

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

**MONDAY – JULY 14, 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, July 14, 2014. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Search, Personnel, Student Release Requests and Letter from AFHS Student. The Board 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 (arrived at 8:02 p.m.)

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION:

Dr. Paul Krohne, Executive Director

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was observed.

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

APPROVAL OF THE 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 6:08 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search, Personnel, Student Release Requests and Letter from AFHS Student. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:09 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the June 30, 2014 Special Called Meeting will be available at the next meeting. Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson called everyone's attention to the Mission and Vision Statements on top of the Board's Agenda. These two statements should be the driving statement for everything that is done in the school district for students.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Paul Morse wanted to speak about the Superintendent Search. He said he wanted a clear answer because there is a lot of conversation in the community. At the public forum it was stated that the Board would select 9 candidates and narrow the field down to 3 candidates and the new superintendent would start on July 1. He would like an update on where the District is with the superintendent search.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

DRAFT 2014-15 Regular Scheduled Board Meetings: Chairperson Robinson said a Board Meeting is scheduled at Fairfax Elementary School on October 27, 2014 and February 23, 2015 at Allendale Elementary School. All other Meetings will be held at Allendale-Fairfax High/Allendale-Fairfax Middle School. Mr. Hall moved to approve the 2014-2015 Regular Monthly Board Meeting schedule. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Palmetto Priority Schools: Mr. Frazier said he wants to see a report as to what is the status of ACS in reference to Palmetto Priority Schools. What is going on with this and our involvement?

School Uniforms: Mr. Frazier said a young lady came to last month's Board Meeting and talked about school uniforms. Look at school uniforms more seriously. Statistics show that students do better when they dress in uniforms. He would like to see a letter sent to those who come before the Board for Public Comments and for the Board to receive a copy of the letter. Chairperson Robinson said Palmetto Priority usually comes out later and this will be delayed because it is under ESA. Dr. Tobin said at the September Board Meeting they will have a definitive report. Three schools are currently under Palmetto Priority.

Dr. Tobin said he did not respond to the young lady inquiring about uniforms because he thought it was just information. Chairperson Robinson said they could spend a few minutes talking about school uniforms. Mr. Frazier said in 2013 the school sent a survey on uniforms to parents, but it was not done seriously. Chairperson Robinson said she would like to see a survey on school uniforms to parents and students who will be affected by the uniforms. The Board needs to

decide what grade levels they are looking at uniforms for. Mr. Frazier said he does not want to deny students the decision to express their concerns, but as parents and adults they need to make this decision. Children do not want uniforms, personally, the Board needs to do a survey, but children are not prepared to make these kinds of decisions. A lot of concerns come up about the Public Comment Section. The public deserves an answer in public, even though Board Meetings are held in the public, but are not public meetings. When people come to the Board they are coming to the Board, not the superintendent so they need to have community meetings to have a conversation with the community. Chairperson Robinson said Board Policy is based on state law. The Board does not answer or respond to questions. Mr. Frazier said people should get answers. They should have a public follow-up at the next Board Meeting. The Board is accused of getting questions and not giving answers. Mr. Hall said on the public form the superintendent is to answer in 10 days. Mr. Priester said as per the Board conversation, he should respond to the questions asked during Public Comments. Mr. Frazier said the Superintendent should respond, but we should do a better job. Chairperson Robinson said on school uniforms, is that something they want to do a survey on. Or do something for the next school year. Mr. Frazier said this is late, but ask the Superintendent to put together a packet on how it should be done, and have a discussion in the public, ask the superintendent to do the work that needs to be done. Mr. Hall suggested sending out a survey at the beginning of the school year and they would have time to work with it. Mr. Priester also suggested having a survey at each schools opening events. Chairperson Robinson said vendors or merchants could bring in uniforms, colors and starting in January items could be made available in the stores and parents could start in the 2nd semester for example and uniforms became mandatory at the start of next school year. But this gives them a chance to see it and get use to the uniforms. She asked Dr. Tobin to bring information back for the next Board Meeting. Mr. Priester said uniforms can be a sense of pride, if started at an early age students' transition easier. Don't cut it off after one year, after 4 or 5 years it becomes a habit.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

USDA Grants Submitted: Dr. Tobin said the grant was submitted on July 10th the USDA representative came and picked up the grant. The grants were for transportation for technology; foodservice; a bus or van to pick-up parents for events; security for our schools; creating a STEM lab and expanding technology in the District. It was a District-wide effort. A public meeting was held.

