

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

**MONDAY – AUGUST 26, 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, August 26, 2013. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Student Release Requests. 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
Willie Priester
Wilda J. Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Secretary

ABSENT: Terry Hall (Work Obligations)

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter 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 6:11 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Priester moved to go into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Student Release Requests. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: At 7:20 p.m. Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting; August 5, 2013 Special Called Meeting and August 15, 2013 Special Called Meeting. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson apologized for coming out of Executive Session late. She said the quote on tonight's Agenda from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was chosen because on Wednesday, August 28th the Nation will pause to remember the March on Washington 50 years ago. This was the event when Dr. King made his famous "*I Have A Dream*" speech his thrust toward peace and equality for all people and he was also concerned about children and all people. And this quote is what he thought about education. The primary teacher of character should begin in the home, but in the schools and as the Board of Education it is part of our responsibility also. Several Board Policies talks about character and this is something the community, home and neighborhood can be part of. She said a lot of people are here tonight and I applaud you for the work you do with children. We take seriously the responsibility of the "character" of our children. Character is the ultimate goal of education.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson Robinson said during "Public Comments" those wishing to make comments can talk about school concerns, but cannot deal with personnel in the comments. Comments or questions that require a response will receive a written response from the Board thru the Superintendent within 10 days.

Mr. Mark Lott and several members of Allendale Masonic Lodge #53 were present. Mr. Lott said he understands the concept that "*It takes a Village to Raise a Child*" and that is what they are about. He has been in conversation with Dr. Tobin about community involvement. They have agreed to adopt Fairfax Elementary School, the Lodge is about 85 strong and they will work out the details with the principal and superintendent. They would also like to do a Mentoring program at AFMS. In the past they have adopted AES and have done a lot for AFHS. The Lodge sees a need to deal more with younger people before they get to the high school. At the "Back to School Expo" on August 10th the Lodge prepared the barbecue. Chairperson Robinson thanked them for coming and the fine barbecue at the "Back to School Expo."

BOARD REPORT

SCSBA School Law Conference – Charleston, SC

Chairperson Robinson reported: 1) there were a number of issues in education, Special Education and Common Core; 2) an update legislatively of what happened in the General Assembly and a forecast of what they can look for in January, what passed and what did not pass; and 3) one of the most aggressive presentations was on the 1st Amendment.

Ms. Smith reported: 1) the 1st Amendment workshop participants had a lot of debate because of the area we are in and what we call common. In this area we are very religious and this was a deep discussion with the ACLU, the presenter called us "stiff neck"; 2) another session was presented by Attorney Boykin on what we should and should not do as a Board and keep the relationship open with the superintendent and knowing your role; 3) the workshop on children with disability was a learning experience. The presenter explained the finance, as far as state-

wide, because SC did not do the Memorandum of Agreement the State received a \$32 million dollar penalty; they appealed this and were asked to negotiate, but according to the judge they were out of order. The Federal Government asked the State of SC to drop the lawsuit, but SC refused to drop the lawsuit. But in 2011 they were saying SC owed them \$72 million dollars. But SC does not know where they are with this lawsuit; 4) if a special needs child goes to jail it is our responsibility to make sure the child's IEP is continued; 5) special education children must be educated until they are 21; but this means the child can stay in school until 22 years old, but the presenter suggested this be dropped to 20 years old; 6) on Common Core one gentlemen said this is the standard they set, but our standards should be higher. He wants each one of his students when they graduate to get a job, but a job with higher pay. But our expectations should be higher. Are we equipping students for advancement and for them to excel; and 7) if we don't think much of children they will not think much of themselves, we should let them know they are great.

Mr. Priester reported: 1) the discussion between the legal director of the ACLU and attorney from the Religious for Freedom Foundation was spirited and aggressive. When you are discussing church and state people's emotion boil over. However this gave them time to think what they can do to make a difference and impart what they would like to see happen and not just accept guidelines passed down; 2) student discipline – with all the technology, how do schools deal with things student do when they leave campus; and 3) personnel – making sure people are dealt with correctly and follow what the Policy states and if the Policy is flawed, you will have a flawed system.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE RETREAT – TBA: Dr. Tobin said at the Retreat they would like to share the goals set by the departments and schools on September 12th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith said she would not be able to attend on September 12th. Chairperson Robinson said they have a full slate in September. Dr. Tobin said they will send the Board the information ahead of time and they will have an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Smith suggested September 30th. Mr. Priester will check his calendar for September 30th and Mr. Frazier had no problem with this date. This meeting will be held at the District Office.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Opening of School – Report by Principals: Dr. Tobin said a member of the District Staff was present at each school for the opening of school.

