

Our Mission

Catoosa County Public Schools is a student-focused learning community, where excellence is expected from staff and students, every day, without exception.

Our Vision

Catoosa County Public Schools will prepare every child to reach their full potential so they graduate prepared to be good citizens and leaders of the future.

RECOGNITIONS: SHINING STARS

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Cloud Spring Elementary School's Emily McNabb is the Paraprofessional Shining Star. Emily is pictured with Board of Education members: Jack Sims, Gloria Hunt, Emily McNabb, Superintendent Denia Reese, and Chairman Don Dycus.



Heritage High School's Carla Stephens is the Leadership Shining Star. Carla is pictured with Board of Education members: Jack Sims, Gloria Hunt, Carla Stephens, Superintendent Denia Reese, and Chairman Don Dycus.



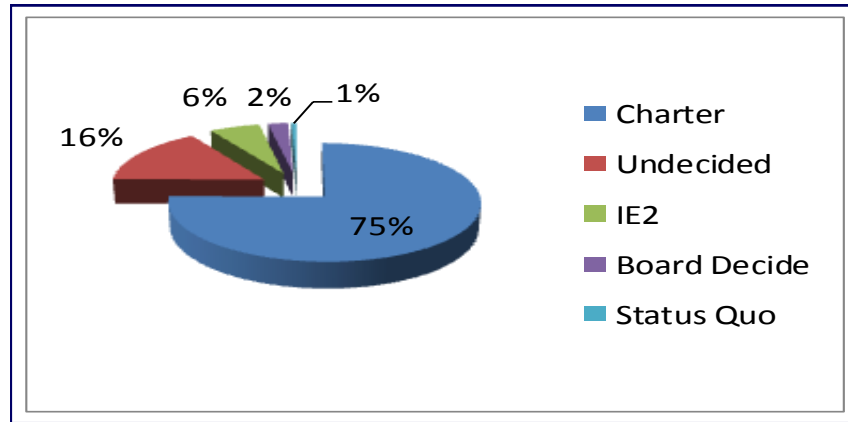
Becky Purcell, Technology Database Administrator, is the Support Personnel Shining Star. Becky was unable to attend the board meeting because she was attending the Munis Conference. She is pictured with Superintendent Reese and all her fans at the Central Office.

CATOOSA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT TO BECOME A CHARTER SYSTEM

After six months of listening to stakeholders, the Board of Education voted to become a Charter System.

The process of making the decision included the following:

- January 16th, the Board of Education and school administrators participated in training from the Department of Education on the Flexibility Options;
- March 11th, Superintendent Reese presented the faculty meeting presentation to the teachers of the year for their input;
- March and April, Mrs. Reese presented an abbreviated version of the DOE PowerPoint to all faculties and the county office. She requested feedback at each faculty meeting and provided all comments to the Board for review;
- April 10th, Mrs. Reese met with the Superintendent's Advisory Council for Excellence to receive their input before the Community Engagement Meeting;
- April 13th, Mrs. Reese met with the Partnership 2000 Steering Committee to receive input from our business partners;
- April 30th, there was a good turnout for the Community Engagement Meeting, and the Board received some excellent verbal and written comments;
- May 5th, the board received a notebook with all comments to review;
- June 2nd, Mrs. Reese presented a recommendation to the Board. The Board approved submitting a letter of intent to become a charter system.



Summary of faculty & community input:

- 75% of the comments recommended we choose Charter System
- 16% undecided
- 6% IE²
- 4% recommended that the Board of Education decide
- 1% recommended Status Quo

Questions to guide the decision:

1. Are waivers needed? Currently CCPS has a class size waiver. Losing this waiver would increase our expenses at least \$4.4 million dollars. To maintain instructional days, nurses, counselors, extracurricular activities, and block scheduling, the answer to this question is yes. We need a class size waiver. This eliminates status quo as an option.
2. Which Leadership Approach is preferred? The IE2 model allows for centralized, decentralized, or distributed leadership. The Charter System model requires distributed leadership through school-level governance teams. Mrs. Reese said she believes our system could be successful with either leadership approach.
3. Who sets our performance targets and monitors our progress toward meeting those targets? In the IE2 model the Governor's Office of Student Achievement will use the system's CCRPI score on the 2015-2016 assessment to determine each school's minimum targets. Each year, the school must increase by 3% of the gap between the baseline year and 100. The Governor's Office of Student Achievement also monitors each school's progress in achieving targets.

In the Charter System model, the Board of Education, with input from leadership teams, determines the performance targets that will be included in the system's charter application. The charter application also addresses how the school-level governance teams will monitor the system's progress in achieving targets.

The Board and Superintendent Reese agreed that we prefer to set our targets and monitor progress locally which eliminates the IE2 option.

The recommendation is based on the following features of Charter System:

- The system has broad flexibility to seek waivers from Title 20, State Board Rules, and Department of Education guidelines in order to improve student achievement;
- Each school will have the opportunity to determine innovative programs and schedules to improve student achievement;
- CCPS currently enjoys excellent parent and community support. Our schools have strong school councils that already provide input on principal positions. With this governance structure we will expand the decision making authority of this group;
- Charter systems receive regular QBE funding with NO expenditure controls, and there is an opportunity to receive supplemental per student funding;
- The local board, with input from leadership teams, determines our performance targets and how our progress will be monitored;
- Contractual partners: The local board and state board.

What happens next? (Draft timeline)

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| June 3rd | Send letter of intent to DOE |
| June 4th | Contact state consultant to begin the application process |
| June | Meet with state consultant & charter system sub-committee |
| June - Feb. | Meet with charter system sub-committee (as necessary) |
| June - July | Complete system profile |
| August | Complete school-level governance team section |
| September | Complete innovative program section |
| November | Receive input from staff, school councils, & parents |
| Dec. - Jan. | Revise and complete application |
| Jan. | Post application on school system website for public input |
| Jan. - Feb. | Public hearings (2) |
| Feb. | Board approves charter application |
| Feb. | Submit application to the DOE |

The Board of Education and Superintendent Reese are very excited about the opportunity to become a Charter System. In this model, schools will have flexibility to determine innovative programs and schedules to improve academic achievement for Catoosa County students.