

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – FEBRUARY 24, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.  
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX MIDDLE SCHOOL – GYMNASIUM**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 24, 2014. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session #1 to discuss Personnel, Superintendent Search Update and Contractual Matters. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax Middle School in the Gymnasium. The news media was notified and present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alonzo Frazier  
Willie Priester, Secretary  
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson  
Valaree Smith. Vice Chairperson

**ABSENT:** Terry Hall

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A Moment of Silence was observed.

**ROLL CALL:** The Roll Call was taken by the Board Recorder.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairperson Robinson asked to amend the Agenda and add under Approvals a request from Dr. Tobin. Dr. Tobin said he received a request on Friday from USC-Aiken in the form of a Partnership Agreement to provide professional development for teachers. This is very positive to provide continuing training for teachers from the Commission on Higher Education and USC-Aiken. Mr. Priester moved to accept the added item under Approvals. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:** Ms. Smith moved to go into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search, Contractual Matters and Personnel. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** Mr. Priester moved at 7:19 p.m. that the Board return to Open Session. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2014 Regular Meeting as presented. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Superintendent Search Update:** Chairperson Robinson said the deadline for applications for the Superintendent Search will close on Friday, February 28, 2014. A schedule will be designed for meetings and an opportunity for the public to participate and they will be informed of these dates in a timely manner.

**ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTATION:** a short i-Movie featuring the students and staff was played. Principal Mr. Hemby said the areas of emphasis are academics and athletics and they are seeing a culture change. He thanked parents for their support and for working with their children. He said Senator Clyburn wants to recognize students who are excelling academically. Mr. Hemby recognized 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who scored exemplary in two or more areas on PASS. Also recognized were students who made the A/B honor roll for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks and those who made significant growth of 10 points or more on the Math assessment. The Spelling Bee winner, Chelsea Harris was also recognized. The Board congratulated all the students on their accomplishments and encouraged them to keep up the good work. Mr. Hemby also recognized Middle School Coach Johnson and his staff. The Girls Basketball Team was un-defeated the entire season and the Boys Basketball Team are the regular season champions. Coach Johnson thanked the coaches, parents, community, Board and students for all their success. The teams also displayed their winning trophies. Dr. Tobin said student Shateal McMillian, a Middle School student made it up to the Varsity team and made her first varsity basket goal. He said she is also a great student. Mr. Hemby said Shelby Branch will represent the school at the Regional Band Competition. Chairperson Robinson thanked the principal, his faculty/staff, parents and students.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chairperson Robinson asked everyone to note the quote on tonight's Agenda. "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*" is usually called the Negro National Anthem. The song is the story of the struggle of a people and how they overcame a period in history. It's a beautiful song that could be sung anywhere and also a beautiful poem.

**BOARD REPORT – SCSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE MYRTLE BEACH:** Ms. Smith highlighted: 1) she was excited about the Steel Drum Band from AES performing, everyone talked about them the entire time after they performed; 2) AES Principal Ms. Leath and Ms. Mikell also presented at the Conference and did an awesome job; 3) one of the presenters, Travis Allen, he is a senior in college and started iSchool; he started taking notes on his cellphone and his cellphone was taken away because cellphones were not allowed; 4) Mr. Allen goes from state

to state talking about i-school. He was short about \$40,000 to start iSchools and told the president of his university of his shortage of funds and the president provided the money for him; 5) presenter Rory Vaden talked about procrastination, taking the easy road and not the hard road; 6) team work does work and collaboration is good; and 7) Spartanburg talked about starting a program from birth. We already have this type of program with Little New Steps who should have been there to show them the way.

Mr. Priester highlighted: 1) he thanked the Steel Tigers from AES who were wonderful; people were amazed, shocked and pleased; 2) there was a lot of talk about transformation. School as we knew it will not be the same. The movement across SC “Transform SC” public and private sectors working together making a difference in the lives of students; 3) building on technology for educational purposes; 4) demographics is transforming the state and country. It will make a difference in what we do now and in the future; and 5) also the culture changes that must occur, things that may be difficult to do, if we make the difficult choices we will have great results.

