

## **2002 Press Release Archive**

**Pickens County Board of Education**

**January 14, 2002**

**Re: Called Board Meeting January 17, 2002**

**Contact: Gail Woodall ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will hold a workshop on Thursday, January 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Jasper Primary School Media Center on College Avenue in Jasper. The purpose of the workshop is to continue discussion of the proposed attendance zones for 2002-03. There will be a called board meeting immediately following the workshop at 6:00 pm. The board is expected to vote on the proposed attendance zones for 2002-03 and the purchase of the Harmony School Road property. The public is invited to attend.

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### **BOARD POLICY Descriptive Code: JCDAG**

#### **Student Access to Networked Information Resources**

**Date: April 10, 1997**

**Revised: April 24, 2002**

It is the belief of the Pickens County Board of Education that the use of technology for the purpose of information acquisition, retrieval, manipulation, distribution and storage is an important part of preparing children to live in the 21st century. The Board further believes that a "technology rich" classroom can significantly enhance both the teaching and learning process. This technology includes computer hardware, software, local and wide area networks and access to the Internet. Due to the complex nature of these systems and the magnitude of information available via the Internet, the Pickens County Board of Education believes guidelines regarding acceptable use are warranted in order to serve the educational needs of students.

It shall be the policy of the Pickens County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying “technology protection measure,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (1) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000;
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b) (1) and (2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:
  - a) Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
  - b) Promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
  - c) Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unauthorized activities by minors online;
  - d) Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and restrict minors’ access to materials “harmful to minors,” as that term is defined in Section 1703(b) (2) of the Children’s Internet Protection Act of 2000.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks and the Internet just as they are in a classroom, a school hallway, or other school property. Communications on the network and Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network and Internet are provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services and the Internet will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Technology has become an important teaching tool and is available throughout the school environment. Restriction of technology access limits a student’s ability to access valuable and important information. Pickens County Schools provides technology/Internet access to all students.

To ensure proper use of technology resources, staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to students as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies related to the school curriculum. All students will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of any district network and the Internet prior to gaining access to that network, either as an individual user or as a member of a class or group. Technology should be

used to achieve educational goals and implement school curriculum. School technology resources should not be used for non-educational activities.

Students may pursue electronic research on the Internet only if they have been granted parental permission and have submitted all required forms. Permission is not transferable and may not be shared. Parents may revoke their child's access at any time by notifying the school in writing.

## 1. TECHNOLOGY USE RULES

Individual users of the district computer networks and the Internet are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be always be private.

During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Pickens County Schools employs an Internet filtering program that will screen and filter the majority of obscene material. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for such guidance as they must also exercise with information sources such as television telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

Students may publish work on the Pickens County Schools web site using first name only with permission from the parent or guardian if the student is under 18 years of age.

(Ref.: Student Permission to Publish on the Internet, Student Code of Conduct)

Students using school technology resources (networks and the Internet) shall not:

- Send, download, display or distribute offensive messages or pictures, including but not limited to, pornography, racist materials, vulgar jokes/cartoons, anti-religious propaganda, and ethnic insults.
- Send, download, display or distribute information that advocates violence and/or destruction of property or other violations of legal statutes.
- Use obscene language.
- Harass, insult or attack others.
- Use technology resources for non-educational purposes.
- Damage computers, computer systems or computer networks.

- Engage in practices that threaten the network (e.g. loading files that may introduce a virus, destroying data, etc.)
- Violate copyright laws.
- Use others' passwords.
- Trespass in others' folders, work or files.
- Intentionally waste limited resources (e.g. paper, disk space, etc.)
- Employ the network for commercial purposes.
- Promote any religion or religious institution.
- Assist a public campaign for election of any person to any office (excluding school elections.)
- Engage in any other such behaviors as may violate existing school and Board policies.

#### 1. Consequences

- Violations may result in a loss of access.
- Additional disciplinary action for students may be determined at the building level in line with the chart of progressive disciplinary procedures as adopted by the Pickens County Board of Education. (Legal Ref.: Progressive Disciplinary Procedures, Student Code of Conduct.)

Exhibits to follow

### **Board of Education of Pickens County**

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#### **BOARD POLICY Descriptive Code: GAMB**

#### **Employee Rights and Responsibilities to Networked and Internet Information Resources**

**Date: April 24, 2002**

Employees are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks and the Internet just as they are in a classroom, a school hallway, or other school property.

Communications on the network and Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network and Internet are provided for employees to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services and the Internet will be provided to employees who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Technology has become an important teaching tool and is available throughout the school environment. Restriction of technology access limits an employee's ability to access valuable and important information. Pickens County Schools provides technology/Internet access to all employees.

To ensure proper use of technology resources, staff will provide developmentally appropriate guidance to employees as they make use of telecommunications and electronic information resources to conduct research and other studies related to the school curriculum. All employees will be informed by staff of their rights and responsibilities as users of any district network and the Internet prior to gaining access to that network, either as an individual user or as a member of a group. Technology should be used to achieve educational goals and implement school curriculum. School technology resources should not be used for non-educational activities.

