

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 – 5:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 22, 2014. At 5:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Search and Personnel. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax Middle/High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alonzo Frazier
Terry Hall
Willie Priester, Secretary
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Angela Grant, Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

FROM THE SCSBA: Dr. Paul Krohne, Executive Director
Judy LeGrand, Executive Assistant

FROM BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Ralph Smiley, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL: All Board Members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Frazier moved to go into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved to come out of Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2014 Special Called Meeting; August 25, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting and the September 15, 2014 Board Retreat. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson said Allendale County Schools was pleased to announce a \$10,000 donation from the Pineland Biomass Projects. They have two facilities one in Allendale and one in Dorchester County. The donation was made on September 10th observing the 1 year anniversary of the project. The donation will allow the District to support and expand Limitless Learning and provide each student with an iPad. She thanked County Council on behalf of the District on last Thursday at their meeting and said they were responsible for bringing the Plant to the area. She asked everyone to acknowledge the Mission and Vision listed on the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCSBA 2014 Certification of Delegates for Delegate Assembly: Mr. Frazier said in the past the Board Chair served as the delegate and the Vice Chair was the alternate. Chairperson Robinson said 2 Board Members will be leaving the Board this year. Ms. Smith moved to nominate Board Chairperson Robinson as the delegate and alternate Board Member Frazier. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Attendance/Tuancy – Mr. Everett, Attendance Supervisor reported: 1) last week several of them met and reviewed and revised the Attendance Procedures. The meeting included principals, guidance counselors and power school clerks; 2) students must attend school 180 days; State laws allows students to miss 10 excused or unexcused days; 3) see page 10-12; when students accumulate 3 unlawful absences the Power School Clerks makes contact with the parents/guardians; 4) after 2 attempts to reach the parent or guardian the Parent Liaison goes out and visits the parents; 5) the SDE is still working on a proviso instead of petitioning the courts, the new one will let the alternative school setting be an alternate. Mr. Frazier asked who is in place when the procedures are not followed to check and make sure they are followed. Mr. Everett said he is the person, he is meeting with Power School Clerks weekly and met with DSS Ms. Donella Robinson and she is on-board to partner with the District on truancy and with DJJ to try and prevent problems from going to Family Court. Mr. Frazier said he sees children walking the street. He would like to see Dr. Tobin ensure the procedures are in place. Dr. Tobin said sometimes students are suspended, but now the District is providing transportation for Alternative School students. Ms. Smith said the time, 3 days, 5 days by the time the District

makes contact time has gone by. She is concerned about the turnaround time. Ten days can pass and no one has made contact. Mr. Everett said the response to the 3 and 5 days is immediate. Power Schools Clerks are to call parents immediately. Sometimes they try and call them afterschool hours. School Messengers calls parents daily to inform them of the children absences. Chairperson Robinson said the procedures are guided by State Regulations the District can do more than what is required. Do not wait until the 5th day before intervention is done. Dr. Tobin said efforts are being made to keep children in school and counselors are on top of this. Ms. Smith asked what happens when students miss more than 10 days of unexcused absence. Mr. Everett said the child tends to fails. The student must have due process, make up the time and credit recovery. Dr. Tobin said see the hardship issues on pages 5-6.

Student Discipline Hearings – Ms. Jennings, Hearing Officer reported: 1) according to District Policy JIDA a student day begins at the bus stops in the morning and ends when they get off the bus in the afternoon, however, as long as it is a school activity it falls under the schools; 2) see the Code of Conduct in your packets; 3) how suspensions and expulsions are handed; Level 1 is the most serious offense a student can have. They include possession and distribution of drugs; guns and toy weapons are included. Elementary students can be suspended from school because of this; also includes all types of knives; 4) Level 2 offenses may also include law enforcement. These offenses include computer violations and excessive referrals; 3 referrals can be referred to as excessive; usually administrators wait for referrals to get up to 12 before referring students to the Hearing Officer; 5) Level 3 are petty offenses and these students are usually placed back at school and are told they cannot receive referrals; 6) this is usually their probation; 7) students coming into the District from DJJ, detention centers and alternative schools must have an in-take hearing before they can enroll in ACS and all their paperwork must be with the guidance counselors so the District will know why they were in an Alternative School; 8) students with disabilities falls under the Special Services Dept. Dr. Tobin said the District tries to save students and keep them in school; giving them more than one chance and sometimes students change their behavior. Ms. Smith said if school starts and ends at the bus stop what about students who are outside the gates at schools. What if something happens to them? Ms. Jennings said the Policy states if students are en-route to school then they are under the school jurisdiction. Chairperson Robinson said this has not been updated since 2011. Dr. Tobin said the District is working on updating this. Mr. Frazier said when children go to ISS they want to sleep. How is the District handling this? Dr. Tobin said he goes by ISS every time he is in the building and the District now has Edgenuity. In the past week or so the District is getting elementary students from outside the State and some have been in alternative settings and crisis centers. The District may want to look at an alternative center for elementary students. Ms. Smith said if these students come does the District have to accept them. Some districts don't. Dr. Tobin said the District does not accept expelled students.

