

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

**MONDAY – FEBRUARY 25, 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, February 25, 2013. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Legal Updates and Special Services Students. 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  
Willie Priester  
Wilda Robinson, Chairwoman

**ABSENT:** Valaree Smith, Secretary

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

**FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF BOYKIN & DAVIS:** Charles Boykin, Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A Moment of Silence was held.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. Hall moved to approve the Agenda before them. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:** Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #1 at 6:05 p.m. for Legal Update and Special Services for FES Students. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** Mr. Hall moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Frazier moved to approve the January 22, 2013, January 30, 2013, February 4, 2013 and February 6, 2013 Special Called Meetings and January 28, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chairwoman Robinson reported: 1) at the recent SCSBA Convention in Myrtle Beach, February 20-23, 2013 all Board members were in attendance; 2) one session focused on setting goals and priorities, recognizing critical needs in the districts and providing strategies to meet the critical needs; 3) there was also a number of student entertainment at each general session, she would like to see ACS students perform at these events; 4) referenced the quote on the Board Agenda in honor of Black History Month.

Mr. Frazier reported: 1) he was encouraged by how we look at innovations and if we don't innovate how far behind the District will be; 2) he would like to see the District transform itself so children can start learning the things they need to do to be successful.

Mr. Hall reported: 1) the session from Spartanburg 3 on Common Core Standards and the STEMs program. Administrators look at Spartanburg 3 website; highlighted is how lesson plans are intergraded in Common Core; 2) Spartanburg 3 does have a STEMs program at the high school, but they are also starting the STEMs program in kindergarten. He will forward the information to Administrators.

Mr. Priester reported: 1) at one of the sessions a school district projected their dropout rate to be at 2.3% or less. This does several things, brings students back into the school environment and prepares students for the future. That district's dropout rate dropped for the last 3 or 4 years; 2) one speaker talked about how jobs will be so different in a few years and what will be required to attain these jobs.

Chairwoman Robinson said the Board will have a Retreat in the next couple of weeks. The focus will be working on developing goals, objectives and priorities for the District based on data and test scores. Further down the line the Board will provide an opportunity for citizens to have some input in these goals and objectives in the future. At the reception for Dr. Tobin last week Dr. Tobin said he asked the question "Why Not Allendale"? So she is asking the question "Why Not Allendale?" Maybe this can be developed into a theme.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mr. Paul Morse:** said his topic is "holding children accountable" and highlighted: 1) a lot of children come to school unprepared and know they will still be promoted; 2) looking at neighboring schools Report Cards Barnwell 45 had a "D", Hampton 1 "B" and in Allendale we had an "F"; 3) we are doing the children a disservice if we just promote them and they are not passing on their tests; 4) in Georgia 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have to meet or exceed Reading expectations are they are not promoted; 5) using the excuse "this is just Allendale" is a sorry excuse.

**Mr. Mark Lott:** made an award presentation on behalf of the Big 7 Association from Barnwell, SC. They are the Charter founding member of the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Carolina. He recognized Dr. Tobin by giving him a "lapel pin" from the Boys and Girls Club and ink pens for

all the Board Members. Mr. Lott said the Big 7 Association has been around for 19 years, is a non-profit organization and they are concentrating on education and raising money for scholarships. He presented a plaque to Board Chairwoman Robinson for her outstanding contributions to education.

### **GOOD NEWS**

**Mr. Hemby, AFMS Principal** recognized Coach David Johnson and the AFMS Basketball Team. Coach Johnson introduced team members present and said they focus on academic, character and discipline. He also thanked the parents for their support.

**Mr. Youmans, AFHS Principal** talked about the Debate Team trip to Gatlinburg, TN. The Debate Team placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of 29<sup>th</sup> schools in the competition. Students Jalen Hall and Denasia Alrich made it to the quarter finals. This has not happened at Allendale-Fairfax High School since 2006. Mr. Hall said when the students got off the bus in TN no one knew who Allendale was. The other schools were going skiing, but because of Allendale showing in debate they canceled their skiing trip to change their strategy to prepare for Allendale. Chairwoman Robinson asked to have the Debate Team come to the next Board Meeting.

**Clean Sweep Award:** Mr. Tillotson presented the Clean Sweep Award for the month of February to Allendale Elementary School.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only.

**JROTC Annual trip to Carowinds May 17-18, 2013:** Dr. Tobin said this is an incentive award for students for their performance and conduct. Mr. Priester moved to approve the trip. Mr. Frazier seconded. Chairwoman Robinson asked about the \$1100.00 cost to the District. Mr. Youmans said JROTC will be traveling via charter bus and all expenses will be paid for by JROTC. The motion was approved by all.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

**Professional Development Activities – Common Core:** Mr. Scott Flowers, Atlantic Research Partners. Mr. Flowers highlighted: 1) in spring 2015 students will be tested on the Common Core State standards; at the 2012 teacher institute in August this was discussed focusing on the shift teachers and students will need to adequately prepare students; 2) some teachers received State training and they will support teachers in other schools; February 15<sup>th</sup> Professional Development was designed to go into an instructional shift; 3) Mr. Heckler was in K-8 classes assessing the level of rigor being used and making recommendations on strategies. He will debrief with Instructional Coaches and looking thru observations to do modeling lessons; 4) see the tentative Professional Development schedule in your packets and a Power Point presentation from February 15<sup>th</sup> Professional Development and 5) March 14<sup>th</sup> Parent Literacy Night on what parents can expect from Common Core from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at AFHS.

