

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

**MONDAY – OCTOBER 28, 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, October 28, 2013. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session #1 to discuss Legal Matters and Personnel. 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
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Secretary

ABSENT: Willie Priester (excused)

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Angela Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Charles Boykin

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for Legal Matters and Personnel. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Frazier moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting, Public Forum on Facilities Meeting on October 7, 2013 at

Fairfax Elementary School and October 14, 2013 Public Forum on Facilities Meeting at Allendale Elementary School with the necessary corrections. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson thanked everyone for coming to the Board Meeting and asked everyone to look at the quote on the Agenda from Dr. Benjamin Mays. Dr. Mays was born in Epworth, SC in Greenwood County in 1894, not long after the end of the Civil War and reconstruction. He was born into extreme poverty and hatred. Dr. Mays understood the value of education. After some years of teaching he became the President of Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA for over 27 years; Dr. Martin Luther King was one of his most distinguished graduates. The quote on the Agenda is what we want for all our students to have goals, dreams and aspirations. We want our students to be great scholars and people. Dr. Tobin also said Dr. Mays also attended SC State College. He was the Easter Morning speaker for some time. He was quite a man.

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA Risky Business Seminar, October 23-25, 2013 in Myrtle Beach, SC: Mr. Frazier reported: 1) the Conference talked about the business of safety in the schools, internet and credit card safety; and 2) he received some suggestions on keeping employees safe and from getting hurt in the District.

Mr. Hall reported: 1) the chief of SLED talked about securing our schools. Because our schools are older they have access points where people can get in and we not know they are in the schools; 2) they suggested having the sheriff or a firm to come in and look at the schools and give ideas and suggestions on securing the schools; and 3) violence does not have a zip code and violence can happen anywhere, in South Carolina and even in Allendale. Look at safety, exits and entries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Robinson welcomed the Public and for sharing their concerns. Chairperson Robinson read Allendale County Schools Board Policy BEDH. Those with specific questions written on the purple form will receive a written response from the Board thru the Superintendent. She asked those speaking to keep all comments to 3 Minutes.

Ms. Mary Jean Williamson said she attended several forums when Board Members were running for office. She wants to ensure her vote stands for what she thought it would stand for. She wants the community to have clarity on what the Board is doing and asked that when a superintendent and principals were hired the community would have a role in this decision making. However, she does not feel like the community got a fair shake. The Board is shutting them out and these are their children and grandchildren. The community has been blocked out and the Board will not listen to them unless the Board needs something from them the community that concerns money.

Ms. Patricia Jenkins said she wanted to talk about accountability: 1) they are concerned about the issue of accountability. She has a petition signed by 328 people because they are concerned

about accountability and other issues. These are voters that signed these petitions; 2) they are concerned about the turnover in leadership positions. This is not a stable environment for certified teacher retention; this is difficult for the students and faculty; 3) issues at AFHS, Mr. Youmans removed from the high school – this is a concerns; he has done positive things in the community. Chairperson Robinson interjected to remind Ms. Jenkins that during Public Comments school personnel names cannot be called or personnel discussed. 4) Ms. Jenkins said in the past few years there have been 4 superintendents in the District and several principals at the high school. With no consistency this affects the students, parents and the whole community. How can the students and staff be expected to be successful with this revolving door; 5) the Board has not been fiscal responsible. How can the Board feel comfortable paying the interim superintendent who has been in place six months, Chairperson Robinson again said Ms. Jenkins was talking about personnel. Ms. Jenkins asked how can the District afford to pay the superintendent the amount being paid and also pay a consultant at the high school. She said the Board is not being fiscally responsible with the citizens’ tax dollars and where are those tax dollars going.

Mr. Paul Morse said he wanted to talk about school stability: 1) in order for students to learn they must have a stable environment; 2) AFMS has had 10 different principals in 10 years; a staggering number of teachers have come and gone in that time frame; 3) if ACS is going to be top notch the community must get involved, no one person can fix the school or District. Everyone must play their parts; and 4) he would like the Board to discuss real ways to improve the schools, involving parents and the community. Stop looking for an individual person to turn the District around.

GOOD NEWS

Adult Education Student Recognitions – Dr. Francis, Director recognized the following students who passed the GED test (now call High School Equivalency Diploma). Based on a norm that 4 out of 10 normal high school students will pass it, it is a very difficult test. Five students went to take the test and 5 passed the test. They are Korriel Myers; Debentrice Breeland; Allison Brunson; Heather Still and Torforaya Shiggs. The Board thanked the students for passing the GED tests. Dr. Francis said teachers Mr. Bond, Ms. Medidi and Ms. Santhanam helped students prepare for the test. The Transition Coordinator is Ms. Rouse.

Clean Sweep Awards: Dr. Tobin said Mr. Tillotson is out sick and the Clean Sweep Award will be presented next month.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: Mr. Frazier commended the schools because the numbers have gone down on the Discipline Reports. When the numbers go down, this gives the students an opportunity to learn.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

SNAP/Family Literacy Program – Dr. Francis, Adult Education Director presented a Power Point and introduced Mr. Grant, the Coordinator of the Program. Dr. Francis highlighted: 1) the only free, approved GED testing site from the South Carolina Dept. of Education is in Allendale; 2) the site will be up and running so students can come and take their GED; 3) there is a need for the program in Allendale because of the high poverty, unemployment and illiteracy rates; 4) orientation is on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and DSS comes and helps with this; 5) components of the program are job search training, job search, education, vocational training and job retention; 6) SNAP is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly the Food Stamp Program; 7) he explained the partnership and funding process of the program; 8) DSS identifies individuals and screens them and if they are work residents they come to orientation. They also determine if they have a high school diploma or GED; 9) all SNAP recipients must do 4 job searches per week and they can come to the Center and use the computers to help with the process; and 10) the goal is to have the Program up and running by January 2014.

