

The Pickens County Board of Education met on March 18, 2013 at Aliceville Elementary/Middle School Media Center (800 Columbus Road) at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Annie Jackson, Mrs. LaSonja Richardson, Mr. Nick Tolstick, Mr. Michael Hinton, and Mrs. Debbie Holley were present. Others present were Superintendent Jamie Chapman, Vanessa Anthony, Jennifer Shirley, Alma Somerville, Anissa Ball, Lisa Stamps, Russell Smart, Fred Young and Board Attorney, Ray Ward.

1. **MEETING OPENED:**

Board Chairman, Nick Tolstick welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that a moment of silence be observed.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA:**

On a motion by Michael Hinton, seconded by Debbie Holley the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the addition *III.G. AASB Meeting Report*.

3. **APPROVE MINUTES:**

On a motion by Annie Jackson, seconded by Debbie Holley the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the February 18, 2013 meeting.

4. **APPROVE PAYROLL:**

On a motion by LaSonja Richardson seconded by Michael Hinton the Board unanimously approved the February payroll as presented by CSFO, Jennifer Shirley.

5. **COMMUNITY GROUPS:**

None

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

On a motion by Michael Hinton, seconded by Debbie Holley the Board unanimously approved the financial report as presented by CSFO, Jennifer Shirley for the month of February and the cash balances as follows:

General Fund	\$2,029,617.00
QZAB	105,581.91
Capital	621,753.46
Capital CD	340,232.28
Debt Service Fund	217,599.26
CNP	401,235.10
Federal Programs	86,298.77
Local Schools	534,731.32

7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Superintendent, Jamie Chapman told the Board he had been in Montgomery a lot dealing with lobbying on our behalf and education as a whole and wanted to inform them of some of the hot topics being discussed.

1. **Alabama Accountability Act** – The Governor signed the bill on Thursday, March 14, 2013 and it has the chance to make an impact on public school all across the state. Mr. Chapman asked the Board to go online and read the bill and that there would probably be some law suits filed, just didn't know, but they would be discussing it more as information became available. He then explained the basics of the bill: if you have a failing school in your system a student can ask to be transferred to another school in the system. If that school is at capacity the system can deny the transfer but will have to prove the school is at capacity thru feasibility, logistics type work. Another option is that the student can go to another system, neighboring county, and that opens up different possibilities and aspects. A tax credit is also involved for private school education.
2. **Alabama College and Career Ready Standards** – Mr. Chapman told the Board that the standards were under attack, but were not repelled. We have implemented Math this year and will implement English/Language Arts in fall.
3. **Tim Tebow Act** - This act made it out of committee but they are saying it will never make it to the floor. This act would allow home schooled children to participate in athletics at public school.

8. **COUNTY-WIDE FEASIBILITY STUDY:**

Mr. Chapman informed the Board that he has spoken to Dr. Salmon, who did the feasibility study, about seven years ago when Carrollton High School was closed. Dr. Salmon would be able to do a county-wide feasibility study for \$7,500 - \$8,000 and could have it done in (8) eight weeks. Mr. Chapman told the Board he felt we need the study done to show us the numbers so we will know what needs to be done and it will also enable us to do some effective planning.

9. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS:**

Mr. Chapman informed the Board that Commissioner Kennedy was the one that got this going in the county and that Mrs. Somerville and he attended a meeting last month. Mr. Bill Taylor, out of the Governor's office, has been coming to the meetings, and it is his job to help poor rural counties bring industry into their counties. At a previous meeting Mr. Taylor told those present to bring industry into a county you need to invest locally in the county and keep things up in the county. Mr. Taylor used the Old Carrollton High School, which he said needs to be removed, as an example at a previous meeting and at a meeting in Montgomery, as the necessary types of upkeep needed in our county. Mr. Chapman told the Board that the State Department, after hearing Mr. Taylor, has agreed to partner with us providing funds on the demolition of the building and asked that we work with the County Commission on the rubble removal.

10. **ONE CENT SALES TAX UPDATE:**

Mr. Chapman told the Board that we have been invited to come to the Commission work session to present the proposal for the one cent sales tax that he and the staff have been presenting at the city council meetings. Mr. Chapman and some of the Central Office staff will be going to the meeting on April 4th at 9:00 a.m. He told the Board he felt it would be beneficial if they could attend the meeting also, if their schedules would allow.

