

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 23, 2015 – 5:00 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, February 23, 2015. At 5:00 P.M. the Board heard a presentation from Pepco Energy Services and The Brownstone Design Group. At 8:16 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matters, Personnel and a Student Release Request. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hall called the Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL/MEMBERS PRESENT: Alonzo Frazier
Terry Hall, Chairman
Patricia Jenkins, Vice Chairman
Wilda J. Robinson, Secretary
Catherine Russell

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Ms. Leila W. Williams, Superintendent
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

PEPCO ENERGY SAVINGS: Wayne Leahy and Ray Depew

BROWNSTONES DESIGN: Anthony Lawrence

PARKER POE: Sidney J. Evering, II Special Counsel/Director of Diversity

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Russell moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PEPCO ENERGY SERVICES – PRESENTATION:

Mr. Lawrence from Brownstone Design highlighted: 1) in April 2014 he received the go ahead before Pepco came onboard. Brownstone was working as the architect for the District to help consolidate the closing of two schools; 2) the District looked at renovating AFHS to accommodate the AFMS students. The concern was how many students could go into the space and if the building would meet State codes; 3) the project included a child development center close to the high and middle school and a renovation of the existing middle school into an elementary school; 4) the contract with Pepco was selected and signed in July to start the work; 5) the work was going to be funded through bond sales and the District had \$250,000 in seed money to start on the renovation work

for the middle and high school while the bond was being solidified; 6) see the objective on page 2 (Initial Project Schedule) which is a small scale of the original design schedule. See Exhibit A, a larger version of the original schedule; 7) the original project schedule had the renovations from June 6th to August 15, 2014; the students were not to go into the middle school until December 2014; this was going to speed up the process and they could get started; Mr. Lawrence did not have with him tonight the schedule to reflect the June-December timeline; 8) Brownstone facilitated the moving of furniture and painting of the building; 9) July 21 is when Pepco started demolition work and they started without OSF (Office of School Facilities) permission. He had a conversation with Dr. Tobin about this and Dr. Tobin gave him permission to start the work without OSF approval. But it is not uncommon for superintendent's to have this problem. Mr. Lawrence will share the email with Supt. Williams where Dr. Tobin gave him permission to do this; 10) see the Project Recap starting on page 3; 11) on August 20th they received a verbal okay for students to occupy AFMS from the fire marshal and OSF; 12) the fire alarm plans were not in the initial scope of work; Mr. Lawrence said the fire alarm plans were submitted to OSF back in November 2014. They had a glitch in their system and this has been worked out. He should have an approval by the middle of March 2015. The State Fire Marshal, local fire marshal and OSF must review the plans before they are approved; 13) Pepco has received pricing from 3 contractors for the fire alarm upgrade. Ms. Williams asked if once the District gets the plans they can move forward. Mr. Lawrence said we must wait for approval before they can get started on the fire alarm and the drawings are considered as starting the work. His recommendation is to let them do the work over the summer; 14) in the renovations the child development center went from 15,000 square feet to 22,000 square feet; mildew caused by the existing drainage and gutter; when it rains the courtyard fills up and the water collects in the walls. Do you have bids for the access of the high school? Mr. Lawrence said no, but they do have the cost for the drainage and gutter repairs. Ms. Robinson asked about the child development design which started out at 6000-7000 square feet and then it went to 15,000 and now to 22,000 to add Little New Steps and the special needs classes and some additional classroom spaces. Do you have slides to show how the space went from 6,000 to 22,000 square feet? Mr. Lawrence said yes he had slides on her question; 15) OSF did not have to give approval to do the work or upgrades to the cafeteria/lobby area. Mr. Frazier asked what is the cost for the work on the cafeteria/lobby area. Mr. Lawrence will present this later in the presentation. It is generally painting and new furniture in the cafeteria and lobby area. The code allows 20 square foot per student; for smaller children the numbers are different. Mr. Frazier said he could not read the information because it was too small. Mr. Lawrence said he would provide 11 x 17 handouts for the Board to review. Ms. Robinson asked about the uncolored portions on the handout. Mr. Lawrence said these were items that they do not have to touch or they may just spruce up some spaces.; 16) the civil engineering drawing showing the drainage of the property, which must be approved by OSF; 17) see Exhibit D for the child development center and the additional grades that were added to the area; based on the center having 40 children at LNS (Little New Steps) {which included room for expansion} at the time it was 6000-7000 square feet; LNS is on the left side of the plan; offices in the center and a small kitchenette and restrooms. Mr. Frazier asked Mr. Lawrence to explain what a concept plan is? Mr. Lawrence said with a concept plan they start with basic concepts and where stuff can go.

