS, effective 2/12/2025;

Resignation/ Termination

Teresa Brannin, spelling corrected; Dr. Lazaro Armada, 2/7/2025, resignation date corrected

Transfer

Trevor Pelfrey, FROM Maintenance, MTO TO FOCUS Paraprofessional, THS; Leanna Boles, FROM Focus Paraprofessional TO 8th gr Science Paraprofessional, THS, effective 1/21/2025

7.E.1. Out of County Hardship, 3 students

Christie McElroy made a motion to approve the agenda as amended with Susan Owens seconding. The vote was unanimous for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

School Board Attorney Lindsey Lander reviewed the minutes and recommended approval. Susan Owens made a motion to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes, with Christie McElroy seconding. The vote was unanimous for approval.

RECOGNITION

Superintendent Geiger recognized Brett Wasden, BHS FFA advisor, for his 2024 NAAE Region V Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award. Mr. Wasden was one of six agricultural educators nationwide to receive the award given to a NAAE member in the third to eighth year of teaching and has shown great teaching methods in the classroom and dedication to their career. Superintendent Geiger and the Board congratulated Mr. Wasden on the major accomplishment.

CITIZEN INPUT/DELEGATIONS

There were no citizens wishing to address the Board.

DISTRICT MATTERS

A. New Elementary School Update - David Spencer, Director of Operations, addressed the Board with the following request to advertise for RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for professional architectural consulting services. The request is for continuing contract services for projects less than $2 million.

   Christie McElroy made a motion to Request for Qualifications for professional architectural consulting services for projects less than $2 million. Tammy Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

B. David Spencer, Director of Operations also requestion permission to advertise for Professional Services for Electrical, Plumbing and HVAC. The request would be for extended contracts for services needed on a regular basis for small projects throughout the district.

   Christie McElroy made a motion to advertise for Professional Services for Electrical, Plumbing, and HVAC. Susan Owens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

C. David Spencer also updated the Board with developments on the new school. He stated that he had attended and spoke at the February 3, 2025, Gilchrist County Zoning Meeting. He informed the Board that after much discussion and citizen input, he was happy to announce the Zoning Re-Use for the site of the New Elementary School was approved. Lindsey Lander, Board Attorney reminded the Board that the land Contract stated that if the zoning was approved that the Board would go forth to purchase the property. The Board agreed and asked that Mr. Lander contact the landowner to complete the purchase. No vote was needed.

C.1. Ranking of Contractors for New School - Mr. Spencer informed the Board that the committee had a meeting on February 3, 2025 for presentations from the top three contractors, for the new school. The presentations were then scored according to the rubric based on the evaluation criteria that was given to Contractors, prior to the selection process. He then asked Mr. Greg Kelley with CRA, to address the Board and the announce the final rankings of the Contractors. Mr. Kelley spoke highly of all the Contractors and said that it had been very hard due to the fact that Ajax, Gray & Parrish-McCall, were all very qualified. In the end, based on the rubric evaluation, Parrish-McCall was ranked first. Ajax was ranked second and Gray was third. Mr. Kelley told the Board that the next step in the process would be to begin negotiations with the number one ranking and if an agreement could not be reached, they would move to the second choice and so on.

Christie McElroy asked to clarify the motion needed to proceed and at this point, Mr. Todd Gray, stood up and asked to address the Board. He stated his disappointment of having to do this, but that he was requesting that the Board postpone the vote to accept the ranking decision of the committee. Mr. Gray cited three issues that he had with the procedures. The first being original advertised dates based on the schedule given. Second, he questioned the scoring sheet and point system provided for both the qualification and the presentation portion of the RFQ for the criteria. And third he cited Florida Statute

Chapter 287, section 055. He stated while the public was not prevented from attending these meetings, the scoring sheets have not been made public.

Christie McElroy requested that Mr. Lander provide guidance on the request by Mr. Gray to address this. Mr. Lander said that he asked if the board would grant him time to look into the matter and would recommend that the Board table the vote for approval of the Contractor ranking until the February 18, 2025 school board meeting. This would give him time to look at Mr. Gray's concerns and review the process followed.

Christie asked if delaying the vote would interfere with the timeline of the new school. Mr. Spencer said that should not be an issue, as long as we had the land purchase completed, which has already been agreed to.

Mrs. Moore, referred to the Committee, and questioned the timing of the ranking and vote. Mr. Lander felt that Mr. Gray was more concerned about the timeline. Mr. Gray addressed the Board again and stated that he wanted to be sure his company had a fair look.

Christie McElroy made the motion to table the vote to approve the ranking of the Contractors until the February 18, 2025 meeting. Susan Owens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

D. Finance Update – Leah Ungarten addressed the Board with the Finance update. She announced that she was working on the budget for Food Service, Maintenance and Transportation. She would soon be meeting with David Spencer and Ms. Violet Brown from DOE to work with her to complete the 5-year workplan for the District. On January 22, 2025, she was able to draw down a portion of the new school money. And that her team had worked hard to not only complete payroll, W2's and A+ school money.

