

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

MONDAY – JUNE 23, 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, June 23, 2014. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters/Bond Sale; Legal Updates; Personnel/Contracts and Student Release Requests. 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
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson
Willie Priester, Secretary
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

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

BROWNSTONE DESIGN: Anthony Lawrence

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:03 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. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #1 at 6:05 p.m. to discuss Contractual Matters/Bond Sale; Legal Updates; Personnel/Contracts and Student Release Requests. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Dr. Tobin said the following items were placed at the Board's seat: 1) Numbers were transposed on the District Strategic Plan page #28; 2) Update on the summer feeding program; 3) Renovation plans have been updated and are larger for easier viewing.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:17 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Smith moved that the Minutes of the June 3, 2014 Special Called Meeting and the May 19, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson said the Board visited Savannah, GA for the Southern Regional Conference. It was a small conference compared to the larger ones held by the NSBA and the smaller conference was a better one. The District's Vision and Mission Statement are on tonight's Agenda. The Vision and Mission Statements are on the Strategic Plan. The Plan was revised in 2011 and is updated every 5 years. One of the speakers at the Southern Regional Conference was a brigadier general who talked about leadership and a leadership plan and team. And the need to keep your eyes on the prize and remember what your mission and vision are. It is the leader's responsibility to establish the goals and objects. We need to be reminded of the mission from time to time. We must remember who we are here for and the answer always has to be for the best interest of the children. Put emotions aside, this should determine what we do, who we do it for. Chairperson Robinson said she will keep the Mission Statement on the Agenda. Not to say something written on the Agenda is going to make anyone do anything, but just as a reminder.

NSBA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE – SAVANNAH, GA – JUNE 14-17, 2014: Mr. Frazier reported: 1) the speakers were good. Michael Thurmond, the Superintendent of DeKalb County, GA articulated his thoughts and ideas, similar to what Magic Johnson did at the NSBA Conference on how to connect with the community and students; 2) Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver said great leaders are almost always great simplifiers; take the emotions out of your business; 3) another speaker talked about "small talk" and how to communicate with small talk. Mr. Hall reported: 1) one presenter talked about leading children to excellence and the superintendent and board must work together for student excellence; 2) another presenter talked about engaging parents, even if you have to change programs for parents who work at night and once they had to hire an interpreter for parents; 3) support at school, home and community is what children need to be successful in their lives; 4) a superintendent from Gates County shared his superintendent outline of the role of the board, role of the superintendent and at the end of the year they get together and see who did their jobs; if there is no trust and honesty between the superintendent and board, things will not work; he gives weekly updates; if one board member

requests something all board members get the information and he gives the board copies of his goals.

Ms. Smith said she left her information home and was unprepared but reported: 1) the keynote speakers were great; 2) Michael Thurmond was a representative in GA and came over as superintendent; 3) Thurmond said his father was a sharecropper and he sold produce to neighbors and he realized this was something he did not want to do as an adult. But when he was running for office, a lot of people remembered him from his father's old produce route; 4) one presenter talked about learning everyone's personality type, this helps you to know what they will be like; she is a very expressive person; 5) stress is our biggest thing, let things go, it is not worth it – there is a good stress and a bad stress; good stress allows you to go on; bad stress keeps you from sleeping at night.

Mr. Priester reported: 1) he did not attend the entire conference, but the major theme was leadership and team-manship; 2) the General talked about hope is not a plan, you must have a plan, the plan should be so clear that from each level everyone understand what the plan is; if only a portion of people understand the plan then the others are not advocates for the plan; 3) when you develop a team, have the best team you can have, this should include everyone working for one common goal; 4) the conference sent a message that with any success you must have a plan, good leadership and a good team.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Charmaine Brown Gadson talked about school uniforms and said: 1) she spoke with a lot of parents in the area about uniforms; 2) a couple of years ago parents did not want uniforms, but now she sees that uniforms are important; 3) if the District goes with uniforms they should be colorful so the children will enjoy wearing them more; 4) uniforms would be a good idea; 5) lots of parents want uniforms back into the system; and 6) please look at having uniforms again.

GOOD NEWS

Ms. Leath, Principal AES said they are moving along and getting ready for next year.

Ms. O'Banner, Principal FES said the same.

Mr. Hemby, Principal AFMS said Teacher Ms. Dorothy Priester was selected to attend the Science Plus Institute where she will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of hands-on activity. She is an English teacher, but wanted to learn more about Science. On EOC testing in English I 12 students passed with A,B,C's and in Math scored in the 90 percentile. PASS results for 6th and 7th grader 30 scored exemplary in 2 areas. 6th and 7th grade writing scores looked good. The final scores should be out in July according to Dr. Beckett.

Ms. Youmans, Coordinator of Little New Steps said they graduated 7 students and the students did a fabulous job with their speeches. Six of the graduates returned to school today but she thought they were going home for the summer.

Chairperson Robinson said at LNS graduation she was the speaker. She talked to the students, they sang songs, knew their numbers and how to wipe their noses all the things she was going to talk about. When they go to the big school they will be shining stars.

Mr. Robinson, Assistant Principal AFHS reported they have planted good fruits and vegetables and are looking for a good harvest. He constantly had conferences with 1 child on discipline and looked at his scores and he had great scores and no one though this child would do so well. You just have to encourage students and never short-change anyone.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Discipline Reports: For information only.

DRAFT 2014-2015 Regular Scheduled Board Meetings: Chairperson Robinson said she would like to see the Board Meetings moved around.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:

Child Development/Elementary/High/Middle School Renovation Plan Update: Mr. Lawrence reported: 1) presented the Board with a projected schedule and color-coded, phased renovation plan. Phase 1 blue are the high school renovations; phase 2 green are the middle school renovations; phase 3 red is the Child Development; phase 4 brown is the high school fire alarm; 2) all renovations/updates should be completed by August 2015; 3) AFMS renovates include the gym; music area; locker rooms and ISS area. Chairperson Robinson asked about the spaces not colored on the handout, the white spaces. Mr. Lawrence said these spaces do not need anything specific to accommodate the age group. Chairperson Robinson asked about space for the proposed track area. Mr. Lawrence said space was set aside for this. He said Pepco will act as manager, he will have costs estimates when he comes down again. Ms. Smith said the presentation tonight is not adding anything to the current building. Mr. Lawrence said yes, right now the middle school is the current building, it should be able to hold the elementary students. 1st grade classrooms need sinks, restrooms, etc.; this is factored into the plan. Mr. Frazier said Pepco was mentioned as the construction manager. Mr. Lawrence said Mr. Westbury is the watchdog on the project for the District. Mr. Lawrence said they are waiting to do the alarm system because: 1) Simplex is the only person that will work on the system and 2) the District will not have to pay a premium because students will not be in school when they work on the project. They must do a design for the fire alarm system at the high school, but the work will not start until next year. An auxiliary gym will be used for middle school students, they will be able to practice in this area and this will be the area currently used by JROTC. JROTC students will be moved to the welding shop area. This will not happen until next year, this year the District will have to work out a plan for this. Mr. Frazier said Clemson University has expressed an interest in bringing a FFA project to the District. If this occurs, where will they be housed? Mr. Lawrence said they are in the schematic phase. He would need more details about what these types of organizations will need. There is plenty of space in the facility that is not used 100% of

the time. Mr. Frazier said a number of staff members have expressed problems with the 7th and 8th graders not being with the high school students. They should be isolated. Chairperson Robinson said when they did the walk-thru, safety and security, to use the word isolate they will have to interact at some point for example the band, cafeteria areas. But we must have the proper security area, cameras, some are concerned about the bathroom areas and we looked at how this would be during the walk-thru. Staff supervision will be very important. Mr. Frazier said for the record, the project is going on, but he wants to make it known that incidents happen. Dr. Tobin said right now middle school students come to the high school for classes, some are in band. But the issue will be supervision is the key. But there will be some contact. Mr. Lawrence said scheduling will have to be looked at, when the high and middle school bell rings. He will present what is being presented to the Board tonight on paper and will provide prices by the next Board meeting. Mr. Lawrence said: 1) the Child Development Center will be situated right next to AFMS; 2) LNS students and special education students will have separate entrances to the building; 3) construction will start in February 2015 on the Child Development area. Mr. Frazier asked about public meetings and informing the public about what is going on. He said when the project was started after the information was received from Mr. Lawrence, the District was to report the information back to the public, and now we are into the project, but we have not reported back to the community. Mr. Priester said he thinks there will be adequate time to talk with the community. The work at the high school must move forward because school will be starting in a few weeks. We are up against the clock, the high school is not the major work, but at the middle school. Chairperson Robinson said there was a special meeting that included a walk-thru and not very many parents showed up and Mr. Lawrence took them thru the building and pointed out where things would be. The renovations at the high school are time sensitive, but we will look at having a series of meetings for the Middle School project.

Chairperson Robinson said as they discussed in Executive Session Contractual Matter/Bond Sale. Mr. Hall said this is to give the go ahead to start the work at AFHS. Dr. Tobin said the bond sale will not take place until July, but to start the work at the high school immediately. There is always a risk that the bond will not be sold because of the current economic status, but because of the District's status they are in good shape. \$250,000 is what will be obligated. Mr. Lawrence said Simplex will need to work from a design, but must have a system design done. They will not start construction because they don't want to disrupt school. You must design it before you install it. Mr. Lawrence said they have 8 weeks to get AFHS ready when students return in August 2014. You must show that you have 100% of the funds in place before they will approve it. The \$250,000 will be taken from the flex funds. Chairperson Robinson said a few weeks ago the Board approved Pepco being the construction manager. Mr. Frazier asked if the bonds are not sold, will the money be lost at that point. Mr. Lawrence said if the bonds are not sold, the 7th and 8th graders must move to the high school, if the bond is not funded the 7th and 8th graders will still go to the high school. Funds will not be lost. The objectives gives the District an exit strategic, this commitment will be met. Ms. Smith said if the bonds are not sold, what is the next step? Mr. Lawrence said the most cost is the construction of the Child Development Center.

Chairperson Robinson asked for approval for the advancement of District funds of \$250,000 to enable the project to get started for the 7th and 8th graders and to also address the fire alarm system. Mr. Priester moved to approve the motion as requested. Ms. Smith seconded. Ms. Smith asked if this included all costs. Mr. Lawrence said this does not include the design piece, but just for the brick and mortar and seeing some things happen at the high school. The motion was approved by all.

Procedures for Student Petition Regarding Act 155 Exit Exam: Dr. Tobin said students from 1990 who did not get a high school diploma because they did not pass the Exit Exam or the HSAP requirements may petition their local school board to receive their diploma. Information will be on the District's website and a call blast.

Professional Development/Summer Institute Update – Mr. Flowers reported: 1) June 10-12 the District's Summer Institute was held, most was done in-house; 2) Dr. Pawloski talked about teaching children of poverty, but many of the workshops were done by District teachers; 3) focused on Common Core and instructional technology; 4) the Institute was very well attended, 81 participates for each day; 5) train the trainer, teachers taught how to use specific pieces of the instructional technology; 6) teachers had a technology instructional goal and a teaching and learning goal; 7) we have the goals and the direction teachers are going in. We will stop doing some things; continue doing some things and start doing some things.

District 5 Year Strategic Plan – Updates Dr. Beckett reported: 1) the SDE requires school districts to have a 5 year Strategic Plan, this plan was developed in 2011; 2012-2013 was update number 1; this school year is update number 2; 2) the changes from last years' updates are the contact and email address changes; page 3 Ms. Benson added as principal and Dr. Beckett and page 4 Mr. Flowers was added and a teacher was added; 3) on page 16 the financial official changed to Ms. Grant; Executive Summary pages 17-21 portion of the school summary on page 18, 2nd paragraph was added; page 19 text was added; page 20 FES text was added – this was added to bring the school summary current; 4) page 28 in the packet had an error, a new page is at the table tonight – which has the correct numbers from the Report Card; 5) Person responsible in the Action Plan changed to represent the current titles. Chairperson Robinson asked if the numbers for 2010-2011 are actual numbers. Dr. Beckett said these are actual numbers and the projected numbers have an asterisk by the dates.

Imagine the Possibilities – Technology Presentation: Dr. Tobin said he will send the PowerPoint to Board members. He highlighted the availability of an iPad for every student: 1) look at programs that can be available to our students, for example updated course materials with the tap of the finger – iPads give you so many ways to engage students and bring lessons to life; 2) started by giving every teacher an iPad; 3) real world applications; education that never stops; 4) what are the benefits and access; students can hear relevant speeches; take virtual tours;

interactive digital textbooks; learning goes beyond the classroom; 5) districts using the technology include Lexington #1; Rock Hill; Richland #2; Clover School District; Orangeburg #5; Spartanburg #7 and Charleston. The acronym EEOA is Engagement; Exposure; Opportunity and Access. Funding possibility includes State and Federal Funds; Apple potential for Grants and USDA Rural Grants. Some things done now for remediation could be re-purposed. Ms. Smith asked to do a survey on how many students already have iPads. Dr. Tobin said this is great, but they want to bring all children to this point. The differences are the resources that are available to children are unlimited. Mr. Frazier said he agrees with doing this, talked about picking up parents in Allendale/Fairfax, parents are in Martin and Sycamore also. He said while training children to be sufficient on computers is good, no one knows how to use their hands. This hurts us in the workforce. He purchased a used laser-level, tried to fix it, used his cell phone and found the part quickly and cheaper. Chairperson Robinson asked about the cost. Dr. Tobin said the cost is about \$1.4 million. He asked the Board to think about moving forward and they will look at providing the resources.

USDA Grant Proposals/Public Notice/Meeting: Dr. Tobin said information was included in the Board's packet.

Summer Feeding Update: Dr. Tobin said Ms. Johnson has done a good job with the Summer Feeding Program. There are about 28 sites across the District. And the books from the warehouse have gone to the sites.

2014-2015 District Calendar (Election Day): Dr. Tobin said November 4, 2014 Election Day has been added to the Calendar.

APPROVALS

Gifted and Talented Strategic Plan: Dr. Beckett reported: 1) the District did not have a 5 year Gifted and Talented Plan, it was a very skeletal plan. She submitted a waiver to do a 3 year plan. This plan should have coincided with the 5 year Strategic Plan. Will focus on 2014-2017 school year; 2) the plan includes an academic area and artistic area; 3) page 9 is the scoping sequences for both programs; page 10 is the curriculum in grades pre-k critical thinking skills program; 3-12 grades will focus on ELA and Math; grades 8-10 looking at an honors program; grades 11-12 AP classes; page 13 more details of the academic plan – focus on curriculum and instruction and assessment; 4) several teachers are undergoing Gifted and Talented endorsement – by July should have several teachers with the certification on their certificates. The State allows a 1 year waiver if teachers do not have this certification. Dr. Beckett said she is asking for approval as an addendum to the District's Strategic Plan. Chairperson Robinson asked how many students were identified as Gifted and Talented. Dr. Beckett said about 13 are identified as Gifted and Talented. But can identify high achieving students. Ms. Leath said they have a 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade scholars' teacher. The students are not integrated. Mr. Frazier said his concern is money is

attached with the Plan and he would like to know how the money will be spent. For example, if he were going to get a dollar, a breakdown, an itemized budget. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the Plan with an itemized report on how the money will be spent. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Early Release: Dr. Tobin said they are requesting 6 additional days for Early Release for Professional Development. September 30, 2014; January 27; February 24; March 31; April 28 and May 19, 2015. Mr. Priester moved to approve the Early Release Days for Staff Development purposes. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said make sure on Staff Development Days the purpose is to educate children and they cannot be educated out of school. The motion was approved by all.

GraceChurch, Greenville, SC – School Bus Request: Dr. Tobin said the Church will be taking children to Charleston, Columbia and Savannah on cultural Field Trips to expose the children. They would like to use our buses. Ms. Espinosa said they will pay for drivers, mileage and these are for children from the County. This is open to any students in the area. It will be a \$5 cost to students for the trip. Mr. Priester moved to approve the request. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Student Release Requests: Mr. Priester moved to approve the release of students E.P.; M.C.; C.C. and R.B. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to approve the recommendations made in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to approve the recommendations. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Smith, Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester and Mr. Frazier voted to approve the motion. Mr. Hall voted nay. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-1.

Mr. Priester moved to approve the resignations and other appropriate actions as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Priester moved to give the Superintendent and Director of Personnel permission to offer conditional contracts provided positive reference and favorable SLED checks are received on the applicant being recommended. The Administration will bring each certified staff member recommendation to the Board to be ratified by the Allendale County School Board at the next called Board Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

3rd Reading of the 2014-2015 Budget: Ms. Grant presented the Board with a handout. Mr. Frazier moved to delay the 3rd Reading of the Budget and the Board meet between now and June 30th. Mr. Hall seconded. Ms. Smith said a Public Meeting on the budget was held earlier. If they make changes to the budget do they have to let the public know this? Mr. Priester said when

doing a budget, if there are things they want to change, they can approve the budget and make adjustments. Approval does not mean it is in stone. There are opportunities to make changes. Just like budget changes and transfers to the budget. Mr. Hall, Mr. Frazier and Chairperson Robinson voted for the motion. Mr. Priester voted nay. Ms. Smith abstained. The motion passed with 3-1-1 vote. The Budget Meeting will be held on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Budget Changes Report – May 1-31, 2014: Ms. Grant said information was included in the Board packets on changes made to the general fund budget for the month of May.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA School Law Conference – August 23-24, Myrtle Beach

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Priester asked that this item be added to the Monday, June 30th Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.