Guidance Procedures – Guidance Counselors: Mr. Brandyburg and Ms. Hilliard, AFHS; Ms. Kennedy, AFMS; Ms. Davis, FES and Ms. Brabham, AES. Ms. Kennedy said: 1) elementary schools start the students career portfolios; 2) at the middle school level they have IGP's, all 8th graders and their parents have a session, this is like a roadmap; they discuss what area the student has chosen as their career preference; IGP's are done yearly; 3) at the high school level students are working toward their career preferences; 4) for counseling students can refer themselves, parents and teachers can refer students who need counseling, they have grief counseling, she is a certified grief counselor. Mr. Hall asked about the IGP for 8th graders. Ms. Kennedy said they start in 8th grader. Mr. Hall asked about the portfolio and said he has never seen his child's portfolio. Are the parents not involved? Ms. Kennedy said all of her parents and students go thru the process for 8th grade IGP. Mr. Hemby said they have scheduled 4 college tours to give students exposure to what is out there. Every child has their own binder and this is done throughout the year. A guidance consultant has been hired, she is coming out 3-4 times per year to look at the guidance department and see what is being done wrong and what is being done right. Mr. Frazier said read the State Guidance Plan and follow the plan.

Federal Program Presentation Title I – Dr. Beckett, Director reported: 1) Parent University will be held on September 30th, Parent University will be held once a month from 6-8 p.m.; Parent University will be held with SIC; 2) transportation, childcare (0-6th grade) and a meal will be provided; entertainment will also be provided; 3) workshops will be held and Parent University information is on the website and they have asked parents to register for the workshops. A total of 97 have registered; based on parents attendance at Parent University they will receive a certificate in May for attending; 4) Parent University information went home to elementary students and was mailed to middle and high school parents. Ms. Smith said meetings are scheduled for once per month, look back at revising this if parents don't come and come up with another plan. Dr. Beckett said someone from the SDE came down and she shared with them the attendance issues for Parent University. They asked if transportation and childcare was provided. So the District started doing this to be in compliance. Chairperson Robinson said let the Parent Liaisons hold some type of competition among themselves to encourage parents to come out. Ms. Smith asked does it have to be called Parent University. Dr. Beckett said it does not have to be called Parent University, but it is a term used nationwide. Mr. Frazier said the last one he attended only 3 parents showed up. He spoke with parents and they said they did not get the notice. Put the information on the schools marquees also. Chairperson Robinson asked principals to call in to WDOG when things are happening at their schools.

Dr. Beckett said: 1) Parenting Partners is an 8 weeks training for parents to become parent leaders. The second workshop is on 9-23-14, from 5:30-7:30 at AFHS; 2) 8 different areas have been identified where parents need the most help; 3) before parents train other people, they must be trained. The program is designed to create a ripple effect of parents training parents; 4) the information is on the District's website under the Office of Federal Programs. This program is by invitation only and the Parent Liaison and principals decided to include all types of parents to

come up with a diverse team and 5) parents are trained on a series of topics, academically and behaviorally.

Dr. Beckett said with McKinney-Vento the numbers are raising, currently about 35 students are eligible. The grant was submitted in July, funding was cut from \$50,000 per year to \$25,000 per year and the budget summary and narrative had to be revised based on the cuts.

CIPA – Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology reported: 1) CIPA is the Child Internet Protection Act; 2) enacted in 2002 and schools that apply for E-rate funds must be in compliance; 3) this blocks information harmful to minors, 4) Policy IJNDB is being reviewed with faculty, staff and students; 5) all students have a username name and password and the District can monitor when they go to inappropriate sites; 6) a curriculum in iTunes media is free for grades K-12 that help students be good digital citizens; 7) October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the District will use Parent University to help with this. Ms. Smith said with iPads for students, will students be able to take them home. Ms. Jamison said Lightspeed will have to be installed if students take the iPads home. It must still go through the District's internet web filter and it records and blocks students from going on inappropriate sites. A proxy will be installed on the iPads

Adult Education Enrollment: Dr. Tobin said the information was included in the Board's packets. Chairperson Robinson said the District is the only legitimate GED testing site in the area, so when the computers were down, she received a call from someone testing at the library. Dr. Tobin said this was not a District problem. It was a problem with AT&T. As far as technology goes, the infrastructure is in place. Ms. Smith asked if people from other counties attend the District's Adult Education program. Dr. Tobin said yes.

iPad Distribution Plan: Dr. Tobin said the District is in the process of getting procedures in place. Parents must come in and sign before students receive an iPad. The District will provide transportation. Some district's charge \$25 for insurance purposes and this is something the District will have to decide on. iPads orders may be made next week, once funding is in place. Mr. Frazier asked for an insurance plan on what will be covered under the iPads. Dr. Tobin said the District did not get the \$960,000 requested on the grants for the iPads from the SDE.