Technology Plan/Funding: Dr. Tobin highlighted what is being done on creating an environment for students to have expanded technology opportunities. He presented a Power Point presentation on the topic. Mr. Frazier said nobody agrees with new technology more than him, but right now today, he has been saying to the Board for a number of years, children are walking the streets. Let's look at projects that get the students off the street and invest money in this, a more safe and controlled environment. If children don't get it by 3rd grade, after 6th grade

they drop off. The District should focus on this right now, a lot of children don't have anything to go to, and they have nothing. We have no community projects to help children. But focus on money for summer programs for the entire county. If we make a decision to do this we can find the money. Chairperson Robinson said you are talking about afterschool programs. Mr. Frazier said he is talking about basketball, gymnastics, this takes children minds away from the crazy things they can be doing. Chairperson Robinson said the presentation is about expanding technology for students. She asked Mr. Frazier if he is talking about tying it to beyond the school day. Dr. Tobin said he agrees with Mr. Frazier 100% children do not have enough activities, but the schools can provide the places for these things to happen, but maybe recreation can provide some activities. The school has a Bridge program at USC-Salkehatchie and 3rd graders who did not do well are now at AES for a reading program. When the schools close due to consolidation, the gyms will be available for the community or the Recreation Department to use. Chairperson Robinson said Ms. Leath at AES has been aggressive in getting programs for students in the afternoon for example; the Artist in Residence, the Plays, and she agrees with Mr. Frazier the community should be providing far more avenues for the students. Since the District is downsizing, now is a good time to start the conversation. Mr. Priester said this is a good time to link with the faith based community and others who have more resources, you can have longer effects. If an individual drives it, when the individual goes away the program goes, but if it is a community the longevity is much better and the program lasts longer. Chairperson Robinson said the County has recreation, but the County and School Board can have a conversation about providing more recreational opportunities for the students because they have funding. The District has the gym and the facilities. In our joint discussion we can brainstorm and see what we can come up with. Mr. Frazier said when AES have the basketball games with the youth and fathers, the men look forward to this and try to outplay the students. Chairperson Robinson said is this something they are interested in pursuing with County Council. Mr. Priester said they also have the 501-3C and you never know what they have to offer. Chairperson Robinson said the State of SC Legislation will no longer require the HSAP, but are looking at some version of the ACT and work-keys, which is a computerized test, on an individual computer, but this is up in the air. We are in the 21st Century and in order for us to make a 21st Century education available to students, based on what is happening in SC it will require at the High School level our students will have to have practice and teaching on this same type of technology. And teachers need to work on a daily basis preparing students for this.

Dr. Tobin said in 2016-2017 all testing will be done on computers.

Dr. Tobin highlighted what Mr. Titus Duren does when he comes in the District – a handout was given.

Gifted and Talented Strategic Plan Budget: Dr. Tobin said this was in the packet and requested by the Board. Dr. Tobin said the District did not have a plan, but is working to get in compliance with the SDE. The District has paid the tuition for some teachers to be Gifted and Talented endorsed and is working on a selection criteria for the program. Mr. Frazier asked if the

program has started. Dr. Tobin said teachers are getting endorsed and selecting the curriculum for program. Mr. Frazier said Bamberg I has a curriculum from Franklin Covey, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Students." He asked the Superintendent to bring this back to the Board. Dr. Tobin said this will not all be done at the same time and will not come out of the general funds. Four students from AFMS went to the Governors School and he got a good report. The students conducted themselves well and were well received. Chairperson Robinson said what they received last month was based on a 3 year narrative and the District needs a Gifted and Talented program. Ms. Smith said the District is doing a lot, she would like to see them sit down and see where the District is financially and see how the program will be implemented. She does not want to break the District on one hand doing a lot at one time. Dr. Tobin said the Board requested a plan so they presented this. They are writing grants and looking for other sources.

Reorganization Financial Savings 2014-2015: Dr. Tobin gave the Board a handout on the projected savings for each school based on personnel reductions and reorganization. Mr. Priester asked if by bringing the middle school to the high school the building savings will be added to what is presented tonight. Dr. Tobin said yes, because the information tonight is reflecting personnel only. Ms. Smith said this can pay for the Gifted and Talented Program. You have to balance it out, it is still money. Dr. Tobin said they are trying to let the expenses reflect the needs, for example 2 coaches at the middle school and 2 coaches at the high school. Mr. Frazier said in reference to this, parents have been asking about full time, temporary substitutes. How can students get a quality education if teachers are always out? Dr. Tobin said one teacher had health issues. The middle school had some issues in the last few months of school. A couple of teachers were on maternity leave. Ms. Smith said a student asked her about a comment made in the paper about the district financially and asked if they would still do some things. She said this was said by Dr. Tobin, she is not aware of this situation. Chairperson Robinson said she did not see this in the newspaper. FY16 projections, if the District did not do what they did it would be over \$1 million short, and the reduction in personnel is part of this. The District will be in pretty good shape.

Dr. Tobin said the District's Bonds are selling for about \$11 million and the new Bond issuance is about \$7.5 million. The Bonds are being reissued because the interest rates are low. Mr. Hall asked if the renovations will cost \$7.5 million. Dr. Tobin said the renovations and the other things the District wants to do in this project. But they are not sure about the total cost because they have not gotten a financial analysis. Mr. Frazier asked about the re-offering premium and said he does not understand this.

Back-to-School Expo – Saturday, August 16th – AFHS: for information only

Chairperson Robinson said she asked Dr. Tobin to schedule a Board walk-thru of all the facilities before students return to school. Mr. Frazier said some of the faucets in the schools are not

working. Dr. Tobin said this will be done in the renovations project. He asked if the Board will consider a Board Meeting maybe around August 11th.

