

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

**MONDAY – JANUARY 23, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2012. 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
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He thanked the audience for giving the Board an opportunity to serve them individually and collectively. And for showing appreciation for the work they do.

INVOCATION: Mr. Hall asked everyone to bow their head for a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Cave moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Mole moved to accept the Minutes of the December 12, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting and the Minutes of the December 20, 2011 Special Called Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH: Dr. McClain said each year individual schools recognize Board Members for the contributions they make to the District. They give a lot in the way of time and effort. Thank each of you for what you do for the children of this community. Ms. Mole said thanks for allowing them to serve the citizens and children. Ms. Smith said thanks for thinking about them. Mr. Youmans said on behalf of the Administrators they got a gift

together for Board Members and thanks for all your hard work. Without you it would be difficult to accomplish what they do. Each Board Member was presented with a small token of appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: AFHS Student, Ronald Geohaghan said he wanted to thank God who made all this possible. He thanked the Board, his principal, staff, teammates, coaching staff, booster club, sponsor from the Shrine Bowl and everyone for being behind him. The next game in Austin, TX is the USA vs. the World (the top 50 athletics from the USA and the top 50 athletics from foreign countries). This game will be televised. It was a great opportunity to represent his school and the County in such a positive way.

Mr. Geohaghan said as a parent, “*it takes a village to raise a child*”, and he appreciates what you have done for his son and all the children. Without your support it would not be possible to participate in all the events. As a Coach, we prepare for track; we are getting the children ready to be exposed to 85 colleges at national meets. They watch how the students conduct themselves and how they make certain marks. The girls and boys have a great opportunity to be State Champions.

GOOD NEWS

Denmark Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – Donation: Ms. Patricia Williams said the group is a private, nonprofit organization. The group is a sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately black, college educated women and they have over 900 chapters in the US, England, Japan, Virgin Islands, etc. The 5 points programmatic thrust of the group is: 1) Economics development; 2) Educational development; 3) International awareness; 4) Physical and mental health and 5) Political awareness and involvement. Service areas are Barnwell, Bamberg and Allendale Counties. They try to help schools do what they can to meet some of their challenges. Ms. Williams presented to Allendale Elementary School and Principal Leath four cases of paper. Ms. Leath said at AES, paper is like gold and they appreciate the donation.

Clean Sweep Award: Ms. Brooker said Clean Sweep Award for January goes to Allendale Elementary School. The certificate will be forthcoming.

AUDITOR REPORT: Mr. Chuck Talbert – from McAbee, Talbert & Halliday – June 30, 2011: Mr. Talbert said certain items they must report to the District as a governing Board and part of their professional standards. Look at the bound document: 1) the table of content; 2) management discussion and analysis, a narrative of what transpired this past year; 3) basic statements and footnotes – all the other information is required by the State or Federal Government; 4) page 1 – they have audited these financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2011; the next statement is very important – these are management financial statements – they come in and test these statements and they give an opinion – which states the Board can or cannot rely on the financial statement; the third paragraph is the opinion paragraph – this is a

clean, unqualified opinion you can rely on the information in the document, represents who the District is financially; and 5) they also conduct procedures under the Government Auditing Standards. The Footnotes in the table of contents: 1) tells about the accounting standards the District adheres to in compiling the data; 2) GASB 54 deals with the accounting for the fund balance – see page 14 – see the balance sheet – across the top is the various funds of the school District. The left side is the assets, liabilities and the fund balance, which represents the equity; 3) the new accounting standard, standardize how you define or classify the fund balance and 4) under fund balance: non-spendable and restricted. Currently the District does not have this classification which is committed (for example, you the governing board can designate these funds for a specific purpose like a roof repair). Assigned funds are maintenance repairs, etc. The District does have the category of unassigned money or resources that are available to go forward in the current year. The total fund balance is \$6.2 million (but to go forth in the new year, you really only have \$4.2 is what is available for the new year).

This was a year of transition for the District and you were without a financial officer for a few months. There are no difficulties per say, but this was the delay in coming before the Board.

