

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

**MONDAY – NOVEMBER 23, 2009 – 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, November 23, 2009**. 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:** Willie Priester, Chair  
Cheryl Mole, Secretary  
Alexis Zeidan  
Timothy Hall  
Charlie Cave, Vice Chair

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Dr. Ora L. Watson, Superintendent  
Meredith Cooler, Assistant to the Supt. Education  
Charles Harney, Assistant to the Supt. Operations  
Kevin Robin, Director of Finance  
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

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

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Mr. Cave.

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:** Dr. Watson presided for the election of Board Chair. She asked for a nomination for the office of president. Ms. Mole nominated Ms. Zeidan for chairman. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Cave nominated Mr. Priester for chairman. The motion was not seconded. Voting for Ms. Zeidan as chair were Mr. Hall, Ms. Mole and Ms. Zeidan. Opposing were Mr. Priester and Mr. Cave. Vote 3-2.

Chairperson Zeidan asked for a motion for vice chair. Mr. Cave nominated Mr. Hall. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mole. The motion was unanimous.

Chairperson Zeidan asked for a nomination for office of secretary. Mr. Cave nominated Ms. Mole. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Hall moved to amend the agenda – item 17 executive session for personnel and item 18 adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Priester. The motion was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Cave moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was unanimous.

### **GOOD NEWS**

**Clean Sweep Award** – Mr. Harney announced the Clean Sweep Award for the month of October. These two schools scored the best this year and they are A-F Middle and Fairfax Elementary. Mr. Newsome accepted for AFMS and Ms. Pickett for FES.

Dr. Watson said the football team did go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds of the playoffs before they were eliminated and she asked that they be present tonight so they could congratulate them. However, they elected not to come.

Ms. Kennedy Director of Adult Education said at the “8<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrating Our Success” Luncheon held in Columbia by the SDE Allendale Adult Education received two awards. The Palmetto Performers, this award is presented to the top five counties with the highest number of high school credentials awarded during for the 2008-09 school year based on the census count of their county and the number of people lacking a credential. The other award is for Career Readiness presented to programs issuing the highest number of Career Readiness Certificates during the 2008-09 school year. Ms. Kennedy gave the Board a copy of the program from the “Celebrating Our Success” Luncheon.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairperson Zeidan said she received one sheet from Ms Edna Youmans and she wanted to talk about Little New Steps and her concerns about the program. Chairperson Zeidan said remember the 3 minutes and Ms. Youmans also said she had some good news. Chairperson Zeidan said anything that deals with personnel will have to come up thru the ranks. Ms. Youmans said Little New Steps went thru an auditor report and Ms. Janice DeVore is her assistant and helps her with finance. The Center received an “all clear” they do not have to pay the state government any money back concerning ABC vouchers. She appreciates how Ms. DeVore is keeping them in control with their funds. Ms. Youmans requested a meeting with the board and superintendent because of the rumors and concerns about Little New Steps, the staff and her. She thinks it’s about time she addresses the board about these concerns so everything can be put on the table, everything settled and they are all on one page. Chairperson Zeidan said Dr. Watson will get in contact with Ms. Youmans.

Mr. Alridge, Principal of AFHS said in reference to fall sports – Bashaud Breeland is going to the Shrine Bowl on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Jerrell Priester is going to the North/South Bowl on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The season ended at 10-2 which makes the District co-champions for the region. Volleyball placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the region. Coach Farmer has been selected Lower State Coach for the year. Kudos to the players and to the programs.

