

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

**MONDAY – MARCH 30, 2015 – 5:00 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, March 30, 2015. At 5:00 P.M. the Board heard Budget Reports from Principals and Administrators. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Student Release Request and Parent Liaison Salary Schedule. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hall called the Meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL/MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alonzo Frazier  
Terry Hall, Chairman  
Patricia Jenkins, Vice Chairperson  
Wilda J. Robinson, Secretary  
Catherine Russell

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Ms. Leila W. Williams, Superintendent  
Angela Grant, Director of Finance  
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Jenkins moved to amend the Agenda to include the Budget Process from Administrators and move all other items down one slot. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams said in looking at what was allocated in the General Funds she wanted to see if the schools would want to increase that amount and give the rational as to why they want to increase these amounts.

Ms. Leath, Principal AES: 1) said proud moments included performances by the Steel Drum Band and the play Aladdin. Students will be performing Cinderella on May 21<sup>st</sup>; 2) in 2016 AES is requesting for kindergarten supplies \$4,000; change guidance travel to \$500. (It was \$1,200, we are not giving the \$700 back but reallocating the funds) media supplies was \$800 but will be reduced to \$300; media books was budgeted for \$1,500 but need \$4,200; 3) the school administrative budget was \$1,500 but has been reduced to \$1,000; 4) next year there will be no lottery funds. Additional funding requests include the Fine Arts Program \$17,800, the Leadership Team \$13,000 and Professional Development \$4,000 for a total of \$34,800 for these programs next year.

Chairman Hall asked what percentage of the fiscal year budget has been used already. Ms. Leath said about 80% of the budget has been used. She does not spend it all at the beginning, nor does she save it all until the end of the year. The other 20% will be used.

Mr. Davis, Maintenance Supervisor: 1) gave the Board a quote for a compact tractor. The old tractor is about 25 years old and they cut about 12 acres; 2) requesting \$18,000 for a new tractor. A new tractor will cut down on man-hours for one job; 3) last year it cost about \$2,000 for repairs on the old tractor.

Ms. Robinson asked if this will be a new tractor. Mr. Davis said the price given is from the State contract. Ms. Jenkins asked what the budget is for Maintenance. Mr. Davis said \$10,000. He has some funds from this year to rollover, if allowed.

Ms. Rouse, Adult Education: 1) the District's Adult Education Program was once part of the Dept. of Correction/Prison System and they carried the program. In 2012 the Prison got their own education program; 2) in 2011 330 students were enrolled in the Program. Thirty-two students received their GED and 2 High School Diplomas; 3) in the last 2 years Adult Education has been struggling because of low enrollment and Denmark Tech started taking students with no GED and no High School Diploma. The District could not compete because Denmark Tech gave students a stipend and picked-up the students; 4) in 2014 a new GED test was implemented. This is a more difficult test; 5) the District purchased Odysseyware and 7 students completed their High School Diploma requirements and 10 more are working towards this; 6) Allendale became a Certified Work Community which means the County can grow economically; 7) the total budget is \$131,348 which includes salaries and benefits; maintenance; travel; supplies; pupil transportation; advertisement; technology and software; 8) in 2015 Denmark Tech will no longer accept students who do not possess a High School Diploma or GED. This means about 409 have been identified as potential students; 9) the District does not have the technology to support these potential returning students; 10) a full-time certified teacher is needed; 11) 20 Odysseyware licenses costs about \$12,000 (\$600 per license); full time teacher.

Mr. Frazier said he would like to know the cost of doing these things and if the program will be funded or not. Ms. Robinson said the District is putting a lot of resources into the program. But the number of completers and students receiving High School Diplomas look miniscule. Ms. Rouse said Adult Education is going to performance based not on enrollment. Ms. Grant, Director of Finance said Adult Education lost about \$100,000 because of the program being based on performance. Mr. Frazier asked how the District keep students coming to the program and them wanting to be successful.

Ms. Grant, AFLC: 1) said points of pride is a \$1,000 Grant from the Greater Savannah Communities, Eating Right and the idea came from a student; 2) the total budget was \$285,441.00 includes salaries, travel, operation maintenance, purchase supplies, etc.; 3) next year she would like the students to have some form of related arts; 4) more time with instructors for students. Ms. Williams asked how many students are currently at the AFLC. Ms. Grant said currently there are 7 middle, 2 elementary and 5 high school students; 5) AFLC also needs a part time guidance counselor; part time related arts

teacher (for example, Spanish, keyboarding or Character Education and Behavior Interventionist or an Instructional Assistant cost about \$35,000).

Ms. Robinson asked about the computer time. Ms. Grant said students spent about 4 hours on the computers working on the Odyssey program. But some of them cannot grasp the concept. They are doing remediation in English and Math. These students have a Lab Assistant and she monitors the program. Ms. Russell asked about the budget slide, what is included in the salaries? Ms. Grant said 1 certified teacher, computer lab manager, instructional assist and the directors' salary are included in the \$183,554. Ms. Williams said this is a program that needs to make adjustments and modifications to serve the students more effectively. The enrollment has been very small and she will look at how to give these students the services they need. They have had conversations about this. Ms. Robinson said she thought this building had a guidance person. Ms. Williams said a part time guidance person was assigned to the AFLC. Ms. Robinson said Character Education is very important for the students going to the Alternative School.