Allendale-Fairfax High School – Mr. Youmans, Principal reported: 1) they had an awesome 1st day it went extremely well; during breakfast students received their schedules for the days; 2) when the tardy bell rang there was no students in the hallways; 3) signs were up showing the freshmen students where to go; 4) students were helping students. Chairperson Robinson asked about enrollment. Mr. Youmans said they are currently at 340 students, but the enrollment numbers are more than they expected.

Allendale-Fairfax Middle School – Mr. Hemby, Principal reported: 1) the 1st day went exceptionally well and he greeted every parent; 2) students reported to the cafeteria and when the bell rang they moved to the gym and students went in grade level and sections to a certain location; 3) Mr. Flowers from the District Office was assigned to monitor AFMS; 4) the incoming 6th graders from the elementary schools were very respectful; 5) young men knew on Monday they should have belts on; and 6) teachers went over their syllabus. Chairperson Robinson asked if he spoke with all students' at one time on expectations and behavior. Mr. Hemby said yes. Mr. Frazier said he was impressed with all the schools when they visited the schools. He visited all the schools today also. At the Middle School he saw how they did the badges and how they organized the schools and this will extend into our success further on down the line.

Fairfax Elementary School – Ms. OBanner, Principal reported: 1) they had an awesome 1st few days and the opening was much more than she expected as this was her first time doing this as a building supervisor. She spoke with Ms. Leath from AES and thanked her for the guidance. She had a checklist and a courageous team behind her; 3) she met every bus and talked with children and parents about expectations; 4) the transition into the day went well because everyone was in place to escort our young children to eliminate tears with the younger babies; 5) we are a school of courage and we are going to make Common Core common; 6) we will educate the village first and then educate the child; 7) enrollment is at 240. And they need a teacher and this is good. Mr. Frazier said you talked about the village and educating the village and what touches him is capacity building and assisting parents in understanding limitations.

Chairperson Robinson said the Board wanted to formally applaud and congratulate FES for raising their grade from an F to a C. FES was almost a B they were at 77.5 Congratulations on the whole environment at FES.

Allendale Elementary School – Ms. Leath Principal reported: 1) the 1st day was smooth and quiet; 2) all the staff came in early for new registrations or students who did not know where to go; 3) students were entertained with a kickoff by Mr. Houdini on PBIS rules. The students liked him very much; 4) the next 2 days they had PBIS stations for the bathrooms, hallways and cafeteria on what is expected in each of these areas; 5) teachers spend the week going over rules, routines and procedures; 6) had a little crying from parents of pre-k students; 7) a certified teacher is in every classroom; 8) the car rider line was great and went smoothly. Staff was in line at the buses; 9) enrollment is 392 and some of the special needs students and classes were moved to FES. They are expecting more students to come to school after Labor Day.

Chairperson Robinson and the Board of Education congratulated everyone for bringing the grade up, parents, students, teachers, staff and everyone. She said it takes team effort and they are so proud of them and looking for B's and A's for the next time.

Dr. Tobin said the Parent Liaisons and Power School Clerks are working to find out where the missing students are.

Special Services Report – Ms. Mays, Director of Special Services highlighted and recognized the Special Services Teachers and Staff for the following accomplishments: 1) FES, Ms. Muthyala in this Resource Class 1 students scored 100% on Accelerated Reading and another student made the A/B honor roll; 1 scored the highest in Math and 1 had 100% attendance; 2) AES in Ms. Thomas class 1 student scored Met on 3 out of 4 parts on PASS testing; 3) in Ms. Samraj’s class 3 students scored Proficient on SC Alt Assessment; 4) at AFMS in Ms. Moldovan’s class a student was selected “Best Student of the Month” and selected to participate in the Governor’s School Science and Technology camp; 5) Dr. Alamanda, AFMS had 3 students to move from Self-contained to Resources; 6) Mr. Diwarka a Resource Teacher at AFHS had 2 students pass both parts of the HSAP; April 2013, 3 students passed both parts of HSAP, 1 passed the ELA part and another passed the Math portion; 7) Mr. Prasad at the Adult Learning Center worked with a transfer student who passed the PASS test and was able to get a high school diploma; 8) 2 Special Education Parent Nights (November 2012 and March 2013) were held and they invited outside agencies to come in and present. The SC Department of Education and Behaviorist presented on PBIS.

Ms. Mays reported that going forward: 1) Special Education received an allocation from the SDE that was used to purchase a curriculum, Saxon Math, for students in the Self-Contained classes and phonics and spelling for the elementary Self-Contained class. On September 11th they will receive training on the curriculum; 2) Project Discovery, the book was included in the Board packets. A teacher will go out 2 days a week to work on interview skills, job training and preparing students for jobs; 3) the Dept. is working on a \$3000 Transition Grant to assist student with a job via USC; 4) a \$2000 grant for each school to plant a Greenhouse; and 5) they would like to take the students on a field trip to Laurens 55 because they have a garden where they sell fruits and vegetables. Mr. Frazier said make sure you let the Board know when they will have the next parent nights. Also let him know when they go to Laurens 55 and he has some resources to help with the gardening project.

