

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

**MONDAY – DECEMBER 12, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on **Monday, December 12, 2011**. At **6:00 p.m.** the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. The meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Cave
Timothy Hall, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Mole
Willie Priester, Chairman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Charlie Tillotson, Interim Director of Finance
Althea Carter, Coordinator of SIG
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Charles Boykin, Esq.
Reagan Flemming, Esq.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:05 p.m. Mr. Cave moved that the Board come out of Executive Session. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

INVOCATION: Mr. Hall asked in accordance with State law that the Board bow their heads for a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to amend the Agenda, changing item #15 to Executive Session and item #16 Adjournment. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the November 28, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE: Chairman Priester attended the Conference and said he found a number of things the Legislators are looking at for the coming year: 1) laws regarding food the children are given; 2) maybe moving the High School League to the Dept. of Education; 3) an obesity bill. A number of items were brought forth, but does not mean they will all pass. A lot of time was spent talking about finance. There may be a few extra dollars coming to school districts next year. The per pupil amount may increase, but by how much is not known. Federal legislation looks different, but may come in the form of grants. There is a strong push for making changes in the State Retirement System. This is extremely important. Contact your Legislators about this. There was some discussion about eliminating the TERI program. From the National level the discussion was on looking at how South Carolina measures up from state-to-state.

GOOD NEWS

Student Recognitions – Duke Talent Identification Program – 6 students from AES, who are identified as Duke Scholars were recognized and presented with certificates. These students and their families will be recognized by Duke University later in the year. The students are 4th graders Dinari Sabb, Jazmine Miranda, Javarius Youmans and Jalyn Polite and 5th graders Monaisha Crumley and Chandler McKnight.

AFHS Student – All Star Game Participant: Ronnie Geohaghan is in Texas now practicing for the Shrine Bowl Game. He will participate in the Offense/Defense All American Game and the USA Nation Team Game. These games will be televised on ESPN. Coach Ford, Athletic Director gave the Board a handout. Ronnie's father, Mr. Geohaghan read a statement from Ronnie. He also said they are still looking for monetary donations to help defray the cost of attending the Games.

JROTC Recognitions: Students Anton Graham, Camera Deloach and Rebecca Walls went to Barnwell and Estill and took 1st place in each event. Ashleigh Williams planned the Veterans Day Program by herself, with little guidance.

Food Service Staff Recognition – Ms. Johnson said Food Service achieved 100% scoring in DHEC inspections for every kitchen. Recognized were Food Service Managers: Ms. Patterson, AES; Ms. Lofton, AFMS; Ms. Charlton, AFHS and Ms. Chaney, FES.

Clean Sweep Award – Mr. Everett presented the Clean Sweep Award to Fairfax Elementary School. Ms. Pickett, Interim Principal accepted on the schools behalf.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: For information only.

3rd Reading Allendale County Voter's Registration Redistricting: Dr. McClain said there is a slight change in the drawing of the line of a District. Ms. Willis, Director of Voters Registration said the change is in the Woods area, Concord Church Road area. The Parkland Terrance area is now back in Allendale #1. This does not change the number of voters in each area. Mr. Cave moved to accept this as the 3rd reading with modifications. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Education Finance Restructuring Act, FYI – Dr. McClain said this proposal is being put forth by SCASA for restructuring the way school finances come to districts. The plan is predicated on every school district having a level playing field. The tax is based on 100 mils. Look at the right side, the last column from the right, if this was instituted, where you are currently operating at \$256 mils you would only be leveling 100 mils on tax efforts on the part of the community. The downside is – the 5th column from the right, transition funds 25 year phase out. They are proposing \$3.2 million dollars hold harmless money for the school districts. Every year this number would be reduced by 4% until there is no hold harmless money left. Boards would have 8% taxing authority over this same time. If you levied taxes every year to make up that 4% at some point you are going to reach your limit. And you will not be able to capture half of what you have in place in the way of local effort. Dr. McClain said he voted his conscious and said this would put the school district at risk. This is probably good for Richland, Charleston or Greenville, but not for Allendale. Chairman Priester asked if this would lessen the tax base. Dr. McClain said looking at the \$1.3 million in the 3rd column from the right is what the District can recapture under that 8% tax. Mr. Cave asked who will approve this. Dr. McClain said this is a proposal from SCASA to the Legislators to equalize funding across the State of SC.

MOA SDE & Palmetto Priority Schools (PPS) – Update – Dr. McClain said this item was for information only. Included is a proviso that covers PPS. Compare this document to the proviso and you will have some of the same concerns about the language in the MOA that the District entered into this year. Chairman Priester said the District is a PPS and must abide by the things they recommend. However, there are some things located under the local Board responsibility and we should pay close attention to these. We must ensure that these things occur. There are strict guidelines that the Board must adhere to and try to avoid pitfalls. There are several guidelines to be followed. The Board must do monitoring and other things. Ms. Smith said some of the language was kind of vague and do not go into much details.

