

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – OCTOBER 26, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.  
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The **Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting** was held on **Monday, October 26, 2009. At 6:00 p.m.** the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Contractual Matters. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Willie Priester, Chair  
Terry Hall  
Cheryl Mole, Secretary  
Alexis Zeidan  
Charlie Cave, Vice Chair

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Dr. Ora L. Watson, Superintendent  
Meredith Cooler, Assistant to the Supt. Education  
Charles Harney, Assistant to the Supt. Operations  
Kevin Robinson, Finance Director  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Mr. Cave.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Zeidan made a motion to put UB decision under personnel for the agenda to be modified to have this under personnel. Mr. Cave seconded. Chairman Priester said this would be item #11 and move everything else accordingly. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Zeidan had two corrections for the September 28, 2009 Minutes. On page 7 talking with Dr. Tobin – she asked him with the students that had taken the nursing class could he help them with this if they needed remediation or needed some other type of class because they said if they were in class they could take the nursing test. This was the question she asked him not if they had the nursing program. And he said yes. Down at the bottom – at the end of this one – it was a preliminary approval that the motion was for the MOA. Chairman Priester asked for an approval of the minutes with the adjustments. Mr. Hall moved to accept the Minutes with the adjustments. Ms. Zeidan seconded. The motion was approved by all.

## **GOOD NEWS**

**Clean Sweep Award** – Mr. Harney said for the Month of October – that the 301 Campus – Allendale-Fairfax Learning Center is the school of the month.

**Mr. Newsome – AFMS – Named Top Principal PIP** – Dr. Watson said Mr. Newsome was not present tonight because he had a temperature of 103 degrees – she hopes he is okay. He was named the State’s Top New Principal of the Year.

**AES – STAR Grant Award** – Ms. Leath, Principal said AES was awarded a STAR (Students, Teachers, Achieving Results) grant sponsored by the Savannah River Site for \$1,0000. The grant will be used to promote science education. The school will be buying refurbishment for the science kits.

**AES – High Ability Classes** – Ms. Leath said AES has 3 High Ability classes in grades 3, 4 and 5 comprised of students from Allendale and Fairfax. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level Ms. Polite is the teacher, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is Ms. Green and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher is Ms. Johnson. The curriculum is the William and Mary Curriculum which is research based for high achieving students. The curriculum is very challenging – focuses on higher order thinking skills – students must think critically. Some students who made the honor roll in the past may be making C’s because the curriculum is more challenging than they are used to. But as the year goes on they will bring those C’s up to A’s. About 60 students are enrolled in the program.

**FES Coronation** – Ms. Pickett, Curriculum Coordinator introduced the 2009-10 Mr. and Miss FES. They had representatives from each grade level to form a royal court. Mr. and Miss FES will also participate in the AFHS Homecoming parade. Mr. FES is Travonta Williams and Miss FES is Daijoneva Riley.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Priester said this is a great way to get input from the community and this is an important process. However, they must have a process that works very well for the system in general. He is asking tonight – they have lots of visitors tonight – but only 1 public comments sheet thus far. The only sheet he has is regarding the coach’s pay. Because this is an administrative issue – regrettably they cannot hear it as part of the public meeting. Last month they heard an issue – but they should not have heard because it was an issue that was heard in public – but was not a public issue. They should not have heard this issue in the public segment. When it is regarding an administrative or personnel issue it cannot be heard as part of the public comments. A system for grievance for making recommendations – but this public meeting is not the portion of the meeting to do this. This issue relates to staff and thus cannot be heard during the public session of the meeting. Coach Farmer said he asked to be put on the agenda – but does not see this name on the agenda. Dr. Watson said Coach Farmer called at 3:30 p.m. on Friday

and the agenda was already prepared and gone. Staff must follow protocol. Chairman Priester said he wanted to make it clear that the Board is not overlooking any individual, group or persons. Coach Farmer asked if he would be able to speak tonight. Chairman Priester said if it relates to administrative or a personnel issue they cannot hear it. Ms. Zeidan said as employees you must follow the chain of command. After you have followed the chain of command and then you are not satisfied with the response you have gotten then you can petition to come before the Board. Basically you cannot come before the Board without going thru the chain of command.

Mr. Mark Lott said he is a member of the community and a volunteer. There is something that needs to be resolved – he asked the superintendent and Board whatever the situation – this is the most people he has seen at a Board meeting. Set aside your personal differences – the last thing they need is an uproar in the community. Let's get this resolved and move forward – we do not need the negativity in the community. Good things are and will continue to happen in Allendale – but these people are here for a reason.

