

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

**MONDAY – JANUARY 27, 2014 – 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, January 27, 2014. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session #1 to discuss Personnel and Students Release. 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  
Terry Hall  
Willie Priester, Secretary  
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson  
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

**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 6:04 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL:** The Roll Call was taken by the Board Recorder.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:** Mr. Hall moved to go into Executive Session #1 at 6:06 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Students Release. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2013, Regular Monthly Meeting and January 14, 2014, Special Called Meeting as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION:** Ms. Benson, Interim Principal made the following presentation: 1) View the art work at the table near the wall, the names of the students are listed; 2) AFHS Tigers Football Team had an outstanding year finishing with a 9-3 record; 1<sup>st</sup> in the Region; the team had 9 All Region players and 5 All State players and 2 freshmen made the All-State Rookie Team; Coach Ford was voted Region 5A Coach of the Year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row; 1 senior will play football at Charleston Southern University and has already signed a letter of intent; Mike Taylor made the North-South Game; Quendrell Williams and Mike Taylor made the Border Bowl. Also recognized were Coaches Ford; Brandyburg; Love; Dixon; Smart and Espinosa; 3) Members of JROTC present were Youshi Kirkland; Alexis Cohen; GaVonna Chaney and Iman Johnson. JROTC instructors are MAJ Howard and Sgt. Tyler. The students recited being a leader and the 7 Army values that include loyalty; duty; obligations; respect; service projects; honor and integrity and personal courage. Upcoming events, February 1<sup>st</sup> JROTC will participate in the Denmark Tech Homecoming parade, March 30<sup>th</sup> at Denmark-Olar HS and March 12<sup>th</sup> inspection (this is a practice for the real inspection). Chairperson Robinson said the Board is proud of the young people here tonight. They are not in the newspaper in trouble and they are proud of the work the coaches do and congratulations to all the officers present. The JROTC program for many years has been at the top of the class and they have such a rich history. Major Howard said the program started in 1992 and is a Gold Star Honor Unit with Distinction. The Program is in the top 3% nationwide and they have held this position since 1992. Sgt. Tyler said these students change every year and they expect them to be at the top of their game and they have many other activities. He encouraged everyone to come out and support them and see what they actually do. The Gold Star means if a student goes to West Point or the Naval Academy they do not have to get a senators recommendation; 4) Ms. Benson recognized Band Director, Ms. Gates. Two students modeled the Band's brand new uniforms. She thanked the Board for their support and providing the uniforms. Chairperson Robinson said Ms. Gates has brought the Band from the ground up and they are very proud of her and the Band. She thanked Ms. Benson for her service to AFHS and they are hearing good things, keep up the good work.

**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH:** Mr. Hemby served as the spokesperson for Administrators. Each Board Member was presented a gift as a special token of appreciation. He thanked the Board for all they are doing for the students in the District. Ms. Youmans, Coordinator of Little New Steps announced that the Center maintained a Level A status for the next 3 years. She congratulated parents, students and staff at LNS.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chairperson Robinson said let your light shine, let the world know what the District is doing for the young people recognized tonight. The District has so many talented young people and teachers and administrators who bring out the best in the young people. See the quote at the top of the Agenda from Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Dr. King was inspired from above because he had so much wisdom. This quote is pertinent to the times we live in. We are in

a state of change if it is for the betterment change is good. We have to be willing and open to change, good change if we are educating young people. Dr. King led the Civil Rights movements in the 1950's and 1960's. Many people were uncomfortable with the changes because they wanted to remain asleep. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed and it opened up the avenues for changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

Chairperson Robinson thanked the public for attending the Board Meeting and said when the District has special meetings and forums on the superintendent search please participate in these forums because this is how the Board gets input from the public.

