

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

**MONDAY – FEBRUARY 28, 2011 – 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, February 28, 2011. 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 Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charlie Cave, Vice Chairman  
Terry Hall  
Cheryl Mole  
Willie Priester, Chairman  
Valaree Smith, Secretary

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

**OPEN SESSION:** Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Mole moved to approve the revised Agenda. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Cave moved to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**GOOD NEWS**

**AFHS Boys and Girls Basketball Teams:** Dr. McClain said the group of young people present this evening are worthy of recognition. They have labored long and hard. Both teams made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the State playoffs. Athletic Director, Coach Ford asked the Girls Basketball Team to come forward. He said half of the girls are with the Track Team tonight. This year was a

very productive year – it's always disappointing when the last game is not winning the State Championship. The seniors put 4 great years in the program and they won 75 games in 4 years and that is a very good job. They finished with 3 region runner-ups. We are proud of them. Natasha Bates made the All-State Team for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. The underclassmen are also doing a very good job. The Team finished with a 20-5 record. We are building tradition at the school.

Coach Brandyburg asked the Boys Basketball Team to come forward. He said they had a very interesting season this year with its ups and downs. They fought and once they learned how to win it got rolling from there on. They will be graduating 2 seniors this year. But the young guys will pick up the ball.

Chairman Priester said the students are representing Allendale County Schools in a positive manner. They are students and athletics and thanks to the parents for allowing them to be in these activities and being involved in their educational lives. Mr. Hall thanked both coaches and said Coach Ford for this being his first year as Athletic Director he is doing a great job. He also thanked the players.

**Clean Sweep Award** – Mr. Harney awarded the Clean Sweep Award to Allendale Elementary School. Principal Leath accepted on the school's behalf.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Charold Smith gave the Board a letter and said: 1) the lines of communications are not being adhered to at Allendale Elementary; 2) bullying is being overlooked; 3) children are scared to attend school; 4) volunteers are no longer welcomed at Allendale Elementary; 5) some school officials have different agendas other than educating the children; 6) her request to speak with the superintendent has been denied twice; 7) the number one goal of the District should be the safety and education of all children; 8) how much should one child have to endure before something can be done to correct this epidemic and 9) is this the type of treatment that she, her son, other parents and children receive for recognizing such harsh conditions.

Mr. Mark Lott said he has been volunteering for 10 plus years and had several concerns: 1) the District is facing drastic budget cuts, but he would like to see more transparency on where the District is going with the cuts; 2) he is a citizen and taxpayer and as such they should have some input and ideas. He has seen a lot of money wasted and 3) he does not know what is going on with the volunteer program in the school. He was promised a phone call, but has not received one. It is unacceptable the way the volunteers are being treated. Parents will not show up if they don't feel welcome. He expects immediate results and will take this as far as he has to go.

## **SCSBA Annual Convention February 24-27, 2011 – Board Report**

Ms. Mole said the main topic at the convention was money and budget. She had a chance to review some of the cuts from 3 other districts, like furloughs, increasing parking fees for students

and cutting staff. There is a big challenge ahead for the Board and they will have to make some decisions that will not be favorable. But the State is not giving the District any more money. Bills are being passed to cut money. They will have to make some choices and decisions the citizens will not like, but as a whole they must do what they have too to survive.

Mr. Hall said at one of the sessions they brought in school personnel and they talked about their highest achieving schools and what they did to make these schools achieve. They included money, strong administrators and strong curriculum facilitators. We don't have the money as Greenville County and other districts, but Fairfax Elementary has shown with a strong administrator and curriculum facilitator they can move the school. We need to focus on these two positions more heavily to make sure our schools get moved. Charleston County had 9 out of 11 schools that made AYP. The curriculum facilitator came in and pushed the schools, we need to do the same thing in this District. The Reconstruction Fund Act will really hurt Allendale County. If this passes the District will be worst off.

Ms. Smith said she attended the New Board Member workshop and learned a lot. They went through Parliamentary Procedures, how to carry out a meeting and staying unified – working together for a common goal. If there is division they cannot get things done. Several speakers spoke on “*help*” *h* is to hear; *e* is encourage; *l* is love; *p* is provide. When they put these things in place they will see a community going about doing the things they are set to do. They all may not agree, but they can all work together.

Chairman Priester said the title of the conference was “*Ingredients for Effective School Boards*” – this said a lot in the title. What it takes to have an effective school board. A number of the sessions revolved around cuts – but every district that made a cut that was necessary the focus still was achievement for students. Whatever we face we must still educate the students. They have to make some cuts that will not be to the likening of many people, but what is left must be used to help the students. One speaker talked about unity on the board, working together, having a love for what you do working in the classroom and students must know the teacher care about them. Cut are coming, but inspite of this our children are very important. Whatever decisions are made it is going to be on behalf of the students – we must ensure they get a good education.

