

# **Towns County Board of Education**

## **Work Session**

**April 1, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

## **AGENDA**

1. Public Forum
2. Call to Order
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discuss Consent Agenda
  - Fundraisers:
    - i. None
  - Field Trips:
    - i. ES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade / Consolidated Gold Mining Dahlonega / April 1, 2024 (pre-approved)
    - ii. MS Football / Athens GA / April 13, 2024
    - iii. HS Journalism / Lifetouch Photography Studio Chattanooga / April 17, 2024
    - iv. ES 5<sup>th</sup> grade / Medieval Times Lawrenceville / April 18, 2024
    - v. MS Baseball / UGA Athens GA / May 3, 2024
  - Work Session Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
  - Regular Board Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
  - Called Meeting Minutes / March 19, 2024
5. Financial Director, Myra Underwood to update the Board on the February 2024 Financial
6. Presentation on Religion Courses, Jeff Langley
7. Discuss the Resignation of a Head Start/Pre-K Teacher Assistant
8. Discuss the Resignation of a Special Education Paraprofessional
9. Discuss the Resignation of a Middle School English Teacher
10. Discuss a Request of an extension to FMLA for an Elementary Teacher
11. Discuss the Recommendation to bid out Construction Manager for all SPLOST Projects over the next 5 years
12. Discuss the Recommendation to add a Behavioral Specialist Position

13. Discuss the Recommendation to add a Special Education Teacher Position
14. Discuss the Recommendation for a Substitute Teacher
15. Discuss the Recommendation for Summer Maintenance Help
16. Discuss the Recommendation for a School Nutrition Assistant
17. Discuss the Recommendation for a Technology Specialist
18. Discuss the Recommendation for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia History Teacher
19. Discuss the Recommendation for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Teacher
20. Discuss the Recommendation of a High School English Language Arts Teacher
21. Closed Session
22. Adjourn

Other items may be added as necessary.

Original posted March 29, 2024

**Towns County Board of Education**  
**Pre-board Work Session**  
**April 1, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

The Towns County Board of Education held their first of two public budget hearings at 5:30 p.m. in the Towns County Middle/High School Media Center. The purpose of this meeting is to encourage public input for the FY2025 School Operating Budget. The floor was open for Public Comment & Participation. There was no Public Participation.

The Towns County Board of Education met in a called meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024 at the Towns County Middle/High School Media Center. Members present were David Phillips, Caroleen Woods, Sara Rogers, Brandon Grimsley and Stephanie McConnell. Chairperson, Caroleen Woods called the meeting to order.

Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers, **to approve the agenda.** The motion carried.

Discuss the Consent Agenda:

- Fundraisers:
  - i. None
  
- Field Trips:
  - i. ES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade / Consolidated Gold Mining Dahlonega / April 1, 2024 (pre-approved)
  - ii. MS Football / Athens GA / April 13, 2024
  - iii. HS Journalism / Lifetouch Photography Studio Chattanooga / April 17, 2024
  - iv. ES 5<sup>th</sup> grade / Medieval Times Lawrenceville / April 18, 2024
  - v. MS Baseball / UGA Athens GA / May 3, 2024
  
- Work Session Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
- Regular Board Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
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Financial Director, Myra Underwood spoke to the board regarding the February 2024 Financial Statements, and the FY25 Budget Process.

Jeff Langley, Chair for (AppCLC) Appalachian Christian Leadership Council gave a presentation to the board about, (RTBE) Released-Time Bible Education, a privately-funded Bible Education Program.

No Closed Session.

Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by Brandon Grimsley, **to adjourn the meeting.** The motion carried.

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Caroleen Woods, Chairperson

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Dr. Darren Berrong, Superintendent

**Towns County Board of Education**  
**Board Meeting**  
**April 1, 2024**  
**6:45 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Public Forum
2. Call to Order
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - Fundraisers:
    - i. None
  - Field Trips:
    - i. ES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade / Consolidated Gold Mining Dahlonega / April 1, 2024 (pre-approved)
    - ii. MS Football / Athens GA / April 13, 2024
    - iii. HS Journalism / Lifetouch Photography Studio Chattanooga / April 17, 2024
    - iv. ES 5<sup>th</sup> grade / Medieval Times Lawrenceville / April 18, 2024
    - v. MS Baseball / UGA Athens GA / May 3, 2024
  - Work Session Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
  - Regular Board Meeting Minutes / March 4, 2024
  - Called Meeting Minutes / March 19, 2024
7. Discuss and Approve the February 2024 Financial Statements
8. Discuss and Approve the Resignation of a Head Start/Pre-K Teacher Assistant
9. Discuss and Approve the Resignation of a Special Education Paraprofessional
10. Discuss and Approve the Resignation of a Middle School English Teacher
11. Discuss and Approve the Request for an extension to FMLA for an Elementary Teacher
12. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation to bid out Construction Manager for all SPLOST Projects over the next 5 years

13. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation to add a Behavioral Specialist Position
14. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation to add a Special Education Teacher Position
15. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation for a Substitute Teacher
16. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation for Summer Maintenance Help
17. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation for a School Nutrition Assistant
18. Discuss the and Approve Recommendation for a Technology Specialist
19. Discuss the and Approve Recommendation for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia History Teacher
20. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Teacher
21. Discuss and Approve the Recommendation of a High School English Language Arts Teacher
22. Elementary School Report – Shannon Moss
23. Middle School Report – Dr. Connie Hobbs
24. High School Report – Bryan Thomason
25. Superintendent Report – Dr. Darren Berrong
  - Ag Center Update
26. Closed Session
27. Adjourn

Other items may be added as necessary.

Original posted March 29, 2024

**Towns County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 1, 2024**  
**6:45 PM**

The Towns County Board of Education met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024 at the Towns County Middle/High School Media Center. Members present were David Phillips, Caroleen Woods, Sara Rogers, Brandon Grimsley and Stephanie McConnell. Chairperson, Caroleen Woods called the meeting to order. High School Principal, Bryan Thomason gave the invocation and Chairperson, Caroleen Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers to **approve the agenda**. The motion carried.

David Phillips made a motion, seconded by Stephanie McConnell to **approve the consent agenda**.

- Fundraisers:
  - i. None
  
- Field Trips:
  - i. ES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade / Consolidated Gold Mining Dahlonega / April 1, 2024 (pre-approved)
  - ii. MS Football / Athens GA / April 13, 2024
  - iii. HS Journalism / Lifetouch Photography Studio Chattanooga / April 17, 2024
  - iv. ES 5<sup>th</sup> grade / Medieval Times Lawrenceville / April 18, 2024
  - v. MS Baseball / UGA Athens GA / May 3, 2024
  
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Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the February 2024 Financial Statements for all funds including school activity accounts and ESSER Funds. Financial Director, Myra Underwood also updated the board on the FY25 Budget Process.** Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Resignation of a Head Start/Pre-K Assistant Teacher, effective March 27, 2024.** Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by Brandon Grimsley, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Resignation of a Special Education Paraprofessional, effective March 21, 2024.** Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Resignation of an 8<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts Teacher, effective July 31, 2024**. Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by Brandon Grimsley, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Request for an Extension to FMLA**. Sara Rogers made a motion, seconded by David Phillips, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve to Bid Out for a Construction Manager to oversee SPLOST Projects over the next 5 years**. David Phillips made a motion, seconded by Brandon Grimsley, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation to add a Behavioral Specialist Position**. Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation to add a Special Education Teacher Position**. Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by Brandon Grimsley, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for a Substitute Teacher**. David Phillips made a motion, seconded by Stephanie McConnell, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for a Maintenance Summer Help, pending fingerprints and background check**. Sara Rogers made a motion, seconded by David Phillips, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for a School Nutrition Assistant, pending fingerprints and background check. Effective for the FY25 School Year**. Sara Rogers made a motion, seconded by Stephanie McConnell, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for a Technology Specialist, pending fingerprints and background check. Effective April 15, 2024**. Stephanie McConnell made a motion, seconded by David Phillips, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia History Teacher, pending fingerprints and background check. Effective for the FY25 School Year**. David Phillips made a motion, seconded by Sara Rogers, **to approve the Superintendent's recommendation**. The motion carried. (see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Teacher, pending fingerprints and background check. Effective for the FY25 School Year.** Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by Stephanie McConnell, **to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation.** The motion carried.  
(see attached)

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong, recommended the board **approve the Recommendation for a High School English Language Arts Teacher, pending fingerprints and background check. Effective for the FY25 School Year.** Brandon Grimsley made a motion, seconded by David Phillips, **to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation.** The motion carried. (see attached)

Elementary School Principal, Shannon Moss gave an update to the Board on the Elementary School Activities.

- Enrollment is 431

Middle School Principal, Dr. Connie Hobbs gave an update to the Board on the Middle School Activities.

- Enrollment is 208

High School Principal, Bryan Thomason gave an update to the Board on the High School Activities.

- Enrollment is 284

Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong reported to the Board on the following:

- Update on the Ag Center
- Strategic Waiver
- Vape Detectors installed in Middle and High School Bathrooms

No Closed Session.

Sara Rogers made a motion, seconded by David Phillips, **to adjourn the meeting.**  
The motion carried.

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Caroleen Woods, Chairperson

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Dr. Darren Berrong, Superintendent