

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

**MONDAY – JANUARY 28, 2013 – 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, January 28, 2013. 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: Alonzo Frazier, Vice Chairman
Timothy Hall
Willie Priester
Wilda Robinson, Chairwoman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Charles Tillotson, Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Charles Boykin, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved that the Board approve the Agenda as stated. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Mr. Priester moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Matters at 6:04 p.m. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to Open Session at 7:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2012, Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH: Principals Mr. Youmans, AFHS; Ms. Leath, AES; Mr. Hemby, AFMS and Administrators Dr. Francis, AFLC and Ms. Youmans, LNS each presented Board Members with gifts and tokens of appreciation and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the students and staff of Allendale County Schools.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairwoman Robinson said on behalf of the Board regarding the SIG (School Improvement Grant Plan): 1) Dec. 11, 2012 the Superintendent and various Board Members were asked to come to Columbia and meet with SC Department of Education staff; 2) the Federally funded SIG grant was a 3 year grant and this was the 3rd and final year of the grant; 3) they were advised the District SIG Plan was not implemented as the Plan was written. The initial Plan was written as a Restart Model, which required a school to be closed and reopened in another configuration or type. The District chose not to close a school. The District's Plan did not meet the criteria for the Restart Model because a school was not closed and that school was AFMS. In mid-December the District was given an opportunity to make revisions to the Plan under the Transformation Model. The revised Plan was worked on diligently and submitted to the SDE on December 20, 2012; 4) on January 15, 2013 the Superintendent and selected Board Members met again with SDE officials and were advised that the SIG Plan revisions was not acceptable and did not meet the criteria established by the US Dept. of Education and would not be approved for funding for the current school year; 5) the total appropriation for the current year including carryover funds from year 2 was approximately \$1.3 million dollars. The District will not receive this money. This decision will not affect other funding from the SDE or the US Dept. of Education. No schools are closing or no mass layoff of personnel. Going forward the Board and the Administration will continue reviewing all available options in an effort to provide the best quality educational service at a level that will not negatively impact the academic programs and the instruction offered to students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Robinson asked those making Public Comments to limit their remarks to 3 minutes, state their names, reasons for speaking and refrain from dealing with persons or personnel. Per School Board Policy this is not allowed.

Chair Robinson informed Principal Melinda Merritt, FES that the item she wanted to discuss was personnel and her comments would not be appropriate. But she could submit her information to the Board.

Chairwoman Robinson informed Ms. Lauren Schwade that her issue was in reference to her release from the District, which is a personnel item and could not be discussed during Public Comments. Ms. Schwade could go thru the Grievance Procedures thru Personnel. Instead of reading her letter, which is also related to personnel, Ms. Schwade's daughter will be allowed to present her letter to the Board at the end of the Meeting.

Ms. Camille Nairn said she is a native of Allendale County, since she has returned to the County she has worked with at least 5 different superintendents. She is a member of the Golden Triangle Neighborhood Association, they are involved in and have worked closely with the schools and they would like the Board to listen to what they have to say.

Ms. Lottie Lewis said she represented the Neighborhood Associations. They wrote a letter to the Board requesting to be on the Board Agenda tonight. What is the reason they are not on the Agenda tonight? The 6 Neighborhood Associations consists of about 300 members and they are concerned about the schools and community. They want to make sure children are getting the best education possible. Please let them know in writing why they are not on the Agenda tonight or call her at 584-4556. Additionally, they would like to meet with each Board Member individually.

Chairwoman Robinson thanked the Associations for their support, cooperation and concerns. At some point the Board will be having public forums wherein the community can ask questions and the Board can answer those questions.

Ms. Patricia Jenkins said she is a parent, a concerned citizen and part of the Golden Triangle Neighbor Association. There appears to be no consistency or stability in the District. The District has gone thru so many superintendents and this affects the students, District, test scores and the education of the children. Before the District can see if what they are doing is working, here comes another change again.

GOOD NEWS

Student Recognitions: Allendale Elementary, Ms. Leath, Principal said two students Canaan Ennis and Javarius Youmans qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program. To qualify students must score in the 95th percentile of a sub test which is the PASS test in South Carolina. Both students ranked in the 96th percentile. Jarvarius, who is a 5th grade student, was not present, but he is in the Scholars class. Canaan, who was present along with his parents, is a 4th grade Scholars student.

Ms. Katherine Campbell, Clemson Extension wrote a Palmetto Pride Grant for AES in the amount of \$1,060. The Grant provides funds for community based beautification and liter reduction initiatives.

Allendale-Fairfax Middle, Mr. Hemby, Principal recognized students who made significant gains on the Winter MAP test. He gave cash that came from his pocket (\$100, \$50 and \$25 as incentives). TyShala Orr gained 34 points on the test in Reading; 27 on Math for a total of 61 points, winning 3rd place. 2nd place was 6th grader Eric Smalls who gained 38 points in Math and 26 in Reading. 1st place was TyQuavian Joyner a 7th grader who gained 42 points in Math and 28 in Reading. About 25 students had gains of 20 points or more.

Clean Sweep Award: Mr. Tillotson presented the Clean Sweep Award to Ms. Leath, Principal of Allendale Elementary School.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discipline Reports: For information only.