Mr. Frazier highlighted: 1) the AES Steel Drum Band performance started a conversation. The students performed well, but the SCSBA need to give students more than 5 minutes to perform; 2) the exhibitors and SCSBA allowed the students to go thru the exhibits and pick-up goodies; 3) one of the workshops was on students in poverty and the challenges they face. He will give the information received to Dr. Tobin. It will help everyone understand how scowl hurts children; and 4) we have to stop beating up Allendale and be proactive about Allendale.

Several members of AES Steel Drum Band were also recognized.

Dr. Tobin said the acronym AEEO: Access; Engagement; Exposure and Opportunity for the students is what we have seen tonight.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

## **GOOD NEWS**

**Clean Sweep:** Mr. Tillotson presented the Clean Sweep Award to AES and AFMS. Principal Leath, AES and Principal Hemby, AFMS accepted the awards.

**Fairfax Elementary School:** Ms. O’Banner, Principal reported: 1) FES received a \$500 grant from the Coastal Community Foundation for creating a garden for the Science class; 2) from SC Priority Schools they also received a grant for \$19,000 for a culture theatre. Students will have performances, plays and also learn about the Gullah culture.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discipline Reports:** for information only.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**Home School Reports:** Dr. Tobin said Home School Associations must report all children being home schooled thru their association. Currently 11 students living in the County are being home schooled.

**District Make-Up Days (SC General Assembly):** Dr. Tobin said the House approved giving districts 5 make-up days. The Senate has not agreed on this. The District will proceed with make-up days because of the loss of instruction time.

**Purchasing/Procurement – Policy DJ-R:** Mr. Frazier will talk with Dr. Tobin about this item.

**Common Core Legislation:** Dr. Tobin said 1) the District had a presentation on Common Core at Parent University on February 10<sup>th</sup>. It was excellent. May present this again; 2) districts are getting opposition against Common Core, but Allendale will continue to do this because it is the right thing to do; 3) a bill has been introduced to eliminate the Exit Exam. Mr. Frazier said on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the schools presentation he wish more parents were present on this night and it helped him understand Common Core a little better. Common Core is used nationally, so it gives all schools the ability to be on the same level. A child from Allendale can get the same as children in rich districts.

**Track Update:** Chairperson Robinson said Rep. Hosey gave her the news, the SC House of Representative Ways and Means has approved \$150,000 for the AFHS Track field. Approval must pass the House and Senate and be signed by the Governor before it becomes a reality. Senator Brad Hutto is on board and he will speak with Senator Pinckney.

**Repairs/Improvements for Weight Room AFHS:** improvements made to the weight room includes: 1) purchased new equipment; 2) upholstered cushions; 3) the District has the possibility of getting refurbished equipment from a school who change equipment every year. Chairperson Robinson thanked Mr. Frazier for bringing this item to their attention. Mr. Frazier thanked Dr. Tobin and he asked everyone to call Rep. Hosey and thank him for his help on the project. Also thank Senators Hutto and Pinckney.

**Sports Page:** Dr. Tobin said an article in the January 30<sup>th</sup> State Newspaper Sports section highlighted coaches from small districts. Coach Ford was commended for doing a great job communicating with college coaches about his athletics.

**Debate Team:** Dr. Tobin said the AFHS Debate Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the competition in Charlotte and in the top 16 out of 28 schools in Gatlinburg.

**Parent Letter:** Dr. Tobin said the District Office staff collected money for a family for support during Christmas time. The parent who received the funds is out of work and lives with her mother. She was very appreciative for the staff's help. The District was also able to help the family through McKinney Veto. Being homeless is not just people living on the streets. The

District was able to provide the children with school supplies and a trip to Wal-Mart for other items they needed.

