

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 – 5:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. 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 5:09 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

ROLL CALL: 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. Russell moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Frazier moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Board Meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015 and the Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2015. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments

GOOD NEWS:

Beta Club Sponsors Ms. Price and Ms. Brodus: Ms. Price thanked the Board for allowing the Beta Club to attend the National Conference in Myrtle Beach in February. She received an award for providing 25 years of service to the Beta Club. Mr. Lott received a 10 years' service award for being a sponsor of the National Beta Club. Last year Ms. Brodus received a 30 years of service award. Students present were Myriana Dobson, Shelby Branch, Dakeka Carter, Tyrese Cohen, Moye Williams and Shakaylin Sanders. Shelby Branch said she participated in the Quiz bowl and it was not easy and the questions were challenging. It was a great experience and thanks for funding the program for the students. Spokesperson Dakeka Carter participated in the English Academics

competition. Ms. Price said Ms. Christine Brown is also one of the Beta Club sponsors. Ten students and 2 chaperones attended the trip.

Ms. Williams said the Special Services Department met several landmarks. There are so many reports they must submit and the requirements are stringent in order to be in compliance with the rules and regulations for Special Education. One of the areas the SDE monitors is how we are treating students with IEP's and discipline. Districts must do a report to show we are in compliance and not putting the students out for "x" amount of days. The Special Education Dept. was not identified as having significant discrepancies for the long-term suspensions/expulsions of students with IEPs. That is a tremendous feat. All districts around the State are not that fortunate. Thanks to Ms. Mays, her staff and her teachers in making sure the students are not discriminated against and thanks for the positive recognition you are bringing to Allendale County Schools.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Discipline Reports: For information only

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Technology Budget – Ms. Jamison, Director reported: 1) the points of pride included the move from AFMS to the new wing of AFHS; promethean boards; wiring and cabling; Limitless Learning 1:1 iPad initiative; 200 iPads issued to students and MacBook Air computers; 2) budget – see handout; 3) Technology wish list. Every department in the schools are supported by technology and she needs a Project Assistant; 4) an elementary school technician is needed to help manage the iPads and computers; 5) more technology training for the ever changing technology. Requesting a budget increase for more technology training, Microsoft and Apple classes; 6) Limitless Learning setting aside moneys for in 3 years a refresh for these devices for sustainability; 7) digital imaging of paper records. With paper documents if a good, strong wind or tornado comes along these documents in the schools and warehouse are lost. This needs to be a District-wide project for scanning of documents; 8) the telephones are about 7 years old and starting to show some wear and tear; all classrooms have telephones and for teachers making contact with parents.

Ms. Jenkins asked how many people are in the IT Department. Ms. Jamison said she currently have 2 people. Ms. Bryant and Ms. Preacher (who was pulled out of classes to be available to address Level 1 technology issues). Ms. Robinson asked what is considered Level 1. Ms. Jamison said sometimes it is a cable not plugged in, imaging, installing anti-virus software on computers. If it is something they cannot handle it comes to the District level. Ms. Jenkins said for digital imaging the estimate is \$100,000. Is this what it cost to purchase the system? Ms. Jamison said she does not have an exact number, it would depend on the number of boxes the District has. Per box is \$210 to scan. This vendor has a climate control warehouse to store the District's records. This vendor has references from several school districts in the area. Mr. Frazier asked if this has been bided out. Ms. Jamison said no, she would need permission to bid this out. Before any decisions were made she would go thru the proper procurement system.

Title I Audit – Dr. Beckett, Director, arrived late because she attended the PPS Conference in Columbia. She reported: 1) the SDE requires all Title I schools to monitor their funding and keep certain documents on file at the school and district level; 2) 9 different instruments are used; 3) every 3 years the Office of Federal and State Accountability conducts an on-site audit; Allendale had an audit on April 2nd. What the SDE found: a) per pupil allocations between the Middle and High Schools was .25¢; b) when the schools configurations went from 6th grade she did not take the 6th graders from the Middle School. To correct this she sent the 135 days Administrative Report and the Free and Reduced lunch reports to the SDE to sort this out. The SDE said this would ride this year – sorting out of the students.

Ms. Robinson said if these are the only 2 findings then the school and Dr. Beckett's office did a very good job. Ms. Williams thanked the principals and directors for assisting Dr. Beckett with this audit.

Summer Work Schedule: Ms. Williams said beginning June 8 the District will observe a summer work schedule. Monday-Wednesday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lunch is for 30 minutes. Summer hours end on August 6th.

Updates: Ms. Williams said she had no further updates.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance reported the Board Cover Letter, Operating Statement and the Budget Changes Report were submitted in the Board's packets. Ms. Robinson said in some of the categories for example, Operating Statements, 188 Parenting, the amount budgeted was \$32,000 and to date nothing spent. What does this mean? Ms. Grant said it was budgeted in the general funds, but Title I has taken on this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, May 6th – JROTC Banquet – 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 13th – Day at the Capitol – 9:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 24th – Baccalaureate Ceremony – 4:00 P.M. – AFHS

Friday, May 29th – AFHS Graduation – 7:00 P.M.

