



Date: October 18, 2018
To: All Press
Pages: 2
From: John Strycker, Superintendent (334) 382-2665

PRESS RELEASE

Board Seeks Input and Thanks Community – Ad Valorem Campaign Process

The Butler County Board of Education held their regular Board meeting for October Thursday night in the Board room. The meeting began with the FY 2017 Audit Report presented by Meghan McDonald with the Alabama Department of Examiners. While the school system received a “clean/good” report, there was one finding regarding recording keeping at Greenville High School. School officials have identified the issue and have implemented steps to correct the problem.

The Board then received a monthly financial update from CFO Brandi Mosley.

During the Superintendent Report, Dr. Strycker thanked the Board of Education and County Commissioners for their efforts toward a January 29 Ad Valorem election. The School System is seeking a 6 mill tax increase to equal that of the state average. The State average is 18.2 mills and Butler County School System is currently at 12 mills. Presently, the school system ranks 133 out of 137 in the state in terms of local support toward school funding with the State of Alabama toward the bottom of the country for property tax revenue per capita.

“I am very grateful for the support from the Board of Education for understanding the importance of this funding for our students. If we don’t receive adequate funding to that of the State average, we will need to make additional budget cuts that would be potentially devastating to our current programs. The lack of funding would also be detrimental to improvements we seek to make in the areas of instruction and debt reduction,” said Superintendent John Strycker.

“I would also like to thank the community for the overwhelming support they gave toward our petition drive,” continued Strycker.

The school system was required to present at least 200 signatures from Butler County registered voters to the County Commission in order to hold the January 29 proposed election. The school system presented around 1,100 signatures supporting the election.

As a next step, the school system is seeking input from the community as the Board will finalize the proposed expenditure plan for the increased funding. Both Dr. Strycker and the Board encouraged the community to go to the school systems website to complete a short survey. The Board will consider the school community input when creating the final expenditure proposal. The School System Website is: www.butlerco.k12.al.us

The Board also received a curriculum update from Curriculum Director, Donna Ash, and a report from Technology Director, Matthew Shell, reviewing student enrollment trends.

Ms. Ash reported to the Board that there is progress being made in the area of Curriculum and Instruction. However, when looking at student test data she commented that while some of the data may seem to show areas of improvement, there is still much work to be done. “My goal for us is not to look good, but to truly be good,” she said.

In other Board Action, the Board approved the Financial & Bank Statements for August, school bus bids for two buses, a campus name modification, and the October Personnel Report. The Board also approved the AASB Delegate selection for 2018-19, and the November Board meeting location which will be at McKenzie School on November 29.

The Board recognition for the month was a Georgiana student athlete, Chris Mixon for being named WSFA Channel 12 Fever Player of the Week. Chris was also recognized for being Georgiana’s first state champion in any sport when he won the long jump in State Finals in Track & Field last spring.

“While Chris is a tremendous athlete, it is his character that I want to acknowledge tonight,” said Superintendent Strycker. “Chris is a very compassionate caring individual who is very humble for his age. I am very proud of him.”

The Board of Education was also recognized for their dedication for the students and community by their ongoing commitment serving on the Board.

Please call John Strycker, Superintendent with any questions or concerns at (334) 382-2665.