

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – APRIL 30, 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, April 30, 2012. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into executive session to discuss Personnel and Contractual matters. 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  
Cheryl Mole  
Willie Priester, Chairman  
Valaree Smith, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Timothy Hall, Vice Chairman

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent  
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel  
Charles Tillotson, Interim Finance Director  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recording Secretary

**7:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Priester called the Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Chairman Priester said at the meeting tonight the community will have a chance to hear some of the things going on in the school district. They will also be given an opportunity at a Community Forum to express their ideas and concerns.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A moment of silence was observed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Mole moved to amend the agenda changing item #17 to executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters and adjournment #18. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Mole moved to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**GOOD NEWS**

**Clean Sweep Award:** The award was presented to Allendale Elementary School by Dr. McClain. Ms. Gloria Fields accepted on behalf of AES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Priester said tonight as part of public comments – give your comments, but at this juncture there will be no answers to any questions asked. A public forum is scheduled for next Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at AFHS. At that time they will hope to have more information to share at that public forum. Please be reminded that you have 3 minutes to speak.

Mr. Calvin Smith said he is representing the community of Allendale. He is asking the Board to request Dr. Montrio Belton, from the SDE to come and give his presentation to the community. He spoke with Dr. Belton and he said he could not come down unless he was requested to do so by the Board. He has over 100 signatures requesting him to come down.

Mr. Joey Espinosa thanked the Board Members for the use of the facility for the spring break camp. They had about 40 students and parents and student volunteers. They received lots of compliments on the school and how clean the cafeteria was. So thanks to the staff who participated and helped out. It was a great positive experience.

Ms. Wilda Robinson said she had a number of conversations with Chairman Priester citizen to citizen. She is concerned about the school closures and consolidation. When will citizens and parents be made aware of the changes? She said in these conversations Mr. Priester told her there was no plan or framework of a plan in reference to the school closures or consolidation. The schools are on life support, they are in corrective action, parents and the community need to know from the Board what is the District going to do. The Superintendent and Administrators are not elected by the community, but the Board is. The District does have a Strategic Plan which was written last April. Glaring things in the Plan include: 1) employing an associate superintendent to assist the supt. at a salary of \$100,000; 2) employee a curriculum coordinator at \$100,000; 3) employee a director of finance at \$100,000. This is almost ½ million dollars. This District is throwing money out of the window and what are we getting for it. We are getting continually low performing schools and our students are not getting the best. We don't need any more high salaries or highly paid consultants to come in. We need people to lead the District in the right direction.

Mr. Wilbur Allen said he is new to Allendale County. You have a mess and the mess is this Board. The Board is ruler over you and your children – you need to recall the whole Board. There is not a school district in the state or country that is run worst than this one. These people have hide things from you and violated the sunshine law. As parents you have a right to comment before decisions are made.

Mr. Marion Riley, Jr. read a FOIA requesting: 1) a copy of Dr. McClain's resume; 2) a list of all employees making more than \$50,000 per year in ACS; 3) procedures for contracting with consultants; and 4) a copy of the salaries received for each School Board Member.

Mr. Mark Lott said this community has been given wooden nickels. Thank you community members for getting involved, he has been coming to Board meetings for 12 years and has been asking questions. He asked the Board not to hire the 3 gentlemen who came before the community seeking the job for superintendent because they would regret it. It came true. Citizens, follow the money trail. We are tax payers and should know where the money is going.

We need to ensure local residents stop getting demoted and terminated for no reason. Why do the teachers not have contracts by this time? It is illegal to give out contracts after April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Special Call Meeting from November 28<sup>th</sup> they need the Minutes. He will accept the resignation of the superintendent effective immediately.

Ms. Patricia Jenkins said she is a concerned parent. It was mentioned about inviting Dr. Belton back for a community meeting. They are not being informed about what is going on in the district. She needs more communication. They need more information to know what is going on and make informed decisions. The Board should be available at this meeting to answer any questions the community may have. Communicate with parents of the school. We have great teachers and she would love for them to stay. But they will not if they are being stressed.

**BOARD REPORT – 72<sup>ND</sup> NSBA CONF.-BOSTON MA:** The Report will be discussed at a later date.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Report:** For information only.

