

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

**MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
ALLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – GYMNASIUM**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 23, 2013. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. The Meeting was held at Allendale Elementary School on Hwy. 278. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alonzo Frazier, Vice Chairman
Terry Hall
Willie Priester
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Secretary

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved to come out of Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of Monday, August 26, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

ALLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – PRESENTATION: Chairperson Robinson welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked the parents, students and community for coming out. The quote on the Board Agenda is from President John F. Kennedy. Of all the natural resources none is more important than the human mind and the young people presenting tonight. Allendale Elementary School Kindergarten students performed “*The Very Hungry Caterpillar.*”

CHAIR’S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson asked everyone to observe within the Allendale town limited the new billboard which was presented a few weeks ago. Currently the announcement on the billboard reads “*Go Tigers.*” She encouraged everyone to support the Tigers.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS: Chairperson Robinson reported that she has attended Town Council Meetings in Allendale and Fairfax asking them to consider becoming bonafide partners with the District. They can do this by encouraging businesses to place signs of support and advertising in their store windows. They can work with the business in their areas. The Town of Allendale has accepted the charge and the Town of Fairfax has shown a strong interest. She will be going to the town Meeting in Ulmer this month. Chairperson Robinson said she is asking the towns to adopt the school system and giving them a list of things they can do from small to large. Like putting up a sign “Go Tigers” are small things that don’t require a lot of money or time. Everywhere she goes she will continue to ask for support for Allendale County Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

GOOD NEWS

Allendale Elementary School: Student Caleb Capers welcomed everyone to Allendale Elementary School. Principal Leath recognized Ms. Kennedy’s class for scoring Exemplary on PASS testing in every subject: Jordan Allen; Arelis Arteaga; Caleb Capers; Jaleria Conner; Denea Phoenix; Quashon Rollins; Dennis Saxton; Roeshelle Simpson; Kamari Williams and Rodrianna Williams. Also recognized for scoring Exemplary from Ms. Polite’s class were: Sameia Brown and Canaan Ennis. And from Ms. Palmer’s class were: Sadarian Anderson; NiBroshia Brant; Dinari Sabb and Javarius Youmans.

Clean Sweep Award: Mr. Tillotson said the custodians work hard to maintain the interior and exterior of the schools and keep the buildings as attractive as they can be. Each month a group goes and scores each school and they are awarded points. Allendale-Fairfax Middle School won the first Clean Sweep Award of the year. Ms. Grant, Assistant Principal accepted the Award on the school’s behalf.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCSBA 2013 Certification of Delegates for Delegate Assembly: The Assembly will be held in December on Hilton Head and the District has 1 vote. Mr. Priester moved and said it has been customary that the Board Chair be the primary delegate for the District. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. Chairperson Robinson will serve as the official delegate. Mr. Frazier, Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith will also be attending the Assembly. Mr. Priester moved to have Mr. Frazier serve as the alternate. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SCSBA Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy: For information only.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Emergency Evacuation Plan: Dr. Tobin said the District has started working on an Emergency Evacuation Plan because the current plan needs to be updated.

Resource Officer Agreement: Dr. Tobin said he is working with the Sheriff's Dept. to make sure an Agreement is updated and in place.

STEMS Celebration: Dr. Tobin reported that at this conference they asked schools to: 1) look at the coordination of programs and planning and sometimes you need someone from the outside to look at what you are doing; and 2) will assist with staff development and we are on the right track with the high and middle schools.

Salkehatchie Consortium: Dr. Tobin said the District is part of this and they talked about soft and hard skills that are needed, but must also have the technical skills. We are trying to give children the opportunity to go into the work place. Shadowing, jobs and to get industry to come to Allendale we must have people ready to go to work. They must see and be part of the workplace and have apprenticeships in place.

Community Meetings: Dr. Tobin said he has attended several local Neighborhood Associations Meetings and informed the community about what the District is trying to do. He also encouraged them to attend the State of the District Address and School Board Meetings.

Smiles Dental Clinic: Dr. Tobin said this is a unique program in Allendale. On his visit to the Clinic he was given the history and an update of the program. The clinic is now in the catching up phase on children that need dental work. They have caught up and children can maintain and keep up with their dental health. They have seen about 800 children in the school district and treated about 24,000 cavities.

