

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**MONDAY – DECEMBER 13, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 13, 2010. 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 Cafeteria. The news media was notified.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Cave
Terry Hall
Cheryl Mole
Willie Priester
Valaree Smith

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Dr. Gail Mitchell, Director of Instructions
Charles Harney, Director of Operations
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Kevin Robinson, Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Mr. Priester.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS: Supt. Dr. McClain presided over the meeting for Board election and asked for a motion to un-table the last action from the November 22, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Hall moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. Dr. McClain said at the last meeting Ms. Mole nominated Mr. Hall for Chair and Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Priester for Chair. They heard the questions and there was a vote. Dr. McClain said tonight they will ask Mr. Cave to cast the deciding vote. Mr. Cave said he endorsed Mr. Willie Priester as Chair of the School Board. Dr. McClain turned the rest of the elections over to Board Chair Priester for nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary. Ms. Mole nominated Mr. Cave for Vice Chair. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. Ms. Mole nominated Ms. Smith for Secretary. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. Chairman Priester asked to put on the table in the future an election for Board Legislative Contact.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Cave moved to approve the Agenda. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Mole moved to approve the Minutes of the November 22, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE: Ms. Smith said this was her first conference as a School Board Member. She saw how the business portion of the meeting was conducted and Chairman Priester took part in the voting process. She is looking forward to learning more and doing what she can to better the schools. Budget cuts is something they will have to look at and as a Board they will do what is best for the teachers, staff and community. Chairman Priester said the major focus was budget cuts and how we are going to deal with it. It is going to be a very difficult year and we should look at how to deal with this. Legislators thought classroom sizes will be larger and they may cut the number of school days students attend school by 10 days. As a Board they will do what they can do as a body to make it the least disruptive to the school district and body. The business manager will guide them in the right direction.

GOOD NEWS

Clean Sweep Award – Mr. Harney presented the Clean Sweep Award for the month of December to Fairfax Elementary School.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Dr. McClain said he wanted to recognize Ms. Terry Fludd, who defended her dissertation last week and tonight is Dr. Fludd.

Establishment of Foundation for Track Project – Mr. Angus Lawton, Lawton Law Firm.

Dr. McClain said Mr. Lawton is a product of Allendale County Schools. He met Mr. Lawton at a meeting when he first came to the District and Mr. Lawton asked him how he can help. He said Mr. Lawton volunteered to sphere head the fundraising initiative to provide a track to Allendale County Schools.

Mr. Lawton said Allendale is his home. Tom and Bess Lawton are his parents and his mother was on the School Board for many years. This is an opportunity for the town and the students to let the athletes know they can overcome great odds. He has enjoyed getting to know Dr. McClain, Mr. Youmans and Mr. Harney. The plan is to create a large and diverse group and

reach back as many years as possible. It will take a lot of work and money. He does not know how long it will take, but every great journey starts with one small step. He understands the Board has approved and endorsed this project and they need the Boards help. The Coastal Community Foundation will handle the funds – donations will be tax free and alleviate any responsibility on the school district's part for the funds. They will start the fundraising in earnest relatively quickly. Mr. Lawton asked if there were any questions. Chairman Priester asked what is the projected time frame. Mr. Lawton said he does not know. The amount of money that will be required is scary. With the economy the way it is today, they will look for donators, business, at grants and former Allendale County School students. But they don't know. They are trying to do a first class project so it will take time. Chairman Priester asked about larger organizations that are looking to give funds. Mr. Lawton said they have not contacted Bill Gates, but they will contact local and other businesses for funds.

Mr. Cave said as he listened to Mr. Lawton, a man who grew up in Allendale and he has a concern to help Allendale go in the right direction. We need to get more local people concerned about the community and education. Let's come together and get some of the things that will be outstanding to the school district. He said last year the District made the highest increase in growth in the State of SC, but no one made a lot of noise about this. We should make some noise about the good things and good things come from good leadership.

Facilities Update – Mr. Harney, Executive Director of Operations: Mr. Harney said the Board had the information in their packets. Their ongoing mission is to transport the students safely to school, have a learning environment that is safe, orderly and be aesthetically pleasing. Recently AES had air conditioning replacement in the gym, upgraded the heat at FES and lighting projects are going on at AES and moving to FES. The Board has several items in their packets that need approval. Dr. McClain said one of the items they are asking for approval is to install cameras on the school buses. In light of today's climate we have been lucky. We need a monitoring system on the school buses. In an effort to safe guard the new ball field at FES they need to fence in the area to minimize vandalism. Mr. Cave moved to approve the items requesting approval. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Analysis of Test Scores & How the Schools are Addressing Reading & Math in the Core Areas – Dr. Mitchell, Director of Instructions: Dr. McClain said he asked Dr. Mitchell to give the Board a snapshot of where the District is in regards to standardized tests and the kinds of programs they have implemented in the schools to address the deficiencies our students have.

