

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

**MONDAY – JANUARY 24, 2011 – 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 24, 2011. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel. The meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Cave, Vice Chairman
Terry Hall
Cheryl Mole
Willie Priester, Chairman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Dr. Gail Mitchell, Executive Director of Instructions
Charles Harney, Executive Director of Operations
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Kevin Robinson, Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN, DAVIS, LLC: Reagan Flemming, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Mole moved to come out of executive session. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Ms. Smith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to amend the agenda making item #15 executive session and item #16 adjournment. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Cave moved to approve the Minutes of the December 13, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH: Dr. McClain said January is Board recognition month and thanked the Board for the sacrifices they make on behalf of the students of this District. Mr. Chandler, speaking on behalf of all principals said the Board is busy setting

policies and financial management, establishing performance criteria and evaluation for personnel and programs and determining assignment of staff and allocation of staff time according to Board stipulated classroom and programs needs. Mr. Chandler said each Board member had at their seats a gift, which is a token of appreciation and thanks for the great job that you do for Allendale County School District and the community. Chairman Priester thanked the principals on behalf of the Board and said it was all about the children.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

GOOD NEWS

Cadet MSG Itzayana Carrillo – JROTC: Dr. McClain said we have an opportunity to recognize two outstanding young people in our schools. Cadet Master Sgt. Carrillo, Riffle Team Commander said in the month of November she participated in the Service National Qualifier Postal Match and placed 3rd in the individual category. She has been invited to go to Anniston, AL, February 17-19th to participate in the National JROTC Service Championship. She thanked the Board for allowing her to represent ACS. Dr. McClain presented Cadet MSG Carrillo a Certificate of Achievement.

Ronnie Geohaghan – AFHS Student – Army All American Football: Athletic Director Ford said on behalf of the Athletic Department they would like to congratulate Ronnie Geohaghan for being invited to participate in the US Army All-American Bowl Combine. This is the top high school All American Football game you can be invited to play in, 500 of the nation's best junior football players are invited. Invitees also attend seminars that focus on traditional combine and football skills testing, leadership, team building and the college recruiting process. The game was held in January in San Antonio, TX. Ronnie may be the only student from the State of SC invited to San Antonio. Ronnie thanked God for his athletic abilities, the coaching staff, AD and the Booster Club for giving him money to travel to San Antonio. He met guys that will probably be playing in the NFL in a couple of years. He was also invited to participate in the 2011 USA Outdoor Track and Field trials being held in Lilly France this July. Dr. McClain presented Ronnie a Certificate of Achievement.

Dr. McClain said the JROTC and Beta Club were recognized for their outstanding achievement as the 2011 Allendale County Adopt-A-Highway Group of the Year.

Board Recognition – Ms. Alexis Zeidan – Dr. McClain said this person gave untiringly of her time and effort and served as the past Board Chair of this school board. Chairman Priester and other Board members presented Ms. Zeidan a plaque in recognition of 4 years of tirelessly efforts to the students of Allendale County Schools.

Clean Sweep Award – Mr. Harney presented the Clean Sweep Award for the month of January to Allendale-Fairfax Middle School. Dr. Fludd, Principal accepted the award on the schools behalf.

FACILITIES FUNDING – Mr. Bob Damron from Ross, Sinclair & Associates: Mr. Damron said the information presented is a review of the debt structure of the District. 1) Debt Capsule Summary – page 1 lists all the bonds the District is obligated for. 2003 is the initial bond issuance many years ago. Payment is at 3% due in 2015. The call information is the first date it can be paid in full or refinanced. They constantly watch the interest rate and inform the District about this. The 2003 REF stands for refunding bonds – these were refinanced at a lower rate. These will pay off with the March 2011 payment. 2009 SOB – Special Obligation Bond – this was for the roof at AFHS – at \$5,855,000. This bond can be refinanced in 2014. Our intention is in around 2013 we will be in front of you asking for approval to refinance these bonds and lower the interest rate. 2010 bond issue – an annual bond done once a year – was for \$250,000 to meet the various maintenance and small capital needs in the District – this will be paid off in 2011. 2) Page 2 – debt service requirement the District is under. In graph form you can see the debt service requirement the District is under. Each graph is a different color based on the representation of the bond issue just discussed. Some bonds that will be paid off is no longer in the list but replaced by the olive color bar which represents the annual maintenance about \$250,000 issued this year. 3) Page 3 – shaded line – 2011 – listing the various bond issues that will be paid. In total the District pays about \$1.58 million per year – amount the 32 mils – along with Tier 3B money used from Act 380 – funds dedicated to make sure the roof is paid for. 4) Page 4 – is a breakdown of how the District affords to pay for the \$1,583 million payment. Calculate the value of a mil for Allendale County Schools at \$20,269. Some years the mil value is up or down depending upon the collection procedures. 32 mills are on the books and this has been kept constant for a number of years. 5) Page 5 – the 8% capacity – the school district has 3 ways to borrow money: a) voter approved referendum; b) the 8% debt limitation; c) a performance contract – which is how the roof was done. Overall the District is doing well and on schedule for the retirement of debt. There does not seem to be a need for a millage increase at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SC Statement of Economic Interest – Electronically Only: Dr. McClain said this document must be completed by all of them and provide an electronic e-mail address. Call his office if you need assistance completing the form.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Mitchell, Executive Director of Instructions said the new process – they have in their packets an explanation of what is going on in the Strategic Planning. Mandated by the State is the following: 1) create a strategic planning committee made up of 35 people, board members, parents, business, county and college staff; 2) the District is working with Dr. Odell Stuckey; 3) have met 2 times in November and January to create a framework for the new plan; 4) the mission statements and belief statements have been updated; 5) the district executive team will set objectives and action plans – which are based on the strategies; 6) action plan will be written on how to implement strategies; 7) April 1 the plans should be to the Board.

