

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

**MONDAY – MARCH 24, 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, March 24, 2014. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session #1 to receive Legal Updates and Personnel. 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 LAW FIRM OF BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC
Charles Boykin, Esq.

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Angela Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services
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. Hall moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

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

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2014 and March 6, 2014 Special Called Meetings and the February 24, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Dr. Tobin said a subsequent meeting will be held before certified contracts are released. A possible meeting date of April 10, 2014 was suggested.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson thanked the community for coming out tonight and said March is Women's History Month. The women quoted on the March Agenda represent audacity and bravery. Geraldine Ferraro was the first Italian woman to be nominated for such a position as the first female to be nominated for Vice President of the United States. Mae Jemison was the first African American Astronaut. She thought about being a professional dancer and gymnast. She chose to become a doctor instead of a dancer. See the quotes on the Agenda tonight. These are the kinds of encouraging words as educators and parents that we need to tell our children every day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Katherine Sobey said she is affiliated with the Allendale Arts Council and spoke on A's to Allendale Early Childhood Education. She invited the Board and other educational experts to help with the project. The purpose of the project is to encourage learning, a knowledge of letters and a love for reading. They are working with the Neighborhood Associations and USC-Salkehatchie. The goal is every child will know the alphabets when they start school. Many children don't have anyone read to them before they start school, so with the big sculptured letters all over town, children will become more aware. The group meets the 3rd Thursdays of the month and everyone is invited to attend. Looking for volunteers to read to children and encourage parents to read to children. The project is called A's for Allendale.

GOOD NEWS

Clean Sweep Award: Dr. Tobin said the Clean Sweep Award will not be presented tonight. Dr. Tobin said the District received a nice letter from Ms. Gwen Hampton with the South Carolina School Boards Association thanking and congratulating the AES Steel Tigers for their performance at the Annual Convention in Myrtle Beach. Chairperson Robinson asked Principal Leath and staff who were responsible for the children attending the Convention to stand and be applauded. Their performance was outstanding.

Dr. Tobin said the AES Robotics Team teachers received the Rookie of the Year Award at the Robotics State Championship. Thanks to the teachers and principal for their hard work with the students.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Community Eligibility Provision – Ms. Johnson, Director of Food Service reported: a) she attended the 2014 Legislative Conference on March 2-5 for School Nutrition in Washington, DC. Attendees urged Congress to protect the children's meals; b) the Healthy Hunger Free Act of 2010 made a number of changes to the program's intent to improve the health of school children; c) there are 4 principals of the provision; d) these child nutrition programs are in place to meet the needs of children and also focus on diabetes and cancer; e) what children eat affects how they learn; and f) CEP – Community Eligibility Provision provides an alternative approach to operating the school lunch program. Free lunch will be for all students removing the stigma attached to students receiving free and reduced lunch.

Ms. Mays, Director of Special Services talked about the HYPE Program: a) HYPE is Healthy Young People Empowered Project sponsored by Eat Smart, Move More; b) Mr. Frazier brought the HYPE Project to the District's attention; c) the \$2000 grant will be used to motivate students, build skills so students can become greater voices in their community; and use the skills for lifelong learning for positive change; d) the program will start in the fall of 2014; e) Special Education Students from AFMS and AFHS will participate in the program; f) partners are Eat Smart, Move More, the Boys and Girls Club and the Neighborhood Associations; g) Allendale is the first school district to have students working with the HYPE Project; h) phases include think, learn, act, share and evaluate; i) youth must attend 17 hours of HYPE Project sessions and participants are ages 12-17; and j) the benefits of the program are looking to the youth of the communities for positive change and they acquire basis knowledge of healthy eating and living. This can help with future educational goals.

Mr. Frazier thanked Dr. Tobin and the staff and said when he received the information he forwarded it to Dr. Tobin. He will inform the HYPE people of what the District is doing and hopefully they will send him additional information. Chairperson Robinson asked if anyone can donate old magazines to help with the project and said she is glad to see the number of partnerships the District has. It is a great project for the kids. Dr. Tobin said this project is good for our relationship with the community. Also Ms. Lewis and Ms. Sobey are here tonight and involved with the project. Our children will not have to make application, which are not based on socioeconomic status. Everyone will get a free lunch and snack. He asked the Board's approval to move forward on the Community Eligibility Provision application process. Mr. Priester moved to move forward with the Project. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Booster Club Meeting: Dr. Tobin said they did not have much response from the community or parents to the Booster Club Meeting on March 12. However, they did establish some guidelines for the Booster club.

Work Session Bond Resolution – Wednesday, April 10, 2014: The Board will be polled for possible meeting dates.

