

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

**MONDAY – AUGUST 25, 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, August 25, 2014. The Board went into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Personnel, the Superintendent Search 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  
Terry Hall  
Wilda Robinson, Chairperson  
Willie Priester, Secretary  
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

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

**PARKER POE:** Sidney Evering, Special Counsel

**SOUTHWEST SECURITIES:** Bob Damron, Senior Vice President

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairperson Robinson requested to amend the Agenda to include under the Superintendent's Office a Field Trip Request from Allendale-Fairfax High School to the CSRA College Night in Augusta, GA. Mr. Priester moved to approve the Agenda as requested with the amended item. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Priester moved to go into Executive Session at 6:16 p.m. for the purposes of Personnel/Contracts; Superintendent Search; Student Release Requests and Student Admission Request. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Priester moved to approve the Student Release Requests of students 1-8. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Frazier moved to accept the Enrollment Requests to enroll students from another District. Mr. Priester seconded. Mr. Hall asked if there were 3 students. Yes, there is one letter requesting to enroll 3 students. The motion was approved by all to enroll the 3 students indicated in the one letter.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2014; July 24, 2014 Special Called Meetings and July 14, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. Mr. Hall asked about the Minutes from the August 11, 2014. They will be ready at the next meeting. The motion was approved by all.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** Chairperson Robinson said 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were moved to the High School campus, but they could not get into their class rooms because of a glitch. On Wednesday they were able to go into their spaces. Looking at where the District was last year at this time, the District has moved and done so many things since last year. The list is not complete or comprehensive. Sometimes we forget to applaud ourselves, yes, we have a lot of work to do and a long way to go: 1) AES ESA rating moved to a C from an F; 2) AES Steel Drum Band performed at the SCSBA Conference in Myrtle Beach; 3) AES Robotics Team was named "Rookies of the Year"; 4) at AES on May 16<sup>th</sup> students skyped with student in Kenya. This was made possible by John Winthrop and Phil Noble; 5) FES ESA rating moved from F to C; 6) FES received grants to create a garden for the Science Classes and \$1900 for a cultural theatre which focused on the Gullah Culture and Ms. O'Banner did a great job; 7) AFMS Boys Basketball Team was undefeated; 8) JROTC maintained a Gold Star Honor Unit status and participated in many community events; 9) the Debate Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Charleston and several Seniors participated in Denmark Tech Dual Enrollment and some received Certificates in Welding; 10) Boys and Girls State – Mr. Lott and Mr. Kearse sponsored this for student o have this opportunity from American Legion Post 198; 11) Baushaud Breeland a former Tiger was drafted by the Washington Redskins; 12) Repairs were made in the weight room, new furniture was purchased and upholstered; 13) Coach Ford is to be commended for doing a great job with athletics; 14) LNS maintained Level A status; 15) the District has an exceptional fund balance, many districts around us cannot say that; 16) the first State-of-the-School Address was shared with the community; 17) the Board held a series of public forums on facilities; 18) the Board voted to close 2 elementary schools and move students to the AFMS campus; 19) the District

established and strengthened partnerships with USC-Salk, Aiken, SRS and other agencies; 20) the District participated in the Christmas Parade and the Cooter Fest; 21) staff members were provided with iPads; 22) the Special Education staff went to Laurens 5; 23) many people received assistance from the District staff and clothing for families thru McKinney Vento; 24) the Summer Feeding Program was expanded and had 16 sites County-wide and hot meals were available at some sites; 25) the Board voted to purchase new Band Uniforms for the students and on Friday, August 22 the students performed and played in the new uniforms; and 26) on Tuesday the District received the Digital Pilot Device Grant. The Board met and the plan was approved, but the District is not sure what the grant award is at this time. Ms. Johnson, Foodservice Director said the District had 28 sites. Chairperson Robinson said we are moving up and on. She thanked the Superintendent, District Office staff, principals and everyone working together to move the District forward. Ms. Smith said at the Back-to-School Expo it was said that all students in the District will receive free lunch and there is no application process for parents this year. Dr. Tobin said the Board approved the project in April.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No comments

**RECOGNITIONS:**

**Mr. & Mrs. Pearlie Jackson and Family:** the family was not present but made a significant contribution of school supplies to Allendale Elementary School. Principal Leath said the family contributed supplies and it was more supplies than they thought. About 3 or 4 truck load and they wanted to make sure teachers spent as little as necessary out of their own pockets. The school is very grateful for the supplies. The article was in the Allendale Sun. Chairperson Robinson said all the children of this family went through the Allendale School system and were at her school when she was principal. These children live in Washington, Florida, etc. and all the sisters collaborated on what they would purchase for the school.

