

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

**MONDAY – JULY 22, 2013 – 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, July 22, 2013. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and the Superintendent’s Search. 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, Vice Chairman
Terry Hall
Wilda J. Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Secretary

ABSENT: Willie Priester

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Frazier moved to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for the purposes of Personnel and Superintendent Search. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Hall moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the June 24, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting, the June 27, 2013 Board Retreat and the July 15, 2013 Technology Work Session. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson welcomed the faculty, staff, administration and community to the meeting and apologized for coming back from Executive Session 24 minutes late. The quote on tonight's agenda is from one of the keynote speakers at the NSBA Southern Region Conference held in Destin, Florida. Dr. Adolph Brown III came into the conference dressed in a jacket, cap and hoodie. He came to the stage and people were wondering who he was and what he was doing there. Dr. Brown said people are judged based on how they are dressed and how decisions are made. He said if we don't develop relationships with children and young people we will never understand them.

Chairperson Robinson said the Board is precluded from answering questions during Meetings. Those who had questions during the last Meeting have received answers in writing to their questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

SCSBA – FY 2012-13 Boardmanship Institute Recognition: Dr. Tobin said based on attendance at SCSBA Conferences and as part of their professional development two Board Members have reached Level 2. Chairperson Robinson and Vice Chairman Frazier reached Level 2 and received a certificate and pin from the SCSBA.

BOARD REPORT – NSBA Southern Region Conference: Several Board Members attended the Conference in Destin, FL. Ms. Smith reported: 1) the keynote speaker Dr. Brown kept the audience's attention, showing different ways to engage students and get them to listen; 2) when people started walking out of his workshop he played "*Baby Come Back*"; 3) perception is everything how we treat students and keep them engaged; 4) another session on Common Core, opened another light for her. The speaker was military and said traveling from place to place and realized that all school districts are not on the same level and their children were either ahead or behind. With Common Core no matter where the children go to school they will be on the same level; 5) one session talked about parent involvement and parents being active, going to the legislators and telling them to send money to their districts, they became the advocates. We need parents that will talk to the legislators and ask them not to cut funds, but put money into education.

Mr. Frazier reported: 1) Dr. Brown connected with him when he addressed each child's issue based on where they are. Facing issues in the home and community, the school can be a place of refuge; 2) parent involvement, questions were asked do parents need to go to the legislators – boards must include parents and community in the schools to be part of the process.

ALLENDALE TRACK PROJECT: Chairperson Robinson reported: 1) for several years there has been a concern or desire to see a track in Allendale school district; 2) the Track Team has been State Champions in their division for at least 5 years; 3) the young ladies in track has also

earned recognition; 4) currently students must go to Voorhees in Denmark to practice and this is a concern within the community and alumni's; 5) the Coastal Foundation has been established; 6) Rep. Hosey approached the Board about seed funding to begin the project to get it resurrected and asked them to develop a proposal. He is on the Ways and Means Committee and will look into trying to secure \$100,000-\$150,000 which would be seed money. The proposal was forwarded to Rep. Hosey and will be presented to the Ways and Means Committee. Chairperson Robinson she Rep. Hosey is asking that the Board and Administration look at whatever resources that can be found, along with the Coastal Community Foundation. The four phase project would include a track; field house with dressing rooms and weight rooms; softball and tennis courts and a baseball field. The estimated cost for the complete project is about \$1 million dollars. If a wellness component was added and used by the community for a walking track this could entitle the District to some grant funding. Mr. Frazier is the ad hoc person for this project. He said when the conversation started there was a disconnection and the project lost steam, the same thing happened again. But the District is on the right track now. Thanks to the Board and community members who are working with the District on the project. He would like to get the community reignited again to get the project going. A number of students from track have gone to 4 year schools on track scholarships. Chairperson Robinson said they will have further discussion on this item with the community and they will be adding new people to the committee. She thanked Mr. Hall and Mr. Youmans for the information provided on the track team.

2013-14 BOARD MEETINGS – SCHEDULE “DRAFT”: Board Meetings scheduled at schools September 23rd at Allendale Elementary; February 24th at A-F Middle; and April 28th at Fairfax Elementary. Chairperson Robinson said when Meetings are held at the schools let them have 15-20 minutes to showcase their schools and the Board wants A-F High to have this time also. Ms. Smith said she would like to see Fairfax Elementary School Meeting moved to November 18th. Dr. Tobin said November 18th is a short month. Chairperson Robinson said she would like the Meetings to remain as they are. Mr. Frazier said he would love to have a meeting in the St. Mark and Martin communities. Mr. Frazier moved to tentatively approve the Draft schedule noted with making adjustments as needed or as the schools make recommendations to the Board. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Introduction of New District Staff: Dr. Tobin introduced Dr. Tonya Beckett, Coordinator of Federal Programs. He said she is from Estill and he worked with her in Estill and recognized her abilities. In Estill she worked on Gift and Talent and Title I. Dr. Beckett is coming from the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

Atlantic Research Partners (ARP) – Exit Report: Ms. Mims, President said a Power Point was included in the Board’s packets and she highlighted: 1) ARP started July 1, 2012 looking at data and helping the District to use the data wisely; 2) one of the major successes was helping to

change the culture related to formative assessment in grade k-8. Help administrators look at this data to achieve the State and Federal mandates that are required; 3) having instructional coaches at every school is very positive for students and; 4) what ARP have done this year is only the beginning, we are leaving you with artifacts and tools, look at the data this year, what Atlantic Research has done is something the District can be proud of.