**GOOD NEWS:**

**Student Recognitions Allendale Elementary School:** Principal, Ms. Leath said the Robotics Team started this year. She asked Ms. Roberts and Mr. Espinosa to talk about the Team. AES also had a Chess Club initiative this year and they are on the rise. Ms. Roberts said the students are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and at a competition on January 7<sup>th</sup> they remained in the top 7 out of the ranking of 25 teams. Robotics turns the lights and minds on of the students, working as a team, cooperating and engineering and computers. The students had boxes of logos and they created people and houses. The students will participate in the State Championship on February 15<sup>th</sup> at River Bluff High School. Student Nevaeh Simpson said she learned how to program robots and enjoys going to the competition and working with her team members; Miracle Moore said she learned how to have gracious professionalism and having respect for your team and enjoys going to competitions and the State Championship and Shawn Jones demonstrated pushing an ambulance to a safe zone and every task is worth a certain point. Chairperson Robinson said these are not toys that students buy from the store. Ms. Roberts said students have to figure out how to program and put the robots together. She also thanked the parents for coming out tonight. Chairperson Robinson said when the young people competed the students they competed against were middle school students. Mr. Espinosa said he wanted to celebrate the student's teamwork. The Rap the students performed was their idea and one of the judges at the competition said she could tell that this was the student's idea. The Food Service Dept. provided snacks for the program. Part of the support came from USC-Salkehatchie, Savannah River Site and a grant from First Lego. Mr. Espinosa said they need a bus to get to the State tournament, funding for a school bus and bus driver is about \$700-\$800. They are asking the Board to help with this. Chairperson Robinson asked him to check with Dr. Tobin. Mr. Frazier said he talked with Mr. Espinosa who said he was moving to another community. He thanked everyone for what they are doing and Allendale County Schools are growing and thanks to Joey for being involved in everything and for the work he has done on behalf of the School District.

**Clean Sweep Award:** The Clean Sweep Award was presented to Allendale Elementary School for the Month of January 2014.

Dr. Tobin said the presentations you have seen here tonight are people working together. When people work together and get along, you get a lot of work done. We also have to make things accessible to children, expose them, engage them and create opportunities for them. He thanked the staff for all they do.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only.

**SC Statement of Economic Interest – Filing Electronically Only:** For information only.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

**Special Services Field Trip to Laurens 55:** Ms. Mays, Special Services Director said Dr. Tobin also went on the field trip and she highlighted via Power Point: 1) the trip (October 29, 2013) was very informative, the students (11) were well behaved, they rolled out the Red Carpet and give the students and staff gifts. The Special Services Dept. would like to do some of the things in Allendale that Laurens is doing; 2) Laurens has a contract with Wal-Mart and other agencies and students are paid minimum wages; 3) if Allendale had this type of program students may have to be transported to Walterboro because we don't have the facilities in the County for this type of program. We are looking at transforming the greenhouse at AFHS. Mr. Frazier thanked Ms. Mays for the work they are doing with children to help them improve so they can be productive and successful citizens.

**PTO/Booster Clubs Guidelines:** Dr. Tobin said the guidelines are for information. He shared this information with the PTO on January 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue to meet with these organizations. Ms. Smith asked if each organization will have its own operating procedures. Dr. Tobin said the PTO is not as complex as the Booster club, who will have more guidelines. Mr. Frazier said he would like it changed to PTO/PTA so schools can chose which organization they want to work with.

**School Weather Schedule:** Dr. Tobin said school was delayed 2 weeks ago because of the cold and not wanting students to stand out in the cold weather waiting for buses. On January 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> the District will close schools because of expected cold, rain and ice. They will decide later on what will happen on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Parent University:** Dr. Tobin said Parent University is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> at AFMS. They will go through Common Core and break this down for parents and help them understand what Common Core means and what is in place.

**AFHS Hazardous Material Removal:** Dr. Tobin reported that hazardous materials from AFHS that should have been taken out 10 to 20 years ago have been removed. Chairperson Robinson asked how the material was removed. Dr. Tobin said they contracted with a company whose specialty is hazardous material removal.

**Planning for School Merger:** Dr. Tobin said he has been meeting with District Administrators on the schools merging looking at personnel, students, and not waiting until the last minute to make this happen. He will make a presentation to the Board in the spring on this topic. There will

be a possibility of students benefiting by expanding technology and a track team. The merger will allow the District to expand services and opportunities for students.

