

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

**MONDAY – MAY 19, 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, May 19, 2014. At 6:00 PM the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Legal Update, Contractual Matters, Personnel and the Superintendent Search. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alonzo Frazier
Timothy Hall
Willie Priester, Secretary
Wilda J. Robinson, Chairperson
Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson

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

FROM THE LAW FIRM OF BOYKIN AND DAVIS, LLC:
Charles Boykin, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:06 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 stated. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Priester moved to go into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss Legal Update, Contractual Matters, Personnel and the Superintendent Search. 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: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the Monday, April 28, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting as presented. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson said this was the 60th year anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. The case was comprised of 5 distinct cases, one in Clarendon County in Summerville. African American children were required to go to schools that were not equal and had to walk about 18-20 miles one way. Cases were filed in South Carolina, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Virginia and Delaware. The first case to hit the Supreme Court was by the Brown family. The Briggs case from South Carolina dealt with the issue of children walking to school and the facilities being inferior. Students were required to go and get fire wood, this happened in most of the Southern States. Chairperson Robinson said Ms. Lillian Lawton, who was a student at this time, has spoken on several occasions about her experiences at school. Brown vs. Board of Education was a major decision in 1954. Seventeen states still had this kind of law. In the South Carolina Constitution, it was a constitutional requirement that no child of black race or white race could attend a school that was provided for persons of another race. In the southern states it was embedded in the constitution. Thurgood Marshall was the leader of this fight, and for all African American children. The Supreme Court said it was unequal and some counties gave the African American children 1 bus. It took another 10 years before integration started to take place. In 1970 and 1971 the Justice Department had to tell states that they had to integrate or they would do it for them. Allendale begin integration in about 1971. Why discuss it here, because we must know our history and what has brought us to this point. We must continue the fight for Public Education. That is why the National School Boards Association started the campaign again of pushing for Public Education. We need to know from whence we come so we can never go back again.

RESOLUTION BASHAUD BREELAND: Chairperson Robinson and Board Members presented former Allendale-Fairfax High School student Bashaud Breeland's Aunt, Ms. Edna All and his father Mr. Darren Breeland with a Resolution read by Chairperson Robinson. She said May 13th was declared Bashaud Breeland day and many activities were held. Breeland was drafted by the Washington Redskins.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Joey Espinosa spoke about the STEMs Program on behalf of USC-Salkehatchie. He highlighted some of the successes of the partnership with the District: 1) every summer Mr. Chavous leads the STEMs plus Arts Camp. They are expecting about 100 students from Allendale to participate; 2) the AES Robotics Team has been very successful. The students were

featured in the South Carolina Regional Development Alliance Magazine; 3) the kids came up with an app to determine weather and the Red Cross came up with the same app. But the students realized that and were proud of the idea they came up with; and 4) Mr. Espinosa thanked the Board on behalf of USC-Salk. He said they are working on a grant to get more teams started and more programs. The date for the STEMs camp is the last 2 weeks in June.

GOOD NEWS

Boys and Girls State – American Legion Post 198: Mr. Mark Lott said Palmetto Girls and Boys State is a summer enrichment program dealing with leadership. Every year these students go above and beyond. These students attended last year and he asked each to describe their experience in 3 words. Tyrone Gill (successful, beautiful and determined); Denzel Washington (nice people, leadership and responsibility); Quendrell Williams (fun, memorable and exciting); Theron Williams (inspiring, educational and breathtaking) and Youshi Kirkland, will be returning as a counselor this summer (family, love and hope). Palmetto Girls State, DySheeka Chisolm (memories she will never forget); Javon Chaney, will be returning this summer as a counselor (friendship, bonding and memories) and Iman Johnson, is returning as a counselor this summer (memorable, leadership and friendship). Mr. Lott thanked Mr. Brandyburg, Guidance Counselor who does a lot of work with the students and Mr. Morgan Kearsse who serves on the State Board of Directors for Palmetto State Boys and Girls.

Chairperson Robinson thanked Mr. Lott and American Legion Post 198 for what they do for the children. This is an example of the school and community organization working together. The Board and Superintendent Tobin congratulated all the students.