Reform Initiatives Update – Dr. Mitchell highlighted: 1) Dec. 2010 had a visit from the point coaches (Success-For-All) SFA – looked at how Curiosity Corner, KinderCorner, Reading Roots and Reading Wings were implemented; 2) Power teaching math training was conducted in January – held at FES – and a team at AFHS; this is a clear and simple framework to help teachers implement math – does not require any particular textbook; 3) recent visits from SFA involving teachers and administrators – involved working on data; 4) teachers taught how to interpret data; 5) looking forward to creating parent conferences; 6) Pearsons Learning Team is alive and well – January 5th held a meeting in Beaufort, SC several attended the meeting; 7) talked about the 7 step process on working with students and meeting their needs – are at steps 6A and 6B. Participants created a wall chart which is how they would implement a lesson and the steps in the process due thus far. AFMS has been highlighted because of their great implementation of the Pearson Learning Model. They will be photographed and videotaped – to be used by Pearsons in future sessions across the nation. Making Middle Grade Works initiatives is moving along very nicely. The High School That Work (HSTW) is underway at AFHS – the mission is to create a culture of high expectations and continuous improvement in the high school. July 2, 2011 there will be a technical assistance visit done in the District. Dr. Mitchell outlined the goals of HSTW. Chairman Priester said in regards to those programs with measureable outcomes – have you seen any movement towards the stated outcome. Dr. Mitchell said yes, some of these have been addressed when they talked about data and the high increase of the number of students passing HSAP testing. She talked to Mr. Youmans about teachers collaborating and they are feeling more comfortable doing this. They are seeing results not only on tests, but on interim assessments.

Termite Damage – 301 Bldg. – Mr. Harney, Executive Director of Operations said information was in the packets for the emergency procurement at the 301 Building. They need approval to continue this project. Chairman Priester said looking at the proposal does this estimated cost consist of additional termite treatment. Mr. Harney said this would be additional later on. Ms. Smith moved to approve continuing the project. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all. Mr. Harney gave the Board an update on a proposal that was approved earlier.

Budget Update/Planned Community Meeting/TBA: Mr. Robinson, Finance Director gave a synopsis from the budget workshop on January 13th. Just informing the Board the District is anticipating a \$2 million deficit for next year. They have started to consider different measures to close the gap between the lower revenues and expenditures to produce a balance budget. Some of the things discussed: 1) discretionary items – travel and supplies; 2) deferring some expenditures until next year; 3) not replacing some individuals who may retire or leave the District and combine positions; 4) maybe a furlough or 5) staff reductions. As we have started planning no final or concrete decisions have been made to the measures that must be taken. Even last week the State Supt. announced proposed additional budget cuts. They will impact all Districts and Allendale directly. Things will have to change as we go along and get better information. Mr. Cave asked if they evaluated the staffing of the District and found some areas that will be more effective cutting than others. Mr. Robinson said they discussed first and foremost as part of the process – the goals, objectives and priorities for next year and trying to make adjustments so there will be no impact to educating students. Chairman Priester said in regards to what was said earlier – was there any discussion on any kind of repealing of Act 388. Mr. Robinson said no, there has been general discussion but nothing specific to his knowledge. Chairman Priester said if something happens – funding changes – funding we receive would there be any provisions that the District would receive these funds if the funding formula changed. Dr. McClain said the proposal by SCASA is every school district in the state operates on 100 mills to level the playing field for everyone. We currently operate on \$272 mils in the District that would reduce the millage requirement in this school district to 100 mills and a base of \$5,000 per pupil. When you do the math we would be about \$3.8 million less than we currently operate on. In a meeting he expressed his displeasure to this proposal because the District would be held harmless for 2 years. His question was what would he do after 2 years. Representatives from this recommending committee met with local superintendents last week and they have been assured that shortfalls they would experience if they operate on 100 mils proposal – not only would they be held harmless but as long as that funding formula was intact the District would be funded at the rate it is currently being funded. A provision in the law would allow 8% of assessed evaluation of program improvement just as you have 8% for facilities. Chairman Priester said when they say we would be funded at the current funding rate would this mean the following year we would be funded at the same rate. Dr. McClain said if this was enacted the District would be permanently where we are right now at our level of funding and the only thing that would affect that is increases or decreases in enrollment.

