

P. O. BOX 458, ALLENDALE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29810
ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY – DECEMBER 14, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 14, 2015. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel/Contractual Matters, Student Transfer Request and Act 155 Petitions. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High/Middle School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Russell called the Meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL: Alonzo Frazier
Terry Hall, Vice Chairman
Patricia Jenkins, Secretary
Wilda Robinson
Catherine Russell, Chairwoman

DISTRICT OFFICE: Ms. Leila W. Williams, Superintendent
Angela Grant, Director of Finance
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Patricia W. Pringle, Board Recorder

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session at 6:06 P.M. for Personnel/Contractual, Student Transfer Request and Act 155 Petition. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Hall moved to return to Open Session at 7:08 P.M. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the Minutes of the Monday, November 16, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE:
Held on Hilton Head, December 4-6, 2015.

Ms. Robinson reported: 1) her time was limited at the Conference because the AFHS Tigers were playing in the State Championship Game in Columbia on December 5th; 2) the Legislature is in a 2 year cycle and there are a number of bills filed and coming up

this session. There is a push for State-wide turnaround recovery districts. This would be low performing school districts they would come in and take over the district. In this case the State Department would not be involved in the turnaround effort, but it would be in the hands of a committee; there would be no school board; but someone from the governors office would be in control; it would be hard for a school district to gain autonomy again; 3) this turnaround could involve replacing all staff and administrators; 4) the SCSBA will take the Resolution passed at the Advocacy Conference to Legislators. They are against this piece of legislation; 5) SCEA is also strongly against this proposed legislation.

Mr. Frazier reported: 1) they talked about roads and existing revenue and not raising taxes; gas tax user fees; 2) money for education which is about 80% of the general funds revenue; 3) he spoke with state officials after the conference and some lobbyists are trying to start students first; taking over the 5 lowest performing districts and replacing the superintendent; 4) they don't want to repeat the same situation that occurred in Allendale in 1999 with the take-over; some legislators have gone to Tennessee to see how this take-over process works.

BOARD RETREAT: Chairwoman Russell said a Board Retreat is scheduled for January 2016. A handout was given to Board members. Work on Ethics; Board Powers and Duties; Board/Superintendent Relationship; Vision, Mission and Beliefs; last two sheets are strengths and concerns; goal setting worksheet included. List 3 goals and if you have additional goals list them. January 9th from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Email her your goals, and she will try and combine some of the goals. Mr. Frazier asked if Chairwoman Russell polled the Board to see if January 9th was a good day for everyone. Ms. Robinson said she has another meeting scheduled for January 9th. Mr. Hall will check his drill schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments.

GOOD NEWS:

Mr. Baines, Principal AFHS reported the Juniors and Seniors visited several Upstate colleges, USC Beaufort and Claflin University. Eighteen (18) students were inducted in the Beta Club on December 2nd. Shaq Elmore competed in the North/South All-Star Game and Coach Eddie Ford was selected to Coach in the game to be held on December 17th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. On December 17th Cosmetology students will have a Holiday Drop-in and showcase display for parents. Student Government is hosting a penny war to raise money for the Clementa Pinckney Scholarship Project. The school was well represented at the Lower State Championship game held on Saturday, December 4th. The community came out and supported the AFHS Tigers. The high school had over 1200 pre-sale game tickets. Ms. Robinson said 99% of the community came out dressed in black and gold to support to the Tigers. We need to build upon this kind of support for academics also. Mr. Baines said Mr. Ennis, Town Administrator came into the office several times to bring in donations for the school to help with the trip and he wants to publicly thank him. Supt. Ms. Williams said St. Mark Baptist Church took their bus and feed everyone who wanted to eat. They feed 100's of people and thanks to St. Mark.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

AUDITOR'S REPORT – McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Company: Andrew Dobson said the report is for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015. He presented a PowerPoint highlighting: 1) the Communication letter is required communication with the Board; GASB 68 & 71 dealing with pensions; 2) no disagreements with management; 3) page 1 is an unmodified opinion, the highest and best opinion that can be given on the financial statement; 4) pages 11 & 12 government reporting, capital assets are \$33.6 million; Liabilities \$33.2 million; 5) pages 13-15 general fund \$4.6 million; 36.3% of actual expenses; 34.2% of budget expenditures and 40 grants total \$3.4 million. Foodservice broke even, transferring \$75,000 from the special revenue fund to the general fund; 6) pages 68, 69 and 70 governmental auditing standards no issues of noncompliance, but some reconciliations were not done, however, a plan is in place to correct this in the District. Ms. Robinson said other than the reconciliations there were no significant deficiencies. Mr. Dobson said they have gone over the reconciliations with the District and discussed this with them. Ms. Robinson asked if they had to give a letter grade what would it be. Mr. Dobson said he would give the District a letter grade of A+. The District has almost \$7 million in the Treasurer and an outstanding general fund balance. Ms. Williams thanked Ms. Grant, Finance Director for a job well done.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Legislative Updates: Ms. Williams said 1) a bill is in the Legislation aimed towards students at the high school level to make sure all 17 year olds are registered to vote and given instruction in a classroom on the voting process; 2) having the national motto "In God We Trust" posted in all schools; 3) SRO and bus drivers equipped with body camera; 4) grades 5-12 required to take swimming; 5) athletics and concussion protocol, a certified athletic trainer must be available; 6) state-wide mandatory dress code program in 2016-2017 school year.

New State Testing Contract: Ms. Williams said a contract has been issued, but districts have no information on what the assessment will be. Districts are still waiting on the SDE for more information on what the test will look like. Principals and instructional coaches have been working with teachers diligently.

Construction Update: Ms. Williams said the Board had a presentation from Brownstone a few months ago and they were given 2 options for consideration for the Child Development Center, metal studs or concrete masonry. Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the concrete structure for the Child Development Center. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVALS:

Student Transfer Request: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Student Transfer Request discussed in Executive Session #1. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Act 155 Petitions: Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the Act 155 Petitions. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PERSONNEL: There was no report from Personnel.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Cover Letter: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance reported the information was in the Board Packet.

Budget Change Report: Ms. Grant said changes were made to objects and functions, but not to the budget.

Request for Qualifications: This information is posted on the District's webpage.

Board Travel Expenses: Included for the Board's information.

Mr. Frazier said as the Auditor said he is happy to see the District is in good financial shape. Continue to maintain the reserve funds. He thanked Superintendent, Ms. Williams, Ms. Grant and the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday – December 18, 2015 – Last Day for Students and Staff

Monday – January 4, 2016 – Staff Return/Professional Development

Tuesday – January 5, 2016 – Students Return

Ms. Robinson said schools were asked to participate in the MLK Essay and Arts Program. Last year they had wonderful entries from the elementary schools and would like to see entries from the middle and high school. The program will be held in conjunction with the Unity Breakfast.

Mr. Frazier asked the Board to purchase a table at the Unity Breakfast on January 18, 2016. Two democratic runners may be on the program for this day. Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders might be at the breakfast. Ms. Robinson said tickets are \$100 for a table of 8 and individual tickets are \$15 each.

Ms. Jenkins said on December 19th at the Brandt Building the Educational Foundation would have a benefit for children.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 8:10 P.M. for Personnel Matters. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Ms. Robinson moved to return to Open Session at 8:49 P.M. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

No action was taken on the Personnel Matter discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.