2014-2015 DRAFT School Calendars: Dr. Tobin said the two options of the calendar presented are for information only. The calendars have gone out to the schools for teacher input. Ms. Smith asked if possible, if the school year could end on May 29th.

APPROVALS:

Tdap Vaccinations – MOA: Dr. Tobin said all children entering 7th grade must receive 1 dose of Tdap vaccine tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Mr. Priester moved to approve the MOA with DHEC in order for students to receive the vaccination. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Field Studies Request – JROTC: Dr. Tobin said JROTC is requesting to take students to Six Flags over GA. The cost of the trip to students is \$35. These students do so much for the community and represent the school very well. Mr. Frazier moved to allow the young people to go on the field trip to Atlanta. Mr. Hall seconded. Ms. Smith said she like what these students do, but there is no educational value for this trip. They are riding through several colleges, but not stopping. She has a problem using taxpayer's money for pleasure. Fun is fine, but we must educate the children in the process. Chairperson Robinson said set up informational sessions at the colleges for students during the tour. They are going to Spellman, Morehouse and Clark Colleges in Atlanta. Schedule some tours, someone to tell them about the history of the schools. Mr. Frazier said if we are going to do this as a requirement he would like for the students to also visit a technical facility. Eighty-five percent of students do not go to college. Technical college is where most of our young people will go. Dr. Tobin said this is something that has been done before and we will make this stipulation as we go forward. Ms. Smith said the school district is paying \$3,000. Dr. Tobin said he will make this clear to the advisors. The motion was approved by all.

Brownstone Design – Consolidation/Renovation Work for AFMS and AFHS: Dr. Tobin said this company did the Facilities Study for the District. A reduced price has been negotiated. Attorney Boykin's office had been asked to review the contract and he has a response from the Attorney. Mr. Boykin's recommendations will be included in the contract. Mr. Priester moved to approve the contract for the work at AFMS and AFHs with the recommendations made by the Attorney. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier asked if we have met the procurement policy. Dr. Tobin said Brownstone was approved by the Board for the Facilities Study. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote. Mr. Frazier abstained.

PERSONNEL REPORT: Dr. Tobin said no personnel recommendations were being made tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Grant, Coordinator of Financial Services reported: a) the District is on target with the budget and in good shape as of February 2014; b) on the Facilities Project

the RFP has been extended thru the end of the month; c) she has been working with Mr. Tillotson on the budget report closely and at the next Board Meeting they will have the first reading on the 2015 budget. Mr. Priester asked about projections for increasing the student cost for next year. Ms. Grant said next year there will be a slight increase and this will be worked in the budget. Mr. Frazier asked if there will be a part in the budget, if the person wants to see an itemized budget, he would like to see each department submit a budget to the Board to see what people are requesting. Dr. Tobin said they have met with the principals and hope to be able to provide this information. Much of the budget is personnel. The District has been frugal in spending. The first session is a work session and this is the time to ask questions. Mr. Frazier said this would help when they get the budget and will see what schools need for field trips, etc. Board Members said they do not want the 1st reading of the Budget to be in April when they meet to discuss personnel. Ms. Grant said Mr. Tillotson has been working with principals and directors and getting them to send their budget requests in. Mr. Priester said at the April 28th Regular Board Meeting the budget is just a test run. Board Members will have the materials and have a chance to ask questions. Mr. Frazier wants to do the 1st reading as a work session. He does not want to put the budget on the back burner. They need to have time and do this as a Board. Mr. Priester said he is okay with the District providing a framework for the budget. He would like to see it built and they work from there. It is only preliminary approval, once they get into the work session things will be in place. Mr. Hall said provide the Board with the budget a week or two before the Board Meeting and if they have questions they can ask questions at the Board Meeting. They can review the budget and have work sessions any time before the June meeting. Dr. Tobin recommended proceed to build a preliminary budget, have time to get it for their review, with the 1st reading on April 28th and adjustments will be made in subsequent work sessions.

Student Release Request: Mr. Priester moved to approve the release for student SK for the 2015 school year. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Break – April 14-18, 2014

NSBA Southern Region Conference – June 14-17, 2014, Savannah, GA

Mr. Frazier said he had a conversation with Ms. Anderson and her daughter India won the State Championship for gymnastics. India won 1st place on the beams and bars and all around level 10. She will be going into the Regional Championship. India has traveled to Europe and other countries competing. Gymnastics is not supported by the school budget and if anyone can support her with her endeavors that would be great. Chairperson Robinson said encourage her to come and be recognized publicly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Ms. Smith moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 8:17 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to Open Session at 10:15 p.m.

Mr. Priester moved that the Board extend the Superintendent Search until April 30, 2014. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.