

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

**MONDAY – APRIL 26, 2010 – 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, April 26, 2010**. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into executive session to discuss Personnel. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alexis Zeidan, Chair
Charlie Cave
Timothy Hall, Vice Chair
Willie Priester

ABSENT: Cheryl Mole, Secretary

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Terrance Alridge, Interim Superintendent
Meredith Cooler, Assistant to the Supt. Education
Charles Harney, Assistant to the Supt. Operations
Kevin Robinson, Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN LAW FIRM ATTORNEYS: Shunna Vance and Reagan Flemming

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Zeidan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Mr. Priester.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to amend the Agenda - #15 Executive Session and #16 Adjournment. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Called Meetings on March 16, 2010, March 18, 2010 and March 23, 2010. The Regular Monthly Meeting on March 22, 2010 as presented. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

GOOD NEWS

JROTC Ranks in Top 3% in Nation – Maj. Howard – Battalion Commander Brittany Williams said on behalf of the AFHS JROTC Cadets thanks to the high school and administration for their help as they prepared for inspection. They achieved an overall

inspection score of 96.9 and overall points of 580 out of a possible 600 points. Based on these they are ranked in the top 3% JROTC programs in the nation. Also present was Company Commander Ebony Jenkins.

AES Steel Drum Band – Ms. Leath, Principal said these young people are called AES Steel Tigers. They are made up of 4th and 5th graders and are in the 2nd year of existence. The group has received several invitations from around the State to play. They played on April 10th in Irmo. An Artist in Residence comes on Wednesdays to help the music teacher. So the Band played at her church. May 5th they will have a spring concert at AES – please plan to attend – at 6:30 p.m. May 8th they will be playing in the Allendale County Cooter Festival. June 4th and 5th they have an overnight trip to Riverbank Zoo in Columbia for Dream Night which is for special needs kids and kids that are terminally ill. June 19th Charleston will celebrate National Caribbean Night and the band will play at this event. The students were introduced and Ms. Leath showed a short clip of several performances by the band. She also recognized the parents of the Steel Drum Band members in attendance and said they are very supportive. Chairperson Zeidan thanked the students for their dedication and said they sounded very good.

District Report Card Improvement/Gains – Ms. Dukes said Allendale County Schools had the highest growth rating in the State on the District’s Report Card. How does the State come up with districts growth ratings: 1) Elementary and middle school components (PASS and SC-Alt, grades 3-8) is 60%; 2) High school components are on-time graduation rate 30%; 3) HSAP first time attempt passage rate 5% and 4) End-of-course test results 5%. They look at the difference between the Absolute Growth index from one year to the next. The ratings range from excellent to at-risk. From the SDE website Allendale had a growth index of 0.27 which is rounded up to .3. All the other districts are in the negative numbers. Allendale was the only District in the State with a positive index rate. A reception was held this afternoon at AFHS for the teachers and staff – cake and punch was served. Each Board member received a water bottle as the staff did as a token of appreciation.

Clean Sweep Award – Mr. Harney presented the award to AFMS – Mr. Brown, Assistant Principal accepted the award on the schools behalf.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Sharma Sumpter said she was a concerned parent. Her concern is about a teacher at FES. Her son is in 3rd grade and said his teacher had been using inappropriate language – telling them they are stupid and not learning anything. She addressed the issue with the principal and asked what can be done concerning this teacher. They talked about it and it was the teacher’s word against her son’s word. Chairperson Zeidan suggested the parent contact the superintendent. Ms. Sumpter said she will contact the superintendent.

Ms. Sharon McMillan said the above statement was her concern also. Her son is in the same class and said they are acting like they have the Holy Ghost and talking in tongues. The teacher is calling them dumb, stupid and ignorant. She has done this on several occasions. What can be done about this teacher?

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports – For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

2010-2011 District Calendar – Dr. Alridge said a draft copy of the calendar is up for Board adoption. They received input from the community, teachers and administrators about their concerns. The calendar maximizes instruction days, looked at holidays and testing days. Mr. Priester asked about graduation – are we looking at surrounding districts and their graduation dates. Dr. Alridge said they have not checked other district's graduation date – ACS graduation is set for Friday, June 4th. Mr. Hall moved to approve the calendar. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

May 17, 2010 – Forum on Bullying at AFHS – Mr. Everett said in light of the issues surrounding bullying and gang activity nationwide they are proposing a Parent Forum on this issue. It is scheduled for May 17th at 6:30 p.m. Panelists include Mr. David Toomer, from the SDE; Allendale County Sheriff and Ms. Lee Harley-Fitts from DSS. The forum is to be informational and not sensationalize bullying. They will be sending out information.