Ms. Williams said because of the time they will hold the last presentation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:** Ms. Russell moved to go into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. for the purposes of Personnel, Student Release Request and Liaison Salary Schedule. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**OPEN SESSION:** Mr. Frazier moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:12 p.m. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Jenkins moved to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2015, March 3, 2015 Special Called Meetings and the February 23, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**BOARD REPORT – NSBA CONFERENCE – NASHVILLE, TN –** Mr. Frazier reported: 1) the Pewaukee school district use data for everything they do. Board members can stop by a class and see what is being done; 2) data is also used for maintenance and their computer system.

Ms. Jenkins reported: 1) the focus was on student learning, transforming schools and empowering students. Education is changing every day. We cannot present information the same way. Use technology but also students using technology to empower students; 2) using games and making the games learning and educational.

Ms. Russell reported: 1) the Authors Tea at AES last week was very special; 2) the main workshop at the NSBA was on bullying. They have a bullying box in the classrooms and hallways. Students can put the forms in the box. 3) some schools have a bullying system where some of the older students are used as monitors. They also have a Bullying day at school, skits, and posters and how to report bullying.

Chairman Hall reported: 1) one session talked about student achievement, getting the community involved and data usage; 2) Jane Pauley talked about teach the students you have, not the ones you want or the ones you wished you had.

Ms. Williams reported: 1) Philadelphia School Principal Salome Thomas-El from an intercity, poverty school with at-risk students wrote a book entitled "I Choose to Stay."

That is the atmosphere we want to create in Allendale; 2) he also said we must believe in our students until they can believe in themselves; 3) teachers spend about 7 million minutes with students from kindergarten to graduation; 4) God does not call the equipped, he equips the called; 5) goals and objectives – a vision without a plan is an hallucination. We will not have this in Allendale County Schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**GOOD NEWS:**

**AFHS Tiger Basketball Team:** Ms. Williams said some of the team members are present tonight. The team kept the public on their feet with their playing. They had an awesome season. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to team members and Coach Brandyburg. Coach Brandyburg said thanks to everyone who supported the team. It was a challenging and rewarding season. They won the 5A Regional Championship. Thanks to the 5 seniors who lead by example and all the players. Nine young men will be back next season.

Ms. Williams said thanks to Ms. Jenkins for sharing an opportunity for the JROTC to visit Patriots Point. They send an email on how well behaved the students were on the trip.

The Board received a thank you card from Denmark Tech for supporting the college's Scholarship Gala.

The Board received a thank you letter from the Allendale County Democratic Party for participating in the annual program.

Ms. Williams said the Special Education Department received a letter from the State Department of Education thanking them for all their hard work in receiving a 100% on their indicators. She asked Ms. Mays to talk about the 100% level the District attained. Ms. Mays said the District received 100% on all indicators, which includes about 21 indicators. Most important are the ones with the 60 days guidelines and Babynet. In the past the District was 96-98%. This is due to the hard work of the staff, everyone. Ms. McKinney, the Compliance Specialist, Ms. Akori, the School Psychologist.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Discipline Reports:** For information only.

**Administrators Reports:** Ms. Williams said she asked each department to give the Board and update on what is going on in their departments. She hopes this information will be helpful to Board Members.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

**iPad Roll-Out Update** – Ms. Jamison, Technology Director reported: 1) students received iPad Air 2, which has 64 rams; 2) when an iPad is misplaced the Technology Dept. will contact the parent and ask them to talk with the student about keeping up with the iPad.

Ms. Robinson said the Technology Department has done exceptionally well in getting the iPads in the hands of students. Ms. Jamison said several members of the Technology Department and others worked many Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to get the iPads out to students. It was a team effort and also thanks to the teachers who came out to help.

**Future Ready Schools – Ms. Jamison,** Power Point presentation: 1) Ms. Green; Ms. A. Johnson, Supt. Williams and Jamison attended this summit in Atlanta, GA; 2) future ready district pledge – the superintendent from Spartanburg 7 issued a pledge for all districts to sign the pledge; 3) three initiatives focused on (see handout); 4) areas of weakness include professional learning; use of time and curriculum and instruction; 5) ACS – “Acclaiming a Culture of Success”; 6) Ms. Williams said it was very exciting. The Allendale Team was wearing 1:1 Limitless Learning T-Shirts and everyone was talking about Allendale.

**Proposed Scheduling Presentation** Ms. Hall, Principal AFMS reported: 1) she came to AFMS in December 2014 and looking at the schedule wanted to come up with something; 2) she researched information on single gender classrooms. Single gender classrooms are a gender based setup which divides the boys from the girls in academic classes; 3) for 7<sup>th</sup> graders that would be about 23 females in class and 39 male; 4) she is not sure she wants to do the related arts classes as co-eds; 4) some of the pros include increase student motivation; increase academic achievement; increase student engagements and more opportunities for girls to excel in typically male oriented; 5) presented data from SDE on single gender classes; 6) run a high school schedule for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, this helps them get acclaimed.