A formal part of the audit process includes on the District letterhead that these are the District's financial statements.

There are 2 other reports that deal with internal controls and compliance issues. The Federal program findings were not material enough, but the District complied in all material respects with the major Federal programs.

See page 70: Financial Statement Findings: checks and balance and reconciliation procedures these fell behind because of the lack of a finance director.

Pages 71 and 72: 1) when you expend Federal funds you are required to look on a list of what is called a debarment list – these are vendors you should not be doing business with these people. But in talking with staff they were not following the procedure of looking at the list and making sure the District is not doing business with these vendors; 2) Page 72 – most of the same findings as above – the District budget positions and assign personnel to positions, this Federal requirement suggestion these individuals must sign a certification, for example, that they are working in Title I and 3) Page 73 – some funds occurred when the Federal Title I people came and did a drill down – there was some disallowed cost that had to be resubmitted back to the Title I program.

Page 34 – highlights of the major fund which is the general fund – schedule 1 – across the top is budget and variance. The revenues budgeted is \$12,744 million, the actual revenues was \$12,837 which is a positive variance of \$93,836. The Fund balance for the District is very conservative – you got a cushion – 1/3 of the expenditures – almost \$12 million dollars. The District is in a very good position financially.

Chairman Priester thanked Mr. Talbert for doing a fine job in covering the details. Mr. Talbert said if you need help or have questions please talk with Mr. Tillotson or contact him about the audit report.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: For information only. Ms. Smith said looking over the report she was concerned about FES. They have no level 3 offenses – everything is a level 2 offense – should have level 1 before you get to level 2. It looks like no warnings were given to the students before the offense occurred. Ms. Picket said many of the offenses are dealing with fights between students. Ms. Smith said most of the other schools had more level 2 offenses.

SC Statement of Economic Interest – Filing Electronically Only: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Palmetto Priority Schools Plans Update - Principals – Dr. McClain said as part of the PPS process, the Board must be provided with information periodically about the strategies in the Schools Renewal Plans.

Ms. Leath, Principal AES outlined: 1) AES is progressing nicely; 2) in the Plans are 2 student achievement goals and 2 principal instructional leadership goals; 3) of the 7 goals for student achievement AES met 6 of these goals and had insufficient progress in 1 goal. The definition of data walls was different from the PPS liaison and they were given suggests on how to fix this problems; 4) goal 2 from student achievement; 5 are progressing on schedule and the data wall showed up again and 5) for the principal instructional leadership goal 1 and goal 2 the strategies and goals were met. AES will have another progress monitoring visit from the SDE at the end of February. Chairman Priester said since a new person is coming – how subjective are these evaluations? Ms. Leath said if they are doing a book study and they have evidence that they have done this – they will receive credit. They must show and document that they have done the strategies in the Plan.

Ms. Pickett, Interim Principal FES outlined with a PowerPoint: 1) the 1st student achievement goal was to increase student reading growth by 42.8%; 2) the 2nd student achievement goal was in math to increase the growth summary to 48.4%; 3) comparison of grades 1-5 to compare where students were in 2011 from spring to fall and 4) what's next is to implement Art and Math Clubs, Curriculum Chats, Afterschool Programs and teachers working with students in small groups. Chairman Priester said with the amount of growth shown here – will that level of growth continue and some were astronomical. Ms. Pickett said she does see this growth continuing. They will know more when students take the winter MAP test starting Wednesday.

Mr. Holiday, Interim Principal AFMS outlined: 1) 2 student achievement goals – 1 in ELA and 1 in math; and 2 principal instructional leadership goals; 2) of the 5 strategies, 4 are progressing on schedule and 1 was insufficient. On this was teachers were to given benchmark assessment on a weekly basis, in order to do this they had to order “test for higher standards”. They have so many plans, SFA, Title I and PPS. They were waiting on the Title I Plans to be accepted by the SDE before funds could be expended; 3) they had the same strategy for the math goals; and 4) principal goals there were 6 strategies and all are progressing on schedule. Dr.