SC Statement of Economic Interest – Filing Electronic Only: For information only.

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Adult Education Update – Dr. Francis, Director said the information was included in the Board’s packets. He highlighted: 1) the 2011-12 Report Card for Allendale Adult Education; 2) the front page of the Report Card notes the trend that enrollment is going down. The Palmetto Unified School District which is the Correctional Institutions, these students are no longer educated by schools Adult Education Centers in the State of South Carolina. These Institutions are running their own Adult Education Centers; and 3) we are reaching out and going to various sites. Chair Robinson asked Dr. Francis to look at the Neighborhood Associations, they may be able to help with recruiting; also use churches and other local associations. Dr. Francis said in January they met with the President of Denmark Technical College. The Superintendent received a Memorandum of Agreement, which is a collaboration realizing they are dealing with the same clients, those looking to get a GED or don’t have a high school diploma. The next meeting will be held in Allendale. Options they are pursuing include reaching out to some of the housing areas and looking to form a relationship with the Housing Dept. The SNAP Program (the Food Stamp Program) which stipulates that those who do not have a high school diploma may have to come to the Adult Education Program. They are using technology in the way of working on a Facebook page and twitter.

MAP Update – Dr. Sherald, Atlantic Research Partners said the information was included in the Board packets. She highlighted: 1) at FES from the fall to winter results 1st grade students showed a gain of 14 points in the Means score; 3rd graders showed a 10 point gain; 2) at AES 1st grade students showed gains of 10 points on their Math Means score; other grades also showed some gain; 3) at AFMS they showed some gain, but not as much as the elementary schools; 4) at AFHS most students basically stayed where they were; 10th graders did not do so well. Mr. Priester said in areas where students showed significant gains, do you see anything specifically that is different. Dr. Sherald said the English teacher position at the high school is vacant and this affects the students and also a Math teacher is out at AFMS.

For Information

Title I Budget Amendment: Dr. McClain said these funds will continue to pay for coaches and interventionist.

ACS v. Virgin Johnson Academy of Excellence: Dr. McClain said this is the latest information in the appeals process provided by Attorney Boykin’s office.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Rivers, Director of Personnel asked the Board to approve the recommendation for the termination of C.G. made in Executive Session. Mr. Priester moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Rivers asked the Board to accept the employment recommendation made in Executive Session. Mr. Hall moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Rivers asked the Board to accept the resignation letter discussed. Mr. Hall moved to accept the resignation letter discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director reported: 1) the total revenue of about \$3,464,000, with expenses being higher at \$5,865,000 is all done on a cash basis. In February the District is anticipating receiving the majority of their local tax revenues. The District is looking at a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013. They will be proposing a schedule for work sessions on the 2014 budget.

Mr. Frazier asked about JROTC and supporting this activity. He said do things to support the children when they are moving forward and support the principal and staff as they help our children.

Budget Report by Function – December 1-31, 2012: Included in the Board packet.

Budget Changes Report – December 1-31, 2012: Included in the Board packet.

Dr. McClain said in reference to the Budget Amendments for Title I: 1) the Plan that went before the State Board of Education, the District had enough money to cover 2 years of implementation; part of that funding was from the School Improvement Grant (SIG); the other part would have been paid for from Palmetto Priority and Title I; 2) every year the District must submit a Plan for how the District will spend Title I funds; they knew going into the 2nd year of the Plan that Title I funds would be used to fund portions of the 2nd year; 3) the budget modifications mentioned tonight is what the District is proposing to help cover the loss of funds with the State disallowing the SIG Plan going forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 21-24 – SCSBA Annual Convention – Myrtle Beach

July 7-10, 2013 NSBA Southern Region Conf. – Destin, Florida

Ms. Smith said at the last Board meeting they were asked to approve a Field Trip for the Debate Team to go to Tennessee. What is the result of that request? Dr. McClain said this went back to the school and he has not seen an update yet. Ms. Smith said they asked for chaperones and a letter or waiver from the person in charge of the trip. Mr. Youmans said the request is in the District mail. They got the chaperones but not the waiver for liability purposes. He is not sure what the wording should be on this request. Mr. Frazier moved to approve the Field Trip to TN

as presented with a waiver statement from the Advisor before the actual Field Trip date. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Mr. Hall asked about the Track Team trip to Jacksonville, FL. Dr. McClain said they received the information, but it was sent back to the high school for additional information. Chairwoman Robinson said procedures should be in place in reference to Field Trips. Dr. McClain said procedures are in place and the District must follow them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Hall moved that the Board go into Executive Session #2 at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Personnel. Mr. Priester seconded. Ms. Smith said when the Board says going into Executive Session to discuss Personnel it should be a little more detailed. What Personnel is about contracts, etc. According to the FOIA it should be more detailed in why the Board is going into Executive Session for example for hiring or dismissal. Chairwoman Robinson again asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel Matters to discuss the Superintendent's contract. Mr. Hall moved that the Board return to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's contract. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: The Board returned to Open Session at 10:08 p.m.

Secretary Smith reported Mr. Frazier moved to terminate the Superintendent's contract effectively immediately. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Hall, Mr. Frazier and Chairwoman Robinson voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith voted against the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-2.

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