Pitsco STEM Lab Installation: Dr. Tobin said go by and see this lab at the Middle School wing across from the office.

Biomass-Pineland Contribution: Dr. Tobin said Chairperson Robinson talked about this in her report.

SDE Grant Update: Dr. Tobin said the District only received \$149,000 in grant funds. But other funds are available to do the project. Ms. Smith said the Board approved this based on the

grant funding, but the expected funds were not received. She would like to see a revised version, see something in writing.

Apple Foundation Invitation: Dr. Tobin said the District has made it to the 3rd round as a result of the Apple Foundation Invitation. Apple will be coming into the District to interview and will make recommendations to their headquarters for iPads for the elementary schools at no-cost to the District.

School Innovation Meeting – October 20, 2014: Dr. Tobin said this is for an informational meeting in Columbia. Put this date on your calendars.

Dr. Tobin said he met with Mr. Lawrence on the upgrading of the cafeteria. Also at the meeting were Ms. Johnson and Mr. Hemby. Chairperson Robinson said this meeting was based on the Board's discussion to add some aesthetics to the cafeteria. Dr. Tobin said funds will come out of the Resolution the Board approved. Mr. Frazier said the Board needs information in writing. Mr. Priester said Dr. Tobin is asking the Board to give him marching orders to go forward with the process. So he is not going forward and the Board disagrees later. Here is what he is asking I want authority to do what you asked me to do. Ms. Smith said Dr. Tobin can bring this back without their approval. Mr. Priester said Dr. Tobin started the process, brings back an update and he gets slammed. Chairperson Robinson said we cannot tie an administrators hand, we are micromanaging if we are asking the superintendent to get information and he gets it and there is a hidden agenda here and it is obvious. Mr. Frazier said he has consistently asked for information to be brought before the Board. When the work was done at AFMS they did not get official drawings, they are professionals and they are not trying to do it on the street corner. It is not micromanaging, what they are doing is wrong and out of order. Not trying to stop the superintendent, it is business, the community money and children.

Sexual Offenders: Dr. Tobin said the school district must inform parents there are sexual predators in the community. Bus stop in proximity, the information has always been on the website. He met with Sheriff Carter today and he will give him the name of where the individuals live and we will inform parents of this. We have met the letters of the law. There are 45 sexual predators within 5 miles of AES. Chairperson Robinson said the concern was sexual offenders housed in group homes in the County and it was done without the knowledge of the proper authorities. Mr. Frazier said anyone can go online and pull-up the sex offender list. Dr. Tobin said all volunteers must pass a SLED check.

APPROVALS

Resolution – Energy Savings Special Obligation – Ratification: Mr. Priester moved to “ratify the execution and delivery of certain documents by the Superintendent and Finance Director relating to the issuance and sale of \$10,970,000 Energy Savings Special Obligation refunding

and improvement Bonds by Allendale County School District, SC.” Ms. Smith seconded. Ms. Smith asked for clarity, what is the difference. Dr. Tobin said it allows them to sign for the documents pertaining to the Bond when they come in to do the paperwork. Ms. Smith, Mr. Priester and Chairperson Robinson voted in favor of the Resolution Ratification. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Hall opposed the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 3-2.

Healthy Learners Support Request: Dr. Tobin said Healthy Learners provide services to children of the District including eye exams and they are requesting \$25,000. However, the District had been giving them \$10,000 in the past. Chairperson Robinson asked if there was an increase in students. Dr. Tobin said the costs have gone up. Mr. Priester moved to provide assistance at the current level of \$10,000. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said he recommended \$15,000 because they do a super job in the community. Ms. Smith offered an amended motion to \$15,000. She moved to give Healthy Learners \$15,000 for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Act 155 – Student High School Diploma Petitions: Dr. Tobin said the District has about 25 petitions. But only 13 petitions met the requirements. Mr. Priester moved to approve those that met the requirements and the information be forwarded to the SDE. Mr. Frazier seconded. Mr. Priester said students that met the requirements he does not need to know who they are. Ms. Smith said she does not want to know. The motion was approved by all. Dr. Tobin said Act 155 information was mailed to all local churches.

PERSONNEL REPORT: No report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Grant, Director of Finance said the Cover Letter September 2014 outlines and is a detail of where the District is. There is no budget changes report for the month of August.

Ms. Smith said the District has not done a TAN in a number of years, but gets approval just in case they need one. The District has been in the pool with other districts, and not pulled down from the TAN, but used it as a back-up. Ms. Grant said a TAN was not done last year. However, she will check and provide the Board with information when it was last done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State-of-the District and Parent University – Tuesday, September 30, 2014 – 6:00 P.M. – AFHS

Risky Business Conference – October 15-17, 2014 – Myrtle Beach

October 27, 2014 Board Meeting at Fairfax Elementary

NSBA Convention – Nashville, TN – March 21-23, 2015

(Registration and Hotel opens October 15, 2014)

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Priester moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 9:42 p.m. for Personnel and the Superintendent Search. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned.