

ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY – MAY 23, 2016 – 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, May 23 2016. At 6:00 P.M. the Board entered into Executive Session for the purposes of Personnel/Contractual and Student Release Requests. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Catherine Russell called the Meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

ROLL CALL: Alonzo Frazier
Terry Hall, Vice Chairperson
Patricia Jenkins, Secretary
Wilda J. Robinson
Catherine Russell, Chairperson

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Leila W. Williams, Superintendent
Angela Grant, Director of Finance
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Ms. Jenkins moved to go into Executive Session at 6:05 P.M. for the purposes of Personnel/Contractual Matters and Student Release Requests. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Vice Chairman Hall presided while Chairperson Russell gathered the Public Comments Sheets. Ms. Robinson moved to return to Open Session at 7:07 P.M. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chairman Hall asked for a motion to approve the Monday, April 25, 2016, Regular Monthly Meeting; Thursday, April 28, 2016 Budget Work Session and Thursday, May 5, 2016 Special Called Meeting. Ms. Robinson moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Vice Chairman Hall said those signing up for Public Comments would have an opportunity to address the Board. He said no name calling, you have 3 minutes to speak and if you are asked to be seated, please do so in an orderly fashion.

Horace Matthews: said he wanted to talk about the way technology has been introduced in the classroom especially the iPads. What is the District's philosophy on student's use of iPads and what controls are being used to limit access to students on sites that have no educational purposes? Students are using places like the gym and band room to cut class and what policies are in place to address issues like these.

Shelby Branch, student: said she was speaking on behalf of the Band program. The teacher is the rock and she is essential to the program. Without her they have nothing. She does not ask for much and puts the students before herself. She is dedicated. The program saved her from her home life. The Band Director taught her a lot about music and life.

A. Phoenix, R. Youmans and Raymond, students: said the band teacher has fought for them for so long. The school does not support the program. Transportation is an issue and instruments cannot be put on buses. The football players and program is put ahead of the band and on a pedestal. Academics comes after football. Phoenix said as a Drum Major for the Band, the teacher had more stress and had no assistant. Football players grades are changed and attendance.

April Hightower: said she is a parent and volunteer for the District. She understands how the band students feel. The teacher is a good teacher. She has volunteered at AES since September and the students talk with her and ask her questions. The students know about all the animosity between the adults. This should be kept out of the student's ears.

Starr Dunbar: said she is a band parent and substitute teacher. The District went years without having a band. The teacher built the band. They met with the Board on May 5th and it is disheartening that they have not heard anything from the Board. At the Band Banquet the students were crying, it was more like a funeral. None of the Middle School students have a band class. Transportation should not be an issue. Football, cheerleaders and the band should be a unit. As a community they should come together and do positive things for the students. Band gives students focus and not being in the street. Allendale does not have a movie theater or other entertainment for students. On the Spanish Class, her son is a national honor student and to get a letter on May 6th that these students are rushing to get thru the modules on Odysseyware. Don't push these students through the course just to get the credit. They will go into Spanish II not knowing anything and this is setting them up for failure.

Katrina Williams: parent, said in reference to the Spanish course she just received the letter. She addressed the issue before winter break and she tried to access the module and was kicked out. She spoke with the instructor about this. At this point what are they going to do to assist the students and how can they pass at this point? The students were set up for failure in this class. In reference to the band program, she works in law enforcement and band keeps students from getting in trouble. Why

are we not supporting the students? We glorify the football team, why not do the same for the other programs. The students should come first.

Mayor Ronnie Jackson said they were all in Columbia at the State Football Championship game and the band was there. We held our heads up at the game and our band showed out. We need to keep the band teacher. She started the program from scratch and look at what she has now. They need to give her a raise. The Town of Allendale is behind her 100%.

Stephanie Rouse: a parent said with the Spanish class, she felt like they failed her daughter and all the students. They need the Spanish class to graduate. It is the end of the year, and it is impossible and unfair for the students to try and get all they need at the last minute. She does not want the students not to be able to graduate because of Spanish. The District should do something about this next year.

Ingar Ferguson: a parent said her daughter is taking Spanish and her daughter puts a lot of pressure on herself about this class. Every time we get a teacher who supports the students, the next year the teacher is gone. Can you put it in a teachers contract to stay for a certain number of years? Consistency will make a difference with the students. The counselors assured her they would have a certified teacher in the classroom and get the credit to count. This is a Foreign Language, they need a person in the classroom, not instruction via the internet.