Allendale-Fairfax High School – School Uniforms – Mr. Youmans, Principal said the District is in the process of looking at the possibility of implementing a uniform policy in ACS. Last year

they conducted a survey. Questions were asked: 1) implementing a school uniform policy would be financially beneficial for most families? 82% agreed; 2) an ACS school uniform policy would minimize disruptions, distractions and improve the learning environment. 80% agreed; 3) what is your first reaction to potentially having a school uniform policy in ACS? 84% agreed. AFHS School Improvement Council met twice and discussed a school uniform policy and a timeline of implementation. They would like to bring all the schools SIC together and choose the style of uniform they want to wear, choose the colors, uniform policy, present to the superintendent, to the Board and then to the public. Mr. Youmans said the group expressed concerns about the amount of work put into the project and they want to ensure that their work not be done in vain. He said they wanted to make the Board abreast on what has been going on thus far. Chairman Priester said most of the items you mentioned, the agreement rate was over 80%. Mr. Youmans said a total number of about 120 people responded to the survey which was done over the telephone. Mr. Hall said the percentage is based on the number of surveys answered. Chairman Priester said in essence, district-wide, they only received 10% of respondent. Ms. Mole said all others will think they have to go along with the program, when they had an opportunity to participate. Mr. Hall said they do not want to wait until May to tell parents their children must wear uniforms in August. Mr. Youmans said they discussed the timeline, which was significant. Ms. Smith said since you are looking at less than 10% of the respondent, do you have documentation that parents received a phone call and refused not to respond. Mr. Youmans said “yes” there is documentation of the response. They can print out the number of response, who hung up, etc. Ms. Smith said she prefers a paper trail. You don’t know who answers the telephone. Mr. Hall said in talking about a timeline, how long will it take to get a committee and get all the information to the Board for approval. Mr. Youmans said what is it going to take to approve it, you try to work backwards. They are behind the timeline they put in place. They want more input from parents. The group wanted to have everything in place by February. Ms. Smith said we need to make sure we have parents buy-in. She does not want to see a pack house at each Board meeting with parents fussing about school uniforms. 100 parents is not enough to go forth for her. Mr. Youmans said at his SIC Meeting you meet with a chore group of parents and they meet twice a month. Chairman Priester said we must have quick approval – you cannot spring this on parents at the end. Ms. Smith said they need to put this information out there about school uniforms to make parents aware of it and they can voice how they feel.

School Improvement Grant – Ms. Carter, Coordinator – presented a Power Point. Ms. Carter said: 1) this is the 2nd year for the SIG; 2) what are the Federal/State requirements for the grant; 3) what are the components that are in place; 4) what are the next steps. For Federal/State requirements, SIG is a 3 year grant; in year 2 they must meet Adequately Yearly Progress; the focus is ELA, Math and attendance. The major things in the grant are: 1) Success-For-All (SFA). It is a complete model and not just for reading; 2) new teacher academy; 3) some professional development; 4) PBIS for behavior intervention. What is noticed with SFA is with the recent MAP data, 54% of students are at or above the grade level and this is up from around 30%.

Students' incentives are in the grant, but principals are aware of the limits of these incentives because they are still under Title I guidelines and it cannot be more than 1%. The next step AFMS has a revised grant and are awaiting approval. In the grant is a new pay for performance where teachers are getting extra money for how well their students are doing. Chairman Priester said you noted an increase in ELA. Is there an increase in Math? Ms. Carter said they saw no significant increase in Math. Chairman Priester said in most categories females are significantly out distancing the males. Ms. Carter said nothing in the grant address this issue. Mr. Hall said for SFA do you have all the materials, resources and everything purchased. Ms. Carter said there is \$50,000 in materials for SFA. Mr. Hall asked is there anything for student incentives. Ms. Carter said no electronic devices can be purchased with SIG funds, but they have tiger bucks, pins and bracelets.

Personnel Report: Ms. River, Director of Personnel asked the Board to accept the 3 personnel recommendations made by the superintendent in executive session. Ms. Mole moved to accept the recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. Ms. Rivers asked about the resignation of RT. Ms. Mole moved to accept the resignation of RT pending the District finding a suitable replacement. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Dr. McClain introduced Ms. Pickett as Interim Principal of Fairfax Elementary School.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director said the report in the past, wanted to make sure the Board understood the flow of the report. In the next few weeks they will present different options for reporting the financial information, trying to simplify the reports.

Budget Change Report – November 1-30, 2011 – the 2nd page of the report reflects all the changes in budgets and for Federal and State funds and moving budget line items. The 3rd page is a detailed report of all the items in the general funds. The report ran thru December 9th and it reflects the entries made to capture revenues thru November. The first chunk of the ad valorem taxes are not received until the end of January, which will be under \$2 million in revenue. The remainder of these funds comes late March or early April. The District receives all the State money on a month-to-month basis. The District will see adjustments in April once the 135 day attendance numbers are secured. In November received 90% of the Tier 1 Property Relief Tax Funds, \$372,000, and the remainder will come in May. Total revenue thru November is just over \$2.8 million.

Budget Report by Function – November 1-30, 2011 – for information only.

The Auditors will provide the draft of the audit report tomorrow.

They have looked at the process from the past and worked on a process for the bank reconciliation, reconciling with the Treasurer's office and the SDE by the end of August 2012. On the 2013 budget they will be looking at projected class sizes, student counts and other factors.

Chairman Priester said bank reconciliations is the District on target to ensure things go to the Feds, that must be completed and then get funding. Mr. Tillotson said the District is on target with getting these claims and reimbursements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday – December 16th – ½ Day for Students – Last Day for Staff

Monday – January 2, 2012 – Staff & Teachers Return

Tuesday – January 3, 2012 – Students Return

Executive Session: Ms. Mole moved that the Board go into executive session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss personnel. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Open Session: Secretary Smith reported the Board came out of executive session at 9:37 p.m.

Secretary Smith moved that the Board renew Dr. McClain's contract for one year. Mr. Hall seconded. Ms. Smith, Chairman Priester and Mr. Cave voted yes. Ms. Mole and Mr. Hall voted no. The motion was passed with a 3-2 vote.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.