## **PRESENTATION BEFORE THE BOARD**

**Boys and Girls Club of Allendale** – Ms. Chappell introduced Ms. J. Dennis, Executive Director; Mr. Joey Espinosa, Unit Director; Ms. Anne Rice; Mr. Wilbur Cave; Mr. Morgan Kearse and Ms. Jackie Jones. Information was passed out to the Board. They are an Afterschool program that focuses on academic success, good character and good citizenship. The Boys & Girls Club is excited to be open again. About twice the number of students attends daily – about 75 children (ages 6-13). The children ride the bus from school and parents are responsible for pickup. About 130 children are on the roster, but there is a waiting list because they don't have enough volunteers. Volunteers go thru background checks and training. Joey is a letterman in track and football at Furman University and has a Masters in Chemistry. Mr. Kearse gave the Board an MOA for signature. He said they appreciate the community, Board and everyone is

very supportive of them. The MOA is an annual contract – the last one was up in April. They are in the facility in Fairfax. Scotsman is helping them keep the facilities up. They want to get the young people in a good afternoon program. The Boys and Girls Club is a 12 month program. The MOA is patterned after the last one. Mr. Wilbur Cave said between now and the end of June they need \$100,000 to keep the program going. Saturday night in Barnwell at the Big 7 Banquet he mentioned that for \$500 anyone could be a charter member of the Boys and Girls Club. A total of \$5,000 was committed in about 5 minutes. But a lot more is needed so keep this in mind.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only.

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director said there is no change or additions to the personnel report. They have done the Intent forms, but nothing is finalized until contract time. This could be pushed back from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

**Attendance Report** – Dr. Alridge, Executive Director of Student Services said information passed out related to students who have not shown up in the school system. Currently about 185 students did not show up from the 135<sup>th</sup> to the 45<sup>th</sup> day report. That is the end of last year to the 45<sup>th</sup> day of this year. We did gain 100 students – so there is a negative of 85 students. The chart shows the status of the students, category and the school they transferred to. For example AFHS has about 15 students that went to Adult Education, others went to places like Aiken County, Beaufort, Colleton, other states, Barnwell 45, Hampton and other neighboring districts. Mr. Hall said the students that went to neighboring counties – was the proper paperwork filled out. Dr. Alridge said when students are not coming back they must go to their home school and inform them of this and the school they will be attending must request the records. When students come into the District they must prove residency. Some districts have attached waivers or land ownership. Mr. Cave said the numbers listed – have these students been released to the various counties. Dr. Alridge said these students have proven residency for the district they will be attending. Mr. Cave asked about property, residence would this clarify an actual release from ACS. Can this District show where these students have actually been released from this District? Dr. Alridge said when a student comes into the District they must prove residency, or have a current water bill or light bill. Dr. McClain said when a student enters a school district, the first thing you must do is determine if the child is a legal resident of that district. If the child is, you submit a request to the district that the child left for the child's records. Once records are received, we must trust that the requesting district has done its due diligence that they are accepting students legally and that students are not just crossing the line. Chairman Priester said once the documentation is received, we are supposing they have met the threshold in that district when they send a request for records. He also asked about records for the Board on students transferring into the District. Ms. Mole asked about the procedures if the child goes to a

neighboring district, but you know they are living in Allendale. Is there anything the District can do? Dr. Alridge said in the attendance office they will go do home visits in a situation like this. If students are catching the bus at one location or parents are dropping them off at a different location. This year there was a case when a student was living in Allendale and attending school in Barnwell. We informed the principal and guidance counselor in that district and they do an investigation to determine if the child is there legally. A State law says if a district knowingly takes out of district students that district can be fined for this.

**Parent Requests – Out-of-District Student Placement:** Dr. Alridge said the Board received the information of two parents that would like to transfer their children out of the District. These students live in Allendale and are asking the Board to look at the letters and make a motion if they want to grant the transfers. Ms. Mole moved to deny the two requests to transfer the students out of the District. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all to deny these requests.

Mr. Hall asked about the SIG grant, he said down in Myrtle Beach he talked with a Board member from Colleton County. They showed money spent from the SIG grant from all different districts and Allendale was real low. Are we getting the resources and materials needed to make the grant successful? Chairman Priester asked for a motion to add this item to the Agenda under the Superintendent's Office. Mr. Cave moved to accept the recommendation to add the item to the Agenda. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. Dr. McClain said as far as he knows there is no need for materials based on where they are in the implantation of the grant. Funds have been encumbered or funds have been committed to particular things that may not necessarily have been executed at this time. He will bring this back to the Board. The Board requested this information in the weekly update.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Budget Report by Function – January 1-31, 2011** – Mr. Robinson, Director of Finance said for the Month of January the revenues were \$2,148,437 this is higher because the District has been credited with \$1.6 million in local property taxes. Year-to-date total is \$5,470,713. The next 6 pages are the budget reports by function. Page 6 is the current expenditures for January – \$928,622 and year-to-date is \$5,589,432. Next is the detailed report of expenditures by line items.

**Budget Changes Report – January 1-31, 2011** – Mr. Robinson said this report represent transfers that have taken place in the general fund. Chairman Priester asked about transfers – the Legislators in the past year have allowed flexibility – will this level or higher level of flexibility be in the calendar coming year? Mr. Robinson said he has not seen anything specific but based on the past two years because of the budget cuts they did provide some flexibility and he anticipates this same flexibility for next year.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

March 16, 2011 – SCSBA – 2 Days at the Capitol – Columbia, SC

Dr. McClain said take the time to educate yourself as it related to the weekly things coming out of the Legislature. If you don't have access to the internet we will provide you with information. Call your Legislatures and let them know where you stand on some of these issues.

Chairman Priester said the Board will hold a public forum to make the community aware of the upcoming budget cuts. Nothing is set in stone at this point. They have a long way to go.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.