Challenge to Achieve Plans: The Board received these Plans via email. The Board Chair signature is required and the MOA submitted to the State Dept. of Education.

SDE Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Grant: Dr. Tobin said students will receive this snack, not during lunch, but a fresh fruit or vegetable in the morning or afternoon depending on the time they have lunch. AES and FES received this grant. One of the reasons for the grant is to get children accustomed to eating fruits and vegetables.

Technology Report: Dr. Tobin said there are about 10 or 11 servers to connect with the promethean boards in the schools. Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology is having “Appy Hour”, which is Professional Development for teachers on using the iPads.

Attendance Enrollment: Dr. Tobin said compared to last year enrollment is more than expected. The District has been losing about 50 students per year over the last several years.

CATE PROGRAMS ENROLLMENT: Dr. Tobin said at AFHS enrollment in the CATE program is remaining steady. In the 2010-11 school year 428 students were enrolled in the program. This year enrollment is currently at 351 students. Enrollment in some areas has gone down and up in other areas. Due to the relationship with Denmark Technical College the numbers were higher in certain years. Hampton 2 students no longer participate in the programs. Ms. Smith asked about the tablets purchased for students to share in the classroom. Dr. Tobin said students are doing more research and this is opening up the world for students. Teachers can use the iPads to project on the promethean board. An “Appy Hour” Professional Development takes small groups of teachers and provides iPad training. Some teachers are ready to go on. Chairperson Robinson asked about the airserver being upgraded; how long is the process and will it require a cost. Dr. Tobin said 10 airservers are in place at AES; FES and the District is moving forward. They are being installed as we speak. Ms. Jamison, Technology Director said in about 2 weeks everything should be up and in place. Ms. Smith asked if they could stop by the school and see this technology in action. Dr. Tobin asked her to contact Principal Leath. Mr. Hall asked about the promethean boards that needed bulbs. Dr. Tobin said the bulbs are on order as we speak. They will talk with teachers about turning the promethean boards off when not in use.

PTO/PTA Organizations Policy – 2nd Reading: Dr. Tobin said the District plan on having periodic audits of the PTO/PTA funds. Mr. Hall moved to accept the 2nd reading of the Policy. Mr. Priester seconded. Chairperson Robinson said she was going to look at this and send some ideas to Mr. Tillotson, Finance Director to look at between this reading and the next reading. Mr. Frazier said he would like to ensure everyone get the proper training on the policy and principals need to be prepared since a lot of responsibility is being placed on them. Chairperson Robinson said if anyone has questions, comments, and suggestions on the Policy please send these to Dr. Tobin. The motion was approved by all.

2013-2014 Calendar Change: Dr. Tobin said they are asking permission to switch January 16 and 17, 2014, which are Report Card/Early Dismissal and Parent Conference and move them to

January 23 and 24, 2014. Moving the days to January 23 and 24th will allow time for Report Cards to be ready for parents. This will be placed on the website and use of the District's School Messengers System to inform everyone of this change. Students will be in school a full day on January 16th and 17th and out on January 23th and 24th. Ms. Smith said on January 16th and 17th students are out and January 20th is a holiday. This is a long weekend. You are asking students to be out on January 20th and then come to school for 2 days and then be out 2 more days. Is it difficult to have the Report Cards ready on January 16th? Chairperson Robinson said the request is asking to move Early Dismissal and Parent Conference to a week later. The concern is students having only 2 full days of instructions that week. Mr. Priester said in looking at the schedule January 16th is Early Dismissal and the 17th students are out and the 20th is a holiday; it comes down to students being in school 2-1/2 days or 3-1/2 days. Mr. Priester moved to approve the request with the difference being 1 day and make the adjustments in the schedule as presented. The motion died due to a lack of a second. The 2013-2014 Calendar will not change January 16th will remain Early Dismissal/Report Cards and January 17th Parent Conference.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS

SCSU 1890 Extension Program & Dale Apartments: Dr. Francis, Adult Education Director reported: 1) SCSU will provide personnel to help supervise the use of their lab; 2) work keys will be used; 3) they have a nice area to have this program in with the mothers and child; and 4) mothers can work on their GED. The program will start as soon as the Family Literacy position is filled and a person is on board. The SNAP person will run the literacy part. Dr. Francis said the Lab at Dale Apartment is very nice and only 1 person from the District will be working the program and 1 from SCSU. Mr. Frazier complimented the Dale Apartment and SCSU the building is very nice; the people who are running it are nice and responsible. But the Board needs to see how it is going to work before they move forward. The District wanted to offer the Family Literacy Program at the Dale Apartments. Mr. Priester moved to accept this agreement, which is pretty straightforward and especially since the Board approved a SNAP Coordinator tonight. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said they need the information in a timely manner to make decisions in the best faith of what they are doing. It was noted that the agreement had already been signed. The motion was approved by all.

School Immunization DHEC/VaxCare Corporation: Dr. Tobin said this MOA will allow collaboration between the agencies to provide immunizations and vaccines to students. This has been allowed in the past. Ms. Smith moved to approve this MOA tonight. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Boys and Girls Club of Southern Carolina: This item was tabled until the September 30, 2013 Special Called Meeting.

ACS Adult Education and First Baptist Church: Dr. Tobin said the District had this ESOL Program last year at First Baptist Church. Mr. Priester said in terms of amount of service, what this might be, hours, etc. Dr. Francis said classes are on Sundays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. They provide a teacher assistant and he is also there and he is a certified teacher. The teacher assistant has been trained in ESOL, they provide internet access and a meal for participants. They do ESOL and civics, a lawyer spoke with the group about the Dream Act last Sunday. One student is working on becoming a citizen through the Dream Act. Last year they had 59 students in the ESOL program. We are in the third week and have about 14 students. Mr. Priester said he would like to see more details in the MOA and since it is a continuation, include this as additional language and move forward. Chairperson Robinson requested that they add more logistics and the Board will look at this at the next meeting on September 30th, but he can continue with the program.

PERSONNEL REPORT: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to accept the recommendations made on personnel in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to accept the Administration recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said going forward they should do personnel requests in category so if a Board Member decides they do not want to vote for a certain category. For example, categories of teachers or custodians only, but not all together. Ms. Smith suggested doing it in numbers or ABC's, etc. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCE REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Finance Director reported: 1) the local tax revenues will hit the books in November; 2) will receive E-Rate funds in October; 3) received EFA and other grant money for the general fund; 4) expects to end the year with a balanced budget, which is 85% salaries.

The question was asked if Mr. Tillotson would be at the next Public Forum to talk about Finance. Dr. Tobin said they should stick to the way the Forums are going. Mr. Frazier it would be more appropriate for Mr. Tillotson to present the information to the Board first and then present it to the community so as the questions are asked they will have a heads up and understand things. Mr. Tillotson said the plan is to schedule a meeting first with the Board. Ms. Smith said the community is asking if there would be a penny sales tax or a bond referendum. Give the community something on how this may be done. Share generally what the possibilities are on how the District is going to get the funding. Dr. Tobin said they need to sit down with the Board first, give them what the millage is and how long before certain debts are paid off, etc. Mr. Frazier said the young man who presented the Forum on Facilities said the 1st option of doing nothing may be the most costly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Allendale-Fairfax High School Homecoming on September 27, 2013 on Gum Street. Board Members were encouraged to drive their own vehicles if they were interested in participating in the Parade. Send information to Ms. Shantel Miller.

Public Forum School Facilities Meeting – October 7, 2013 – FES – Chairperson Robinson will see if the Town of Allendale will put this announcement on the Billboard.

SCSBA Risky Business Conf.- Oct. 23-25, 2013 – Myrtle Beach

SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conf. – Dec. 6-8, 2013 – Hilton Head

NSBA Convention – New Orleans, LA – April 5-7, 2014

Ms. Smith said she wanted to recognize Board Member Mr. Willie Priester (Director of The Department of Mental Health, Orangeburg) who was recognized by the Senate for doing an outstanding job on their Accreditation. Mr. Priester said the Department of Mental Health had a 3 year accreditation review. There are over 2500 standards that are reviewed and the Department missed about 6 or 7 standards and some were partial.

Chairperson Robinson thanked Ms. Leath for their hospitality, the young people that performed, teachers and staff.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.