## **APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD**

**ADEPT Presentation – Dr. Kathryn Meeks – SDE** – Dr. Meeks gave the Board a handout outlining the presentation on ADEPT. She said: 1) ADEPT came about in 1998; 2) ADEPT is Assisting, Developing and Evaluating Professional Teaching; 3) ADEPT is used to improve teacher effectiveness; 4) ADEPT starts at the college and university level – teacher preparation programs in SC must implement the ADEPT system with the teacher candidates; 5) Teachers must successfully complete the ADEPT formal evaluation to be eligible to move to a professional teaching certificate and a continuing contract; 6) Effective teachers move on to Goals Based Evaluation; 7) The stakes for formative evaluations are lower and for summative evaluations they are much higher. Teachers can lose their jobs or from the State perspective the teacher could lose their certificate; 8) Formative evaluations teachers receive very descriptive feedback to help them build their performance. In summative evaluations they receive a rating, score or grade; 9) The performance standards have been updated to focus more on student achievement and performance; 10) SAFE-T is Summative, ADEPT, Formal Evaluation of Teachers. This is important because teachers generate an ADEPT history – this tells the State where the teacher taught, how the teacher did in terms of their ADEPT results, if expectation levels were met and the contract level for next year; 11) ADEPT history becomes a permanent record for the teacher. It cannot be expunged and it follows the teacher as long as they are employed in SC schools; 12) When teachers go thru formal evaluation in ADEPT – the results are tied back to the college or university the teacher graduated from; 13) If a teacher fails ADEPT twice – the State can suspend their teaching certificate and 14) Next year TEAM is going away and will be replaced with SAFE-T. The State has mandated training and testing – those who are trainers must pass the test. Mr. Priester said SAFE-T will replace the TEAM Model will it have some of the same consequences as ADEPT. Dr. Meeks said they differ in that they have strengthened the student achievement requirements for teachers to assess student performance, analyze it in terms of their effectiveness and tell what they plan to do to continue effective instruction to improve instruction. Chairperson Zeidan asked who are the best ADEPT leaders who can train the others and do the evaluation and look at what happens in the classroom? Dr. Meeks said this a District decision – some are related to the areas of personnel and others are curriculum and all the administrative staff will be trained in SAFE-T. They will look in-district for peer evaluators, instructional coaches and are encouraging districts to get people trained and get experienced teachers

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Reports:** Dr. Watson said Chairperson Zeidan had a question about how the report looks and should the numbers add up. She met with the principals and SASI clerks and asked them to explain what appear to be discrepancies. Chairperson Zeidan said for the month of October for FES – 15 total – only 14 letters went out and only 5 telephone calls and 4 parent conferences. If you have 15 offenses she would like to see where 15 letters went out to talk with parents about what is happening in the school with their child. Dr. Watson said they talked about this and many times it is not a letter as much as a telephone call or parent conference. They are

not one for one in terms of the offenses and what happens. Look at AFMS the number of contacts greatly exceed the number of offenses. Chairperson Zeidan said the numbers of offenses are 139 and only 40 letters went out and 48 telephone calls. AFMS Principal Newsome said they don't match up because if a parent came in and said their child was having a problem with someone or a situation where 3 or 4 students were bothering your child – they may do 1 referral and make phone calls to parents of all the students involved. They don't always do letters because of mailing and a lot of postage. He and Mr. Brown handle most of the discipline and a lot of the parents come in and they meet one-on-one and talk about issues. Lots of time when you have one incident with a referral on – we can send a letter to cover this incident but somewhere along the line other things lead up to this. If they get the parents in face-to-face they talk about several other issues that have happened. The phone calls and the items listed on the bottom of the reports may be more than the number of referrals. They try to warn students and not just put them in the system. Chairperson Zeidan said if she had a child at school and something is happening with one of the scenarios mentioned – her child did something or was bullied by someone else – or her child's name was brought up in something – she would want someone to call her or send her a letter to come out to the school. In the letter give her a time to come out to the school to talk to you all with her child or with guidance. She is looking at 139 offenses – only 40 letters were sent out and only talked to 48 people. This adds up to 88. In order to have a parent conference you would have had to write a letter or called that person. So 25 for the parent conference she does not count this in because you had to give them a letter or called them to know there is a conference. Mr. Newsome said sometimes if a child has a tardy or were late by more than 10 to 12 minutes they may gave the child a period in ISS – but not necessarily call the parent for this. Something minor like this they may document it but if another situation happens they let the parent know about 2 or 3 incidents. Parents want to know about the major stuff when he calls them. They try to build rapport with students without always involving their parents. Chairperson Zeidan said don't leave parents out in the equations and inform them from the beginning. Mr. Newsome said they also call parents for positive things – what they have before them in the reports are generated from SASI with Educators Handbook. They have a new system called ConnectTrac where they log any calls to any students by any teacher it logs by the student. This may help with the numbers. Chairperson Zeidan said she would like to know the number of calls made to parents about positive remarks about their children.