**Ms. Shalanda Brooker-Deloach:** was recognized for meeting all the qualifications and completed the required training to administer the Commercial Driver License Skills Test to Allendale County Schools Bus Drivers. Mrs. Brooker accepted the certificate on Ms. Brooker-Deloach behalf.

**Ms. Stephanie Williams-Rouse:** was named Adult Education Administrative Assistant of the Year for Region 3 which includes Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton and Jasper Counties. The recognition came with plaques and over \$450.

**SCSBA Boardmanship Institute:** Dr. Tobin said Board Members attend year-round training sessions offered by the SCSBA. Mr. Alonzo Frazier and Board Chairperson Robinson were recognized for reaching Level 3 and Ms. Valaree Smith for reaching Level 4.

## **BOARD REPORT**

**SCSBA School Law Conference – Myrtle Beach:** Mr. Priester: 1) the theme was “Brown vs Board of Education 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”; 2) one session talked about fighting the Federal Government overreach and how the Federal Government is increasing things, but not providing funding; 3) a bill on the Government Flexibility Act not abiding by all the rules the Federal Government has set forth; 4) another session on thinking sometimes when you are thinking you have biases that are built in and you are not aware of these biases, which sometimes may cause flawed thinking; 5) grievances that boards must face, give highlights and examples and allowed them to see how things may be outlandish and presented in real life; 6) had a forum with the State Superintendent of Education candidates. He wished the forum was longer so the candidates could expand on their agendas a little longer.

Ms. Smith: 1) said she likes to network and talk to others and see things that are going on in other districts; 2) for example the relationship with OCAB and one district was doing things and how schools are working together. They asked if that district had anyone on the OCAB board looking for things the district would like to see happen; 3) the presenter on being biased said for example, how many have shoes that ties on, if you put these people in the same group they will bring their case based on tied shoes; 4) the candidates for State Superintendent were great in their presentations.

Mr. Hall: 1) the board’s role in the grievance process, administrators and the administration need to pass the process down to employees, sometimes employees don’t know they cannot grieve some things; 2) keep the Board out of the courthouse – one district had not updated their policies since 1988 which can hurt boards; 3) the candidates for State Superintendent of Education, we need to tell the public the importance of this election. Some candidates running don’t support public education. We tend to vote on party lines, but we need someone to represent public education; 4) “Breathe of Freedom” by Jonathan Green, pictures of his artwork and what happened in Charleston will be going to all schools, we should hang this in the high school and all students should know the importance of Brown vs Board of Education.

Mr. Frazier: 1) Jonathan Green talked about events that happened coming up to Brown vs Board of Education, three or 4 lawsuits canceled and put into Brown vs. Board of Education; 2) the Think Your Way to Success workshop talked about thinking and not assuming things are the way you think.

Chairperson Robinson said in reference to Board Policies administrators should know the Policies and communicate these with their faculty and staff. Everyone is guided by the Policies, understand the grievance process, most things are a process. If you miss a step, you have not followed the process. Some scenarios they worked with was ridiculous, everything is not grieveable. Administrators be diligent about this and make sure your staff knows about the Policies.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

### **Opening of Schools – Report by Principals**

**Ms. Leath, AES:** 1) have no vacancies, 100% of the staff is certified; 2) pre-celebration with Ice Cream Social on August 14<sup>th</sup> about 221 parents came out; 3) PBIS Magic Show (the Discipline Program for the District) focused on being respectful, responsible and safe; 4) stressed the importance of rules, routines and procedures for the staff before students returned to school; 5) PBIS station, they were in the hall ways, bathrooms and playground to put everyone on the same page; 6) enrollment is up to 469 students which includes 6<sup>th</sup> grade; 7) students that withdrew went to Barnwell, Hampton, Estill and Columbia, about 10 students they are still missing, but no district has sent for their records yet.

**Ms. Green, FES:** 1) opening went smooth with students. They had a short assembly in the Gym, she introduced herself to the staff, students, and parents joined them in the Cafeteria for breakfast; 2) teachers went over rules, routines and rituals; 3) a Meet and Greet was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> where parents learned what to expect from administrators and staff and Dr. Beckett presented on Title I; 4) PBIS was the same as AES; teachers did something in the classroom and they rotated by station on the next day; 4) Chairperson Robinson visited the school on the 1<sup>st</sup> day; they looked at the garden, Ms. Johnson is going to help with this; 5) enrollment is 261 students this year. This number includes the 6<sup>th</sup> graders also.

