

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

**MONDAY – JANUARY 26, 2015 – 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, January 26, 2015. 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.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alonzo Frazier  
Terry Hall, Chairman  
Patricia Jenkins, Vice Chairman  
Wilda Robinson, Secretary  
Catherine Russell

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Ms. Leila W. Williams, Superintendent  
Angela Grant, Director of Finance  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

**BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC:** Courtney Laster, Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hall called the Meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A Moment of Silence was held.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Frazier moved to amend the Agenda to include in Executive Session #1 Legal Briefing by the Attorney. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:** Ms. Robinson moved to go into Executive Session at 6:08 P.M. for Personnel and Legal Briefing. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**OPEN SESSION:** Ms. Robinson moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:22 P.M. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Robinson moved that the Board approve the document regarding former employee KW as presented by the District's legal firm Boykin and Davis. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Russell moved to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH:** Ms. Williams said January is School Board Recognition Month. She said the District is proud and appreciate the Board for what they do on a daily basis to implement Policies and Procedures for the betterment of the school district. Ms. Leath, Principal AES said Chairman Hall was their Board Member and he came and ate lunch with the staff. She thanked him for all he does for students on a daily basis. Ms. Green, Principal FES said Mr. Frazier was their Board Member. He comes to all the events at the school and she thanked him for the constructive criticism he gives. Mr. Hemby, Principal AFHS said Ms. Jenkins was their Board Member and her name is on the marquee for the month. She is an avid supporter of the high school. Ms. Youmans, Director of LNS and Ms. Grant, Director AFLC were assigned Board Member Ms. Robinson. Ms. Youmans said Ms. Robinson is an advocate for Little New Steps and she thanks and appreciates everything you do for the students. The LNS Valentine Ball is February 13<sup>th</sup> all Board Members have been invited. All Board members are recognized on their marquee. Ms. Hall, Principal AFMS said they were assigned Ms. Russell who was at the Beta Induction Program and she thanked her for the support. All Board Members were presented with gifts and goodies. Ms. Williams thanked the Administrators for recognizing the Board Members and said School Board Recognition Month is on the strolling marquee downtown Allendale.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No comments

### **GOOD NEWS**

**MLK Student Essay Winners:** Ms. Williams said the event was sponsored by the Allendale County Democratic Party. This was an opportunity for our students to do some research and write, which is very important. School Board Member and Democratic Chairperson Ms. Robinson presented the students with a certificate, a Subway gift card and said the theme was “Is Voting Still Important.” She laughed and cried as she read the student’s essays. Winners were Zyan Owens, 1<sup>st</sup> place; Lanease Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Canaan Ennis and Jacob Allen tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Each of these students is from Allendale Elementary School. First place winner Zyan Owens read his essay.

**JROTC Color Guard – February 11, 2015:** Ms. Williams said JROTC received an invitation to present the colors at the February 11, 2015 State School Board Meeting in Columbia at 1:00 P.M. She spoke with Dr. Rhonda Evans who represents the area and she was so proud of this recognition for the District.

**Special Services, John Payne, SDE:** Ms. Williams read a letter from the SC Department of Education thanking Special Service Director, Ms. Constance Mays and her staff for implementing Enrich with validity and in such a short time.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only.

**SC Statement of Economic Interest – Electronic Filing Only – deadline March 30, 2015:** For information only.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**SCSBA Policy Update:** Ms. Williams said there are many Policies in the District’s Policy Manual that needs updating and revisions. This is a service the SCSBA performs, can issue a contract to help the District, can do it section-by-section and return the revisions to the District for approval. The process takes about 18 months and cost \$9,000, which can be paid in installments. Please consider this so the District can move forward and be up-to-date on the Policies. Mr. Frazier moved to move forward with the contract from the SCSBA. Ms. Jenkins seconded. Ms. Robinson asked who was used in the past. The answer was the SCSBA was used in the past. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**2014-2015 Calendar Revisions:** Ms. Williams said the Calendar revisions have to do with testing. When the Calendar was approved in July they did not know what State testing would look like. The Board was presented the dates, make-up dates and the testing times in minutes for the ACT Aspire Spring test. Everyone will be testing during the April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 14<sup>th</sup> window timeframe and the test will be timed this year. This will be a big change for our students. 30 minutes for writing; principals have started to implement time assessments to get students to take the test in a certain time; 11<sup>th</sup> grade English 45 minutes; Math 60; reading 35 minutes and science 35 minutes. Some days will be deleted from the Calendar and days listed added to the calendar. Ms. Robinson moved that the Board approve the adjustments to the Calendar for the remainder of this year based on the rational to comply with the State testing schedule. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Robinson asked if the test was going to be used for only 1 year. Ms. Williams said 1 year with this particular vendor, they have no idea what the test will look like next year. Districts are not getting a State Report Card because there is no Accountability Manual to do the calculations at this point but will have a Federal Report Card. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**What is the Future Ready School Initiative?** Ms. Williams said she received an E-mail from State Superintendent Molly Spearman asking rural schools to participate in this to help district’s maximize digital learning for students and embracing college and career readiness. Less than 30% of schools have the bandwidth to use technology and looking to get more involved to have more bandwidth in the schools. There is an intensive survey the District would have to complete and attend a Future Readiness Summit. The Team consists of the Superintendent, Technology Director and a Principal who can come back and help implement the initiative. There is a scholarship to submit to reimburse the District for all the costs for those to attend the summit in Atlanta, GA and there is no cost for the registration itself. She is asking the Board to allow them to explore this initiative. Mr. Frazier moved to allow Allendale County Schools to take part in this initiative. Ms. Jenkins seconded. Ms. Robinson said other than travel and lodging that the scholarship covers what are the other costs? Ms. Williams said most of the meals are being provided. Ms. Robinson asked how this meshes with Limitless Learning? Ms. Williams said she met with Ms. Jamison and this helps the District identify where they are and in what

areas they need assistance. This would be an asset to the District. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**E-Rate Update** – Ms. Jamison, Technology Director presented a Power Point and said no one was funded for E-Rate Priority 2. This will affect the District’s budget over the next few years. Ineligible services will be reduced by 20% over the next few years and by 2019 the District will no longer be receiving funds. She is hoping Apple will help with the infrastructure at the elementary school. Ms. Robinson said the District have 2 elementary schools and the Board last year voted to renovate the old AFMS and looking at a target date of summer 2015 to consolidate the elementary school students. That building needs to be included in whatever upgrades are planned. Ms. Jamison said the rules of E-Rate does not allow the school to be included if they do not have students in that building. The five year count starts when you utilize the money. Ms. Robinson said with the anticipated upgrades to the elementary school can the equipment being installed be moved to the new location. Ms. Jamison said yes. Mr. Frazier asked the cost to get the District started in the process. Ms. Jamison said she would need cost on cabling and switches costs, etc. Mr. Frazier asked if any money or can they apply for any money with Wi-Fi for the community. Most people in the rural areas cannot afford it or connect digitally. Ms. Williams said they plan to attend a County Council Meeting and let them know what the District is planning on doing for students and then hopefully they can collaborate and apply for some grants. Ms. Robinson said this has been discussed with the Lower Savannah Council of Government and Bill Robinson is the point person. Ms. Williams said looking at where the District is with the infrastructure we need to praise Ms. Jamison for her work. One of the premier school districts asked our Technology Director to come because they cannot get on the internet in their beautiful building. Our technology director is a visionary and thanks for your vision for the school district. Ms. Robinson said thanks to Ms. Jamison, she can go and visit the other districts but they cannot keep her. Ms. Jamison will be presenting at the SCASA Summer Institute on some of the topics she has been discussing.