This is put in a plan, but there is a whole other level of details that must be added. It is easier to move plans and items around during the concept planning than in the final plans. The 15,000 square foot facility still includes LNS, but the little ones have moved to the back of the building. Ms. Robinson asked why the space has doubled for LNS. Mr. Lawrence said the spaces increased because the District felt the student population would grow. See page 16 the square footage increased and new areas have been added to the plan. Ms. Robinson said she would love to see the District have all of this for children, but pages 15 and 16 were never brought to the Board for approval. She has never seen these pages before. Mr. Lawrence said see Exhibit E, the Cost Projections/Bids which is broken out in phases. Mr. Frazier said Mr. Lawrence said the District has \$250,000 in seed money, he understands they never approved anything because they were told that is what the work would cost. The District tried to get a penny sales tax in 2007, when he was on the Board and everything was clear, but on this he is foggy. Ms. Robinson said the \$250,000 that was District money they used to get the project started pending the sale of the Bond. Mr. Frazier said he was asking about the cost of things and no one would give them anything. The way he understands it the project would cost the District \$250,000 and this is what the District approved. The other funds were for the renovation of AFMS for the elementary school students. Chairman Hall said the last estimate he saw was \$630,000. Mr. Lawrence said as Pepco was receiving the bids he was putting the numbers in the yellow section. Mr. Evering said the \$250,000 was a miscommunication. He sent a letter to Dr. Tobin and he spoke with Pepco to get started on the project before the Bonds were sold. He told Dr. Tobin if the District started the project and the Bonds were not sold the District would be on the hook. It was a letter letting you know if the Bonds did not sell the District is on the hook. He was told it would not exceed \$250,000 from the beginning of July until August, not the entire project, but for that specific time period. The fire marshal has given the District 1 year to get the fire system upgraded. Chairman Hall said the number does not include the fire alarm system. The work at the middle school wing is going to cost about \$1 million dollars. Mr. Lawrence said the fire alarm will be upgraded for the entire middle and high school. Mr. Frazier said the Board is the one who must approve the money for the project and listening to what was said, it was not shared with the Board. But the information was shared with the previous superintendent. They approved \$250,000 and he never heard it was going to cost more than \$250,000. He has only seen sketches, which are not final drawings. But back to the money, the Board must approve this and they are learning things second hand. He heard in January that it would cost almost \$700,000. He is disappointed in the work and the paint has started peeling. There are issues before they even start the project. Mr. Evering said he will provide the Board with a copy of the letter sent to Dr. Tobin. Ms. Robinson said the \$250,000 was approved by the Board. Mr. Frazier said the ½ million dollars was not approved by the Board. The Board manages the money of the District and they need clear and precise information to make clear and precise decisions. Chairperson Hall asked if the District was given a breakdown of the \$650,000. Mr. Lawrence said the District has this breakdown. Mr. Lawrence said they have a 12 months warranty on the work done at the middle school area. Mr. Frazier said he understands the project being delayed, but the ceiling tile in the bathroom is very low, and he is not defending the students for pulling the tile down. The water and hand dryers in the bathrooms do not appear to be 2014 versions by the way they are operating and after 2 months the paint should not be starting

to peel. This appears to be design flaws. He wondered about the quality of work that he sees on the Middle School area and when the District had the renovations at the old AFMS in 2006 he does not see the current area as being up-to-date. Ms. Russell said she keeps hearing about verbal stuff, but where is a signed contract. Mr. Lawrence said the contract was signed back in 2014. Ms. Russell said what about if the Bonds did not sell? Mr. Evering said the District would not have had the funds to complete the project. There was a small possibility that the Bonds would not sell. Part of the Bond was a refinance from the 2009 Bond. Ms. Williams said the Board was not aware that the project would get to \$12 million. How much was the Board thinking the project was going to cost? Mr. Evering said about \$5.2 million dollars. Ms. Williams said look at Exhibit E, 1B the Fire Alarm Upgrades cost was not anticipated so this puts the District above and beyond \$5.2 million and the cafeteria lobby was not included in the \$5.2 million. The High/Middle School renovations, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B make up the \$5.2 million. Mr. Lawrence said yes. Ms. Robinson said with the unexpected fire alarm upgrade, the District did not know this until the fire marshal came out and said this has to be updated in 1 year. Ms. Williams said in Work Task Order #1 not to exceed \$5.2 million this includes a 6000 square foot building. Pepco said yes. Mr. Frazier said the Board will have to discuss all the additional cost. Mr. Evering said what sold was \$10.9 million dollars Bonds. Mr. Lawrence said 3B the Primary School facility, \$5.5 is what the numbers reflects the 22,000 square foot building, which is a \$2 million dollars increase. Ms. Williams asked if the conceptual costs were from Mr. Lawrence, if the 2014 estimated costs are his costs. Mr. Lawrence said the real numbers are in yellow. Chairman Hall asked if there was a chance that these numbers will change again. Mr. Lawrence said yes. Mr. Lawrence recommendations: a) reduce the scope of the work; b) look at reducing the square foot of the child development center; c) the high school fire alarm system must be completed; d) let Pepco do another internal estimate; e) OSF will take about 45-60 days to approve whatever plans he submits, but he wants to continue with the work. See the timeline in the handout on pages 19 and 20. Ms. Williams said the recommendations on page 19 limiting renovations to the elementary schools but the 1st grade classrooms, bathrooms and cabinetry must be done. The music room has molding and this must be done. Other things are cleaning and tossing. Mr. Lawrence said this gets the District what they need. Ms. Williams said 5 classrooms and cabinetry how long does this take. Pepco said it could be done before school starts next year. Mr. Lawrence said the existing septic system at the current middle school is at capacity because the District is putting students in the building DHEC will require the District tap into the line at the highway. Mr. Frazier said he asked these questions months ago and the Board was told they would not have to do the sewage and now this must be done. Mr. Lawrence said looking forward he will wrap up the children development center, take a step back and he will present a concept on what this will look like and he will give the design to Pepco so they can start putting numbers with it. So when school starts in August work can be finished. Ms. Williams said on Exhibit E, which also includes Pepco costs these are the bids numbers they received. Mr. Lawrence said Column 4 is the contractor proposals for that phase of work. Ms. Williams said 1C the Cafeteria/Lobby Upgrades can be put on hold. She asked if bids had been received on the drainage roof repairs and with the elementary interior renovations no numbers are present. Mr. Lawrence said they are waiting on what the scope of work will be. Ms. Williams asked what is the next step once the Board

decides what they want. Mr. Lawrence said it takes the design team about 3-4 weeks to finish the drawings and then give them to Pepco for pricing. He would like to start on the final plans, no more conceptual drawings. Ms. Williams said there is no cost on the Primary School on 3A and 3B. The Board needs to decide what they want and can you give a dollar cost for the square footage. Mr. Lawrence said about \$175-\$200 per square foot. He purposes to get that cost down with metal studs and sheet rock interior building, which is high impact sheet rock, but built faster and saves money. He will show the Board two options with prices for the two options. Ms. Williams said drawing two sets of plans cost extra. Mr. Lawrence said he would not charge the District for two sets of drawings. Ms. Robinson said 1C the cafeteria upgrades that was taken out, but these funds were approved in the USDA package that was just approved. Ms. Grant said the only thing approved with USDA for Food Service was the van. Ms. Williams said at the end of the project some funds may be left. Mr. Lawrence said start the renovations so the elementary school could be completed in September 2015 and the child development center in February 2016.

Ms. Williams said her and Ms. Grant, the Finance Director will be involved in the meetings with Brownstone and Pepco as the District move forward so information can be obtained and archived. Ms. Grant asked about the date starting in July and finished in September, will that cost the District more and not cost a premium. Pepco said it would not cost the District a premium.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Ms. Robinson moved that Executive Session #1 items be discussed in Executive Session #2. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Russell moved to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Mr. Frazier reported: 1) he forgot his report but one of the highlights included State Superintendent Spearman and the National PTA President; 2) he also attended the Board Chair Training.

Ms. Robinson reported: 1) the new State Superintendent Molly Spearman was a breath of fresh air and said she will do a good job; 2) Ms. Maiers one of the General Session speakers asked “How Big is Your Brave”. She has done research on being successful and not afraid to try new things, be brave; 3) she worked with disabled students and this is also about making big decisions; 4) US Congressman Jim Clyburn was the final speaker and he spoke about his upbringing and what he learned from his father and working together and his hopes and desires for South Carolina.

Ms. Jenkins: 1) the session on “How Big is Your Brave” was unique. Being brave is about making choices; our kids are brave every day; let students know when they make brave decisions; 2) community and collaboration, nothing is done on an individual basis. We live in a global society and it goes beyond our school walls. We are doing positive things in the District and we must let the parents and community know about these good things.

Ms. Russell: 1) she attended the new Board Member Workshop which was excellent. They talked about what board responsibility is and is not; 2) as Board members they should not be intimidating, but show your support for the staff and district; 3) in Jasper County they were getting “F’s” but they talked about how they turned the school system around. They have student and teacher of the month; students visit doctors and dentists offices to see how it works. This is done on an on-going basis and bag lunches are sent home with students on the weekend.

Ms. Williams: 1) said being brave is getting out of your comfort zone; 2) a winner vs. a champion, what is the difference. The champion is the one who takes it all home at the end; 3) the Read to Succeed Summer Camp one school district did some innovative things and she will share these with the elementary principals to incorporate in the schools; 4) the workshop from Lexington #2 on the iPad roll-out, she was pleased to see what Allendale has done. She feels confident about Allendale’s rollout.

