

**Bronson, FL**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**4:15 p.m.**

### **Executive Session**

The School Board of Levy County met in Executive Session this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020 at 4:15 p.m. with Board Chairman Paige Brookins, Ashley Clemenzi, Brad Etheridge and Board Attorney David Delaney present. Board member Cameron Asbell attended virtually.

**Expulsion Recommendations:** The Board heard information regarding a recommendation for expulsion. After School Administrators, BMHS Principal Curtis Gaus and Matthew McLelland had given testimony; the following actions were taken by the Board.

**Student 21-03:** (student and parent were present). After discussion from the Board Members and Administrator, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, with the opportunity to attend BMHS FOCUS Center and have clean monthly drug tests at parents expense, second by Ashley Clemenzi, motion carried.

**Student 21-04:** (student and parent were present). After discussion from the Board Members and Administrator, Cameron Asbell moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, have clean monthly drug tests at parent's expense and receive mental health counseling. In July 2021, with documentation of successful mental health counseling and clean drug tests, student may request to re-appear before the Board to petition to attend school beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, second by Brad Etheridge, motion carried.

**Student 21-05:** (student and parent were present). After discussion from the Board Members and Administrator, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, with the opportunity to attend BMHS FOCUS Center and have clean monthly drug tests at parents expense, second by Cameron Asbell, motion carried. Ashley Clemenzi voted nay.

**Student 21-06:** (student and parent were present). After discussion from the Board Members and Administrator, Ashley Clemenzi moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, with the opportunity to attend CMHS FOCUS Center and have clean monthly drug tests at parents expense, second by Brad Etheridge, motion carried.

**Student 21-07:** (student and parent were present). After discussion from the Board Members and Administrator, Ashley Clemenzi moved to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2020-2021 SY and 2021-2022 SY, with the opportunity to attend CMHS FOCUS Center, have clean monthly drug tests at parents expense, and receive mandatory mental health counseling, second by Brad Etheridge, motion carried. Cameron Asbell voted nay.

### **Regular Session** **6:00 p.m.**

The School Board of Levy County met in Regular Session this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with Board Chairman Paige Brookins, Brad Etheridge, Tammy Boyle, Ashley Clemenzi and Board Attorney David Delaney present. Cameron Asbell attended the meeting virtually.

Public comments can be submitted by email to [publiccomment@levyk12.org](mailto:publiccomment@levyk12.org) or delivered in writing to the District Office at 480 Marshburn Drive, Bronson, FL., and must be received at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Public comments may also be made in person on the day of the meeting.

All School Board meetings are recorded and may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LevyCountySchools> within 1-2 days after the scheduled meeting.

**Swearing in of Superintendent and Board Members:** Judge James Browning swore in newly elected Tammy Boyle, re-elected Paige Brookins and newly elected Superintendent Christopher Cowart.

**Board Re-Organization:** Superintendent Christopher Cowart presided during the re-organization of the Board.

**Appointment of Chairman:** Superintendent Cowart called for nominations for Board Chairman. Paige Brookins nominated Cameron Asbell. Brad Etheridge moved for nominations to cease. The Superintendent called for the vote with the Board unanimously voting for Cameron Asbell as Board Chairman. Cameron Asbell thanked Paige Brookins for doing a great job as the previous Board Chairman with all Board Members agreeing.

**Appointment of Vice-Chairman:** Superintendent Cowart called for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Paige Brookins nominated Ashley Clemenzi. Brad Etheridge moved for nominations to cease. The Superintendent called for the vote with the Board unanimously voting for Ashley Clemenzi as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Cameron Asbell said since he will be attending the meeting virtually, he appointed Vice Chairman Ashley Clemenzi to conduct the Board meeting tonight.

**Regular Meeting Dates:** Superintendent Cowart asked for a motion to set the Board meetings days and times. Paige Brookins moved to set the regular meeting dates of the School Board of Levy County for the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesdays of the month, with the times remaining the same – the first Board Meeting of the month at 6:00 p.m., and the second Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m., to be held in the Administrative Office, Bronson, Florida, second by Brad Etheridge, motion carried. Ashley Clemenzi then assumed the Chairman position and presided during the remainder of the meeting.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Brad Etheridge moved to approve the agenda, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried.