School and Bus Schedules: see handout. For information only.

APPROVALS

Bond Sale for School Renovations: Dr. Tobin said the amendment to the Resolution is highlighted in yellow on page 2. Mr. Priester said this allows for other things, so they will not have to come back. Chairperson Robinson said the Resolution was approved in April 2014. This is a request to allow for the construction of the Child Development Center, which is Little New Steps. As Mr. Lawrence discussed at the last meeting, all the codes and requirements from DSS, this should be a new, stand-alone building which would require more time and money. Mr. Priester moved to approve the additional language in the already approved Resolution. Ms. Smith seconded. Mr. Frazier said with the technology, they just got some improvements. What are they looking at doing? Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Hall and Mr. Frazier opposed. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote. Dr. Tobin said if money was left to do the track or baseball field and it would come back to the Board for approval. Ms. Smith moved that all funding concerning the previous motion allowing for another facility and technology and construction of the Child Development Center funding come back to the Board for approval that is not specifically stated or stipulated. Chairperson Robinson asked if the motion was to require Board approval on the other facility and technology upgrade that are not stated in the resolution. Ms. Smith said whatever funding it must come back before the Board. Mr. Priester seconded. Mr. Hall said nothing is stipulated, that means that everything have to come before the Board for approval. He asked about the other facility upgrade, besides the Child Development piece. Mr. Priester said for example, if \$150,000 is to be spent on the track, it would have to come before the Board. Mr. Frazier said the track is not part of this and he has not seen a drawing. Chairperson Robinson said they have seen a drawing. Mr. Frazier said blueprints are not drawing, but just a sketch. Chairperson Robinson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Priester voted to approve the motion. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Hall opposed the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-2 vote.

Student Release Requests: Dr. Tobin said on one release request the student is coming from another state. Ms. Smith moved to approve the Release Request for students DB and SW to attend the school district of their choice. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Personnel Recommendations: Personnel had no recommendations.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance gave the Board a handout and a brief summary of where the District is. Finance is in the process of completing general entries for

FY14 and wrapping up the end of the year and the projections are based on where the District is today. The Auditors will be in the District the week of August 4th and information have already been submitted to them and they expect to the meet deadline for the audit. The operating fund balance remains at \$4.6 million. Ms. Grant said at the end of the year it is customary to have a number of budget transfers to meet certain requirements if there is a deficit in one area they can move funds to another area. Mr. Frazier asked that numbers be put on the pages. He asked about Management Services under Operating Expenses on page 4. Ms. Grant said FY14 budget was at a lower rate. They thought the District was going to hire a high school principal. Instead they paid a principal manager at the high school. The projection is more than what was budgeted. This includes the superintendent and the high school principal. Chairperson Robinson said if they hired a principal, it would have to come out of a different line item. Do we see a decrease in school management? Ms. Smith said why so much at the end of the year on the Budget Change Report. Dr. Tobin said the air condition unit in the superintendent's office went out this was an unexpected expense.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday – August 12th – Staff Opening Day – 7:45 a.m. – AFHS

Tuesday-Friday, August 12-15th Teachers Workdays

Monday, August 18th – First Day for Students

Mr. Frazier said the \$6,500 for the Apple Executive Briefing was not in the original budget. Dr. Tobin said it came out of the travel budget for Professional Development. Chairperson Robinson said the travel did not come before the Board, but should have. Ms. Smith asked why physicals for students come out of the Athletic Budget? Ms. Grant said if you have funds in supply you can move to services for the student's physicals.

Chairperson Robinson said Dr. Krohne from the SCSBA spoke with the Board tonight and they are looking at revisiting the search for a superintendent. They extended the deadline until April 30th and then temporarily suspended the search. They received some applications after this and as they approached the deadline they decided to pay attention to the Facilities Project at the time. The Board has looked at a proposed new schedule and Dr. Krohne will email a cleaned-up scheduled. Through September 15th the search is open for additional applications. September 22nd Dr. Krohne will present a complete pool of candidates and the SCSBA will recommend a list of semi-finals. It may be 6 to 9 persons. October 2, 6 and 7 the Board will conduct semi-finalist interviews and October 9th the Board will announce the final candidates. This is all tentative. October 21-22 the finalist candidates will be in the District, meet the community on the 21st and interview with Board on the 22nd. On the evening of October 21st there will be a community reception. On October 21st in the morning the Board will conduct final interviews with the 3 candidates. October 30th they should have a new superintendent elect with a possible

state date of January 1, 2015. Dr. Tobin will serve in a consultant capacity to be announced on how this will work. These are tentative dates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2 (if needed): Mr. Priester moved to forego Executive Session #2. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. The Board attended to all items in Executive Session #1.

Dr. Tobin said they have a letter from a student who wants to organize an all-girls football team. He requested permission to respond saying the District will not be doing this at this time and the reasons why the District cannot do this at this time. Maybe have a powder-puff game at night for the girls.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.