

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**TUESDAY – AUGUST 28, 2012 – 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 Tuesday, August 28, 2012. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and receive Legal Update. 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
Timothy Hall, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Mole
Willie Priester, Chairman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Charles Tillotson, Interim Finance Director
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

FROM THE BOYKIN LAW FIRM: Charles Boykin, Esq.

7:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He asked the audience to please excuse them for running late. They were conducting District business. Mr. Hall moved to come out of executive session. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Cave moved to accept the Minutes of the July 30, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

GOOD NEWS

Student Recognition – Denesha Saxton – AFHS – Dr. McClain said the Board wanted to recognize student Denesha Saxton. She was selected to participate in the 2012 Wells Fargo Business at Moore Summer Program. Selection was based on GPA, class rank and SAT scores. Denesha was not present. Mr. Youmans accepted the certificate on her behalf.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. DeWayne Ennis said his daughter has concerns about AFMS. She has been going to school for two weeks, is in the accelerated classes and scores exemplary on her tests. Out of 6 classes she only has 3 certified teachers. In her Health, Science and Social Studies classes she has substitute teachers and in one class no work is being done. He teaches his daughter that school is her job and if she is going to do well she must excel in school. I also teach her to speak up. She feels she is not being properly educated at school. She has a cousin who goes to school in Beaufort and she feels like he is receiving a better education than her. Mr. Ennis said last year he dealt with a problem wherein his daughter and several other students did well at the Science Fair. But they were told they could not participate in the Science Fair in Augusta because the District did not have enough money to send the students. Yet, he sees each year lots of money is invested in sports and not in education. With the shortage of teachers, why not create a homegrown program. It's been talked about for a number of years. In his job as Administrator he is always told they must give their best. Now he is asking the District go give its best. Both of his children are in accelerated classes. His son's teacher at AES lives in the community. If there is a problem he can easily contact the teacher and she can contact him. At AFMS as a parent, he may know about 5 teachers. The homegrown teachers program will have teachers living and working in the community. Recruit teachers from Allendale who are currently working in other districts. If results are not being made, my daughter and several of her friends will come before the Board and make the comments he is making tonight. Mr. Ennis said his daughter dreams of being a doctor, at AFMS they do not have a Science teacher and she cannot accomplish her dreams without certified teachers. He is a good volunteer with the schools and he is at the schools.

BOARD REPORT

SCSBA School Law Conference, Charleston, SC – Ms. Mole reported: 1) she attended a lot of sessions over the weekend; 2) they got an opportunity to review the NSBA documents dealing with cases they are working on. One dealt with a student who was released to an unauthorized person and was assaulted; 3) another case dealt with two students creating a MySpace profile about a principal. The school could not discipline the students because it was created at the student's home, so the school could not do anything; 4) another case involved a mocked recommendation for the termination of a coach. The case highlighted how board members, the public and administrators act – ethics; 5) when the Board is approached about a certain situation and they tell the individual they cannot speak with them – if they know the situation before hand

they are not supposed to vote and 6) another workshop was on Charter Schools and why they are formed.

Ms. Smith reported: 1) the Freedom of Information Act work session, the option of giving information freely, follow the process for giving out information to everyone and not to some people; 2) executive session on the Board agenda can state personnel, but when they state going into executive session for personnel, it should be stated clearly. For example going into executive session for personnel to discuss hiring, discipline, etc.; 3) the board cannot amend the agenda during the regular board meeting unless it is an emergency. An emergency is if something happens immediately that needs Board attention, not information that they forgot to include on the agenda; 4) special education session – a lot of things are being changed in this area. She picked up copies of the handouts if anyone is interested in having a copy and; 5) another session focused on the board as citizens and board members – the new grading system using A-F to identify the schools. This was a big issue. Members of the association are upset about the grading system because it looks like it is setting districts up to fail. According to State Supt. Zais, if a school fails, he wants to start a state-wide charter school in that area. The presenters of this workshop were having a hard time trying to explain how this will work. It was a lot of unclarity. However, no superintendent voted to pass this act. So how did it pass if no superintendent voted for it? She encouraged everyone to speak up for public schools. Chairman Priester said everyone should be an advocate for public schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Opening of School – Report by Principals