### **APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD**

**Peer Mediation – AFMS Students – Ms. Kennedy:** Students Samauri Johnson, Kendra Smalls, Zarahdia Snelling, Rickeshia Doe, Nautica Manual, Jerome Polite, Makhia Williams, Jaila Hines and Kyle Johnson presented a Power Point outlining: a) What is Peer Mediation; b) Why Peer Mediation and c) The Goals and Benefits of Peer Mediation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**Secretary Arne Duncan Letter – SC ESEA Flexibility Request –** Dr. McClain said this letter is for information only. The waiver was submitted and after submission there was a panel that worked on the approval of the waiver from the State of SC. The last submission was on March 25<sup>th</sup> and he has not heard any feedback from the last submission.

### **Palmetto Priority School Updates – Principals**

**Mr. Youmans, Principal – Allendale-Fairfax High School** outlined: 1) the final satisfactory implementation report is due on April 26; 2) the school had 4 goals total (5 with the District) that they wanted to accomplish; 3) the 2 student achievement goals are English and math. These two goals were achieved. At the beginning of the year 66% of students taking HSAP scored 67%. The student goal for math was set at 50% of students passing HSAP or EOC and they reached 60%; 4) the other goals from principal achievement – ensure best practice is used in classroom instructions. This goal was accomplished; and 5) the 2<sup>nd</sup> goal for the principal dealt with the dropout rate, which was 27% last year. The goal for this year was set at 17%, but they have not reached this goal yet. The dropout rate is now at 20%. They have been going to the streets and visiting homes. The 5<sup>th</sup> goal is the district was to support the high school in achieving goals 1 and

2. Ms. Mole asked what you are doing to bring up the graduation rate. Mr. Youmans said they are doing transcript audits, throughout the year they acquire the necessary documentation on records and where the students are. They are working in conjunction with the Allendale-Fairfax Learning Center. They must make sure they put the students in a diploma track.

**Mr. Holiday, Principal – Allendale-Fairfax Middle School** thanked Ms. Kennedy and the students for the work they are doing on Peer Meditation. They had a pre-final review of their documentation on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The final will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and all the documentation is in place. AFMS have implemented all the strategies on student goals 1 & 2. The MOA plan of action has been implemented with fidelity.

Chairman Priester said since these things have been achieved will next year goals change. Mr. Holiday said they want to increase achievement by about 10%. Ms. Smith asked for a list of the strategies met and achieved. Mr. Holiday will provide the Board with a copy.

**Ms. Pickett, Interim Principal – Fairfax Elementary School** outlined: 1) the last review was in April and the school is progressing on schedule for all their goals; and 2) the final review will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. All the plans are available upon request at the schools. Ms. Smith asked for a list of the schools strategies.

**Student Transfer Requests:** Ms. Mole moved to accept the recommendation made by the superintendent on the student transfer requests. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith asked that Allendale Elementary Principal, Ms. Leath present her Palmetto Priority School update at the next Board Meeting,

## **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to accept the recommendations made in executive session on certified staff for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Cave moved to accept the recommendations. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Dr. McClain asked the Board to give some consideration for scheduling a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on the 2012-2013 budget.

Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director said the March Reports were in the Board packets. These Reports reflect that the District is operating according to projections. They have cut off purchase orders at this point and things are winding down. Revenues thru March, ad valorem taxes, EFA, and homestead exemptions monies came in April. At the last Board Meeting a set of documents was received by the Board. Nothing dramatic has changed. Class size is still projected at 22-1 and the District is working with a deficit next year of over \$100,000.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Fairfax Elementary School

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Reschedule Monday – May 28, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting  
The Board Meeting was rescheduled for Monday, May 21, 2012.

Wednesday, May 30, 2012 – Staff Recognition Day  
Wednesday, May 30, 2012 – AFHS Graduation  
SCSBA School Law Conf.-Charleston, SC – August 25-26, 2012

**Executive Session:** Mr. Cave moved to go into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Open Session:** The Board returned to open session at 9:33 p.m.

Ms. Smith moved to approve the employment of an EMO (Education Management Organization). Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Adjourn:** The Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.