Chairperson Robinson said at the School Law Conference they talked about Special Education and there are so many rules and regulations that must be abided by. They showed slides on school districts who had been dinged and written up and Allendale’s name was not on a bad list. She has seen the teachers and staff and is glad they moved the ones from Building 3 to a more appropriate area. Hats off to the Special Education Staff for all of their accomplishments.

CIPA & School Apps – Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology reported via Power Point: 1) infrastructure upgrades included the Data Center being relocated at the District Office; installing wireless access points at all schools; relocating a classroom at AFMS where cable was installed and adding computer drop labs at both elementary schools; 2) iPad deployment, purchased 270 iPads with cases for teachers and 4 iPad carts and each school received 30 iPads; 3) teachers came back from vacation and had training on how to use the iPad effectively; 4) Professional Development will include “Appy” hour for teachers which will be additional iPad training; 5) held a District-wide website training where someone from each school was trained on updating

the website; 6) upgraded the hardware on the Finance server and now this is properly housed and updated the backup software on this server; 7) upgraded the District's internet circuit from 90 to 100 mega bites – increased the internet bandwidth; 8) tonight the Board is experiencing the first round of paperless Board Meetings; and 9) they are working with the School Messenger system to develop a custom App for parents and the community to use on their smartphones.

CIPA Compliance: 1) The Children's Internet Protection Act addresses concerns about student's access to obscene or harmful contents on the internet; 2) safety measures must be in place to block students from viewing obscene pictures or child pornography; 3) students must be educated on appropriate internet behavior as well as cyber bullying; and 4) Policies must be in place to address these issues.

Ms. Smith said at the conference in Florida a high school principal stated how he used the different network pieces to inform his parents sending out messages. She asked if parents can download an app to receive information. Ms. Jamison said 2 schools have Facebook accounts where they share information with parents and she can add the Facebook feature to this app. Ms. Smith said the principal said he does not send detailed messages, but just something quick to inform parents and this eases the minds of the parents if there is a bus wreck, etc. This past weekend the person talked about Common Core and she was hesitant about the iPad, but the class opened her eyes to technology. Dr. Tobin said currently they have 30 iPads for each school and a teacher asked him about an AirServer. Ms. Jamison said she must upgrade the teachers to Windows 7.

Dr. Tobin said they are going to meet with local public leaders, bring people in and give them information and if they have the correct information they can take the information back out into the community. Mr. Frazier said include him in staff development for the iPad. Ms. Smith said with Common Core part of this is research and being able to apply the information. Does the District have the equipment for students to do this? Dr. Tobin said they have upgraded the infrastructure and have several labs in the District to do this.

District Professional Development – Mr. Flowers, Director of Curriculum reported: 1) at the June SCASA Conference middle school coaches received information on Common Core and how it should be observed; 2) the Literacy Coaches went to special training on United Streaming and building a positive school environment in a classroom; 3) Balanced Literacy helps ensure that students are reading on the correct level; 4) at the Business Summit in June the CATE director attended training on the new technology for submitting updated plans; 5) in July 5 staff members from AFHS attended training on improving EOC test scores; 6) Project Lead the Way training was held this summer and 1 person attended from AFMS; and 7) Agile Mind training is scheduled for August 28 and 29th and this involves students taking Algebra and Pre-Algebra.

Ms. Smith asked if the District have the curriculum for parents to view. One school bragged about their curriculum at the conference this weekend and how parents could view the curriculum and see what their child is doing. Mr. Flowers said the District has Pacing Guides in place and they will focus on this on Early Release days. Research says for Common Core to be

effective teachers must collaborate and this is what the District is doing and these documents will be modified. Mr. Priester asked if the District was looking at the achievement gaps between male and female students and how can we get a balance on this. Mr. Flowers said we are looking at how to support the African American male in the class and Agile Minds will help with this. Mr. Flowers said Mr. Hemby is talking about single gender courses at the Middle School in some areas and this may help.

Policy PTO/PTA Organizations – Mr. Tillotson, Director of Finance reported: 1) he used Lexington Two and several other district's policies to come up with this draft; 2) Administrators at each school must manage the relationship with organizations at their schools; 3) fundraising activities must be pre-approved by principals; 4) there are no special privilege for membership in organizations and a constitution should be set-up. Similar to non-profit bylaws; 5) reporting and the level of reporting is the key differences in the policies from the other districts; 6) the District does not want to engage auditors to review these organizations unless fraud is suspected; and 7) not requiring these organizations to be 501-3C organizations accept maybe band or athletics.

