The Pickens County Board of Education met on May 4, 2015 at the Central Office (377 Ladow Center Circle) at 6:00 p.m. Nick Tolstick, Annie Jackson, LaSonja Richardson, Debbie Holley and Michael Hinton were present. Others present were Superintendent Jamie Chapman, Vanessa Anthony, Jennifer Shirley, Alma Somerville, Anissa Ball, and Board Attorney Ray Ward.

1. **MEETING OPENDED:**
   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 Annie Jackson, seconded by Debbie Holley the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**
   Superintendent Chapman informed the Board that the Education budget that was before the House included a little more money for transportation, OCE and a divisor increase for middle schools which would mean 70 teachers state wide. He told the Board it could be June before we have a budget.

4. **GEARUP REPORT:**
   Associate Superintendent, Vanessa Anthony explained that the 6th and 7th grade students at Aliceville Middle and 7th grade students at Gordo High and Pickens County High will participate in the GEARUP program. She told the Board that the program was a grant written by the University of Alabama at Birmingham to serve students in the Black Belt Region. Mrs. Anthony also told the Board that ACCS (Alabama Community College System) has partnered with GEARUP Alabama by providing full scholarships to the Class of 2020 and 2021 to attend any public community or technical college in the state of Alabama who meet the specified criteria for college admission.

5. **NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION:**
   Superintendent Chapman reminded the Board the State Department has requested the nomination of three persons for consideration in the selection of a County Board of Equalization. Board Chairman, Nick Tolstick said the Board would work toward having three nominees to submit at the next meeting.

6. **END-OF-YEAR PERSONNEL:**
   Superintendent Chapman spoke to the Board about making year-end personnel decisions. He told the Board that we know from the 20 day report that our enrollment numbers are down and we would be losing four teaching units. He told the Board that the administrators are looking at curriculum, what we could do different, online opportunities, student surveys,(what students want to take) and our existing programs. He explained to the Board that without knowing our funding for next school year they may need to consider enacting our RIF (reduction in force) policy.

7. **APPROVE 2015 PICKENS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE RESOLUTION:**
   On a motion by Michael Hinton, seconded by LaSonja Richardson the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Resolution of Adoption for the 2015 Pickens County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

8. **APPROVE COMPASS LEARNING CONTRACT FOR ONLINE AND VIRTUAL LEARNING:**
   On a motion by Debbie Holley, seconded by Annie Jackson the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Compass Learning contract for online and virtual learning.

9. **ADDITION TO AGENDA:**
   On a motion by Debbie Holley, seconded by LaSonja Richardson the Board unanimously agreed to the Superintendent's recommendation to an agenda addition *IV.C. Approve Financial Agreement*.

10. **APPROVE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT:**
    On a motion by Michael Hinton, seconded by Debbie Holley the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into a financial agreement with KS State Bank to purchase Compass Learning.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
    On a motion by LaSonja Richardson, seconded by Michael Hinton the Board unanimously agreed to convene into executive session at 6:42 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The Board reconvened at 7:27 p.m. and Chairman Nick Tolstick declared the meeting back into open session.

12. **MEETING ADJOURNED:**
    There being no further business, Chairman Nick Tolstick adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


_____          _____
Chairman                                  Secretary