BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023
All official meetings of the Cobb County Board of Education conform to state law and are open to the public. The minutes of this meeting are available for public review anytime during the regular office hours or on our website: www.cobbk12.org

BOARD MEETING
The Cobb County Board of Education convened for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at 514 Glover Street, with the following members present: Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, Wheeler, Ms. Davis, Ms. Sayler, Mr. Ragsdale, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Wilcox, Interim Board Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Wheeler, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mr. Wheeler, Board Chair, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was one (1) public commenter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Without objection, the Board approved the following meeting minutes:
- Thursday, October 19, 2023, Board Meeting

Mr. Chastain arrived at 1:14 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
- Quarterly & Monthly Board Financial Status Update
  - Chief Financial Officer Mr. Bradley Reuben Johnson presented both the quarterly and monthly school district financial status updates to the Board. Copies of both reports were given to all Board Members.

- Literacy Updates
  - Chief Academic Officer Dr. Catherine Mallanda shared an in-depth presentation highlighting the Cobb County School District’s continued commitment to Early Literacy beginning in 2015 to present time and what can be expected regarding literacy within Cobb going forward.
BOARD AGENDA ITEMS
The Board discussed the Agenda Items listed below. These items will be brought forth for a vote during the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting:

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Recommendation for Authorization of School Properties Disposal per District Administrative Rule DO-R
• Without objection, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Recommendation to Amend the Lease Agreement with T-Mobile USA LLC, for the Cell Tower at Argyle Elementary School
• Without objection, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Recommendation to Modify the Campbell High School Portion of the Previously Submitted FY2021 State Capital Outlay Application
• Without objection, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Kennesaw Warehouse Site Improvements for Portables Storage
• Without objection, this item was placed on the Consent Agenda for the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Recommendation for Approval of 2024 Legislative Priorities
• Following discussion, and without objection, this item was placed on the Discussion Agenda for the Voting Session of the Thursday, November 9, 2023, Board Meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS
• Facilities & Technology Citizens Oversight Committee Report – Mr. Hutchins
  o Mr. Hutchins informed the Board that the committee met on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and reviewed and affirmed 7 previously approved Board Agenda Items.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Without objection, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and unanimously approved by the Board at 3:35 p.m. to convene to Executive Session following a 10-minute break to discuss land, legal, and personnel matters. Motion carried 7-0.

VOTING SESSION
The Cobb County Board of Education met for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023, with the following members present: Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, Wheeler, Ms. Davis, Ms. Sayler, Mr. Ragsdale, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Wilcox, Interim Board Attorney.
RECONVENE
Without objection, the Board reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mr. Wheeler, Board Chair, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS
- Cobb STEM Certification – Bells Ferry Elementary School
- Cobb STEM Certification – Fair Oaks Elementary School
- Cobb STEM Certification – Mountain View Elementary School
- Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2023 Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics Elementary School – Dyanna Motes, Kemp Elementary School
- Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2023 Gladys M. Thomason Award – Jean Linner, Lassiter High School

PUBLIC COMMENT
- There were ten (10) public commenters.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Report
Administration recommended approval of the identified employment actions of the individuals listed on the Personnel Action Report as discussed in Executive Session.

Section I - Principal Level and Higher Position Recommendation
- Kranzlein, Dr. Kimberly, Appointment to Director, Adult Education from Assistant Principal, Cobb Horizon High School effective January 2, 2024.

Section II – Position Recommendations Below Principal
Middle School:
- Strong, James, employment as Assistant Principal, Betty Gray Middle School from Assistant Principal, New Manchester High School, Douglas County Schools, effective November 13, 2023.

  o A motion was made by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Personnel Action Report as read and presented in Executive Session. Motion carried 7-0.

Legal
- The following motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, “that the Cobb County Board of Education and the Cobb County School District end all further involvement in the matter of Karen Finn, et al. v. Cobb County Board of Election and Registration, et al., and end the legal representation of law firm Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP.” Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay,” and Ms. Davis, Mr. Hutchins, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Motion failed 4-3.

- The following motion was made by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Ms. Davis, “that the Cobb County School District condemn statements made in the Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP legal update that references the Honorable Stacey Abrams and the Democratic Party who has absolutely nothing to do with this local issue and would ask that this Board request a correction to said statements,

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS
The Superintendent commented on various items occurring throughout the Cobb County School District.

ACTION AGENDA: CONSENT AGENDA
ACTION AGENDA ITEM #1 – Recommendation for Authorization of School Properties Disposal per District Administrative Rule DO-R

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #2 – Recommendation to Amend the Lease Agreement with T-Mobile USA LLC, for the Cell Tower at Argyle Elementary School

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #3 – Recommendation to Modify the Campbell High School Portion of the Previously Submitted FY2021 State Capital Outlay Application

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #4 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Kennesaw Warehouse Site Improvements for Portables Storage

- Without objection, the Board approved the Consent Agenda Items as presented.

DISCUSSION AGENDA
ACTION AGENDA ITEM #5 – Recommendation for Approval of 2024 Legislative Priorities

- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Ms. Davis, to amend the 2024 Legislative Priorities as presented to include an additional item under “Educational Access” to recognize the impact of poverty in the QBE formula in order to meet the needs of students. Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay,” and Ms. Davis, Mr. Hutchins, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Motion failed 4-3.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to change the word “inappropriate” to the phrase “sexually explicit/pornographic” in the legislative priority regarding a state rating system for books in K-12. Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay,” and Ms. Davis, Mr. Hutchins, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Motion failed 4-3.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to postpone the vote on this agenda item until the December 7, 2023, Board Meeting. Following discussion, Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay,” and Ms. Davis, Mr. Hutchins, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Motion failed 4-3.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to vote separately on the individual categories of Financial Sustainability, Educational Access, and Safety & Security. Following discussion, Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay,” and Ms. Davis, Mr. Hutchins, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Motion failed 4-3.
- A motion was made by Mr. Scamihorn, seconded by Mr. Chastain, and unanimously approved by the Board to adopt the 2024 Legislative Priorities as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
ADJOURN
Without objection, the Board adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN            EXECUTIVE SECRETARY