

**Thomas County Board of Education**  
**Minutes**  
**November 14, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees - Voting Members**

Ms. Nancy Hiers, Chair  
Mr. Derwood Hickey, Vice Chair  
Mr. David Dawson, Board Member  
Mr. Charles Evans, Board Member  
Mr. Mark NeSmith, Board Member  
Mr. Dan Stewart, Board Member  
Mrs. Kay P. Streets, Board Member

**Attendees - Other**

Dr. George H. Kornegay, Superintendent  
Robin Cartright, Curriculum Director  
Mrs. Carol Gerald, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Joey Holland, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Lisa Williams, Associate Superintendent

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Hiers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members were physically present at the meeting except for Mr. Hickey, and he participated via teleconference.

**II. Devotional - Daryl Jones, 6th grade teacher at Thomas County Middle School**

**III. Approval of Consent Agenda**

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes: October 3
- C. Bishop Hall board minutes: September 21
- D. Upcoming meeting: December 12 regular meeting
- E. Janitorial supplies bid
- F. Resolutions for outstanding students
- G. Fundraising requests
- H. Out-of-district students

Motion made by: Mr. David Dawson

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Kay P. Streets

Voting: Unanimous

**IV. Superintendent's Report**

- a. Recognition of outstanding students
- b. Draft of December 12 agenda
- c. Board Christmas dinner, December 12, following board meeting
- d. Board Member training, RESA, Camilla, February 7
- e. October 2017 FTE Report

Dr. Williams stated that for the 6th straight year, the October FTE count has shown an increase over the previous October, and the fall 2017 count is up 11% compared to the October 2011 count.

## f. CCRPI Report - Dr. Lisa Williams

Dr. Williams said, in relation to the CCRPI scores, there are areas where scores look very good, and there are areas that scores need improvement. The ultimate goal is high school graduation, and that is the area where the school system does shine. The state four year graduation rate is 80.6%, and Central had a four-year graduation rate of 93.1%, 12.5% above the state average. Bishop Hall had a four-year graduation rate of 65%, which nearly tripled what its graduation rate was a few years ago, so they have worked really hard getting students graduated in four years. With all high school programs averaged together, Thomas County has a four-year graduation rate of 87.8%, which is 7% above the state average. The state's five-year graduation rate is 82.3%, and Central has a five-year graduation rate of 95.3%, which is 13% above the state average.

Cross Creek, Thomas County Central, Bishop Hall, and the district as a whole saw improvement in CCRPI scores in 2017 as compared to 2016 with Cross Creek having the largest improvement compared to the previous year. The middle school is showing growth but because of the influx of students coming to the school outside the district each year, it takes 2 to 3 years for students who move into the system from outside the district to typically show an increase in scores, but eventually they do increase and you can see that based on the high school's CCRPI score and the graduation rate. The district CCRPI score is 72.2, which is just a few points below the state average.

## g. Animals in Schools policy (IFD) - first reading

Dr. Williams said that a service animal is defined by law as a dog or miniature horse that has been trained to perform disability specific tasks. An emotional support animal or comfort animal is not a service animal and may not accompany a student to school unless it is specifically documented in the student's individual education plan (IEP) which must be approved by the Director of Special Education.

## h. Revision of School Admissions policy (JBC) - first reading

Dr. Williams explained the School Admissions policy is being updated to incorporate the provisions of Senate Bill 186 or otherwise known as the Caregiver Educational Consent Act. It added "kinship caregiver" to the list of persons eligible to enroll a student. "Kinship caregiver" is defined as the grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle, great aunt, great uncle, cousin, sibling or fictive kin who has resumed responsibility for raising the child in an informal, non-custodial or guardianship capacity. This person is known to the child as a relative that is not related by blood or marriage. The child is to reside with fictive kin or have significant contact throughout the year. The revision of this policy deletes the provisions regarding the non-parental affidavit or residence.

## i. Revision of Unsafe School Choice Option policy (JBCCA(2)) - first reading

Dr. Williams said the Unsafe School Choice Option policy states that the school system will facilitate the transfer of a student who has been the victim of a violent crime within ten days and gives details of the procedure.

- j. School calendar discussion for 2018-2019  
Dr. Williams explained the five calendar options and stated that she had sent a survey to all staff members for their input and the majority voted for calendar option A. The calendar will be presented at the December 12 meeting.
- k. Financial report- Joey Holland

**V. New Business**

- a. Board member travel to RESA for training on February 7  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart  
Voting: Unanimous
- b. TAVT resolution  
Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Voting: Unanimous
- c. Bus purchase  
Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart  
Voting: Unanimous
- d. Greenhouse purchase for Bishop Hall  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. David Dawson  
Voting: Unanimous
- e. Cooler and freezer for Garrison-Pilcher  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart  
Voting: Unanimous
- f. Begin executive session for personnel  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart  
Voting: Unanimous
- g. End executive session for personnel  
Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. David Dawson  
Voting: Unanimous
- h. Personnel report with addendum  
Motion made by: Mr. Mark NeSmith  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Dan Stewart  
Voting: Unanimous

**VI. Adjournment**

- Motion made by: Mr. Charles Evans  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark NeSmith  
Voting: Unanimous

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Chairperson

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Secretary