School Reports:

Ms. Leath, Principal AES: she presented the latest publication of the South Carolina Regional Development Alliance Magazine which featured the Robotics Team. Nurse Boleman won the nurses contest sponsored by Healthy Learners. Nurse Boleman was up against nurses from much larger districts, but she was up late encouraging all her Facebook friends and the entire District to vote for Nurse Boleman. Nurse Boleman won a weekend for 2 to Charleston. Nurse Boleman thanked everyone who voted and said she is enjoying her 3rd year at AES. Allendale Elementary Pre-K students will perform “Snow White” on Thursday, May 22nd. The \$5.00 admission cost includes the Dessert Theatre and the Steel Drum Ensemble will perform.

Ms. O’Banner, Principal FES: said Deuteronomy 32:7 is her favorite scripture. Over the last 4 weeks the Hallelujah Singers have been coming to FES to work with the students on Gullah Culture. On Friday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. they will have a Gullah program. The children have loved hearing from whence they came. The SC Dept. of Education came in today for an audit. Students went to Hampton to see a ballet performance and they learned our culture overlaps with the Brazilian culture.

Mr. Hemby, Principal AFMS: Ms. Alamanda, Special Education was chosen as Teacher of the Year. “Coach D” (Darrell Andrews), a motivational speaker with the TriO/Gear-Up Program

from SCSU will speak at AFMS on Wednesday, May 21st at 1:00 p.m. Several students competed at a track meet in Columbia and 8th grader Shaniya Hammons received a Bronze Medal.

Mr. Brandyburg, Guidance Counselor AFHS: the following students will be attending Boys and Girls State this summer: Calvin Daniels; Juwan Chavous; Rodney Williams; Arthur Grant III; Keshawn Johnson and David Flowers. Girls State: Larissa Richardson; Brandy Robinson and Keishanda Taylor. He thanked Mr. Lott and Mr. Kearse for doing all they can to make sure Allendale students are represented at these events. In Track and Field the Boys finished 3rd in the State. The Girls are young and finished in the middle of the pack. Brandy Jordan won the triple jump. The Junior/Senior Prom will be held this weekend. May 29th the Band Banquet will start at 6:00 p.m. Baccalaureate will be held on June 1st. Rev. Thomas from Nazarene Baptist Church, Fairfax will be the speaker. Graduation is on June 6th and everyone should be in the building by 6:50 p.m. when they will close the doors. Former student Bashaud Breeland #17 Jersey will be retired and displayed at the school.

Mr. Dickson, Director AFLC: Mr. Prasad is the Teacher of the Year for AFLC. He is good with all the students. In the Adult Education Program the numbers are low. They are working with the Dale Apt. and Ms. Blanchard to partner with the District. About 8-10 students are involved in the program. Ms. Washington who is the teacher said the students are very energetic. We have to continue to set high expectations for the students. It takes a lot of effort, time and engagement to help students get where they need to go. Presently about 27 students are enrolled in the Alternative School.

Ms. Youmans, Director Little New Steps: said we have great kids and wonderful parents. Little New Steps had 3 visits from the State Fire Marshal and DSS licensing and did not receive any citations.

Clean Sweep Award: Dr. Tobin said the Clean Sweep Award for the year will be awarded at Staff Recognition Day on June 6th.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Introduction of Ken Westbury, District Facilities Consultant: Dr. Tobin said Mr. Westbury is not present tonight, but his services has been invaluable

Facilities Planning: Dr. Tobin said the District is in the process of selecting an ESPC (Energy Savings Performance Contract). The review committee consisted of Anthony Lawrence, Brownstone Group; Dwight Causey, Mayor of Fairfax; Bill Robinson, Southern Alliance and Angela Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services for the District. They have had 2 meetings and talked with the companies that submitted proposals. An Energy Savings Company was selected

and the contract they submitted has been reviewed by the School District's Attorney, Mr. Boykin. A question was asked about the drawings for the proposal. Dr. Tobin said we are not at this point yet; however, Mr. Lawrence is available tonight if the Board has any questions.

Summer Feeding Program: Dr. Tobin said he and Ms. Johnson, Director of Food Service has attended several meetings about this program. Ms. Johnson has identified several apartment complexes, five churches have shown an interest and USC-Salkehatchie are sites where lunch will be provided. Information is included in the Board's packet. The District is extending the program in places where it is not normally provided. Ms. Johnson said there will be hot and cold meals and 23 sites have already been identified. Dr. Tobin said if additional information is needed they will provide it to the Board. Allendale and other rural areas qualify for matching grants, which the District will pursue with USDA. A meeting with USDA representatives is scheduled for June 4th.