Mr. Frazier said you hear the comments coming out of Washington on what districts are not going to get. He encouraged everyone who has a need to use the programs at Adult Education. An article in USA about no Social Security and people having to work until age 88 and having nothing to draw on when you cannot work. Use the programs for your advancement and success. Chairperson Robinson asked about the local data on state, poverty, illiteracy, who established the performance objectives of what the District is offering. Dr. Francis said they use to have performance objectives each year, this has been done away by the SDE and this will come down shortly with the allocations and how to measure performance. It may be based on the percentage of Work-keys certificates given out and they will look for movement in where the students are when they come in. Chairperson Robinson said she is talking about the SNAP Program and are they required to be in a GED or some other type of program. Dr. Francis said they are not required to be in a program, but they meet with clients and tell them what is offered and DSS encourages them to attend the program. Fifty percent of the cost can be billed back to DSS if the client is receiving Food Stamps. At the Center they work on interviewing skills and writing resumes because some of the clients do not know how to interview. Chairperson Robinson asked what type of recruitment encourages clients to come into the program. Dr. Francis said they will have a big push going to the community, churches, advertisement, etc. this will start in November.

Parent University: Dr. Tobin said on October 22, 2013 the District had Parent University and about 20-25 parents came out and participated. They talked about Agile Mind, the new District APP and Bullying. The next Parent Portal is planned for December 10th. Students and staff participated and he encouraged Parents to come out to the next Portal. With Agile Mind parents can log in with a password, 24-7 and see how students are being engaged in math and Algebra

District Reports/Status/Goals: Dr. Tobin reported the Board met with all District Administrators on September 30th and were updated on the strengths; growth opportunities;

successes; and next steps. And they discussed what the needs and accomplishments are and how the District goes forward.

School Initiatives: Dr. Tobin reported the District had Staff Development Day this past Friday and a copy of the schedule is attached for information only.

APP for Parents: Dr. Tobin said the App is available to the public, parents and the community. The App talks about the good news going on in the District. This was made available to parents last Tuesday night.

Dr. Tobin said about 8 students attended the National Nuclear Science Week at the Kroc Center in Augusta. More information will be available next time.

Industry Appreciation Kick-off: Dr. Tobin said this event was held at the Sweetwater Country Club in Barnwell. Industries in the 6 tri-county areas were shown appreciation for what they do to provide jobs.

Dr. Tobin introduced Ms. Thomsenia Benson, Interim Principal at AFHS. She was a former Principal at Clark Middle School, a principal leader, consultant and certified principal trainer.

APPROVALS

MOA – School for the Deaf and the Blind: Dr. Tobin said the MOA will provide client services and assessments for some students. Mr. Hall moved to approve the Agreement between the District and the School for the Deaf and the Blind. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Smith asked will someone from the Agency come to the District and provide the service and does the amount include travel. Dr. Tobin said the amount listed is the total amount. The motion was approved by all.

MOA – First Steps: Dr. Tobin said the MOA will allow the District to process the salary and benefits for an employee. The District is reimbursed by First Steps. Mr. Hall moved to approve the MOA. Mr. Frazier seconded. Chairperson Robinson asked if the District paid for one person salary and benefits and First Steps reimburses the District. Dr. Tobin said yes. The motion was approved by all.

Support Organizations Policy 3rd Reading – Mr. Hall moved to approve the 3rd Reading of the Policy. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Smith said she wants to make sure training is held on the Policy. Chairperson Robinson said she spoke with the Finance Director about the training and monitoring of the Policy and solicitation from booster clubs and this will be an attachment. She said the Policy is standard and based on SC laws. Ms. Smith asked if the Policy could be amended to add the procedures parts. Dr. Tobin said the procedures section does not need Board approval. Mr. Frazier wanted to make sure the Policy and procedures coincide together. The motion was approved by all.

DRAFT Policy: Concussions and Student Athletics – 1st Reading – Dr. Tobin reported: 1) there are major discussions going on about concussions and head injury. The SC Legislation has passed a bill to respond to this at the high school level; 2) how do we notify parents; how do we treat those injuries. Mr. Frazier moved to accept the 1st reading of the Policy. Mr. Hall seconded.

Mr. Frazier said the NFL found this to be a serious problem and they have different helmets and equipment to prevent these types of injuries. He would like information on what is the best way to go about in getting the best equipment for the Athletic Department. Ms. Smith asked if the Athletic Department was going to training on this. Dr. Tobin said with the High School League they should have provided some training. Ms. Smith asked if the League had a standard type helmets. Mr. Hall said our helmets are old and asked could they be swapped out for newer one. Dr. Tobin will bring additional information back to the Board regarding the equipment used. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith said the whole school needs to be aware of this policy. Chairperson Robinson said the nurses and other staff should be able to discuss this with students and staff.

PERSONNEL REPORT: Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to accept the recommendations made in Executive Session on classified and one certified employee. Mr. Frazier moved to accept the recommendation for the classified and certified employees. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Change Report – September 1-30, 2013

Budget Report by Function – September 1-30, 2013

Ms. Angela Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services reported: 1) revenue and expenses are on the projected target and the District does not expect to have to do a TAN; 2) October 1 funding for Federal Programs have been approved; 3) the Auditors were in the District 2 weeks ago and are finishing up the final touches for the year and they will have a report in by December and 4) in November the initial budget will begin with the principal and staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCSBA Annual Conference – February 20-23, 2014 – Myrtle Beach (Hotel & Registration Opens November 15, 2013)

Board Meeting – November 8, 2013 – Fairfax Elementary School

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 8:28 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search and Personnel. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Hall moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:38 p.m. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Secretary Ms. Smith reported no action was taken on the items discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.