**Acceptable Use Policy** – Ms. Jamison, Technology Director said Ms. Bryant, her assistant have gone over the Acceptable Use Policy, care, usage and expectations with students. Ms. Robinson asked when the iPad rollout will happen. Ms. Jamison said the iPads have arrived and she is waiting on the cases and will delay the rollout for about 2 weeks until about mid-February. Ms. Russell moved to approve the trip to Dallas, TX for the kick-off. Ms. Robinson seconded and asked for a hard copy of the request, lodging, etc. Ms. Jamison said there is no cost to the District Apple is paying. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

## **APPROVALS**

**Act 155 – Student Petitions:** Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the recommendation for students to receive their high school diplomas. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Funding for Equity Lawsuit:** Ms. Williams said this has been going on for over 22 years and Allendale County Schools was one of the originals in the lawsuit. Nelson Mullin provided pro-bono services and are asking plaintiff Districts to contribute \$1 per pupil based on the District's ADM \$1,230 is the cost for the District. Mr. Frazier moved that the District accept this request. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**MOA Recreation Dept.:** Ms. Williams said she have been trying to review and update some of the District's MOAs. She met with the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and even though the Agreement is old, it has been working quite well. This MOA is an update for signature and dates to continue this partnership. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the MOA with the Recreation Dept. Ms. Russell seconded. Ms. Robinson said the District has an excellent relationship with them and a lot of star athletes started off in the County Recreation Dept. for example Breshad Breeland. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Frazier asked if possible for the Superintendent to check on having a sign recognizing Breshad Breeland who is in the NFL.

**Agreement for Municipal Advisory Services:** Ms. Grant, Finance Director reported: 1) the District's Financial Advisor, Bob Damrod is no longer associated with Southwest Securities and he now has his own firm with Compass; and 2) if the District wants to continue the services with Bob Damrod? Ms. Robinson asked if the services outlined change what the District had with Southwest. Ms. Grant said there is nothing new, just the company changed. Mr. Frazier asked if the Superintendent and Finance Director were comfortable doing this? Ms. Grant said she feels very confident with Mr. Damrod. Ms. Williams said she feels confident with this, Mr. Damrod is easy to reach and is helping with some problems the District is currently going through. Mr. Frazier moved to approve this recommendation. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Revise of Per Diem Policy:** Ms. Grant, Finance Director outlined: 1) the proposed revision of Policy DKC the red represents changes to the Policy and in black is what is in the old Policy; 2) the changes are from the OMB guidelines; 3) this came about because of other districts having been cited in the Federal audits; 4) some districts reimburse their staff at a higher rate than what the Federal Government allows. Allendale is currently not in-line with Federal guidelines. We are not in compliance and are paying too much as it relates to per diem on meals. There is an increase in mileage reimbursement and a decrease in per diem. Ms. Russell moved to approve the revise Policy. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**PERSONNEL:** Ms. Williams asked the Board to make Ms. Green the Principal and not the Acting Principal at FES. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the title change. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Board Cover Letter January 2015:** Ms. Grant, Finance Director 1) the District received the Tier 3 revenues which was \$750,000 and 90% of Tier 1 revenues;

2) Budget shortfall is anticipated to be \$500,000 from the County; 3) the information was given to the Board Chair earlier this summer; 4) this shortfall is due to several industries in Allendale County leaving and causing a decrease in the millage rate; 5) AFMS savings as of today shows no savings based on the fact that AFMS has the same services such as lights and telephone for the security system.

**Budget Change Report:** the report reflects transfers from the general funds from one object location to another.

Mr. Frazier asked where does it put the District with the \$500,000 shortfall. Ms. Grant said the District must start to look at how to can cut back. The District is budgeted to the penny. Some teacher positions have not be filled, Related Arts. And we need to look at how to cut back and not tap into the Building Funds. Ms. Robinson asked what industry left the County. Ms. Grant said she does not have a list, but she will get one from the County. Ms. Robinson said finding out about the \$500,000 shortfall should have come in a more official manner and not a call to her house.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

February 18-22 – SCSBA Annual Convention – Myrtle Beach

2 Days at the Capitol – March 18 and May 13 – Capitol City Club – Columbia

NSBA Conference in Nashville, TX – March 20-23, 2015

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2** was not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. Russell moved to adjourn the Meeting at 8:57 p.m. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.