Dwayne Ennis: parent said he sees more law enforcement here tonight than at a basketball game. Band, the current teacher motivates the students, he would like to see someone with a similar style to the current director. Spanish class, every student counts. He did not hear about the students taking the class by computer until his daughter told him. In the current class she has not retained the proper knowledge, so this has not helped her. With Odysseyware, some students excel faster than others and some work is being kicked back. This class determines who gets valedictorian or salutatorian. Make sure we have proper communication. If we don't have proper communication, students skipping class, in order to make it in life it takes hard work. He does not want his son to enter AFHS in the current circumstance. He needs people like himself to run for school board because he has an investment in making a difference.

Barbara Kirkland: a parent said AES is her concern. It disturbs her to see how hard the principal works with the students and the Board is trying to make her resign. When she does the job with love. The principal speaks with her disabled daughter every day. She is a hard working woman. Allendale and Fairfax are combined as one. The students are not terrible and don't tell her this and don't separate the students.

Shekinah Williams: parent, said her concerns are the school buses and no monitors on the buses. She has volunteered for years and this was her first time volunteering as a bus monitor. The bus driver cannot drive and monitor the students at the same time. Consider having bus monitors next year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Band Program: Vice Chairman Hall said the Board could not get into personnel issues when discussing the band program. Ms. Robinson said the Board has been made aware of a number of concerns about the band program and these things will be looked into immediately. And they will be getting back to the citizens on the

changes that will be coming up for next year and also the availability of classes. The Board has taken these things seriously. But they cannot discuss personnel and cannot speak about individuals because it is a violation of policy. Mr. Hall said the Superintendent will answer the purple Public Comment concerns within 10 days. Ms. Robinson said it is policy that the Board cannot reply to Public Comments and they must stay within the policy. She suggested at the next Regular Meeting they provide an update on the topics discussed.

Mr. Frazier said ensure all answers given to the public be done in an expedient manner and send the Board a copy of the answers. They also need to have community meetings.

Ms. Jenkins said they hear the community concerns.

Spanish Class: Ms. Jenkins asked that the AFHS administration speak in reference to the Spanish Class. Discuss what is in place to help students who have not completed the course and the extensions that have been granted. Mr. Baines, Principal said they are aware of the issues with the Spanish class and are working diligently on the issues. In place currently and to get credit they will extend the course work thru June 30th. Any student who does not have the internet at home will be allowed to attend the school during summer hours, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. They will also have additional time for seniors taking the class. The District will provide a Wi-Fi for seniors and some can keep their iPads longer to address their concerns. They may also be able to work on transportation. Mr. Frazier asked about a teacher for the class. Mr. Baines said that would be a personnel issue.

Promise Zone: Ms. Robinson said they met with the committee a few weeks ago and they discussed the mission and vision. The group would like to talk about the possibility of the Board giving them a letter of support so the action team can move forward for the feasibility study for the old AES campus. The letter is not a commitment from the Board to do anything, but saying we give you our go ahead, and we support your mission and vision. Allendale County is a Federal Promise Zone area and this means Allendale can pursue certain grants and get points for the demographics. They are looking at how the property could be used for a Health/Wellness Complex and other activities. She asked for approval for the draft letter included in the Board packets. Mr. Frazier said he agrees with the study, but others want to meet with the Board and talk about the same facility. Ms. Jenkins asked about other organizations for the facility. Superintendent Ms. Williams said she has two other requests for the building. Ms. Robinson said the letter is just a letter of support to move forward. They have not come to the Board with a proposal, just a letter of support. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the Promise Zone Action request to go ahead with the study. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Board Retreat: Mr. Hall said in March they met with Mr. Vince Ford and they discussed having him come back during the summer when his schedule permits. The Board will be polled on their dates of availability.

Helicopter at Prom: Ms. Robinson said she spoke with Fire Chief Rodney Stanley and he asked her who approved or authorized a helicopter to land at AFHS for prom. He said this was a very serious safety violation.

Travel: Mr. Frazier said they should have a protocol on how to handle this process. Ms. Robinson said she would like to review the District's travel policy in a work session. This is for all travel.