Brown was the contact person who was there one day a week. Commendations: 1) the principal is to be commended for his excellent rapport with staff and students and instructional leadership.

Mr. Youmans, Principal AFHS gave a handout to the Board and outlined: 1) the main objective is to make AYP (Adequately Yearly Progress); 2) the 2 student strategies are ELA and math; 3) they are progressing on all 5 of their strategies; commendations: 4) hold high expectations for students and continue to implement the strategies and monitor the goals of the MOA; 5) HSAP goals are progressing on schedule according to their PPS contact Ms. English; 6) the 2 principal instructional leadership goals are 1 speaks to walk-thrus and ensuring that they are implementing the practices needed to make those gains set; 2) the principal goal 2 speaks to climate at the school and working to get AYP is the dropout rate. The goal is to decrease the rate from 27% to 17%. They are progressing on schedule with all goals.

Dr. Francis, Adult Education Interim Director reported: 1) a large portion of the population they served was the Correctional Facility; 2) they looked for other areas to serve and looked at the Boys and Girls Club and the Senior Citizens in Fairfax; 3) at the Senior Citizen Center they started with 8 clients – dealing with basic literacy and computers – others got so excited and that number increased to 20 students; 4) the Prison asked them to come back out and start the ESLA program again; 5) wrote and received a grant from the SDE – Literacy and Civic grant for \$2,500 and will look at improving adult literacy and civic instruction; 6) 16 adults from the sub training came into the Work Keys program and 7) during the days at the AFLC students look good in the uniforms, they discuss intervention and thanks for the help from DSS and the Dept. of Mental Health. Ms. Mole asked how many students are in the Alternative Program. Dr. Francis said about 20-22 students are currently at the AFLC.

FOR INFORMATION

SCSBA Response to NCLB Waiver: Dr. McClain asked the general public to go on the SDE website and pull up this document and see, read and understand what the SDE is asking permission to do. Many of the things they are asking are not friendly to ACS schools. Share your comments and concerns about this document. There was a meeting in Hampton after the Christmas holidays, that was not well attended talking about this issue.

ACS Community Expo – Saturday, February 18, 2012 – AFMS – 8:30 a.m.: Dr. McClain said the program is to involve the community and bringing them into the schools and give parents information that is pertinent to their child. He is looking at doing forums in each School Board Member area. They need to find a place to hold these forums in each community, talk to people in the community, those that don't come to the Board meetings or the schools.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to accept the recommendations made in executive session. Mr. Cave moved and Ms. Mole seconded. Mr. Hall opposed the recommendation. Ms. Smith said she came in late and was not aware of the recommendations.

Ms. Mole said since Ms. Smith came late and did not hear the recommendations could she review the recommendations and then vote.

After reviewing the recommendations Ms. Smith, Ms. Mole, Mr. Cave and Chairman Priester voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Hall opposed. The motion passed 4-1.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director said the District should have a decent year and this will be discussed further next month. He is working on the 2013 budget with the administrators in terms of finances for 2013 and laid out a proposed calendar for the work sessions. Looking at projected student cost, staffing to meet the needs of students, general fund revenues, State/Federal funds and how best to utilize funds.

Budget Report by Function – December 1-31, 2011

Budget Change Report – December 1-31, 2011 – Mr. Tillotson said there is nothing on this report – transfers between operating expense funds or personnel funds. Revenues and expenditures thru December year-to-date is \$3,785 million and expenses \$5 million. Next week the District will receive the first significant piece of the real estate taxes, right at \$2 million. The majority of these funds will be received in March. Chairman Priester said in light of the Audit information received – would you say that the fund balance will prevent the District from having to borrow funds in the future. Mr. Tillotson said the TAN they have not borrowed against that this year, but if the Treasurer calls and say funds will not come in until March, then the District may have to done some borrowing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 23-26, SCSBA Annual Convention – Myrtle Beach

NSBA Southern Region Conference – July 23-26, 2012 – Biloxi, Mississippi

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.