**MAP Improvements:** Dr. Tobin said based on the results of the practice test for HSAP and MAP they showed an increase in every school and every grade. This is an indication of the progress students are making and how leadership is making a difference. He has been visiting schools and thanking the staff and students for what they are doing. He sees a renewed focus on the part of the schools and he has been explaining what the merger might mean and the superintendent search and reminding people to stay on task.

**Gov. Haley Education Reform Initiative:** Dr. Tobin said this was in the Board's packets for information only. The Gov. is looking to fund rural, low economic school districts with technology and reading teachers.

**Technology Update:** Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology reported: 1) every student will have an identification card with their picture on it. The cards will be used for lunch, in the Media Center and include their graduation year; 2) down the road this will cut down on others gaining entry to our building; 3) there is a new logo and a chip; every school has a printer to print these identification cards; 4) the new telephone system has been installed with additional telephone lines and 5) the new servers are in. Chairperson Robinson said what she is impressed with is that the identification card has the child's graduation date. This should serve as a constant reminder to the child if they are on track for graduation, this is a motivational piece. Mr. Hall asked about the fee to replace a lost ID badge. Ms. Jamison said they have not discussed fee, but they will discuss this with the high school. The badges have a smart chip in the card. If a student loses the card, the old one will be deactivated. Note the color coding, each grade level will have a separate color. At the elementary schools teachers will keep the badges. The District also has a Facebook page, which people check more for information.

## **APPROVALS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors Policy:** Chairperson Robinson said this Policy allows the nursing staff to inject students if they have allergies. This Policy was recommended from the SCSBA. Mr. Priester moved to make this the second reading. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Student Release Requests:** Mr. Priester moved to allow the release for students 1 and 2. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**USC-Salkehatchie STEMs MOU:** Chairperson Robinson said the Board was contacted because the MOU had to be in on January 24, 2014. Mr. Priester moved to tentatively approve the MOU. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Frazier said they have been doing a lot of improvement and a lot of people have been coming on board to help the District. He would like to see a letter from the Board thanking those who have supported the District. Chairperson Robinson said with the MOU from USC-Salk, she hope this is the beginning of seeing them and ACS come back together again. We have USC-Salk right here and are glad to see a conversation started with them. She will make sure this

happens. Dr. Tobin said he spoke with Ms. Boone from USC-Salk and he asked for a list of partnerships that the District is in with USC-Salk.

**Debate Team Field Trip to Gatlin, TN:** Mr. Priester moved to approve the trip to TN. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith said this will be a busy week for the District. The Steel Drum Band will be in Myrtle Beach and the Debate Team will be out-of-state.

**PERSONNEL:** Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to approve the 2 certified recommendations made in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to approve the 1 classified recommendation and the 2 certified recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Tillotson, Director of Finance said the finance information was in the Board's packets. They are still tracking the budget in all the areas. The total revenue is about \$4.5 million and expenses \$6.2 million, with a \$1.2 million deficit showing. He spoke with the County Treasurer tonight and the District has been credited \$2.1 million in Ad Valorem taxes. The District is in a positive cash position at this time and hope to be at the end of the year. Mr. Frazier asked about the reserve fund or fund balance. Mr. Tillotson said this has not changed and he does not anticipate any change this year. Flex funds have been transferred in the building fund to balance the budget. Mr. Priester said the District should not need a TAN. Mr. Tillotson said this is correct. Mr. Tillotson said they are meeting with the bond attorney and the District is also meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> to make sure we are meeting all the procurement required by the State and are taking advice from the District's attorney.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2:** Chairperson Robinson said Executive Session #2 is not required.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**February 20-23 – SCSBA Annual Convention – Myrtle Beach:** AES Steel Tiger will be showing their skills and talents at this convention. Students will be coming in the night before and they are the first to perform on Friday morning. Chairperson Robinson said they are excited about the students performing at this event. She thanked Principal Leath for getting all the information in. Ms. Leath said she and Ms. Mikell are presenting at the conference also on non-traditional afterschool programs on Saturday morning. Mr. Frazier asked if the Steel Drum Band will have supper on Friday night. He asked if the Board can join the group for supper on Friday night.

**2 Days at the Capitol – Wednesday, March 26 – Capital City Club, Columbia**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Priester moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.