Dr. Watson said all the schools are doing a good job of keeping parents informed. She has two children in the District and she gets a lot of calls. The number of offenses in 3 of the 4 situations are much smaller than the number of contacts and this is very preventive. They had a whole meeting about this – to make sure the parents are involved and they are following the policy. Mr. Hall asked with the first half of the year coming to an end are they notifying parents of students who have missed 5 or more days. Ms. Leath said SASI automatically generates a letter when students miss 3 days and another letter when they miss 5 days. They make most of the contact by letter if a parent say they are coming in and don't they follow-up with a telephone

call. Mr. Alridge said they do the same at the high school and also they use the Alert-Now system and now calls when students are absent – they do 3, 5, 7 and 10.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**Duke Endowment Grant** – Dr. Watson said a copy of the request is enclosed in the packets and she is asking for approval of the Duke Endowment Grant. The grant the District currently have focus on pregnancy prevention and obesity, physical inactivity and it pays for the nurse director for the Allendale Campaign to prevent teen pregnancy. Nurse Cone said the Duke Endowment Grant primarily funds hospitals. It is a collaboration with Allendale County Hospital, DHEC 5 and Salk Healthy Communities and they are asking the schools to participate in the grant to address the obesity problems in Allendale. Based on last years Body Mass Index – completed by the school nurse 47% of 9<sup>th</sup> graders are obese. The grant includes funds for a nurse educator, registered dietician, and a diabetes educator who will be housed at the hospital. Chairperson Zeidan said she liked the core content of the grant but she was unclear on exactly how much are you requesting from the District in terms of dollar amounts and someone coming into the PE classes. Nurse Cone said Duke Endowment is putting in \$10,000 and fringe estimated at \$3,000 and they are asking the School District to match this which is \$13,000 for a 3 year grant. They hope to get some comprehensive health education in the classrooms to help students understand the importance of living a healthy life style and physical activity. Chairperson Zeidan said in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the goal is to develop a track walking trail on the high school campus. Nurse Cone said they have put \$1,000 in the grant to create this. Chairperson Zeidan said with the USC-Salk Fitness Center she is concerned about the hours 8:30-4:00 – most of the students don’t get out of school until 3:15. Nurse Cone said this has been an issue for a number of years unfortunately they only have one staff member. But this would be left up to USC-Salk to change the hours. Chairperson Zeidan said the hours should go down to 6:00, 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. so the students can get in from school do their homework and then use the center. Nurse Cone said another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and she will bring the hours issue to their attention. Mr. Priester asked about the 3 years period of time, once this is over is there an expectation of finding a way to sustain this. Nurse Cone said she will also ask this question tomorrow. Mr. Cave made a motion to approve the grant request. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all 5-0.

## **PERSONNEL**

**Ratification of Certified Employees** – Ms. River, Personnel Director asked the Board to ratify the two teachers discussed in executive session. Mr. Priester moved to accept the recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all 5-0.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Budget Changes Report – Oct. 1-31, 2009** – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said the Board received the information in their packets. Chairperson Zeidan said she did not see where the Beta Club had any funds this year. They did not go to their annual convention last year and they talked about putting funds in this account. Mr. Robinson said last month they addressed the

Debate Team and funds for this – on page 22 – funds budgeted for the Debate Team. He will check but under the Pupil Activity funds they may have raised funds which is not reflected on this report. Chairperson Zeidan asked about giving them an extra \$3,000 for this year. Mr. Robinson said he is only aware of funds for JROTC travel and the Debate. Chairperson Zeidan said she would like to see where they can find some funds for the Beta club and how much they have in their account. Ms. Mole said page 2 – the transfer of funds for AFMS Band of \$3,000 – what is this for. Mr. Robinson said all the funds initially were at the high school and in order to facilitate the use of the funds by the middle school funds were transferred from the high school to this account to make it easier for them to utilize some funds. Chairperson Zeidan asked about transferring funds for contract finance services – what is this for. Mr. Robinson said funds were in the budget for an actual employee in the finance dept – right now you don't have an actual finance director – so in order to pay for the contract services funds must be transferred from the salary into a contract account. Ms. Mole moved to accept the report. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all 5-0.

**Budget Report by Fund – Oct. 1-31, 2009** – Mr. Robinson said on pages 1 & 2 revenues in the general funds - \$638,344 and brings the year-to-date to \$1,935,398. The total expenditures for Oct. is \$1,042,819 and year-to-date is \$3,059,713.

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

AFMS Tiger Times

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conf.-Dec. 4-6 – Hilton Head

December 14 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Christmas Holidays – December 21, 2009-January 1, 2010

Dr. Watson will attend the National Staff Dev. Conference in St. Louis – Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup>

The Board went into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Secretary Mole reported no action was taken on the executive session item.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.