**Ms. Youmans, LNS:** 1) she was absent during Parent Orientation due to a death in the family. The staff did a great job; 2) thanks to everyone for the support given to her family; 3) LNS will stay in the Federal and State guidelines.

**Mr. Hemby, AFMS & AFHS:** 1) the opening was stifled a bit, but they met with the Superintendent and Mr. Flowers and came up with a sound contingency plan. There were about 8 rooms in the building where the students did not move, but the teachers went around and give rules and policies. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school AFMS teachers were instructing students; 2) there is a 3 minutes difference in the flow so Middle and High School students should not be in the hall at the same time; 3) Middle School students move without bells; 4) breakfast for the Middle School is served in the classrooms; 5) they looked at the flow for traffic and buses, gates A, B, C, and D and are open. Parents come thru gate B and exit out of gate D, during school gates C & D are locked and dismissal is thru gates A, B and D; 6) there is a focus on the Guidance Department when students enter high school they have a plan knowing where they are and where they want to get to. A handout on the enhanced IGP was given to Board Members. Mr. Frazier said thanks for talking about guidance. He would like to see all the schools look at guidance policies. This is very important, careers are very important, less than 15% of graduating students go to college. Thanks to all the principals for all they are doing. He asked Administrators to give the Board a Calendar of Events for the month and have it emailed to the Board. This is helpful when the Board wants to be involved. Ms. Smith asked how the students began the process outlined in the IGP Plan and are parents included. Mr. Hemby said right now it is just students, when they register as a sophomore they have a better understanding of what they need. For example about 3 or 4 foreign language depending on what college they will attend. Ms. Smith

said she would like to have parents involved earlier so they can work with the child and parents know where the child is going. Chairperson Robinson said this kind of discussion should be started at the middle school, by the time students get to 8<sup>th</sup> grade they can look at this. Mr. Frazier said this should start in the elementary school. Students leave school and have no clue what they want to do in life. Ms. Smith said sometimes parents feel like they are pushed out by the time the student gets in high school. Chairperson Robinson asked if the gates will be labeled. Mr. Hemby said right now they are not labeled, but will do so. Right now they have staff in place to guide parents. Chairperson Robinson said she was out on Thursday at the school and parents had a lot of questions about where students will be dropped off. Communicate with parents, put labels on the gates and send information home to parents about the gates.

Chairperson Robinson applauded the District for making the transition successful, and Board Members for fast-tracking the process.

**Adult Education, Ms. Williams-Rouse, Site Coordinator for Adult Education** said she has been with the Program since 2002: 1) she asked the question, how can we make the program better and help the adults in the program? People are bringing jobs to Allendale, but the literacy rate is high. We need the people in the County to take on the jobs that are coming in; 2) last week they met with “100 Friends of Adult Education” to create awareness of Adult Education and of the literacy rate in the County. Representatives were from Fairfax Town Council, Allendale Town Council, the Clerk of Court and others. They want to change the language when a person goes before a judge, for the judge to say the person should work towards a GED to become self-sufficient; 3) each person at the meeting was asked to bring 3 more people to next meeting; 4) classes start after Labor Day and want to have something for those coming in. On August 15<sup>th</sup> they went to Hardeeville to become Certified Benefits Bank Counselors to assist people with paperwork when they apply for Food Stamps or Medicaid; 5) Adult Education is looking for a Certified Teacher but the SDE has granted a 1 year waiver for someone with a Bachelors or Master’s Degree. Ms. Smith said they were trying to get the Benefit Bank to Allendale for a while, thanks to Ms. Rouse for getting the training. Mr. Frazier said the young people cannot do what they need to do to get a GED, how do they start fixing these things. Ms. Rouse said that is one of the purposes of “100 Friends of Adult Education” is to get people talking. They have been reaching out to the community and know there is a need for what the Center offers people in Allendale. She has contacted former students and used word of mouth. Denmark Tech gives these students a refund check and Allendale cannot compete with this. If the Denmark Tech students want to come to Allendale, they can come. She has visited the jails in Allendale and encouraged them to come to the Program when they get out. They are also working on transportation to the Program and Food Service can provide them with lunch. Ms. Smith asked about the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Program. Ms. Rouse said she is working with people at WIA. Chairperson Robinson said she visited the Center on the first day, and there are some things we can offer. Communicate this thru the media. People from Aiken and Graniteville said they heard Dr. Tobin on the radio. She would like to hear Adult Education on the radio and let the community call in with questions and get clarity about the Program and

what is offered. Saturate the community with information. Ms. Smith mentioned the Project Hope plan that promises people a job after they are finished with the program. This gets people motivated.