MOA'S Approval

Boys and Girls Club: Chairperson Zeidan said they have had a chance to study this MOA and asked for a motion for approval. Mr. Priester moved to approve the Boys and Girls Club MOA. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Denmark Technical College – Mr. Hall moved to approve the Denmark Technical College MOA. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Mr. Hall asked if there was an MOA between Allendale County Parks and Recreation and the District to use the field behind FES. Chairperson Zeidan and Mr. Priester said to their knowledge there is no MOA to use the field. Mr. Hall moved to look into this or get an MOA for them to use the field at FES. Mr. Cave seconded. Mr. Priester said look to see if there could have possibly been an MOA in the past that may just need some updating to save some time. The motion was approved by acclamation.

PERSONNEL – Dr. Alridge said the State extended the contract renewal date to May 15th. Board members will be receiving the information for approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

1st Reading of the 2010-2011 Budget – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director gave highlights on how the revenues and expenditures were arrived at: 1) there is no proposed millage increase – property tax values should remain stagnate, which they are this year; 2) with the State we are expecting budget cuts which will impact revenues; total revenue proposed for next year is \$13,017,130 – this will be a 5% decrease in total revenue; 3) ad valorem taxes – no change in the millage or property tax this year – budget for this year is \$4,707,335; 4) fee in lieu of taxes this budget will remain the same at \$225,000; 5) the District receives funding from the State to help supplement the bus drivers salaries which is projected at \$152,735. Fringes and benefits is projected at \$1.3 the portion the school

district has to pay – the State will offset some of these costs; 6) the State provides funds for retiree insurance - \$191,163; 7) EFA funding – provided on weighted per pupil basis – because of the budget crisis the base student cost will drop for next year by about \$600,000; the State is projecting that the District will receive \$2,703,451 in this category; 8) property tax relief – the amount is capped at \$413,385; 9) reimbursement for homestead exemption will be about \$313,280; 10) Act 388 tier 3 tax relief – the District will receive the maximum amount of \$2.5 million and 11) transfer from special revenues will be about \$228,117 based on projections from the State.

Expenditures: 1) the total expenditures for the general fund is \$13,017,130 same as revenue – 5% decrease from the current budget; 2) salaries – the total in the general fund is \$7,104,834 – about 4.7% lower than the current budget for salaries – there will be no change in salaries due to the budget cuts – tried to pay for salaries out of some of the grants expect to have next year – shifting some from general funds to grant funding to make up for some lost in the general fund; 3) benefits – total cost is \$2,747,684 – 3.8% lower than the budget for this year.

Purchase Services: 1) professional and technical services – set aside for school resources officers and contingency amount in case there is another budget cut; 2) instructional services budgeted about \$108,000 for instructional services for contract teachers – currently have two; 3) property insurance - \$170,594 which is a 6-1/2% increase for next year; 4) copiers and other equipment and custodial rentals is about 2.2% lower than the budget for the current year; 5) supplies and materials anticipated spending is \$856,185 next year – will increase about 4%; 6) consumable items used in the school will be about \$257,588; 7) energy cost – \$531,129 about 1.4% increase over the current year; 8) capital equipment increase is about 1.6%; 9) other objects – payment for the high school renovations paying out of the general fund is \$800,000.

Mr. Priester asked about the contingency funds in case the District experiences other cuts during the year – does the current budget account for any cuts prior to this next fiscal year. Mr. Robinson said no, it does not. From the State the information changes and as new information comes in they try to incorporate this in the budget. Mr. Priester asked about stimulus and grant funds. Mr. Robinson said the District has three categories of stimulus funds – IDEA, Title I and stabilization funds. The first two funds were received for a period of 2 years and the District has received the total allocations. Districts have the option of using all the funds this year or spread them out to next year. The District is trying to adjust the use of some of the funds this year to make sure to account for what is needed next year. The stabilization stimulus funds the District received an allocation this year and next year will receive another allocation – if anything is not used we can carry this over to the next year. These stimulus funds will go away resulting in the lost of thousands and thousands of dollars and this is a concern around the State. Mr. Priester said other districts are having massive layoff – this budget will fill all the positions the District currently have – therefore no positions will be affected this year. Mr. Robinson said no positions will be affected because of State revenue grants the District carried forward from last year to this year. Dr. Alridge said no step increase will be included in the current budget. Mr. Priester moved to accept the 1st reading of the budget as stated. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Budget Changes Report – March 1-31, 2010: For information only.

Budget Report by Function – March 1-31, 2010: the total revenue for the month of March is \$375,669 and the total year-to-date revenue is \$9,766,091. The total expenditures for the month is \$1,129,295 and the total year-to-date \$8,240,575. Mr. Priester said on the budget by function he noticed a number of line items that were negative – will the adequate transfers be made. Mr. Robinson said they try to make adjustments as they go along – all will be accounted for by the end of the year. Chairperson Zeidan asked how much of the budgeted items are in CIS. Mr. Robinson said all of it.

NEWSLETTER

AES Tiger Tales – April 2010

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA School Law Conference – Charleston, SC – August 21-22, 2010

The Board returned to executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel.

The Board returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Hall moved to approve an end-of-year field trip for AES and FES students to Atlanta, GA. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.