**Summer Institute June 10-12, 2014:** The focus will be on building on Common Core and technology.

**Envision South Carolina:** Dr. Tobin said he has been talking with Phil Noble to bring a world class scholars online exchange program with students from other countries to Allendale. Maybe Russia or South Africa. Envision South Carolina has raised SC profile nationally. Allendale will participate in the program and students can skype and have pen pals across the world.

#### **APPROVALS:**

**Makeup Days Extended School Days (March 24-27; April 28-May 1; May 26 Teachers Only) – June 6 (if needed Students):** Dr. Tobin said Legislation allows districts to makeup days or extend the school days. The dates above are just before HSAP and PASS. He will ask principals to develop a plan on how they will use this time. March 31 is also a make-up day (whole day). The District will make up the equivalent of 3 days; May 26 teachers will be involved in Staff Development, but students will not be present on this day. Ms. Smith moved to approve the extension of the school days. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all. Dr. Tobin said June 6<sup>th</sup> is for information only. This day will be used in case of more inclement weather.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading – Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors Policy:** Chairperson Robinson said this Policy allows the school's nursing staff to house injectors and medicine for students with allergic allergies to peanuts, etc. Mr. Priester moved to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Field Studies Request – Bob Hayes Invitational – Jacksonville, FL – March 14-16, 2014:** Ms. Smith said she is concerned about students using the Activity Bus for the trip to Jacksonville. They have used charter buses in the past for example for the Steel Drum Band to go to Myrtle Beach. Dr. Tobin said the Activity Bus is in good shape, it has been refurbished inside. Ms. Smith said she does not want the students going on a trip and someone having to come and get them because the bus broke down. Mr. Priester moved to approve the Field Studies request as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. Dr. Tobin said he has been assured that the bus is in good shape. Mr. Frazier said he would love to see them use a charter bus for the trip to Jacksonville. Mr. Priester said as long as the Activity Bus is in good shape he does not see a problem with this. The motion was approved by all.

**USC-Aiken Partnership Agreement:** Chairperson Robinson said she is glad to see the District have this type of coordination with USC Aiken. Mr. Priester moved to approve this agreement. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to approve the recommendations made in Executive Session for the Behavior Interventionist for the Special Education Dept. Mr. Priester moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all. Ms. Rivers asked the Board to accept the resignation discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to accept the resignation, Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tillotson, Director of Finance said the District finished January 2014 right where they anticipated being. In another 2 weeks the County Treasurer will deposit more real estate funds and he anticipates a balanced budget at the end of the year. There is a little movement of budget changes for AFMS. On the Facilities Project he has not heard back from the attorney. There is a lot of work to be done between now and the start of school in August 2015.

**Reserve Fund Update:** (please provide a written copy for the Board): handout given to the Board. Fund balance and reserve funds mean the same thing. The District ended last year with \$4.6 million in reserve in the general fund. Capital projects funds \$1.8 million these are the flex funds moved from State EIA to building funds. Debt service funds are required to maintain \$800,000. The District is about \$156,000 above what is required to be maintained in this account. Chairperson Robinson said item #181 (page 3) the projection was \$21,300 but has a \$0 balance. Mr. Tillotson said they will make an adjustment at the end of the year.

Dr. Tobin said Mr. Tillotson is resigning because he has an opportunity to be closer to his family. He thanked him for the services he provided to the District. Chairperson Robinson said Mr. Tillotson is such a personable person and have been diligent with the District's finance, she wished him well. Mr. Priester said it has been great working with Mr. Tillotson and the District has been fortunate to have him. He thanked him for the work he has done with the Board and for the District. Ms. Smith said they will miss Mr. Tillotson and thanked him for the job he has done. He has made the job fun and made sure things went smoothly. Mr. Frazier thanked Mr. Tillotson and said when he came on the Board finance has always been important to him. Thanks for leaving the school district in a position to positively move forward.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

SCSBA 2 Days at the Capitol – Wednesday, March 26, 2014

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2:** Not necessary

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Priester moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:00 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.