Dr. Tobin said Mr. Scott Flowers is part of the District now, and gives the continuity of what Atlantic Research has started in the District. He is excited with the growth this year and to move forward. Mr. Flowers is poised to do great work with the students and they are going to do great.

Virgin Johnson Academy Charter School – Dr. Tobin said the enclosed letter from Attorney Boykin is for information. The SC Public Charter School District voted to dissolve the Virgin Johnson Academy of Excellence on June 18, 2013.

School Improvement Grant Appeal: Dr. Tobin said the letter from Attorney Boykin was an update on the SIG Grant appeal by the District. The District is awaiting the final result of the appeal.

Student Release Request: Dr. Tobin said the family was no longer residing in Allendale. According to the information on the release form the All family are renting property in another District and they are asking for their children to be released. Ms. Smith said if the family is renting a house in another district, why are they asking for a release from Allendale County Schools? She has some concerns about this release. Mr. Frazier moved to release these students to go to the school they desire. Mr. Hall seconded. Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Hall and Mr. Frazier voted to approve the motion. Ms. Smith opposed. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-1.

Back to School Health Fair/Expo – August 10, 2013: Dr. Tobin said this item is for information only. The Expo will be held at AFHS from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sessions will be held and school supplies given away.

Superintendent's Updates

Dr. Tobin said August 12th is the first day back for teachers. Technology training will be held on this professional development day. The District invited teachers who wanted to come before August 12th to have iPad training and thus far 47 teachers have agreed to attend this training.

All schools have had someone trained on how to update their Webpage. And you will see a difference on this site.

School Messenger System: Dr. Tobin said the District wants to plan the messages we get out and are working on an app for this. He is planning a breakfast with community leaders on August 28th and the “*State of the District*” address is planned for August 29th.

SACS Report: A copy of Allendale-Fairfax High Schools SACS Report was placed at each Board Members seat. Dr. Tobin will be working with AFHS on responding to this report.

“Spotlight on Allendale County Schools”: A sample copy of the newsletter was placed at the Board’s seat. The newsletter will be inserted into the Allendale Sun newspaper. The cost for the insert is \$80.00.

At the August Board Meeting the Board will hear reports from Technology and Special Education.

APPROVAL

General Bond Obligation: Mr. Tillotson, Finance Director reported 1) the resolution authorizes the administration to issue general obligation bonds. This is not a TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). The District is in a strong cash position; 2) for the last 3 or 4 years the District has issued a general bond obligation. Allendale participates in this bond with 13 other districts; 3) the bond provides money in the Building Funds, maintenance and future plans; 4) allows 32 mils that the District currently has and 5) this is just the resolution and not the actual document.

Mr. Hall moved to approve the general bond obligation. Ms. Smith seconded. Mr. Frazier asked for time to sit with Mr. Tillotson to understand the request better. The motion was approved by Mr. Hall, Ms. Smith and Chairperson Robinson. Mr. Frazier abstained. The motion was approved by a vote of 3.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Changes Report – June 1-30, 2013: Mr. Tillotson, Finance Director reported June’s report is short with no major changes. The summary and detailed report showings are based on the closing report of the fiscal 2013 report. The local tax was a little higher than the County anticipated. Ad valorem revenue came in at just over \$100,000. On page 3 the last entry in the flex transfers from the Building Fund was \$487,292. Right now the actual forecast for this fund is \$520,000.

Ms. Smith said on page 3 on interest on investments, what is in the budget is more than received. Mr. Tillotson said they budgeted more than received and interest rates have dropped. This should have been adjusted. Ms. Smith asked if the District have the option to flex from one bank to another if they are offering a better interest rate. Mr. Tillotson said the County invests the District’s fund and most of the cash is managed by the County. Allendale could go into a pool with the larger Districts, but the rates are just about the same.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Personnel Recommendations: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to accept the certified recommendations pending further review made in executive session. Mr. Frazier moved to accept the recommendations. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by Mr. Frazier, Ms. Smith and Chairperson Robinson. Mr. Hall voted nay. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1.

Dr. Tobin said Mr. Tillotson was a contracted employee but is now an employee of the District.

Chairperson Robinson asked administrators to encourage the parents of their students to come to as many of the meetings as possible. During the Facilities County-wide Meeting on September 12th the Board would like input from the community. The community will have an opportunity to ask questions, they can ask the firm that conducted the study. Meetings will be held at AES on October 10th and FES on October 7th. The meetings are all about better serving the students and looking at the resources of the District.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday – August 12th – Staff Opening Day – 7:45 a.m. – AFHS

Thursday-Friday, August 15-16th Teacher Workdays

Thursday – August 15th Boarddocs Training – 6:00 p.m. – District Office

Monday – August 19th – First Day for Students

Thursday – August 29th ACS State of the District Address – 6:30 p.m. – AFHS

Thursday – September 12th – ACS Public Forum – Facilities – 6:30 p.m. – AFHS

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.