District-wide Activities: Dr. Tobin said on May 13th the District hosted a Community Breakfast. About 50 people and many community leaders attended the Breakfast. May 16th students from Allendale Elementary School skyped with students from Kenya and the response was well. John Winthrop who is a philanthropist helped with the resources to make this happen and Phil Noble, a promoter of SC. On June 5th a Community Meeting for 7th and 8th graders will be held at AFHS to talk with parents about the upcoming move for these students. A walk-thru is scheduled for parents to see the facilities and a spaghetti dinner will be served.

Emergency Management, Ms. Stanley-Banks: Dr. Tobin said he had a conversation with Ms. Stanley-Banks about a proposal to purchase generators in case the lights or heat go out.

Summer School: Dr. Tobin said Summer School is planned for June 16-July 10 for about 6 weeks. Summer Reading Camp for 3rd Graders will be held June 16-July 24th for students who need help or did not meet standards on Reading.

Summer Leadership Institute: Dr. Tobin said Dr. Tammy Pawloski, from Francis Marion University has invited the Board to come and spend an hour with her. She will talk about poverty and its implications. She will spend the morning with the Administrators and rap up with the faculty between 2-4:00 p. m. on June 12th

APPROVALS

Contract Resolution: Mr. Sidney Evering, Parker Poe (Bond Attorney out of Columbia) thanked the Chairperson for recognizing Brown vs. Board of Education. The Resolution to reduce the footprint of the School District is not to exceed \$12 million. The District had to select an Energy Saving Contract and submitted an RFP soliciting proposals. Proposals were presented from Brantley Construction, Noresco and Pepco. Each company had 45 minutes to present their proposal. Each proposal was evaluated; and he has the official report and evaluation reports for the Board's information. The committee chose Pepco, which is a very good company and have several other projects going on in SC. The Resolution would allow Dr. Tobin to finalize the

contract with Pepco and once the contract is finalized they can issue the bond. Dr. Tobin said the contract and Resolution has been reviewed by the District's attorney Mr. Boykin. The Resolution was passed on April 10th. Mr. Frazier said he understood the bond was \$7.8 million, but included the \$3 million that was outstanding so the District could get a lower interest rate. Chairperson Robinson said they had a Resolution briefing in Executive Session and asked for a motion to accept the Resolution. Mr. Priester moved to accept the Resolution using said language. [Resolution, Authorizing the negotiation and execution of a contract with a qualified Energy Savings Company to assist the School District in closing its existing, aging elementary schools and oversee a combination of new construction, renovations and other matters related thereto]. Ms. Smith seconded. Mr. Frazier said it is hard for him to look at renovating a 50 year old building the second time and spending that much money. In good faith he believes that the Board needs to think about building a new elementary school. He cannot change what has been passed, but he must voice his concerns about this and spending that much money on a partially used building. He feels it is a better way. Ms. Smith said her concern is will this include the track field discussed. Dr. Tobin said when they walk the building they will try to include the track, but will not know that until the bids come back, they are looking at every possible way to save. Our students don't have a place to dress on the football field. They will try to get as much as they can out of the money they have. They are working to be good stewards of the money. Ms. Smith said when Mr. Lawrence did his presentation he mentioned \$2 million dollars. Mr. Lawrence said the price given was for the renovation. Ms. Smith said she remembers the numbers being \$4-6 million dollars. Mr. Lawrence said Pepco will be giving monthly updates to the Board and these are not to exceed what is proposed. Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith voted yes. Mr. Hall and Mr. Frazier voted against the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Allendale Adult Education Consortium: Dr. Tobin said the District is exploring rejoining the Bamberg and Barnwell Consortium. He will bring back an MOU for the Board to approve. He wants approval to move forward. Bamberg School District 1 serves as the fiscal agent. Chairperson Robinson said she would like an MOU to allow the Superintendent to move forward. Dr. Tobin said he has had talked with the other counties. Ms. Smith asked if under the Consortium will Allendale residents have to go to other Counties or will there be a Site Coordinator at the 301 Building. Dr. Tobin said the Center will remain in Allendale and they will send someone to run the Center and expand the program. Ms. Smith asked how much input will Allendale have in the Consortium. Dr. Tobin said anyone working in Allendale will come to the Board for approval. The program was pretty successful in Allendale at one time. It is so expensive for one school district to house a program. It will save the District some people and still allow Allendale to save some money. Mr. Frazier asked if any numbers had been crunched. Dr. Tobin said about \$10,000 could be saved by joining the Consortium. This will not have anything to do with the Alternative Program, which will still be housed on 301. Dr. Tobin said the State was giving funds based on numbers, but now it is based on success. Mr. Priester moved to approve the concept as presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