Mr. Cave said in the last meeting one of the reports – the audit report – the report shows everything is in line. Congratulations to the team for the good work on this report.

Dr. McClain said Chairman Priester suggested a community meeting where they share with the community where the District is financially and the strategies the District will employ in presenting a balanced budget in July.

Ms. Smith said at the last meeting it was announced that Mr. Robinson took the exam and is now a Certified Public Accountant.

APPROVAL

Preliminary Drawings/Facilities Update – Mr. Harney said the work will be carried out by the Allendale County Transportation Office and Chairman Margaret Maner is present tonight. He said the drawings in the Board packet represents: 1) blue represents a new paving at AFHS and the green represents parking areas with lines; 2) the 2nd map is the District Office which would be additional paving and resurfacing. Dr. McClain said based on estimated costs are they focusing on the first two items. Ms. Maner said those are the two that have been identified for the first cycle. Chairman Priester asked for approval on the first and second pages. Mr. Hall moved to approve the request. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Snow Make-Up Days: Dr. McClain said because of inclement weather on January 10 and 11, 2011 the District is proposing making up the 1-1/2 days. January 11 was originally a ½ day. Mr. Everett gave the Board information on the proposal. Tuesday, February 11 changes from a teacher work day to a full day; Thursday, June 2, 2011 changes from ½ day to a full day and Friday, June 3, 2011 changes from a non-school day to a ½ day. June 3 is being proposed in the event of additional inclement weather. Mr. Cave moved to approve the recommendation. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Out-of-State Field Trips – February 17-20, 2011 – JROTC Anniston, AL and February 24-26, 2011 – Debate Team – Gatlinburg, TN – Ms. Mole moved to approve both field trips. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director made a recommendation that the Board accept the order to terminate the employment of GB from the Allendale County School District. Mr. Hall moved to accept the recommendation. Ms. Mole seconded. The recommendation was approved by all. Ms. Rivers made a recommendation that the Board give permission to offer a Conditional Letter of Agreement for the employment of a teacher. Ms. Smith moved to allow Ms. Rivers to issue the Conditional Letter of Agreement for employment. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

State Schools Facility Funding – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said in the Board packets is an update on the State School Building Funds. The District has not received these revenues but they are being held on our behalf by the State. The balance combined in the 3 funds is about \$175,000. The 3 funds are: 1) EIA Building Funds the balance is about \$98,209. They can be used for renovations, capital improvements or repairs of instructional facilities. Half (½) of these funds must be used to reduce millage on current or future debt; 2) State School Building Aid and the balance is about \$34,000. These funds can be used to construct and improve, equip or renovate a school building or other school facilities. These funds may also be used to retire debt; 3) Barnwell Facilities Funds with a balance of a little less than \$43,000. These funds can be used

for school instructional facilities or fixed equipment for the schools or improvement and renovations.

Budget Report by Function – December 1-31, 2010 – Mr. Robinson said the information was in the Board packet. The first page is revenue for December year-to-date is \$2,200,229. Revenue for the month of December is \$332,000 this should change next month when we get credit for property tax revenues. The summary of expenditures year-to-date in the general fund on page 6 for the month of December is \$963,233 and year-to-date \$4,660,809.

Budget Changes Report – December 1-31, 2010 – Mr. Robinson said the information was in the Board packet which represent transfers that had to be made and this is for information only.

ANNOUNCEMENT

February 23-27 – SCSBA Annual Convention – Myrtle Beach, SC

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Hall moved that the Board go into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to receive information from a community member. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to open session at 8:45 p.m. No action was taken on the information received.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.