Dr. Mitchell highlighted PASS testing success: 1) in the 5th grade writing from 2009 has moved from 31.0% of students mastering writing to 53.8 in 2010; 2) 8th grade social studies 22.7 to 31.8; 3) 4th grade science moved from 28.8 to 32.4; 4) MAP testing (a Measure of Academic Progress) measures students actual level of achievement, is computerized and allows teachers to plan; 5) MAP testing results was included in the Board packets; 6) MAP test results are predictive and can tell if students are prepared to take the State Assessments; 7) all school

districts receive a State Report Card; 8) Report cards allows the District to inform parents, staff and community about the students performance, identifies students strengthens and weakness, helps the State and schools focus their resources; 9) at the middle school they are working on several items to increase their writing scores; 10) AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) AES met 10 out of 13 objectives; 11) FES met 13 out of 13 objectives – thus meeting AYP; 12) AFMS met 7 out of 13 objectives; 13) to make AYP in 2011 AES need to move 9 students in ELA and 9 in math; 14) FES need to move 5 students in ELA and 7 in math; 15) HSAP – high school students must pass this test to receive a high school diploma; 16) in 2009 44.3% of students passed HSAP on the right attempt; 17) in 2010 140 students were tested on HSAP and 54.3% passed on the first attempt and 18) instructional practices and strategies include Core Curriculum Implementation, Classroom observations, model lessons, reform models (SFA and Pearson Learning Teams), on-going assessments; pacing guides and professional development.

Chairman Priester asked if we have learned anything that will help us in making significant gains in other areas. Can we import what we learned to other areas? Dr. Mitchell said yes we can achieve these gains and we have learned we need to be consistent, make sure students are learning to read, students must be taught vocabulary words and use them in different context areas. Ms. Smith said on the AYP results, information was not given on what AFMS need to do to move to the next level. Dr. Mitchell said AFMS has a lot to do – she does not have the number of students they need to move. Ms. Fludd, AFMS Principal said they need to move 22 students. Dr. McClain said these small numbers you are hearing is looking at all things staying equal, if you move these numbers we meet a minimum benchmark set by the State. We cannot think when we reach these benchmarks that we have arrived. We want all the children to move. How do we replicate the successes we have in some areas, as teachers work more together and standardize across the District instructional delivery we will see more gains across the spectrum as opposed to the pockets of excellence we are seeing. Ms. Mole said looking at the instructional practices and strategies that are implemented, we are only making minimum gains or no gains at all. Do we need to go back and re-evaluate what we are implementing? Dr. Mitchell said these are practices that we have put in place since those test scores have been reported.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director recommended BM employment with ACS be suspended 15 days without pay. This recommendation is subject to the Board’s obligation to hear the matter on the merits should BM request a hearing of the suspension. The Board has not reviewed any evidence to make its determination of whether or not following a hearing it will approve the suspension. Further, the Board’s decision is not final or binding until it has entered a Board Order in accordance with SC Code §59-25-470. Ms. Mole moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2011-2012 Budget Update – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said information was included in the Board packets. These are some of the things we have examined to reduce the projected

deficit due to the budget cuts and the loss of the stimulus funds next year. And start thinking about some of the potential ways to address the deficit. The chart shows the different categories of funds – general, state, federal and stimulus – in a summarized manner of revenue and expenditures for the 2012 year. The last column is the projected \$2 million deficit.

The reasons for the deficit is the loss of stimulus funds of about \$1.4 million and \$600,000 state carry over funds will not be available next year. The administration has developed some spending cuts and some concepts that can possibly reduce spending: 1) identified spending cuts – across the board potential staff reduction will save about \$880,000. We have not identified any specific persons; 2) potential classroom size increase or having staff take on extra responsibilities. Chairman Priester asked are we considering in this area using attrition as a way to deal with this. Mr. Robinson said yes; 3) other options for spending cuts include staff furloughs – 5 days off for teachers and 10 days off for administrators – this could save an estimated \$60,000-\$300,000 depending on the number of furlough days; 4) contracting staff services – this is a potential savings, but would depend on the service being outsourced. We need the Board’s consent before we act on or proceed with this option; 5) additional staff reduction – eliminating travel and using other cost cutting measures; and 6) elimination of retirees – savings would be based on whether the positions were filled and the salaries of those filling the positions. Two additional funding sources are the Federal Program Carryover could help increase revenue by about \$500,000 and increase operating millage based on the formula a 3% increase would bring in additional revenue of about \$150,000. Possible additional cost is the reinstatement of the Step Increase – these figures are not included in the current projections.

Chairman Priester said they are floating around a different mechanism to fund schools. Dr. McClain said he expressed his displeasure for what is being proposed. SCASA is recommending every school district in the State operate 100 mils thus reducing the local tax burden and the State would fund every student at a level of about \$5,000 per pupil. Currently Allendale operates at 272 mils, if we lost 172 mils in this school district and just depended upon the EFA of \$5,000 from the State we would be at a deficit. For some school districts it is good, but not for small districts like Allendale. The local superintendent consortium has asked SCASA to come down and meet with them to discuss this issue. Ms. Mole asked how many positions the \$880,000 would this cover. Mr. Robinson said he will include this in Friday’s information.

Budget Change Report – November 1-30, 2010: Mr. Robinson said this is for information only. The information listed the transfers to cover budget shortfalls in the general fund.

Budget Report by Function – November 1-30, 2010 – Mr. Robinson said page 1 the revenues for November is \$377,505 and year-to-date is \$1,868,000. The next 6 pages is the budget report by function – summaries on page 6 the total expenditures for November is \$947,971 and year-to-date is \$3,697,576. The detailed report of the expenditures by function is included in the packets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday – December 17th – ½ Day for Students – Last Day for Staff

Monday – January 3, 2011 – 240 Day Staff & Teachers Return

Tuesday – January 4, 2011 – Teachers Workday

Wednesday – January 5, 2011 – Students Return

SCSBA Annual Conference & New Board Member Orientation – February 24-27, 2011 – Myrtle Beach/Kingston Plantation

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.