Ms. Robinson asked where the students would be when there is common planning for teachers. Ms. Hall said students would be in the elective classes, enrichment or remediation classes. The common planning also has flexibility when parents come in and want to meet the team. Ms. Russell asked to have the Power Point downloaded for the Board. Mr. Frazier said when students cannot read or write and come to the Middle School, the District needs to ensure that these students are caught at an early age. We do not want to be a District of remediation.

Mr. Brandyburg, Guidance Counselor AFHS reported: 1) next year the high school is looking at block schedule 4 x 4; they are currently on a tradition 7 period schedule which is 55 minutes per day; 2) lunch would be staggered with AFMS; 3) block schedule allows students more time to become academically engaged, more instruction time; 4) teachers would have to teach for 90 minutes.

Mr. Hall asked how this would affect JROTC and CATE. Mr. Brandyburg said for JROTC this would be hard. The CATE program would be able to get completers. With EOC classes would be all-year long. With block schedule you have 4 years to get 32 credits, but the State requires 24 credits. The block schedule would help students doing dual enrollment. Mr. Frazier said what the school believes it needs to do is good because he wants the students to be successful. However, with the Equity Lawsuit he hopes the District puts more emphasis on technical education, not just all students going to college. Only 15% of students are going to college and 85% are not going to college. Technical education is where the money is. This is his emphasis.

**ACT Aspire Score Scale by Grade:** Ms. Williams said the information is in the Board’s packets. There are 4 categories: Exceeding; Ready; Close and In Need of Support.

Mr. Frazier asked that when the scores come back for the Board to view that the scores be presented with comparisons to be easier to digest.

**School Uniforms:** Ms. Williams said the District conducted a survey for parents asking various questions about this topic. She reviewed these and wants to view questions the Board had. Mr. Frazier asked how the survey came out. Ms. Williams said it was a lot of information on the survey, but basic information is a yes or no response. She has had several parents approach her about why the District did not have school uniforms. The next step may be to do another poll or if the Board has strong feelings look into a more uniform dress code. We must do something with the dress code and if they are going to be college ready, then this must happen. Discipline is high at the Middle and High School. Mr. Frazier moved that the District look at the dress code policy and uniforms. Ms. Jenkins seconded. Ms. Russell asked about a timeline letting parents know before school starts. Ms. Williams said the Board may need another meeting before the April 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Ms. Robinson asked about vendors who would provide uniform, stores in the County that sell uniforms. Before students go home for the summer parents need to know. Ms. Williams said it would be looking at colors that may not be available at the current stores. Mr. Frazier also talked about getting the feel of the community about uniforms and letting them have some say-so. Ms. Robinson asked why study this some more. Move forward and the studying can take place because the decision has been made. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **APPROVALS**

**Act 155 Petition:** Ms. Williams said one application was approved and was reviewed by the high school. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the application. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Student Release Request:** Ms. Williams said the 2015-2016 request is made for the student to continue to attend Wade Hampton. This request has been honored quite a few years in the past. Mr. Frazier moved to honor the request. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Field Studies Request – JROTC – Atlanta, GA:** Ms. Williams said the May 15-16 request includes a college tour, MLK Center and Six Flags over Georgia. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the request from JROTC with a note that the trip documents be completed. Ms. Robinson asked where Atlanta Metropolitan College was located. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Major Differences on Calendars 1A and 2A:** Ms. Williams said the major differences on Version 1A staff off for the week of Thanksgiving; the last day of school for students is May 31<sup>st</sup> and for staff June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Version 2A staff will have 3 days off for Thanksgiving; May 27<sup>th</sup> is the last day for students and May 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day for staff.

**2015-2016 “Draft” School Calendars:** Mr. Frazier moved based on the survey that staff prefers the week of Thanksgiving off Calendar 1A be approved. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Reschedule June 22, 2015 Regular Board Meeting to June 30, 2015:** Ms. Williams said she will be at an educational conference at SCASA during this week. Mr. Frazier said he requested to attend this conference. Ms. Russell moved to approve this Board Meeting change. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**PERSONNEL:** No report tonight.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Ms. Grant, Director of Finance reported the information was in the Board's packets. There are few changes to the general funds from one object to another. The District's overall general fund will not change. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2015-2016 budget will be held in April. Ms. Robinson asked if the 1<sup>st</sup> reading would be in a regular scheduled meeting. Ms. Grant said yes. Ms. Robinson asked would a workshop be held before the actual 1<sup>st</sup> reading to give the Board an opportunity, especially new board members since this is their first time. Ms. Williams suggested April 20<sup>th</sup>. However, Ms. Russell will be at a conference at this time. Mr. Frazier said he does not want to meet during a regular board meeting. He does not want to vote on a budget on name only. He would like to go thru the entire budget, but this cannot be done in an hour. Mr. Hall asked about doing it on a Saturday morning. Suggested Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> in the a.m.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Spring Break – April 6-10, 2015

Special Called Board Meeting – Monday, April 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2:** Mr. Frazier moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 8:40 p.m. for contractual matters. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURNMENT