

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

**MONDAY – NOVEMBER 27, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting was held on Monday, November 27, 2017. At 6:00 P.M. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss a Legal Briefing and the MOA between the State Department of Education and Allendale County Schools. The Meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media WDOG and WIIZ Radio Stations were notified and the Barnwell Sentinel Newspaper were notified.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Patricia Jenkins called the Meeting to Order at 6:07 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A Moment of Silence was held.

ROLL CALL: Terry Hall
Patricia Jenkins
Willa Jennings
Wilda J. Robinson
Catherine Russell

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Kenneth Davis, Esq.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Russell asked to amend the Agenda to move Executive Session to after item #12 Superintendent's Office and make Executive Session #13. Ms. Jennings seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS: Dr. Tobin asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board for Allendale County Schools. Ms. Jenkins nominated Ms. Robinson. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Vice Chairperson: Ms. Jennings nominated Ms. Russell. The nomination was closed. Ms. Robinson moved. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Secretary: Ms. Russell nominated Ms. Jennings. The nomination was closed. By acclamation the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Russell moved to approve the Monday, October 23, 2017 Regular Monthly Meeting and Thursday, November 2, 2017 Special Called

Meeting Minutes and Thursday, November 9, 2017 Community Forum. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Akins, a parent said she was confused about the time the Board Meeting started. She thought the Meetings started at 7:00 P.M. Chairperson Robinson said the Board voted to amend the Agenda to move Executive Session down on the Agenda, thus the earlier start.

Attorney Davis asked the Board to make a motion to move Public Comments down on the Agenda and make Public Comments available at that time. Ms. Russell moved that Public Comments be placed on the Agenda before Executive Session. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – MONTHLY UPDATE: Dr. Margaret Gilmore, SDE made the following report: 1) this report is submitted to the SDE and also provided for the Board; 2) the focus areas are Learners & Relevance; Instruction & Rigor and Classroom Environment & Culture; 3) 11 people participated in the bus drivers orientation, with about 8 potential new drivers for the District; 4) the Community Meeting was held on October 23, 2017; 5) students Sameia Brown and Alani Williams, 10th graders attended the Next Generation Leadership Network Conference during the summer; 6) a Good News Club is being held at FES by Bethel Baptist Church; 7) student Amber Ferguson, AFHS participated in the Emerging Scholars Program at Clemson

Ms. Jennings asked for information on the District's test results. Dr. Gilmore said they will do an overview on tomorrow at the Community Meeting. Ms. Jenkins said the community needs to know, also the Board needs to know. She asked for a copy of the scores. Dr. Gilmore said they would provide the Board with a copy of the scores. Ms. Russell asked if those attending the bus driver training receive a \$1000. Dr. Tobin said only the bus drivers got a \$1000 bonus. Those that stepped-up and got certified would be getting an incentive, but not the \$1000. Chairperson Robinson asked about those not employed with the District, but attended the training and were successful in getting certified, what about them. Dr. Tobin said those getting their bus license would get an incentive of \$200-\$250. If they are assigned a bus, they will get a bonus with the regular bus driver.

Ms. Jennings said when the SDE took control of the schools, they communicated with the attorney that the Board would meet at 6:00 p.m. for a certain length of time, and then the Community Meeting would be held. At the October 2017 Board Meeting the Community Meeting was held while the Board was in Executive Session. Dr. Tobin said his understanding is that they would periodically report to the community. Attorney Davis said this was not binding, but a way you might manage things going forward. The Agenda the Board is following is what would happen in normal circumstance, there is no specific timing on when a Community Meeting may be held. Ms. Jennings said her concern is the Board did not hear the test results that were presented during the Community Meeting in October. Dr. Tobin said their obligation according to the MOA is to bring the Board a report, in the spring the

Board approves the budget and employees appeal may be made to the Board. Chairperson Robinson said the MOA did not address the Board Meeting and Agenda. The Board did not want to change the format of their meetings. They should be getting updates from the SDE of District functions. They are missing critical information because the Community Meeting was held while the Board was in Executive Session last month. Attorney Davis said if the administration is going to provide the information to the Board, they are in their rights to do this. Dr. Gilmore said the information is being shared with the community tomorrow night and the Board is part of the community. Dr. Tobin said part of the MOA is the Board relinquished some of its authority in some aspects. Ms. Jennings said all she is asking is for the sharing of information, the test results, MAP results. Dr. Gilmore said she just provided the Board with everything that is going on in the District thus far. She will provide the Board with the test results. Ms. Russell said she is interested in seeing the data to back up the report from the SDE representatives. Chairperson Robinson read a portion of the MOA, #9 Other Material Interventions and Improvements, 2nd paragraph.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Cover Letter, Financial Reports and EIA/EFA – Dr. Tobin said the information was provided to the Board: 1) \$1 million in deficit because no Federal or State funds received; that is why Districts has a fund balance to cover these expenses when funds are not coming in; 2) the Audit will be presented to the Board at the December 2017 meeting; 3) some funds have come in from the State; 4) see page 3, not budgeted is for the additional Resource Officer. Chairperson Robinson asked if there was a Resource Officer at AES for grades 3-6th. Dr. Tobin said the situation at AES is pretty strong. The buildings are now secure with a buzz-in system. AES and AFHS now have the system. The fund balance is the same from the last Audit. The District has not had to drip into the fund balance. Ms. Jenkins asked about the item on page 2 – #181 adult. Dr. Tobin said this is Adult Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE: Dr. Tobin reported the Board has his report at their seat tonight: 1) the Track ground breaking is scheduled for December 4, 2017, at 11:00 A.M., the Board is invited; 2) the project for the track came in more than expected, about \$250,00 over; the project is \$1.3 million; 3) the District received about \$1,163,101 from the Abbeville School Improvement funds. The District is using some of the funds to make major renovations, since it could not be used for new buildings.

Bus Drivers Strike: Dr. Tobin reported 1) the District took some unprecedented action; 2) the bus drivers that participated in the strike abandoned their positions and were dismissed; 3) the Board has at their seats the sequence of the bus strike. Ms. Jennings asked where the District was in reference to certified teachers. At AFHS there are 2 ELA College Graduates who the District is trying to get into PACE and 1 Social Studies teacher at AFHS is a PACE candidate; AES 1 opening in 5th grade; the other positions have been filled with 8 certified retired, elementary teachers.

Dr. Tobin said the Governor is coming to visit the District on Friday, December 1, 2017 at around 11:00 A.M. They have been visiting schools around the State to see how they can improve conditions in the schools and what are the schools needs. They want to talk about operations and needs of the schools.

Ms. Jennings will provide a list of people in Allendale who are college graduates, who may be possible PACE candidates.

Ms. Russell moved that the Board hear Public Comments at this time. Ms. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T. Hood, student said her issue was not having Honors and AP Classes this helps with GPA. In reference to learning, not too much is going on. They barely have teachers, especially her Chemistry class, it is hard to understand the teacher. She has a book and teach herself. All students who get in trouble should be disciplined, not certain students. Uniforms, yes they wear them, but they are not tucked in, no ID badges. Students are disrespectful to teachers. She would like the bell to ring on time. She has a job afterschool.

Ms. S. Akin, parent: 1) asked about the MOA between the Board and SDE; 2) the questions addressed to the Board at the Community Forum, the Board had no answers because they were not being informed; 3) Dr. Tobin said they would abide by the MOA; 4) the announcement on the phone call about the buses – are they all up and running; 5) the test results were not available at the Parent Forum; 6) her Senior is ready to dropout because there is so much drama and chaos in the school system. She has a 6 year old that was choked on the bus and the issue was not addressed; 7) there is a lot of division between the SDE and the school district.

Ms. Tenia Creech: 1) she is for change for the students; 2) there is division between the Board and SDE, she read the MOA; 3) the Board has said at several meetings they are not being informed; 4) where can they find the role of the SDE and the Board; 5) once the SDE leaves, how will the District move forward with programs and other things in a positive manner; 6) what is being done about conditions in the high school.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Friday, December 1, 2017 – Governor Henry McMaster in the District

Monday, December 18, 2017 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting

December 20, 2017 thru January 1, 2018 Christmas Break

January 2, 2018 – Staff Return and January 3, 2018 – Students Return

Make-Up Days – February 16, 2018 and April 9, 2018

Ms. Jennings said when the State took over in 1999 she worked in District and they worked well with the Interim Superintendent at that time. It was not perfect with the State. The State is to stay in the District until November 2018, that does not mean they will not stay longer. She does not believe the SDE knows what is in the MOA. But they can work with the State and Interim Superintendent, but must put forth the effort.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Jenkins moved to go into Executive Session at 8:03 P.M. for the MOA and Legal Briefing. Ms. Russell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION/ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION: Secretary Jennings reported no action was taken on the items discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was Adjourned at 9:17 P.M.