6th Graders Remaining at Elementary Schools: Dr. Tobin said the Board approved the 7th and 8th graders moving to AFHS. Now he is asking for approval for the 6th graders to remain at the elementary schools. He has met with the principal of each school and they have room for them to remain at the schools. Mr. Priester moved to accept this recommendation as part of the reorganizational plan. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said since we are moving 7th and 8th graders to the high school lets do everything so students will not intermingle to get a proper education. He wants to talk with the Board about this because parents have expressed concerns about this. The motion was approved by all.

USDA Grant Opportunity: Dr. Tobin said the District is eligible for grant opportunities for rural school districts and he wants to pursue this as they become available. Authorize the superintendent to pursue the USDA Grant opportunities that may be available. Mr. Hall moved to authorize the Superintendent to pursue any grant opportunities by the USDA. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Kedra Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to approve the certified teacher recommendations discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to accept the recommendations by the Administration. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Cover Letter – May 2014 – Ms. Grant, Coordinator of Fiscal Services read highlights of the cover letter provided for the Board in the packets.

2014-2015 Budget – 2nd Reading: Ms. Grant said revenues and expenses increased slightly due to an oversight where funds were charged to a state fund, and salaries were charged there but will be charged to the general fund. They are proposing a 1% cost of living increase and 1 step increase where applicable. Dr. Tobin said they will go over the budget in details at the June 3rd work session. Mr. Hall moved to accept the 2nd reading of the budget. Mr. Priester seconded. Chairperson Robinson said the Board will have a budget workshop on June 3rd. At this workshop the Board will have an opportunity to hear budget presentations from Principals, major programs, athletics, football, softball, basketball, varsity and junior varsity, band and volley ball at middle and high school level about what they are required to have for their programs. This is what the Board is requesting from the schools to have a more adequate understanding and for the programs to understand the constraints they are in and know what they can expect from the District. Mr. Hall asked to include the stipend coaches are paid. Mr. Frazier said this is very important and he agrees with what Mr. Hall said about the stipend and knows the elementary schools don't ask for the same money, but would like the elementary schools to present their requests also. For example, the upcoming play at AES "Snow White". Once the process is in place this will save the District money and expand what the District is doing. Mr. Priester said if we are going to have presentations this needs to be done by the Athletic Director who

supervisors the entire program with collaboration from the coaches. Ms. Smith said a lot is happening at the June 3rd Meeting and she is concerned about all they want to do on June 3rd, something is not going to get done or they will be there all night trying to get it done. It may be difficult to handle all that needs to be done with personnel on this night. The motion was approved by all. Chairperson said they may need to have another meeting that week.

McAbee, Schwartz & Halliday – Audit Letter: Ms. Grant said this letter is routine from our Auditors saying what they expect during the audit while they are in the District starting on August 4th. For information only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFHS Baccalaureate – Sunday, June 1st – 4:00 P.M.

2014-2015 Budget Workshop Tuesday – June 3rd – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 6th – Staff Recognition Day, AFHS – 8:00 a.m.

Friday, June 6th – AFHS Graduation – 7:00 p.m.

SCSBA School Law Conference – August 23 & 24 – Myrtle Beach (Hotel reservations opens June 2nd)

Dr. Tobin read a letter from Robert Harrelson, Executive Director of Hampton Friends of the Art. AES and FES students attended a Brazilian Ballerina at the Palmetto Theater in Hampton on May 19th. They were impressed with the student's manners, behavior and enthusiasm.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Tobin presented a framed picture of the entire Board and a replica for each Board Member. Chairperson Robinson said thank your wife for her help and support and Mr. Frazier said thank the number one wife also.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Frazier moved and Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.