Friday, June 5th – Staff Recognition Day – 8:00 A.M. – AFHS

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Russell moved to go into Executive Session at 5:50 P.M. for Personnel and Student Release Requests. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION: Ms. Russell moved that the Board return to Open Session at 6:36 P.M. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Robinson moved that the Board approve the Student Transfer Requests as received and reviewed. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

TOWN HALL MEETING – Superintendent Ms. Williams

Transition 3-6 Grade Students to AFMS: 1) Ms. Williams talked about the culture we are trying to create in Allendale. ACS – Acclaiming a Culture of Success. She gave a review of the construction project; 2) the construction was placed temporarily on hold. The Board wanted to study the construction, planning and architect; 3) the elementary schools have been awarded an Apple Grant that will enhance technology usage; 4) with the older facilities there are a lot of concerns.

The proposal for AFMS: 1) address renovations at AFMS, gym, music room and locker room; address the aesthetics; move grades 3-6 from AES and FES to the new middle school; the prek-2 grades from AES and FES move into FES. Sooner are later all the students will be in one building. This move will allow teachers to plan more collaboratively; 2) there are certain standards a building must meet for the smaller population. The inspectors have told us the minor things that must be done at FES for the smaller students. The big thing was a hot water heater for a classroom; 3) we will then look to close AES as a school for prek-thru 6th grade; 4) at AFMS will need to make some modifications for the 1st grade classrooms for 2016-2017; these things will be ready; 5) by the 2016-2017 school year all elementary students will be housed on one campus.

School Uniforms for Students/Dress code: Ms. Williams reported 1) how to enhance the dress code and thus the questions of school uniforms; 2) on June 23, 2014 a parent came to the Board Meeting and asked about school uniforms; 3) there were school uniforms briefly in ACS; 4) some research supports uniforms and other research does not; 5) how successful it is depends on why you are doing it; depends on enforcement of uniforms and if done correctly it strengthens the current dress code; 6) uniforms reduce distractions and the lost of self-esteem caused by teasing or competition of clothing; 7) it minimizes the disruptions from wearing inappropriate clothing or possessing inappropriate items at school; provides an environment where students can focus on learning; 8) enhance school safety; many districts have implemented clear book bags to go along with school uniforms; 9) reduce the cost of school clothing, the prices for uniforms are very reasonable; will be a reduction in the cost of back to school clothing; uniforms help with discipline; 10) there is the possibility for the middle and high school, how to distinguish the two, different color shirts for high and middle school; elementary schools shirt selections could be 2 to 3 colors that are different from the middle and high school.

Questions/Comments:

Ms. S. Washington asked when the Board would make the decision. Ms. Williams said the Board must put this on the table a certain amount of time before voting. Schools will be closing in a few weeks and they want to make a decision to give parents time before school starts back in August.

Mr. Mark Lott said on the transition of the buildings he thought from previous meetings some construction might have been going on. Do you foresee any reason something might come up and the buildings are not ready? Ms. Williams said time is of the essence. She has been working with the finance director, contractors and architects and they see

no reasons why the building cannot be open. She would like to see certain things done before moving.

Ms. T. Williams said once the students' transition, how will programs like the scholars, band and afterschool work. Ms. Williams said these programs will be strengthened. Students from FES now have to travel to AES, when the schools merge they will not have to be transported. The same applies to the band. The District hopes to enhance the number of programs for the middle school students. Academics is number one and these programs will help make students well rounded.

Mr. Gill asked what the class sizes would be. Ms. Williams said they have not determined a maxed class sizes, but they will be conducive to students learning and teachers planning. It is important for teachers and students to have manageable class sizes.

Chairman Hall asked about a shoe code and with the issues of bullying it is more shoes than clothes. Some parents said it is both shoes and clothes.

Ms. Williams said it would be up to the Board to talk about shoes as well. Several neighboring districts have uniforms and she will talk with them about this.

Ms. Barbara Fludd asked what kind of shoes students will be wearing. Ms. Williams said she did not have anything about this in her presentation, but this is a question they will consider.

Mr. Lott asked about children living out in Martin going to school in Fairfax. Ms. Williams said the Transportation Dept. would work on re-routing. She does not want any students on buses for extra long periods of time. With smaller children they want to make the bus ride as short as possible. This will involve detailed planning and school start and dismissal times at the various campus.

Ms. Khatari Johnson said with research on school uniforms, would the District come back in 2 years and see if uniforms changed anything. If the discipline problems remained the same and low test scores, then the uniforms will not serve its purpose. Ms. Williams said the District will look at where we are, what we have done, does things in the uniforms process needs to be tossed-out, tweaked. Will it improve instruction and learning for students? Ms. Williams said she does not want parents to send students to school without the proper uniform attire.

How many teachers are in the classroom in the elementary grade level? Ms. Williams said at this point the District is not anticipating any changes in the number of teachers in the classroom. In some classes the regulations have not changed. For example kindergarten and pre-k students must have an extra person in the classroom.

Chairman Hall thanked the community for coming out and if you have any questions give Ms. Williams a call at the District Office.

ADJOURNMENT: the Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.