**Welcome Visitors and Public Comments:** Vice Chairman Ashley Clemenzi welcomed everyone to the meeting in person or virtually and asked if anyone would like to address the Board. Ronna Garner, BES Teacher, read a letter of her concerns with teaching Canvas, teaching in the classroom for the ones attending school, and blended learning during this 2020-2021 school year. She said this year has been a very rough year.

**SBLC AND LCEA Negotiations Update:** Kim Lake, Director of Finance said negotiations between the SBLC and LCEA were reached and were passed through the LCEA ratification. Melody Carson, LCEA President said the votes were 355 for yes, and 23 for no; therefore, the ratification passed. Kim Lake said the salary adjustments will be retroactive to July 1, 2020.

**Review of the following School Board Policies:** Superintendent Chris Cowart said this is the final meeting to review School Board Policies 4.06 Requirements for Graduation, 4.39 Non-School Related Travel, 5.38 Bullying and Harassment, 5.40 Dating Violence and Abuse, and 6.54 Prohibiting Discrimination, including Sexual and Other Forms of Harassment. He said they will be adopted/amended at the December 8 Board meeting.

**CMHS Tower Construction Building Declared as Surplus:** Brandon Eastman, Coordinator of Purchasing requested that the old construction building for the tower at CMHS be declared as surplus and donated to Levy County. Wilbur Dean said Levy County will move the building and re-locate it in Cedar Key to use for the new emergency tower. Brad Etheridge moved to declare the building as surplus, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried. After discussion, Paige Brookins moved to donate the building to Levy County, second by Brad Etheridge, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Paige Brookins moved to approve the minutes of the October 27 and November 5, 2020 Board meetings, second by Tammy Boyle, motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:** After discussion of the Agenda, Brad Etheridge moved to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried.

## **1. GENERAL ITEMS:**

### **a) Employee Status Changes / Recommendations:**

1. Jeffery R. Edison, Superintendent, *transfer* to YTS, Teacher, Math, M/J, *effective* November 17, 2020, *vacancy*.
2. Leona Bauer, JBES Custodian, *dismissed during probationary period*, effective October 30, 2020, original hire date April 9, 2020.
3. Margaret Durden, BMHS Teacher Aide, ESE, *dismissed during probationary period*, effective November 4, 2020, original hire date August 5, 2020.
4. Micaiah Johnston, CKS Teacher, KG, *effective* November 9, 2020, *out-of-field* in Elem. Ed. K-6, *vacancy*.
5. Shirley Walker, YTS Custodian, *resignation for retirement*, effective October 30, 2020, original hire date December 10, 2007.
6. *Request* approval of the *job description* and *new position* for a Specialist-Family Liaison, ESE/SS, for the 2020-2021 school year, paid from Project #11030.
7. Shontonnia Burgman, WES Food Service Worker, *resignation*, effective November 20, 2020, and *payment* for any unused leave, original hire date August 20, 2015.
8. Christian Howard, YTS Custodian, *effective* November 12, 2020, *vacancy*.
9. Cherish Danilson, BES Teacher, First Grade, *effective* November 16, 2020, *vacancy*.

**b) Personal Leave Requests:**

1. Kasidy Cothron, CES Teacher, First Grade, November 3, 2020 – May 28, 2021 (remainder of the 2020-2021 school year).

**c) Professional Leave Requests:**

1. Michelle Meeks, CMHS Teacher, Cross Country Districts and Regionals, as listed below, no cost to Board:
  - October 27-28, 2020, Lake City, FL
  - November 5-6, 2020, Lakeland, FL
2. Teresa Pinder, ESE/SS R-Lats Specialist, RLATS Duties for Flagler, October 27-28, 2020 and November 11-13, 2020, Bunnell and Palm Coast, FL., travel expenses paid from Project #40290 F2021.

**d) Military Leave Requests:**

1. Lamar Doug Asbell, Jr. District Maintenance, Plumber, Drill Trainings, November 12-13, 2020, Quincy, FL.

**e) Illness-in-Line of Duty Requests:**

1. Kimberly Green, BMHS Teacher, Language Arts, S/H, November 5-9, and November 13-20, 2020.

**2. FINANCE:**

- a. General Fund Budget Summary Info and Financial Statements for October, 2020.
- b. Budget Amendments #20-00008 4A & #20-00009 4B.

**Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations:** Superintendent Chris Cowart said he has a State Board of Education (SBOE/DOE) on Wednesday and FADSS virtual meeting on Thursday. He said the groundbreaking for the new CMHS went very well. He appreciates all the representation and looks forward to future presentations as the new school is being built. Superintendent Cowart thanked Jeff Edison for everything he has done for Levy County and glad he is continuing in Levy County.

**Board Comments:** Brad Etheridge said he is looking forward to the Thanksgiving break. He congratulated WMHS for winning the football game against CMHS. He said he is looking forward to getting back to normal and discontinuing the virtual meetings. He will be judging the FFA livestock contest virtually. He said Williston has a lot of COVID cases and quarantines. Mr. Etheridge thanked Kalee Wade for doing an outstanding job notifying everyone of the COVID cases within the schools and busses. Paige Brookins said having meetings virtually or zoom is very difficult, especially when the sounds does not work well. She said in-person meetings are very important. Mrs. Brookins congratulated BMHS football team for going to state competition for the first time in 19 years. She agreed with Superintendent Cowart that the CMHS groundbreaking had a great turnout. Tammy Boyle said she is very excited to be a new Board Member. She said she has been on a huge learning curve but she is a fast learner. Mrs. Boyle said she appreciates everyone who assisted her before coming on Board. She said she looks forward to being a team player. She thanked Mrs. Garner for speaking about the difficulties the teachers are having while teaching during this COVID year. Mrs. Boyle said the CKS Hospitality fishing tournament was very successful. She said the CKS Junior class will have their pie auction on November 24, Thanksgiving week; also, the boys and girls basketball games begin. Cameron Asbell congratulated BMHS football team. He said they also hosted the first state playoff game in their field and had a record number of attendance. All the schools will have cake/pie auctions during Thanksgiving week and the cafeterias will have Thanksgiving lunches on November 19. Mr. Asbell congratulated Tammy Boyle and said he looks forward to working with her. Ashley Clemenzi welcomed Jeff Edison at YTS. She said not all schools celebrate Veterans' Day, but she is proud that Levy County keeps the day sacred. She thanked Mrs. Garner for speaking to the Board tonight. Mrs. Clemenzi apologized to Karen Warren WMHS for questioning the ACT Prep and Boot Camp. She said they do have them at Williston, but they don't receive a supplement for them.

**Adjournment:** Board Vice Chairman Ashley Clemenzi adjourned from the regular Board Meeting to meet for the Levy County Facilities Finance Authority, Inc. – Appointment of Officers.

**Levy County Facilities Finance Authority, Inc. – Appointment of Officers (President):** Chairman Cameron Asbell passed the gavel to the Superintendent. Superintendent Chris Cowart called for nominations for President of the Levy County Finance Authority, Inc., for the 2020-2021 SY. Ashley Clemenzi nominated Cameron Asbell as President, second by Brad Etheridge. After no other nominations, the Superintendent called for nominations to cease. The Board voted unanimously to elect Board Chairman Cameron Asbell as President of the Levy County Finance Authority, Inc.

**Appointment of Officers (Secretary):** Superintendent Cowart passed the gavel to Chairman Cameron Asbell. Chairman Asbell called for nominations for Secretary of the Levy County Finance Authority, Inc., for the 2020-2021 SY. Brad Etheridge nominated Superintendent Christopher Cowart as Secretary, seconded by Ashley Clemenzi. After no other nominations, the Chairman called for nominations to cease. The Board voted unanimously to elect Superintendent Cowart as Secretary of the Levy County Finance Authority, Inc.

**Adjournment:** After elections and there being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Cameron Asbell adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Christopher A. Cowart, Secretary

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Cameron Asbell, Board Chairman