GOOD NEWS

Palmetto Silver Award – FES Flag: Superintendent Ms. Williams presented former FES Principal Ms. Green with the 2014-2015 Palmetto Silver Award and Flag. She said the SDE recognizes schools that have made steady growth. This recognition will be done again at the End-of-Year celebration.

The Palmetto Executive Board Member: Ms. Constance Mays, VP: Ms. Williams said included in the Board Packet was a flyer from the Council of Exceptional Students announcing the new VP, Ms. Mays.

Mark Lott, Palmetto Girls State: attending from AFHS were students Cionna Creech, Shanajee Devoe and Quinesha Fullington. Palmetto Boys State attendees were Michael Green, Treyvarious Loadholt and Lai-Quan Brodus. Mr. Lott said when students attend these programs they qualify for scholarships.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: For information only.

Town of Allendale – First Friday, July 1, 2016: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Soar to Success with Boeing – Ms. Anderson, AFHS: the Power Point was in the Board's packets. Ms. Anderson said she attended a session in Barnwell and the plant opened in N. Charleston in 2011. Career areas include business; cyber security; engineering; information technology and manufacturing.

Mr. Frazier said Boeing is doing things different. He asked the community to go on the website, they are looking for people with a high school diploma and GED; also 2-year degree; they will do the training for free. Promotion, a person at Boeing can go as high as they want to. They are looking for SC young people and they want you to come and take a look at Boeing. Salaries start at \$100,000+. They offer summer visitation and get the contact number from him. Chairperson Russell said they would come to your church and community and do presentations. Ms. Jenkins said they really want to put SC people to work. They pay 100% tuition. They are looking for young people to train and offer a future with the company.

New Tech Update – Mr. Baines, Principal AFHS: the Board walked thru the area tonight. They had training on 2 occasions – one was in Ft. Wayne, IN and they visited 2 schools operating under New Tech. The high school under New Tech went from

At-Risk to Excellent in 5 years. They also went to Scott Branch High School and that school received the Palmetto Silver under New Tech. Teacher residency – they took 5 teachers to Greenville, SC to a high school and you could see the transformation made in this school. Each time you go to a residency, you must produce something at the end of the visit. They met with members from the SDE and they talked about funding for New Tech and what this will look like. They had to produce a proposal for the SDE and this is under review. The funding will help fund the technology piece, MacBook's have been ordered for 9th graders. iPads are useful tools, but students will need to do research. They meet via Skype with the regional coach once a week and school implementation coach. Once the SDE reviews the proposal it will be made available to the Board.

Mr. Frazier said based on what he saw it looks like a good program, talk to your staff and JROTC. If it is taken down there it will affect JROTC. While you are bringing in a new program, don't damage an existing program. Be sensitive to JROTC and the staff.

Medicaid Update: Mrs. Williams said since the last meeting, at this point they are hoping things have worked out or quieted down. She spoke with the SDE and everything is on hold. Many districts had the same concerns and are operating how they have been in the past.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to approve the recommendations made in Executive Session. Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the recommendations. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVALS

Summer Hours: June 6 thru July 29, 2016 – M-W 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.; Thursday, 7:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Ms. Williams said these hours are District wide and include schools. Mr. Hall moved to approve the summer hours as presented. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Student Release Requests: This will be discussed in Executive Session #2.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance said the information was in the Board packets.

Board Meeting Cover Letter – May 18, 2016

Budget Changes Report – April 1-30, 2016

FY 2016 Operating Statement as of April 30, 2016

Board Travel Statement

Mr. Hall asked about how it looked for closing the end of the year. Will the District be in the red or black? Ms. Grant said she is working on this and the District is looking good at closing the end of the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, May 22, 2016 – AFHS Baccalaureate Ceremony – 4:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 26, 2016 – Adult Ed Graduation – AFHS – 6:00 P.M.
Friday, May 27, 2016 – AFHS Graduation – 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, June 1, 2016 – Board Budget Work Session – 6:00 P.M.
Thursday, June 2, 2016 – Staff Recognition Day – AFHS – 8:00 A.M.
SCSBA – School Law Conference – August 27-28, 2016 – Charleston SC

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Hall moved that the Board enter Executive Session at 8:55 P.M. for Student Release Requests and Personnel. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Secretary Jenkins reported Ms. Robinson moved to return to Open Session at 9:47 P.M. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Robinson moved to approve the Student Release Requests. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 P.M.