## 1. TECHNOLOGY USE RULES

Individual users of the district computer networks and the Internet are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards.

Network storage areas may be treated as other school property. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be always be private.

Pickens County Schools employs an Internet filtering program that will screen and filter the majority of obscene material.

Employees may publish school-related work on the Pickens County Schools web site.

Employees using school technology resources (networks and the Internet) shall not:

- Send, download, display or distribute offensive messages or pictures, including but not limited to, pornography, racist materials, vulgar jokes/cartoons, anti-religious propaganda, and ethnic insults.
- Send, download, display or distribute information that advocates violence and/or destruction of property or other violations of legal statutes.
- Use obscene language.

- Harass, insult or attack others.
- Use technology resources for non-educational purposes.
- Damage computers, computer systems or computer networks.
- Engage in practices that threaten the network (e.g. loading files that may introduce a virus, destroying data, etc.)
- Violate copyright laws.
- Use others' passwords.
- Trespass in others' folders, work or files.
- Intentionally waste limited resources (e.g. paper, disk space, etc.)
- Employ the network for commercial purposes.
- Promote any religion or religious institution.
- Assist a public campaign for election of any person to any office (excluding school elections.)
- Engage in any other such behaviors as may violate existing school and Board policies.

#### 1. Consequences

- Employee violations are subject to sanctions, such as loss of access, reprimand, suspension, and loss of employment. (Legal Ref.: Employment, Staff Rights and Responsibilities.)

### **Board of Education of Pickens County**

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**Press Release**

**April 29, 2002**

**Re: School Board Schedules Executive Session and Second Budget Workshop**

**Contact: Gail Woodall ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will meet in executive session this Thursday, May 2, at 5:00 p.m. The board is meeting to discuss pending litigation prior to their regularly scheduled monthly meeting which will start at 6:00 p.m.

The school board has also scheduled a second workshop to discuss the 2002-03 school system budget. The workshop will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 5:00 p.m. Both meetings will take place at the Jasper Primary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper.

As always, the public is invited to attend.

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## **Press Release**

**April 29, 2002**

### **Re: New Principal for Pickens High School**

**Contact: Gail Woodall ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education has selected Lloyd Shaddix as the new principal of Pickens High School. In a called board meeting on Thursday, April 25, the board voted 4-1 to accept Superintendent of Schools Lee Shiver's recommendation to hire Shaddix.

Shaddix, who is currently vice-principal at Banks County High School in Homer, Georgia, was one of 35 applicants who sought the position which is being vacated by Steve Sewell after a ten year stint as principal. Sewell was recently named PHS head football coach and athletic director, a position that he previously held before becoming principal.

"Lloyd Shaddix is ready to take Pickens High School to the next level," said Shiver. "He's an instructional leader first, and he's got some great ideas for getting the community and our students more involved in their high school."

The selection process for the new principal included a series of interviews with a seven person committee composed of teachers, parents, administrators, and a local businessman. Three finalists were then interviewed by the superintendent who also provided an opportunity for each of them to meet with the PHS School Advisory Council and the Youth Leadership Pickens class.

Board Chairman Melvin Cagle said, "The three finalists were all quality individuals. I think we got a guy who's truly excited about being our high school principal. The superintendent knows the board's expectations are high and we're looking for outstanding results in the near future."

Shaddix, who has also been a youth apprenticeship coordinator, construction teacher, and varsity head baseball and girls' basketball coach, said he had enjoyed the interview process, but was looking forward to assuming his new duties before teachers are released for the summer.

"What an opportunity this is," said Shaddix. "Pickens High School is a good school that can be great and that's what we're going to do. I really appreciate Dr. Shiver's confidence in me and the school board's decision to hire me."

Shaddix holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Valdosta State University and is working on a second graduate level degree from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. Prior to his position at Banks County High School, Shaddix worked at Tift County High School in Tifton, Georgia, from 1995 to 2001.

A former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, he also taught in the Marietta City and Sumter County Schools. Prior to beginning his career in education, Shaddix owned and operated his own construction business in Americus for 13 years.

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## **Press Release**

**May 6, 2002**

### **Re: Board Schedules Budget/Facilities Workshop and Public Hearing**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a budget and facilities workshop on Thursday, May 9, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. at the Jasper Primary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. This will be the second workshop to discuss issues and priorities related to the development of the 2002-03 school system budget.

The board will also consider recommendations for facilities renovations and construction projects over the next five years.

The board had also scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. for citizens to comment on the proposed acceptable use policies for networked and Internet information resources. Copies of the proposed policies are available at the Board of Education office on Stegall Drive, the Pickens County Progress, WYYZ, all Pickens County schools, and the school system's website, [www.pickenscountyschools.org](http://www.pickenscountyschools.org).

As always, the public is invited to attend.