**District-Wide Update:** Dr. Tobin said he would pass on this report tonight due to the lateness of the hour because the report is quite lengthy.

**District Professional Development, Mr. Flowers, Director of Curriculum:** information is in the Board packet. 1) some things are embargoed and others are public knowledge; 2) HSAP all areas in Reading and Math 56% of students passed both tests; 3) scores are below State average but the students are making progress. Last year's results for HSAP will help with ESA and the State Report Card; 4) in 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math there is a 10 point gain; 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math see some gains; 5<sup>th</sup> grade saw a 10 point gain in Reading and 12 point gain in Writing; 4<sup>th</sup> grade saw gains in Math, Writing and Social Studies; 5) there is concerns that Reading went down; 6) did apples to apples comparisons to see the gains and challenges we still face. Chairperson Robinson said she gets the clippings from SCSBA and there was a lot of discussion since the test scores came out, problems with the release and discrepancies in weighing. Mr. Flowers said he was going to show the weighing, but will do so when they get the Report Cards. Information may not be available until October. Chairperson Robinson said the District is below the State average, we still see some progress and gains. Ms. Smith said she has concerns with Social Studies in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Reading for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. When you go down over half, something is wrong in this area. She can see dropping some points, but dropping 50 points. Mr. Flowers said it could go back to the discrepancies in the test. This is being discussed. It may not be the District's fault. Mr. Hall asked if these issues were being addressed during Professional Development training. Mr. Flowers said yes they are. Mr. Frazier asked where are we going, how do we do this, must start thinking about solutions, ACS grades are too low for too long.

**District HSAP/PASS Test Scores:** see report above.

**Summer Feeding Programs – Ms. Johnson, Director of Foodservice:** 1) the National Lunch Program serves Adult Education and CP Community eligible where all students eat for free; 2) National Breakfast Program breakfast in the classroom for elementary schools and the high and middle school have grab and go; 3) Afterschool Snack Program commodity distribution program and the Summer Seamless Program; 4) thanks to the community for being so supportive; 5) grant written for the Hype Program for special needs children teaching them how to grow produce; 6) working on the greenhouse at AFHS and have a doublewide trailer which will be the Tiger lab, funding for trips; 7) connected with the Policy Council, serves on this council; 8) extended LNS services feeding them all year round; 9) the spring camp for students in Allendale, it has grown from 50 to 90; 10) under smart snacks can only serve certain items; 11) talked about kiosk and mobile carts; 12) the Foodservice SDE review was the best they ever had and the SDE

showcased their review at a meeting; 13) asked by the SDE to be part of a host panel on marketing; 14) Foodservice needs a new kitchen and new dining areas. She wrote a grant for transportation for Foodservice and gave the Board a handout on the cost of the kitchen and dining areas. Mr. Hall asked about grants Ms. Johnson has written. She said farm schools and this year starting pre-school garden will include Even Start. Mr. Hall asked about the greenhouse and will vegetables be grown for use in the schools. Ms. Johnson said Clemson Extension is one of the partners of the greenhouse and things grow faster. Will have raised garden beds, will use furniture from the other schools to go into the trailers which will be used as a lab. The Correctional Center said they have people that can help to install bathrooms in the trailer. Ms. Smith said the cafeterias should be upgraded and this is one of the first things you see when you walk into the school. If we are going to spend millions of dollars, a few hundreds should be spent on the cafeteria. Chairperson Robinson said she thought in the walk-thru Mr. Lawrence talked about making the area more appealing. Dr. Tobin said the cafeteria will be in the next phase because there is only "X" amount of dollars. Chairperson Robinson asked if anything will be done with the cafeteria this year. Dr. Tobin said they should have enough money to do the things that need to be done. Chairperson Robinson asked about the savings from the Bond sale, if we can do something with the cafeteria sooner. The majority of students are at the High School building. This is the premier building in the District. Dr. Tobin said the District must have a building for the early childhood and the focus must be on that. Ms. Smith asked about an estimate on what it will cost for the cafeteria updates. Mr. Frazier said the work on the cafeteria may have to be done when school is out. Ms. Johnson said the project could be done in two weeks. It can be done when school is still going on. Dr. Tobin was asked to bring information back to the Board soon.