Mr. Youmans, Principal AFHS reported: 1) the start of school is off to a great start; students are engaged as they walk the halls, teachers are teaching; 2) the halls are clear during class; 3) still tweaking some schedules – students are asking for different classes; 4) 2 classes do not have certified teachers – US History (EOC class) and English I (EOC class). Ms. Berry is the English I teacher, but she is out this week; 5) for the US History class they are going to an A/B schedule – flip/flopping teachers on alternate days to cover this class; 6) 2 new classes for Freshmen – Engineering and Physical Science honors class, which are running A/B days. This will give the students college credit at Denmark Tech; 7) this is leading up to the STEMs program they are trying to create; 8) enrollment is down – they have found about 80% of the no-shows. Some students are in other districts. 20% they are still trying to find. The SRO and Parent Liaison are looking for these students. Next week from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon it will be their jobs to go out and try and find these students. Ms. Smith asked if Coach Ford has a degree in History and if the District was using him. Mr. Youmans said yes, Coach Ford has a degree in History. Chairman Priester said of the 80% do we have anything where these students requested transfers. Mr. Youmans said they have document where these students requested transfers. Ms. Mole asked when you look at long-term substitutes are you looking at the educational background of these people to make sure they have something beyond high school. Dr. McClain said yes and all employees must undergo background checks.

Ms. Leath, Principal AES reported: 1) they had a grand opening, it was very smooth; started the opening with an Ice Cream Social for parents and students to become familiar with their homeroom teachers. They had great participation; 2) 100% of the classes have certified teachers; 3) missing only a Media Specialist. They had a nibble, but she got away – problem with housing. They have been talking about putting a certified teacher in there; 4) laid the foundation for expectations for behavior; went over with each class what the expectations are with the PBIS matrix; 5) yesterday had PBIS kickoff – this was a huge success; 6) in January 2013 another kickoff for PBIS; 7) lots of excitement in the air, students and teachers were excited. But parents were also excited; 8) 3:15 p.m. dismissal – getting use to the extended day –this is working out for a literacy block; 9) a lot of classroom observations are going on – trying to undergird the new teachers and giving them a good firm foundation and 10) a calendar and handbook were given to Board Members. Ms. Mole asked about enrollment. Ms. Leath said it was down a bit, but after Labor Day more students will come. They expect to be back where they were last year. Ms. Smith asked about the bus situation. Ms. Leath said the new arrangements are working out good so far.

Ms. Merritt, Principal FES reported: 1) they had a wonderful opening at FES; 2) back to school night was the same night as AES – had cookies and lemonade; 3) enrollment up 215 last year to 236 this year; 4) class sizes are still small; 5) focusing on attitude, attendance and achievement; 6) been making home visits for students who are late, absence; 7) attitude – PBIS celebration is this Friday; trying to instill a love for reading; 8) in the 8 days of school they have the prize patrol – tiny tokens of appreciation given to any student who is reading a book while standing in line; bookshelves and baskets of books are in the hallways to be used by students who are standing in line; 9) sending home folders on Tuesdays – teacher communication folders; 10) breakfast in the classroom will help minimize the loss of instruction time and 11) achievement – a strong focus on instructional rigor. Putting together small groups of ELA; increased ELA time to 120 minutes; students receive 1 hour of Social Studies and 1 hour of Science. Ms. Smith asked what time is the event on Friday. Ms. Merritt said one at 11:00 a.m. and the other one at 12:00 Noon. Ms. Mole asked what is in the black folders and what is sent home. Ms. Merritt said student safety procedures, what car drop off looks like and what teachers will be working on. Ms. Merritt said all the positions are filled and everyone is certified.

Dr. Francis, Adult Education/AFLC, reported: 1) started August 7th with training for substitute teachers; 2) the elementary school sign is no longer in front of the building – the new sign “Adult Learning Center” came from a grant; 3) in the Adult School they had an ESOL Program at Kline and they will be bringing this back on Tuesday and Thursday; 4) the District lost the Correction Institute Facilities students, which was about 180 students; but the Center is using internet/computer based instruction; DSS is helping with cost for adult students who participate in programs at the Center and are also DSS clients; 5) AFLC is different this year – every students did not go back to their home school if they did not meet the expectation of their behavior. They will remain at the AFLC for a quarter or longer; 6) thus far they have 8 students

who were held over from last year. They are model students and are working hard and; 7) they wrote an At-Risk grant with AFHS – hope to bring this program into the high school.