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## **Press Release**

**July 31, 2002**

**Re: All Pickens County Schools Accredited**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

The Executive Directors of the Commissions on Elementary, Middle and Secondary Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) recently congratulated the Pickens County School System for having all of its schools accredited. The district is considered a '2001-2002 Super System for Quality Schools', and was congratulated for its "...schools' accreditation accomplishments and continued successes in improving educational opportunities for the young people you serve."

SACS accreditation is non-government and voluntary, and it helps educational institutions improve through a systematic process of evaluation that focuses on improving teaching and student learning. SACS accreditation assures not only that an institution meets minimum standards, but also that it demonstrates a commitment to continuously providing quality educational programs.

In 2002 an alliance between SACS and The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), which is comprised of the other six regional accrediting commissions and several related organizations, i.e., the National Council for Private School Accreditation and the National Study of School Evaluation, was forged. Consequently, every elementary, middle and secondary school that holds SACS accreditation now receives the additional benefits of national accreditation through CITA and international recognition through a registry ([www.accreditedschools.org](http://www.accreditedschools.org)) available throughout the world.

SACS accreditation ensures benefits to a school and its community, including:

- A mission and goals focused on improving student performance and the school's capacity to improve teaching and learning.
- A collaboratively developed improvement plan that includes methods for measuring student progress and involves key school stakeholders.
- An effective framework that integrates all types of school planning and evaluation requirements.
- Qualified staffing and limited class size.
- Regular review of the school's programs by a team of outside peer professionals.

- A safe, secure, and positive climate that promotes student performance.
- Accountability and value for tax dollars spent.
- Regional, National and International Recognition as an accredited school.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is comprised of three Commissions that as a whole accredits more than 12,000 institutions (public, nonpublic, early childhood centers and kindergartens; elementary, middle and high schools; vocational-technical schools, military schools; colleges and universities) in the 11 southern states from Virginia through Texas, as well as American-type schools in Central and South America and in the Caribbean. SACS was founded in 1895 and is headquartered in Decatur, Georgia. For additional information, check the Association's web page at [www.sacs.org](http://www.sacs.org).

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### **Open House Schedule**

Tate Elementary School  
8/15/2002 - 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Hill City Elementary School Kindergarten Only  
8/13/2002 - 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Hill City Elementary School Grades 1-5  
8/15/2002 - 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Jasper Elementary School  
8/15/2002 - 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pickens Middle School  
8/13/2002 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Jasper Middle School  
8/16/2002 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Pickens High School  
8/15/2002 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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**Press Release  
August 27, 2002**

**Re: Board Schedules Workshop to Hear City's Street Widening Proposal  
Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a workshop on Thursday, September 5, 2002, at 5:30 p.m. to hear City of Jasper officials propose a street widening project adjacent to the Jasper Middle School campus. The workshop will be held at the Jasper Elementary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. The regularly monthly board meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. will follow the workshop. The board will not take any official action during the workshop.

As always, the public is invited to attend.

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**Press Release**

**August 30, 2002**

**Re: Local School Board Members Work to Ensure Educational Quality**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

Members of the Pickens County Board of Education were recently recognized for successfully completing board member training activities sponsored by the Georgia School Boards Association. Receiving certificates of recognition at the September 5, 2002, meeting of the board were members: Melvin Cagle, Jerry Andrews, David Klein, Shirley Whitaker, and Joan Locke. Georgia was among the first states in the nation to require that local school board members receive training to ensure quality educational leadership. Board members receive training to ensure quality educational leadership. Board members receive training on topics such as: Georgia's Quality Basic Education Act (QBE), budgeting and financing, legal and policy issues, school and community relations and the roles and responsibilities of the school board.

"By participating in training and board development activities, local school board members show their dedication to improving the educational system for the students within their communities," said Jeannie M. (Sis) Henry, GSBA executive director. "Life-long learning doesn't just apply to our students, it applies to all of us-especially to those in a leadership role in public education."

The Georgia School Boards Association is a non-profit association representing Georgia's locally elected school boards.

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**Press Release**

**October 28, 2002**

**Re: Called Board Meeting Set for October 30**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a called board meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper Elementary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. The Board is expected to go into executive session to review an appeal of a student tribunal disciplinary decision and will conduct no other official business. -end-

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**Press Release**

**November 18, 2002**

**Re: New School Board Invites Employees to Special Meeting**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

Members of the 2003 Pickens County Board of Education have invited all employees to a special meeting Saturday, November 23, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jasper Middle School gym. Although the meeting is not mandatory for school system employees, the new school board has scheduled the meeting to talk with interested employees about the board's goals and expectations for the school system, and to hear employee concerns and ideas. -end-

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**Press Release**

**December 9, 2002**

**Re: Board Schedules Fair Dismissal Public Hearing**

**Contact: Donna Golden ph. 706-253-1700**

The Pickens County Board of Education will conduct a public hearing to consider dismissal of contracted personnel on Monday, December 16, 2002, at 5:30 p.m. at the Jasper Elementary School media center on D.B. Carroll Street in Jasper. -end-