**Boys and Girls Club – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Award:** for information only.

**Healthy Learners – End of Year Report:** for information only.

**Bond Sale Update, Mr. Damron, Southwest Securities:** 1) the Bond sale was very successful; 2) the refunded Bonds sold in 2008 which had an interest rate of 8-1/2%, the new Bond is at a rate of 2.72%. The total amount saved is \$420,000 over the next 6 years to taxpayers of Allendale County. Keeping the mills at 32 the Board will be able to do more for the children of the District; 3) why because Policies and procedures are in place by the Board and the Fund Balance. Continuing to add to the Fund Balance and no TAN will have to be issued. The District is in better financial shape than most districts. Unemployment is high, poverty in the County, but the District's finance is in order; 4) the new piece is the net interest cost of 2.72% goes out further, compared to where the District was four years ago at 8-1/2% to 2% is a great change; the big change was because of the District's sound reserve; 5) deposited to project funds; required each year to issue enough debt in General Obligation Bond the District must maintain 32 mills in debt service, some will come from Tier 3 money. The Bond will be paid off over 10 years, if no

additional monies are borrowed the District will be debt free. Mr. Frazier said he was lost. Mr. Damron said the Board adopted a Resolution to sell these Bonds, this is not money to spend but make payments on the Bonds already issued.

## **APPROVALS**

**SCAGO Bond Resolution:** The Resolution allows the District to maintain the current mills, extending the debt but the millage rate will remain the same. This does not increase the mills on the taxpayers. Mr. Priester moved to approve the SCAGA Bond Resolution as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OCAB Community Action Agency – MOA:** Dr. Tobin said this is the annual Agreement with OCAB. Mr. Priester moved to approve the OCAB MOA. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**Act 155 High School Diploma Procedures:** Dr. Tobin said Legislation was passed that allows individuals going back to 1990 who did not pass the Exit Exam can receive a high school diploma. The District has received about 15 applications for the diplomas. The deadline is December 2015. Mr. Hall moved to approve the diploma procedures. Mr. Frazier seconded. Chairperson Robinson said at the Conference this past week she attended the Black Caucus Meeting and this item was discussed and all districts are being asked to aggressively get this out to the communities. She is on the panel, she is asking that this be circulated to churches, community organizations, pick-up at stores, town hall buildings, get the information out. This is very important. The motion was approved by all.

**Field trip from AFHS to attend CSRA night:** Dr. Tobin said the trip planned for September 11<sup>th</sup> is an out-of-state trip, not an overnight trip. Taking about 70 students on the trip, guidance will be chaperoning, the cost is \$558 for transportation and \$17 for meals for students. Mr. Hall asked who was paying for the meals. Chairperson Robinson said the cost for meals was to the students. Mr. Priester moved to approve the College Night trip. Mr. Frazier seconded. Mr. Frazier said ask for a special rate for the students wherever they have a meal. The motion was approved by all.

**SCSBA Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy:** for information only.

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to accept the recommendations made in Executive Session. Mr. Frazier moved to accept the recommendation for the new hires. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ms. Grant, Director of Finance reported no Budget Change Report for the month of July. Revenues are coming in slowly, this is the first month reporting since the new

fiscal year. Expenses are small because teachers are just getting back in August. Just finishing up the Federal claims, the deadline was August 15<sup>th</sup>. They are still working on journal entries for the Auditors to close the year and do not expect any significant findings on the audit.

Chairperson Robinson asked for a motion in regard to personnel who failed to meet the obligation of their contract and take appropriate actions as provided by the Dept. of Education in regards to teaching certificates. Mr. Priester moved to approve the request as stipulated. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**State of the District Address:** Dr. Tobin said he would like to do this in early October 2014. Not sure with the superintendent interviews coming up maybe looking at the last Tuesday in September.

Bill Dukes called him about a week ago because he is in discussions with people doing innovative work in childhood education. They had a meeting on Thursday morning with several people and the focus was on brain research and using the arts as a platform. He saw some things Allendale might be interested in. The group is requesting a meeting with the Board. AT&T and Rep. Clyburn's office is pushing this for about 26 turnaround schools. It is project based and they want to know if the Board is interested in entertaining this idea and going to Columbia on October 20<sup>th</sup> for a luncheon meeting and listening to this approach. Mr. Frazier said invite principals, Mr. Flowers and Ms. O'Banner to the meeting in Columbia.

Dr. Tobin said the District had the best school opening in his over 40 years' experience. It was a delightful, wonderful day in celebration, 3 Board Members were in attendance.

**SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – December 5-7, 2014 – Hilton Head** (Hotel reservations opens 9-5-14)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

Mr. Hall moved that the Board go into Executive Session #2 at 10:14 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

**OPEN SESSION:** The Board returned to Open Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Meeting was adjourned.