Mr. Cave said he has mixed emotions from the public – his concern is – they as the Board have been elected to serve in this capacity. This Board does not know all the things you know. The Board is not here to make judgment and decisions only coming thru the administrator of the school district. The Board charges the superintendent – she charges her administrators – failure to follow the protocol and they are misinformed. Apparently they are not informed of what is being said and done in the community. They have just as much or more concerns of the District being able to educate children. If they are here for any other purpose, individually or groups – they are here for the purpose of having leaders responsible for Allendale County School District. He hopes no one in the District has built or are part of the District to go as they desire. They are here to make sure that they go the way that will help Allendale County School District. He feels something is not quite right – as has been stated the attendance is large tonight. Personal vendettas are not going to carry them where they need to go. If there is something his Board member fails to do – he is to tell them. Get on one track and run the District with peace, harmony and no big me and little you.

Chairman Priester said it is always good to have input – he does not want people to walk away tonight saying nothing happened. As part of the Board they must follow the correct protocol – so they don't get to the point at a later date – that they have to step away from something they are elected to do. Because they cannot hear the issue in public or resolve it in public, he is asking that whatever issue is at hand – it is addressed directly with the Superintendent in a private setting with the protocol and chain of command being followed. The Board wants the issues resolved – they don't want anything to impede the progress of Allendale – please take care of this so they can move forward. See a lot of students – believe they are supportive of the kinds of the things the District is trying to do. And they want to make sure that whatever they do the children are moving forward.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only. Dr. Watson said in looking at the Discipline Reports the Board can see where PBIS is working and where they may still have some difficulties. Mr. Hall said AFMS had a lot of Level 3 offenses for the month – each grade had over 30. Dr. Watson said she thinks they are marking these wrong. Last period Level 3 offenses was brought up – these are not Level 3 offenses. She will deal with the person who is dealing with this again. This error may be coming thru SASI – she will give the Board an explanation for this. Mr. Newsome was not present to address the issue. Ms. Zeidan said she was looking at something else a little bit different – it’s all in the reporting and she will share this with Dr. Watson later.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE**

**Review on Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** – Dr. Watson said the District is required to inform the Board about the CIPA each year in order for the District to be eligible for any E-Rate funds. Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology said the CIPA Act was created in December 2000. And it states that those school districts that are applying for E-Rate funding are required to have a policy on internet safety and certify compliance with the CIPA Act. The District is in compliance with this Act. The District has put in technology protection measures that provide internet filtering and SPAM control. The District has an internet safety policy that addresses the fact that internet services are provided to students and staff for the purpose of educating the students. Chairman Priester asked if there are any changes to the policy. Ms. Jamison said there are no changes to the Policy but the District must do this every year to apply for E-Rate funds.

**Personnel Matter** – Secretary Mole made a motion to accept the recommendation for personnel for UB. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Budget Changes Report – Sept. 1-30, 2009** – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said the Board has the information in their packets and asked if there were any questions.

**Finance Report for the month of Sept. 1-30, 2009** – Mr. Robinson said on page 2 the total revenues for the month – the general fund is \$423,573.00. Year-to-date revenues are \$1,297,053. Expenditures total for the month of September on page 6 is \$939,421 and year-to-date is \$2,016,893. Turn to page 22 the detailed report of expenditures – half way down – there is an amount budgeted \$3000 for the Debate Team. Ms. Zeidan asked about upholstery – what is to be upholstered or have something already been upholstered? What exactly is this upholstery for? Dr. Watson said all the chairs in the Board room have been upholstered. The Board has not had a meeting in the Board room lately – so the Board has not gotten to enjoy the chair yet. Ms. Zeidan said on page 12 – down at the bottom – where that fund they were talking about taking that out of and the budgeted expenditures is for \$22,000 – instead of \$24,000. Would this need to be

changed instead of the original budget \$24,000 would be \$22,000? Mr. Robinson said right now this is the amended budget – so it is \$22,000. Ms. Zeidan said she noticed they had a lot of things with a negative balance of the accounts – can you tell her what is happening with these accounts? Mr. Robinson said this is one of the things they will be working on this month to clear up some of the negative balances and in some cases what happened the correct account code is not used – we make sure the codes are correct so purchases can be made. In some cases they had the money but the wrong code was used. Ms. Zeidan asked if they would need a vote on the budget change. Chairman Priester said they don't have to vote on this it is administrative.

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

### **AES Tiger Tales – October 2009**

#### **Pictures are on the website from the Oct. 14, 2009 Strategic Planning Lunch**

Bosses day was last week – the mums in front of the table are for the Board – thanks for the work you do on behalf of the school district

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Schedule Student Expulsion Hearings**

**JROTC Veterans Day Program – Tuesday – Nov. 11 – 1:30 P.M.**

**AFHS Senior Class Trip – Disney World – April 23-25, 2010**

**Parent Conference night – Thursday 4:00-7:00 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 to 12:00 Noon – this is October 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.