**School Improvement Grant (SIG) SDE Termination Letter:** Dr. Tobin asked the Board to proceed to provide authorization to appeal this decision. Mr. Priester moved to authorize Dr. Tobin to go forward in terms of an appeal for the decision from the SDE. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Board/Staff Planning Retreat – March 8 or 22, 2013** – Dr. Tobin said 2 dates are presented for the Board’s discussion. Chairwoman Robinson said in conjunction with a number of the presentations at the SCSBA Convention they may need to have a Retreat for just the Board initially. Mr. Frazier said the Board does not want to go into a meeting without first discussing with each other what their expectations are. Mr. Priester said he does not have an issue with this. Dr. Tobin will contact the Board and get feedback. Mr. Priester said March 8<sup>th</sup> is not good for him. Chairwoman Robinson said they could meet before March 22<sup>nd</sup> among the Board and then maybe have the Board/Staff retreat on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hall said try to have the Retreat before March 15<sup>th</sup> he may be on Military leave for 2 months. March 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Board Retreat. Dr. Tobin asked the Board to decide what they want to discuss and the staff can respond back to these requests. Chairwoman Robinson said some of the topics to be discussed include Board roles and responsibilities, visions, goals and they may want to get a facilitator from the SCSBA.

**Student Transfer Requests – Contacts:** Dr. Tobin said this is for information only. Letters will be mailed to parents and they are to return the information before April 11, 2013.

**School Weekly Visits:** Dr. Tobin said he made many visits to the schools, talked with the staff and came away with the idea “Why not Allendale”. The schools are in good leadership hands and will be heading in the right directions. But there are some things they will be working on.

**Articles on Allendale in the Post and Courier** – information was in the Board’s packets.

## **APPROVAL**

**E-Rate Infrastructure Upgrade – Ms. Jamison, Technology Director** the Power Point was included in the Board’s packets. Ms. Jamison highlighted: 1) E-Rate is a Federally funded program that provides money to public schools and libraries to get telecommunications and internet access; 2) funding is based on the District’s free and reduced lunch rates; 3) based on this formula Allendale rate is 90% and the District is only responsible for paying 10%; 4) projects for upgrades include the District Office Data Center; AFHS IC2 and IC3 switches; wireless infrastructure in all buildings and replacing existing switches and adding computer drops at AFLC. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$280,000.00, but the total cost to the District is about \$58,664.000. Dr. Tobin said he conferred with finance and the District can make this purchase. Mr. Hall asked if the switches in the other buildings are up-to-date. Ms. Jamison said the switches in some of the other buildings are not up-to-date. Mr. Hall said since the District is getting 90% off why not update all the switches. Ms. Jamison said she is trying to stay in the E-Rate 2-5 year rule, these areas were the worst in the District with the switches. The

Servers are different E-rate projects which were funded in 2010. Each building has its own Server running Novell and GroupWise. Mr. Hall asked about Cluster Servers. Ms. Jamison said this project is Standalone Servers, but are the same model of the Server just put in. Mr. Frazier asked about uninterrupted power. Ms. Jamison said if the lights blink or go out for more than 30 minutes, the switches can operate without going down. Mr. Priester asked the length of time on completion of the project. Ms. Jamison said it must be completed before October 2013. Mr. Hall asked about another E-rate project and what are the chances the District will get this project. Ms. Jamison said the District had to switch vendor and do a spin change, which resulted in the District looking at what new equipment was available and putting in a service substitution. She attended a meeting with SC Connects at the Courthouse in Allendale to bring broadband internet access to small communities. This will allow students to access the internet from home. Mr. Priester moved to approve the E-Rate Infrastructure Update project with funding to support it. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

## **FYI**

**Emergency Preparedness Plan Vogtle Exercise** – Wednesday, May 14, 2014

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

**Letters of Intent** – Dr. Tobin said Letters of Intent have been distributed early. This will allow for planning and recruiting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tillotson reported: 1) nothing has changed since the last meeting, but the District has received the bulk of the local tax revenue in mid-February which is about \$4 million with about \$700,000 still to come; 2) EFA was budgeted for about 1300 students, but the Average Daily Membership is at 1260 students, which resulted in about a \$50,000 shortfall; the District may be able to make up this shortfall from other areas; 3) if the District does not win the SIG appeals, funds are sufficient in the Building fund to weather this storm. Mr. Hall asked about Federal funds and the proposed sequestering. Mr. Tillotson said the District is looking at about a 2-1/2% shortfall from Federal funding.

Chairwoman Robinson said she has a concern about the student enrollment. She see students walking the street in her neighborhood. These students say they are suspended from school. Her concern is the attendance supervision or procedures. The Chair asked for a report on Attendance at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Frazier asked about Board training on the financial process so they can get more understanding before going into the budget process.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SCSBA – 2 Days at the Capitol** – Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. Columbia

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2:** Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss Personnel dealing with the Superintendent's Search. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** The Board returned to Open Session at 9:28 p.m.

Mr. Priester moved to give the Superintendent authorization to develop a request for a proposal for the Superintendent Search. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Priester moved to accept the resignation of A.C. from Allendale-Fairfax High School. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.