

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY – JUNE 25, 2012 – 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, June 25, 2012**. At 6:00 p.m. the 2012-2013 Public Budget Reading was held. 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
Charles Tillotson, Interim Finance Director
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to approve the stated Agenda. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Mole moved to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.
Ms. Mole moved to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2012 Special Called Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Paul Morse, a former teacher at AFHS and AFMS said he is supportive of the school board and superintendent. But he was making his comments because he wants to be helpful. Issues facing the District are: 1) a high teacher turnover rate; 2) money is not the main reason teachers leave, but the work environment and 3) most important is student behaviors such as refusing to obey the teacher, blatant disrespect of teachers, talking incessantly, refusing to work and

disrupting the learning of other students. The Board should: 1) visit the classrooms and don't announce your visit; 2) read the discipline referrals and come up with a discipline plan; 3) make certain your family/church members are not part of the problem; 4) support teachers and 5) involve teachers when developing new plans.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: for information only. Mr. Hall said he wanted to commend Ms. Pickett and Fairfax Elementary School for keeping their discipline very low the entire year.

Chairman Priester said he would like to see, even though this may not be statistically sound, a comparison of discipline from year to year. Especially at the end of the year to see if there were any gains made in discipline. He would like to see if PBIS is showing any decrease in the numbers.

DRAFT 2012-2013 Regular Scheduled Board Meetings – Dr. McClain said the Board may want to reschedule the July 23rd Board Meeting because two members will be attending the NSBA Southern Conference. The Meeting was rescheduled for Monday, July 30, 2012.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:

Equity in School Lunch Pricing Provision: Dr. McClain said last year the District started a 3 years program to increase the price of lunch to bring the District in compliance. Ms. Johnson, Director of Food Service said because of the Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010, she is asking for a (3-years) lunch price increase to \$2.46. This means a 50¢ increase this year and a 25¢ increase increments the years after. The cost of reduced and free lunch will remain the same. Mr. Hall moved to accept the recommended proposal from Ms. Johnson. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all. Ms. Smith asked about increasing the cost every year. Will the Board have to vote on this each year, since they voted on this last year? Chairman Priester said next year the increase will automatically take place.

School Transformation Update – Ms. Kulisek, Coordinator of Federal/State Projects highlighted: 1) the District received a new template from the SDE, the information in the Plan will not be changed, but will be placed in the new template; 2) the Plan presented tonight is the new SIG Plan and the template will be used for all schools to write their Palmetto Priority Plan on; 3) this changes the direction of SIG, where we were under the Transformation Model. The District is now moving to the Restart model with the partnership with Atlantic Research; 4) the 9 dimensions presented by the State Dept. along with a 10th dimension added by the District to examine the reduction of square footage; 5) the Plan is dictated by PASS and MAP data and the direction of the SDE; 6) measurable benchmarks are vigorous and challenging and they are attainable and 7) the Plan is well thought-out and had lots of input from the community and staff. Ms Mole asked about a parent name not being listed in the Plan. Ms. Kulisek said a name will be taken from the sign-in sheet and placed in that blank.

Mr. Holiday, Principal of Allendale-Fairfax Middle School (AFMS) highlighted: 1) AFMS had a slight increase in student achievement in the PASS test scores. Last year the absolute rating was 1.88 and this year the absolute rating is 1.98; the school reached the attendance objective this year and this is growth; 2) but the school would like to see a lot more growth this year; 3) turnover at the middle school has been high for a number of years – this is fortunate and unfortunate; 4) the turnovers gives him an opportunity to bring in his team so this can be somewhat of a silver lining; 5) looking to work on strengthening teaching and learning; 6) a change in the organizational structure – a new AP has been hired and has a strong curriculum and instruction background; 7) the school will continue to utilize a curriculum facilitator and will continue to have an ELA and Math coach; 8) next year the school will plan a STEM curriculum; teachers will be evaluated using a new evaluation system; 9) deepen the partnership with parents, students and community; and engage partnerships with business and the faith based community; 10) increase guidance services for students and 11) address the overage student population and extend the school day.

Ms. Smith asked about technology at AFMS and what are the plans to get this going. Mr. Holiday said that technology was not being integrated in the classroom at the school. We have a new Mac Lab and some iPods in the Media Center. But we need to get some professional development to enable teachers to use technology in the classroom.

Chairman Priester asked about teachers who are being interviewed to come into the District next year. Are you stressing the need that these teachers need to be the very best? Mr. Holiday said he explains to teachers being interviewed that this is not an 8:00-4:00 job and the socioeconomic background of the District.

Ms. Mole said once we get the qualified teachers in place, what incentives are being offered to keep these teachers and bring down the turnover rate. Mr. Holiday said teachers will collaborate with each other on lesson plans, the evaluation piece; there is nothing to stop us from putting things in place to keep teachers. Most teachers are concerned about the support.

Ms. Smith asked about discipline and if PBIS worked at AFMS. Mr. Holiday said last year this did not work. The assistant principal and the PBIS person have already started working on this and putting other things in place. They will be starting over with PBIS and this goes along with the plan of re-starting.

Student Release Requests: Dr. McClain said one student release request, action was taken on thru previous vote action. The second request did not contain enough information to make a decision on. He is going to send this back to the parent for more information.

McAbee, Talbert, Halliday & Co. – For information only.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS
APPROVALS**

3rd Reading of the 2012-2013 Budget: Ms. Smith asked if the Finance Director had to go over the report again since the Board sat in on the public forum presentation of the new budget. Mr. Cave moved to accept this as the 3rd reading of the budget. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Funding Flexibility Forms: Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director said this is part of the State Law. The flexibility form allows Districts to flex certain State fund balance as of June 30th and move them to the general fund balance. This will allow the District to finance the new strategy shared earlier and toward any building fund activity over the next 3 years as we deal with the square footage issue. The other item is the Barnwell funds, which is moving about \$47,000 to the general fund. What we are asking to flex is the maximum amount until the audit is completed. Mr. Hall moved to accept the proposal for funding flexibility. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) – Resolution – Mr. Tillotson said this was drafted by the McNair Law Firm for the authorization of an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million for Tax Anticipation Note. Tax Anticipation Note is just short term cash financing in anticipation of the tax revenue that will come in February each year. The numbers he ran shows the District may need about \$700,000 and this number is conservative. Ms. Mole asked if the Board used this in the past. Mr. Tillotson said the Board did a proposal last year, but they did not have to draw down on these funds. Chairman Priester said the rates for these funds are much smaller so this would be an advantage for the District. Mr. Tillotson said this is a pooled, rated program of about 40-50 districts in the State. Ms. Mole moved to approve the resolution for the TAN. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

INFORMATION

Budget Changes Report – May 1-31, 2012

Budget Report by Function – May 1-31, 2012

Mr. Tillotson said things are tracking as anticipated in terms of revenues and expenditures. Finance must finish up salary and benefits accruals. The Auditors will be in the District on about July 9th and they will have a pretty good feel for how the year will wrap up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reschedule Monday – July 23, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting (July 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.)

SCSBA School Law Conf. – August 25-26, 2012 – Charleston, SC

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Hall moved that the Board go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss personnel. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Secretary Smith reported the Board returned to Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

Mr. Cave moved to approve the employment recommendations made by Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director and Supt. Dr. McClain. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Hall moved to increase School Bus Drivers salaries to \$15.00 per hour. Ms. Mole seconded. (Ms. Smith asked if this is appropriate at this time because the Board just had a budget hearing and approved the budget). The motion was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.