Chairman Hall: 1) he liked the theme “Mission Impact”. He attended the Board Chair Workshop; 2) one to one rollout for students and teachers and how these two need to come together and merge in the rollout. One District opened the school early because some students did not have internet at home; 3) one session talked about an app on bullying. On the app is a witness bullying form that can be completed and sent. Once the administrator receives the form they can contact parents and this also helps track bullying. The District should look into getting this app

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

GOOD NEWS

Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology said the iPad roll-out is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th for 7-9 graders and for 10-12 graders on Thursday, February 26th.

The Apple Dallas Trip was very good. The conference focused on planning, sustainability, professional development and being successful on day one. Apple is paying for everything for the next 3 years.

There is an AT&T Grant which may give students wireless whether they have internet or not.

Ms. Robinson asked when everything will be in place for the elementary students. Ms. Jamison said iPads and MacBook Airs may be in the hands of teachers possibly before the end of the year. Apple wants to make sure they do Professional Development for teachers.

Ms. Williams said the AFHS Tigers Playoff Basketball game has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 25th.

Ms. Williams said the District is working on a Field Experience for a number of high school and middle school students to see the movie Selma. Funds have been received and Mr. Hemby has some funds that can be used for this. On March 4th and 5th the students

will travel to Aiken to see the movie. Ms. Robinson asked if the 12 MLK essay writers could be included in the trip.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only. Mr. Frazier said he spoke with some parents about discipline and they are concerned about students being disruptive and causing their children not to get a good education. He would like to see the Board look at the Policy on this. Students are doing things and there are no repercussions except ISS and the AFLC. Maybe have parents come in and babysit their children. It has been 8 years since school uniforms and he would like the Board to make a commitment on this.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

2015-216 Draft Calendars: Ms. Williams said the difference between Version 1 is the week of Thanksgiving off and May 31st as the last day of school. And Version 2 is 3 days off for Thanksgiving and school ends on May 27th which would also be the date for high school graduation.

Equity Access for All Initiative – SDE: Ms. Williams said the District received an invitation from State Supt. Spearman to participate in this initiative. She will participate and the first meeting is on Friday, February 27th in Columbia. She will bring information back for the Board

SC JET: Ms. Williams said with this proposed bill all districts will have a shared millage – see page 8 or 9. The bill replaces the local district property taxes with a statewide property tax based on 100 mills and alternative uniform statewide taxes. Horry and Greenville supports this bill which has been filed.

APPROVALS

MOA Allendale County Sheriff's Office/Resource Officers: Ms. Williams said the District is required to have a document which outlines the roles and responsibility of the School District and the Sheriff's Office. The document was drafted by the District's attorney Mr. Boykin. Mr. Frazier moved to accept the MOA between ACS and the Sheriff's office. Ms. Jenkins seconded. Voting to approve the motion was Mr. Frazier, Chairman Hall, Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Robinson. Ms. Russell abstained. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

Field Trip Request – Bob Haynes Invitational Track Meet Jacksonville, FL March 20-22, 2015: Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the Field Trip request to Jacksonville. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Robinson asked about the chaperones. Mr. Hemby will check with Coach Ford and Coach Dixson on the rooms. Ms. Hall said there is 1 adult in each room with the students. Mr. Frazier said the trip is being planned where the Board can approve it at a meeting and second did the bus break down last year. Make sure the bus transporting the students is in good operating condition. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Reschedule March 23rd Regular Monthly Board Meeting (NSBA Annual Conference): Mr. Frazier moved to approve March 30th as the Regular Meeting date. Ms. Robinson seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

2nd Reading Policy DKC – Expense Authorization Reimbursement: Mr. Frazier moved to accept the 2nd reading of Policy DKC. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams said because of the expected inclement weather on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 schools will be on a 2 hours delay for students and staff.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Board Cover Letter – February 2015: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance said included in the packets are the revenues and expenses thru January. The Budget Changes Report reflects changes in objects and location. Also see the information on the Blue Ribbon Florida trip. See the cover sheet. Mr. Frazier said on operating statement instructional program, see sheet 1, Lisa Foster looks like this was not approved in the budget. Ms. Williams said Ms. Foster is working in that capacity in the position as a consultant. But that position has not been filled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Frazier moved that the Board go into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. to pick up items from Executive Session #1. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Frazier moved that the Board return to Open Session at 8:52 p.m. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Robinson moved to approve the Student Release Requests as presented by the Administration. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Robinson moved to approve the Act 155 Student Petitions for diplomas as presented by the Administration. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Frazier moved to adjourn the Meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Jenkins. The motion was approved and the Meeting adjourned.