Ms. Smith asked about the fast track GED program. She said people feel it takes them a long time before they get a GED and they quit before they finish the program. How many students graduate from the Adult Education Center? Dr. Francis said they are now computer based, so everything is now fast tracked (internet based) students can work at the Center, at home or at the library. The High School Diploma Program they are still waiting – curriculum issues will be resolved and this will be internet based also. About 34 students received GED's at the last graduation.

AFMS – Dr. McClain said Mr. Rawlinson's wife had surgery and he could not be present tonight. Ms. Mole asked if the Assistant Principal from AFMS was present. Answer – no.

Little New Steps, Ms. Youmans reported: 1) they do not close for the summer and is open year round; 2) current enrollment is 25 students; in the infant room is 6 students, 2 staff and a grandparent; in the 1 year old classroom is 6 students, 2 staff and a grandparent; in the 2 year old classroom is 8 students, 2 staff and a grandparent; in the 3 year old classroom is 6 students, 1 staff and a grandparent; most of the staff is part time; 3) the students are performing well, some went to Head Start, AES and FES; and 4) LNS is #8 with the ABC program (which is a State program) out of thousands of daycares in the State.

ARP – Curriculum Update – Dr. Johnelle Sherald reported: 1) in instruction they have had a good start; 2) working on Allendale Curriculum Guide – finished the 1st 9 weeks for ELA and Math; 3) yesterday had a consultant – Mr. Duren working with principals to figure out what the rating is – the ABCDF rating – to determine ahead of time on where the District should be. He will be back in September to work with the teachers on this; 4) Power of Teaching training today – coaching model – team from Atlantic Research Partner. Mr. Flowers conducted this session which will be over 6 weeks/6 parts; 5) today they also had a session with a consultant who worked with them on brain research – children and how they learn; provided by Atlantic Research Partners; 6) Friday, August 31st will use this day to work with teachers on curriculum, literacy and math and 7) September 5-21st will start MAP testing and once the data is received they will work with teachers and will look at the information to see what students need intervention and provided the help needed.

Ms. Smith said who met this morning. Dr. Sherald said the Principals, District Staff, Dr. McClain and Atlantic Research. Ms. Smith said she was concerned about the teachers. Dr. Sherald said they hope to do something with teachers later since this was their first introduction to the material. Ms. Smith said at the conference she attended there was talk about this being part of teachers evaluation and the information following them. Chairman Priester said a lot of this relates to performance based teaching/pay. Dr. McClain said many of these things must pass thru the Legislation for approval. Pay attention to their agenda next year. Communicate often with representatives from this area and let them know things you do not agree with.

Charter School – Notice of Appeal Letter – July 27, 2012: this letter was from the District’s attorney and is for information only.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to approve the recommendations made by the Superintendent’s Office in Executive Session. Mr. Cave moved to approve the recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded. Ms. Smith asked if you are not in agreement with something, how do you state this, if you agree with most of it, but don’t agree with certain sections of the recommendation. Chairman Priester said if there was one section that had to be pulled out; you would have to make another motion. Ms. Smith said once the motion is stated and voted on and you come back and make another motion to pull out, you cannot do this, because the motion is already voted on. She said she should have stated what she wanted to pull out of the recommendation. Ms. Smith said in the future separate the items, into departments, etc. – when you put it all together it makes it complicated to vote on it. She is really against one section of the motion. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FY 2012 Update – Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director reported: 1) information in the Board packets included a review of projection of how the FY2012 will be wrapped up after the Audit is completed; 2) there is no budget changes to report in the month of July; 3) Auditors will be in the District the 2nd week of October; 4) no change in the projections that was shared last month. Flex transfers from State funds will be maximized as part of the Transformation project funding and 5) the District will end the year with a balanced budget. Ms. Smith said she attended the special education workshop and they talked about an IDEA Grant for about \$32 million dollars grant that the State will use some of the funds to keep them afloat, how what happens when these funds are taken away and how does this affect EFA funds which are two different funds? Mr. Tillotson said the District has not received final allocations for IDEA. This should come out in about a month. Districts operate on a provisional budget until the State sends the information. Because of things the Legislature did in the economic down turn – they allocated less from State funds to special education and this caused some trouble.

Mr. Tillotson said a committee that includes Dr. McClain will interview and meet with architects to help with a Facilities Study.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference – Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2012 – Hilton Head – Hotel Reservations opens on September 7, 2012

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:32 p.m. Mr. Cave moved to adjourn the Meeting. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved and the Meeting was adjourned.