

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – APRIL 28, 2014 – 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 28, 2014. At 6:00 PM the Board went into Executive Session #1 to discuss Student Release Requests and Personnel. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alonzo Frazier
Timothy Hall
Willie Priester, Secretary
Wilda J. Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Angela Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

ROLL CALL: The Roll Call was taken by the Board Recorder.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #1 at 6:11 P.M. for the purpose of Student Release Requests and Personnel. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:07 p. m. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting and April 10, 2014 Special Called Meeting as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson referred to the quote on tonight's Agenda. At the National School Boards Association Annual Conference the focus was a nationwide push for "*Stand Up 4 Public Schools*". The campaign will be using high level celebrities such as Magic Johnson who was the keynote speaker on the last day of the convention. They are using people who attended school in rural or urban settings. The Board purchased the "*Stand Up 4 Public School*" shirts from the conference they are wearing tonight. If the Board does not stand up for public education who will? Chairperson Robinson thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Hall for also wearing their shirts tonight.

BOARD REPORT – NSBA CONFERENCE – NEW ORLEANS, LA: Mr. Hall reported: 1) the conference had very good sessions on community involvement, student achievement and STEMS; 2) in another session superintendents and teachers talked about how things were in their districts; one district was taken over by the state and students had to attend other districts; 3) they had a lot of good presenters at the conference.

Ms. Smith reported: 1) Wrestle Mania was being held in New Orleans at the same time as the NSBA Conference; 2) people from France came to Wrestle Mania, she talked and shared with them; 3) there were good presenters at the conference, one in particular asked if you could describe your school in 3 words; this they thought was a good marketing piece; 4) standup and share your stories using 3 words; 5) one workshop talked about an inner city teacher dealing with students from various backgrounds and it was hard teaching them because of what they were dealing with at home, but she started them using journals to express themselves. This helped some students keep their vision and stay in school and 6) Magic Johnson is a great spokesperson for "*Stand Up 4 Education*". He embraced the children and took the time to talk with them and recognized the students.

Chairperson Robinson said the presenter Ms. Smith was referring to story was turned into a movie "Freedom Rider". The presenter is now an inspirational and motivational speaker.

Mr. Frazier reported: 1) one session was on Kinder to College – investing in education for little children at an early age; 2) he has several tapes on gun safety for elementary students and 1 for the middle school; 3) PTA is growing in the United States. This organization help schools and he encourages PTA; 4) there were conversations about language in schools and early childhood is the best time to teach foreign language in schools; and 5) Magic Johnson was great, super and he talked about how schools should be a safe place for children after school. He talked about how guidance counselors can make a world of difference in a student's life.

Chairperson Robinson said they are asking everyone to "*Stand Up 4 Public Education*" in their own way. Tell your story, shine your light and applaud yourself.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Maeshell Simpson talked about the Soccer Camp held in April during Spring Break. She thanked the Board for allowing them to use the building, all the volunteers and it was a success.

GOOD NEWS

Allendale Elementary School: Principal Leath thanked everyone for pulling together and voting via Facebook naming Nurse Boleman “Nurse Superstar”. The contest was sponsored by Healthy Learners. Nurse Boleman won an all-expense paid, 2-day trip to Charleston. Two of her teachers Mr. Moses and Ms. Roberts were recently married.

Allendale-Fairfax High School: Ms. Hall, CATE Coordinator said on April 2nd and 3rd two groups of students toured SC State University, USC-Aiken and OC-Tech in SC and Payne College in Augusta, GA. April 4th a group traveled to the International Festival. Project Lead the Way visited Boeing in Charleston. The Boys Baseball Team placed 2nd in the region and the girls placed 3rd. The Teacher of the Year is Mr. Diawakar.

Allendale-Fairfax Middle School: Principal Hemby said several students along with the Media Specialist participated in “*Read in American*” and were interviewed by a Columbia news station. An article was also in the Allendale Sun along with a picture with Governor Haley. During a debriefing with staff from the SC Dept. of Education they were amazed at how well behaved the students were and the clean floors.

Fairfax Elementary School: Principal O’Banner said Ms. Payne is the Teacher of the Year and this is her 1st year in the District. A \$19,000 grant got bumped up to \$25,000. With the extra funds they will be able to secure an Artist in Residence. Marlene Smalls and the Hallelujah Singers will be in for about 4 weeks and work with the students on the Gullah culture.

Clean Sweep Award: Mr. Davis, Maintenance Supervisor said he had a guest inspector who came in and looked at the Buildings. It was a very close tie this month with Awards going to AES and FES.

APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD:

Mr. Dewayne Ennis, Chairperson Area Commission Denmark Tech reported: 1) the college has hired a new president Dr. Leonard McIntyre; 2) the College is offering a Robotics Camp and Math and Science Camp this summer. Schools are encouraged to participate. They will provide additional information; 3) the summer school sessions are for graduating high school seniors and upcoming seniors preparing for college; the session is 4 weeks offering Math 101; English 101; Biology and Spanish which will be transferable to any college in SC; 5) the classes are free to students, will be paid for by lottery funds; 6) every child will not go to a 4 year university, but at Denmark Tech programs are available to teach them to be ready for the work force; 7) if enough students sign up, the classes will be held in Allendale; 8) classes will also be held in Barnwell; and 9) encourage the students in the District to attend. Chairperson Robinson asked if the

numbers are not high enough will the classes be held Allendale. Mr. Ennis said if the classes are not held in Allendale a bus will leave Allendale to take students to the classes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Fee in Lieu: Dr. Tobin said see the letter from Attorney Boykin. The District does not have a legal right to be at the table with County Council when discussions are held on fee in lieu of property taxes. But have a relationship with the people who are at the table. Mr. Frazier asked about the money the District receives from these taxes. Dr. Tobin said the County determines what portion of funds the District receives.

Summer Professional Development Institute – June 10-12, 2014: Dr. Tobin said these summer sessions has been quite informative in the past and had great responses from the teachers.

Summer School Programs: Summer School, June 16-July 10; Summer Reading Camp, June 16-July 24 and Professional Development Day for teachers on May 26th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with emphasis on iPads and technology in the classroom.

Recent Legislation – HSAP Testing: Dr. Tobin said in 2015 the Exit Exam will not be a requirement for students to earn their high school diploma. Information in the Board packets. Dr. Tammy Pawloski will be coming to work with the staff at the Summer Professional Development Institute. She is a graduate of AFHS and he would like the Board to spend some time with her. Dr. Tobin said he would like to contract with her to spend time in the District.

Chairperson Robinson asked about Boys Night Out at AES. Ms. Leath said fathers, or other male figures will stay overnight at the school with the boys. Activities are planned. This is sponsored by the School Improvement Counsel and the goal this year was to focus on the African American Male. They will have something similar for the females next year.

Schools End-of-Year Activities/Events: A District Calendar of Events will be provided for Board Members.

Community Breakfast – May 13, 2014 – AFHS: Dr. Tobin said the Breakfast should last for about an hour. A handout and Power Point will be provided to show people what is taking place in the schools and the progress the District is making.

Envision SC World Class Scholars Program: Dr. Tobin said this Program connects our students with other students from around the world. A Skype demonstration will be held at AES

on May 16th connecting with students in South Africa. John Winthrop along with Phil Noble are providing the funding for the program.

World Class Cybersecurity Education Program: Dr. Tobin said this program trains young people to work in the cyber industry. SC State University and Claflin College are involved.

Summer Work Schedule: The District summer schedule starts June 9th thru August 4th from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

Riverbend Baptist Church, Lexington – Summer Project: this church has worked in the District in the past. They may do some things in the community and the City of Allendale trying to do some beautification projects. Dr. Tobin said he has accepted their offer to do some things in the schools and community.

Dr. Tobin said they have been working with Harry Ott, Director of the SC Farm Service Agency on expanding the Summer Feeding Program. Ms. Johnson, Director of Food Service has contacted all the housing developments in Allendale and has identified about 8 places in the County to expand the program. This may provide employment opportunities for some of the District's cafeteria employees. The guidelines are more stringent. One of the problems has been getting the children to the feeding program sites. Mr. Frazier asked about training for churches who want to host the program and other guidelines. Dr. Tobin said more information will be provided. The District is in need of a vehicle for this service.

APPROVALS

Middle School Students (7th & 8th) Assignment to AFHS Campus: Dr. Tobin reported: 1) the Board voted to close the 2 elementary schools. The Middle School will become the Elementary School and the 7th and 8 graders will move to the High School; 2) the High School is in great shape, but needs some refurbishing. It is easier to renovate when there are no people. The Administration recommendation is to move the 7th and 8th graders next fall. There are enough classrooms at the High School to do this. It could save the District some money if work is done on the buildings when the building is empty. When students return in August in the fall the building should be looking good, but this will take a lot of work over the summer; 3) when they leave in June teachers will have to box up their supplies; 4) they will have to have discussions with parents.

Chairperson Robinson asked would it be possible to have time for the Board to physically see where the students will be housed, and be in a wing that is appropriate for them. Dr. Tobin said once the Board decided to close the schools they started to plan. They would like to provide this walk-thru opportunity for the Board and also for parents. Ms. Smith said the cost to renovate the High School is about \$300,000. Can they modify the doors so the middle and high school students don't mingle together? Is that the project they will be working on during the summer?

Dr. Tobin said the work will be done at the High School. The security piece is there, students cannot swipe their card to get into certain halls. Mr. Frazier asked about a plan. He said he hears the conversation, but would like a written plan and see the plan extended to the parents and community so they can get a feel for what the District is doing. Dr. Tobin said they will share what they have for example the number of teachers needed, the number of classrooms, etc.

Ms. Smith said she understands Mr. Frazier request. She would like to see a cost because she would hate to say yes and the Board does not have enough information. Chairperson Robinson said the Board is saying authorize the Administration to begin to develop a detailed plan to assign the 7th and 8th graders to AFHS for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Priester moved to accept the Chair's recommendation. Ms. Smith seconded. Mr. Frazier said set the plans up so not to crisscross so many students, for example those in mechanics and welding. Parents are asking questions, what is the District going to do, how are they going to separate the high school and middle school students. He would like to be able to answer these questions and inform the parents. The motion was approved by all.

Chairperson Robinson said the reading materials in the District warehouse get it out in the community or maybe to the Neighborhood Associations. Children learn how to read by handling the books, hidden things children can get from books, new or old.

2014-2015 Calendar – Options I & III: Dr. Tobin said the District had 3 calendars and they eliminated option II. The difference between options I and III are 3 days for Thanksgiving or a week for Thanksgiving; option I has the end of school on June 3rd. Dr. Tobin said the recommendation for approval is Option III. Ms. Smith said she wish school could end on May 29th instead of going into June because the District is talking about additional work on the buildings. She cannot see a week out for Thanksgiving. Mr. Hall said if the staff voted for option III he approves this. Ms. Smith said what about the parents and how they feel about students being off for a whole week. They have to find childcare for students out all the week. Mr. Priester said the school year will eventually be extended in years to come. From a teacher's perspective it is good for them and their own sense of comfort. Mr. Hall moved to approve Option III. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1. Mr. Frazier, Mr. Hall, Mr. Priester and Chairperson Robinson voted for the motion. Ms. Smith voted against the motion.

MOU Beaufort Sheriff's Office Emergency Management and Allendale County Emergency Preparedness Agency: Dr. Tobin said this has been done before. When there is a hurricane and folks on the coast are evacuated, the District provides space for cars, storage, food and Beaufort will reimburse the District. Mr. Priester asked what costs will they reimburse and about utilities. Is this prorated? Mr. Frazier said he would like the contract to say whatever is broken is replaced, not pro-rated. Ms. Smith asked about using the high school, when work will be done on the high school, what about them using one of the elementary schools. Mr. Priester moved to approve the MOU with the appropriate amendments, additions or deletions. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Student Release Requests: Mr. Priester moved to approve the release of students MD and SM. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL: Director, Ms. Rivers asked the Board to approve the recommendations made in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to approve the recommendations by the Administration. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all. Chairperson Robinson said they are pleased with the number of staff that will be staying with the District.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2014-2015 Budget – 1st Reading: Coordinator of Fiscal Services, Ms. Grant said the information is from the Special Called Meeting nothing has changed. They are still waiting on numbers from the Federal and Palmetto Priority. The budget is based on local money coming into the District. This is the framework to begin the budget process. Mr. Priester moved to accept the information presented as the 1st reading of the budget. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said a lot of what needs to be discussed cannot be discussed, who is asking for what. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Mr. Hall, Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith voted for the motion. Mr. Frazier voted against the motion.

Budget Changes Report – March 1-30, 2014: Ms. Grant reported revenue and expense reflect all revenues, payroll and benefits through March 2014 with no significant variances. The District has received the majority of the local annual tax revenues. They anticipate revenues equally or more than budgeted for. Mr. Frazier asked about the reserve funds to be added as a line item on the budget report to be reviewed. Add this to each month's budget report. Dr. Tobin said this is the fund balance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, May 19th – Regular Monthly Meeting

Friday, June 6th – Staff Recognition Day

Friday, June 6th – AFHS Graduation

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Priester moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 9:06 p.m. for the Superintendent Search. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board Return to Open Session at 10:39 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. Mr. Priester said no decision was made on the item discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.