Mr. Frazier said the audit may be expensive but provide people with training. This is a new policy and procedure, but some people may want to have guidance in the beginning and ensure things are working right and the policy does not address this. And there is a concern that things are happening in the community that people may be collecting money in the District's name. The District should initiate a process or send letters out about procedures for collecting money. The District should help organizations to be successful. He suggested meeting with principals so they can have some guidelines on their authority. Mr. Tillotson said he talked about the process of providing information guides and guidelines, how to handle receipts and 2 people signing off on checks. Mr. Frazier said setup a training session where different organizations can receive training and train people who want to have the training. Chairperson Robinson said she would like to have something in place immediately to discourage persons from going to businesses and collecting funds on behalf of athletics or the band booster clubs. Communicate that anyone coming to make these requests have a letter saying they are authorized to make such requests. Mr. Frazier said he would like to see a presentation made to the Board on developing partnerships with local businesses and industries. Mr. Priester moved to accept the 1st reading of the draft Policy with the opportunity to make adjustments with the 2nd reading as needed. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Superintendent Dr. Tobin reported: 1) earlier he notified the Board about several bus routes and drivers not being able to drive down certain roads in the County due to continuous rain. The District is back in order and all routes are back to normal. Chairperson Robinson said during the tour of schools there were large potholes at AFHS, AES and the 301 Building. Dr. Tobin said some of these have been filled, with the crush and run the buses crush these out. He said the District may have to look at doing some type of concrete padding. Ms. Smith said last year the County received a grant and some paving work was completed at FES and the District Office.

She asked if any funding was still available for this project. Mr. Tillotson said he thought funding was over for this project. Dr. Tobin informed the Board of: 2) Parent University is scheduled for October 22nd; December 10th a Fine Arts Program to include fine arts display, chorus and steel drum band at AFMS and on February 2014 the focus will be on educating parents on the importance of PASS testing, MAP, HSAP and Common Core; 3) he is following up on the splash park interest meeting; and 4) the Public Forum Meetings will be listed in the Allendale Sun Newspaper and a blast on School Messenger informing parents of the events starting on September 3rd. Ms. Smith asked if the District could get a senior or young people to possibly use them to update the website.

Dr. Tobin said during the Back-to-school Expo through the McKinney Veto Act the District had people filling out information and they found 25 families that fall into this category. And the game at AFHS this Friday night is a home game for Hampton 1. There new facility is not completed, but the District will get the proceeds from this game

APPROVALS:

Student Release Requests: Mr. Priester moved to approve the transfer request for Students 1 and 2, who are brothers. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

The Student Release request from Student #3 was not considered because it was premature. The release is for the 2014-2015 school year.

Field Trip Request for College Fair Night in Augusta, GA on September 5, 2013: Mr. Priester moved to approve the trip. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Smith asked about the \$15 cost for students, who pays this cost and how many students are going. Mr. Youmans said the trip is for the Senior Class, this is an evening trip and for those who want to attend. And the cost is \$15 for the students and usually they stop and eat after the trip. Mr. Frazier said when students attend this event, it is a major event filled with colleges and universities. He may attend this event. The motion was approved by all.

Field Trip Request for Jacksonville, FL on March 2014: Mr. Priester moved to approve the request for the Bob Hayes Invitational Track & Field Meet in Jacksonville, FL. Mr. Frazier seconded. Ms. Smith said make sure there are enough chaperones for the trip, males and females. 18 students are listed as attending and 2 males and 2 females are serving as chaperones. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL REPORT: No report from Personnel tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Director of Finance reported: 1) see the letter included in the Board Packet; 2) in July there is not much to report and he does not anticipate anything happening, but the District may transfer from the Building Fund flexed monies to be below the

budgeted figures; 3) the goal is to get everything to the Auditors early in September to ensure they meet their December 1st deadline. Everything went well with the Auditors first visit. Chairperson Robinson asked about the Affordable Care Act, who qualified and who is part time and who is not. She said some districts probably have these duties assigned to a specific person. Ms. Rivers said today she and Ms. Young attended EIP training. They have the documentation and must put things in place. She and Ms. Young are working with Mr. Tillotson and Ms. Grant on this process. Some things they may have to consult Attorney Boykin on regarding the terminology. Ms. Rivers said the District is on track for getting the October 1st letters out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State of the District Address – Monday, September 9, 2013 – 6:30 P.M. – AFHS Gym

County-wide Public Forums on Facilities, Tuesday, September 17, 2013 – 6:30-8:00 P.M. – AFHS Gym

SCSBA Boot Camp for Up & Coming Board Chairs – October 9, 2013 – Columbia

SCSBA Risky Business Seminar – October 23-25, 2013 – Myrtle Beach

(Hotel Reservations Opened 8-5-13)

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

(Hotel Reservations Opens 9-6-13)

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.