Christie McElroy asked Ms. Ungarten if they would begin to see financial reports in the near future. Ms. Ungarten said that until the audit of last year's records are cleared that Skyward is frozen and the reporting is not accurate. Ms. Ungarten stated she could provide the bank statements if the Board wished to see those. She reminded the Board that the Audit is supposed to be finished in March of 2025, and hopes to be able to produce accurate reporting at that time. Christie McElroy expressed her appreciation of hard work.

E. Request to Advertise for Policy Revision – 7.30 Grant Management.
Christie McElroy made the motion to advertise for Policy Revision 7.30 Grant Management. Susan Owens seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Christie McElroy made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda that consisted of the following:

A. Financial
1. Check Summary
2. Supplements

Marc Micale	Cell Phone	DO	282.00
Lori Minnick	Self Contained ESE PARA	TES	371.17

Kevin Benson	Varsity Softball	THS	3000.00
Jay Sanders	JV Baseball	THS	1800.00
Kelsie Smith	MS Softball	THS	1300.00
Dana Rudzitis	Cell Phone	BHS	326.20
Kristan Bagby	JV Cheerleader 50%	BHS	600.00

B. Personnel

1. Resignations, Retirements, Transfers, Status Changes, Appointments, Substitutes, and Volunteers (CONTINGENT UPON VERIFICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND REVIEW)

APPOINTMENT			
David Fisher	Substitute Bus Driver	MTO	01/27/2025
Stephanie Parales	Paraprofessional, BHS Band	BHS	02/03/2025
Julie Fricke	21st Century & Title 9 Coordinator	DO & BHS	02/10/2025
Isaiah Ryker	Paraprofessional, ESE	BHS	02/10/2025
Kendall Hartzog	Clerk, Guidance	BHS	02/12/2025
RESIGNATION/ TERMINATION			
Teresa Brannin	Guidance Clerk BHS	Expired	01/23/2025
Dr. Lazaro Armada	Teacher, Criminal Justice, BHS	Resignation	02/07/2025
Casey Lambert	Reading, THS	Resignation	02/17/2025
TRANSFER			
Trevor Pelfrey	FROM: Maintenance at MTO TO: FOCUS Paraprofessional	THS	02/04/2025
Leanna Boles	FROM: FOCUS Paraprofessional THS TO: 8thgr Science Paraprofessional	THS	01/21/2025

C. Job Description Update

1. 21st CCLC & Title 9 Site Coordinator

D. Agreements/ Amendments/ Contracts

1. Transportation Agreement

E. COE

1. Out of County Hardship (3)

Tammy Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

REPORTS

Gina Geiger, Superintendent reported to the Board that we had received paperwork regarding Social Media Litigation. She and Mr. Lander stated that the Board had originally agreed to pursue this but did not realize that the amount of work would be this time consuming. The initial paperwork requested includes 7 years of data, ranging from Finance to volunteers, etc. Mr. Lander, Board Attorney, suggested that the Board vote to allow him to review and proceed or to withdraw on their behalf pending the review of information.

Christie McElroy made the motion to allow Mr. Lander to proceed or withdraw on the Board's behalf based on his information. Tammy Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Superintendent Geiger also introduced Marc Micale, Director of School Safety and Mental Health.

Christie McElroy, Board Member, reported on a free resource sponsored by FADSS, called "Learning Blade". It is an online platform for grades 5-9 that has lots of resources for jobs in stem related fields.

Tammy Moore, Board Member asked if she could have more information/ clarification on the "Committee" that was selected for the ranking of contractors. She asked when the committee was chosen and Mr. Spencer, Director of Operations said that it went back to when Dr. Surrency was Superintendent. Mr. Spencer also noted that the committee was made of five persons that covered a broad spectrum of knowledge. Mr. Spencer said they did not "advertise" who was on the Ranking committee, to help protect them from being approached by the Public. He added that it took hours and for some a couple of days to review and score those Contractors and assured the Board that the process was not taken lightly. Mr. Spencer said the committee members were Deen Lancaster, Gilchrist County School Board Member/ Realtor, Michael McElroy, Gilchrist County Tax Collector/ former banker, Leah Ungarten, Director Finance, Gilchrist County Schools, Michelle Walker-Crawford, former Gilchrist County Board Member and David Spencer, Director of Operations, Gilchrist County Schools. Mr. Spencer said that two non-voting persons were there for questions and information as needed and they were Greg Kelley, CRA and Marshall McElroy, NEFEC Building Inspector.

Deen Lancaster, Board Chair report that as part of that Committee, that he had worked long and hard to follow the guidelines and procedures. It's like picking the best from the best. It really makes you look at the details.

Susan Owens, Board Member did not have any reports at this time.

Lindsey Lander, Board Attorney did not have any other reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board Chair adjourned at 4:44pm.

DEEN LANCASTER
CHAIR TO THE BOARD

ATTEST:

SCHOOL BOARD
APPROVED
2-18-2025
Date

GINA GEIGER
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS