

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

**MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 27, 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 – September 27, 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:** Charlie Cave  
Timothy Hall, Vice Chair  
Cheryl Mole, Secretary  
Willie Priester  
Alexis Zeidan, Chair

**FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:** Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent  
Dr. Terrance Alridge, Executive Dir. Student Services  
Charles Harney, Executive Director Operations  
Kedra Rivers, Personnel Director  
Kevin Robinson, Finance Director  
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Zeidan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Mr. Hall.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Ms. Mole moved to amend the Agenda omitting item #8 because it is a contractual matter to be discussed at a later date. Under item #11 add Clean Sweep Award. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Ingar Ferguson, parent said she was concerned about the Scholars Program at AFMS. Her son was omitted from the list. She spoke with different people and was given the run around. She started with the elementary school where he came from and the teacher said she turned the paper work in and the District Office said the paper work was not turned in. Ms. Ferguson said she

spoke with the Middle School counselor who said she did not know what was going on. She spoke with Ms. Cooler and the principal, who directed her to the District Office. Her calls to the District Office were not returned and when they were she was got attitude. She was told her son only made it for one session. Give her son what is due him. She spoke with the Superintendent and told him she spoke with Ms. Cheryl, because her vote helped her get in the seat. The Superintendent asked her why did she go to a Board Member because all they do is sitting around and meet. Dr. Alridge did let her sit and vent her frustrations to him. She requested the criteria for her child getting into the class over a month ago and is just getting a letter stating why. But it is still not addressing the issue. What she was suppose to do as a parent she did and what her son was suppose to do as a child he did. At Open House the teachers were asking her why her child was not in the class, he has the grades and behavior. She talked with Mr. Ennis who is not here tonight. He said he guaranteed that if it was his child they would have been in the program because he is the Town Administrator. If anyone on the Board had a child or grandchild they would have been in the class. If her child was a bad child they would have made a way for him to get in the Alternative School. She said Dr. McClain stated it was not an accelerated class because our kids don't make the score. If your child does the right thing, stand by your child.

Chairperson Zeidan asked that the Superintendent look into the issue and come up with an answer for this family and other families. Ms. Mole asked Dr. McClain what criteria or selection process was based on for each child to be in the program. Dr. McClain said the selection criteria for this program are similar to the criteria for the Gifted and Talented Program. The Board approved this program prior to his coming. The Board set a ceiling of 20 children per class. This program is not funded under the regular Gifted and Talented Program because our children at this juncture do not score at the level that the District would be reimbursed. The District established a Scholars Program with the intentions of building a Gifted and Talented Program. The overriding criteria because we only have 20 slots and all of the children were invited were extended an invitation. First come, first served was the overriding criteria.

Chairperson Zeidan said the Board did not decide this because they moved children from FES to AES. They moved them down there to start to the Scholars Program. She remembers them as not having a cut off number or that the Board said there was a cut off number because they were looking at growing the program. So you cannot put a cut off number because you cannot say how many will meet or not meet that criteria. She said Dr. McClain said there are 5 students on the waiting list including this child. She asked him to incorporate those 5 children into this program because by them starting the Scholars Program they are looking for all children who qualified for the program to be in the program.

Dr. McClain said in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade there are 27 children that qualified for the program. Chairperson Zeidan asked of the 27 how many are in the program. Dr. McClain said 19 elected to go into the program. Parents decide if they will or will not place their children in the program. Third grade 28 students qualified but 17 elected to go into the program. Fourth grade 26 qualified and 18 elected to go in the program. Fifth grade 27 qualified and 19 elected to go into the program. Sixth grade 26 qualified and 20 are currently in the program. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade math 26 qualified but

20 are in the program. About 40 students made the score but are not in the program. Mr. Priester said this is just being brought to this Board. He is not sure how many of the other Board members have been privy to hearing this prior to this meeting. But it would be to their advantage to have the entire Board talk over this issue. He does not know if there is going to be a resolution at this point when some are familiar with what has occurred. You can enroll one student but it still will not resolve the issues.

Chairperson Zeidan asked the Board if they would like to have another executive session tonight or have a called meeting. Ms. Mole made a motion to continue executive session after the meeting to discuss this problem. Mr. Cave seconded.

Mr. Cave said they need to recognize that the community, parents and staff may think of the Board as the directors of education of ACS. He would like to clarify this by saying the reason for choosing recommendations is because they understand education means the key to success. The key to success is not left to the Board, but to choose leaders and educators to take them where they need to go. We must trust the leaders who are in the position. When the leaders get out of order we must change the tire. When they are out of order and it comes to the Board as a recommendation, they must act on the recommendation.

Ms. Mole said they have a parent who has a concern because their child was in the Scholars Program last year. The Board needs to address why this child is not in the program. Was she given due process of having the opportunity to place the child in the program? The motion was approved by acclamation to go into executive session to discuss the Scholars Program.

Mr. Jerry Hoover said he wanted to discuss some things about contracts but does not want any answers. He was doing some work yesterday and talking with a young lady and was not pleased with what she told him. This young lady is a supervisor in the lunchroom and was telling him about her pay. She is a supervisor and not making \$10.00 per hour. Think about this. She is not bringing home every two weeks \$300+ dollars. Board members make \$600 every month. Think about these people when you draw up your budget. This woman makes \$580 every two weeks and insurance must be taken out. Please look into this. People want to live a decent life. Someone will get on the Board and look into it and be concerned about the workers. Whoever is over the supervisor is making \$25,000-\$35,000. It's not fair. Look into this and give these people a good fair salary.

Ms. April Hightower said she is a concerned parent and her problem is at AES. She likes to be able to visit her children's school and volunteer in their class or any class. She talked with Ms. Mole, Mr. Everett and Dr. Alridge and she did a volunteer sheet. If it is a problem to volunteer at the school she would like to withdraw her child from that school.

Ms. Regina Harley, a parent wanted to know about the 504 plans and IEP plan. Her son is not special needs but he has problems catching up in class. What is the qualification for the program? Ms. Harley said she was in the wrong meeting. Dr. McClain asked her to talk with the child's principal.

Ms. Mole said to let Ms. Hightower know that her question will be answered when they discuss Item #11 in reference to the Volunteer Application Procedure Handbook.

## **APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD**

**Mr. Bill Robinson – contractual matter:** this item was removed from the Agenda because it is a contractual matter. It will be discussed at a later date.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SCSBA 09-10 Boardmanship Institute Recognition:** Dr. McClain said each year the SCSBA conducts school board training. As board members attend these sessions they are recognized at different levels based on the training received. Board Member Mr. Timothy Hall has reached Level 3 and Ms. Alexis Zeidan, Board Chair reached Level 4. They were presented with pins and certificates from the SCSBA. Dr. McClain said he appreciates their service and what they do.

### **SCSBA 2010 Certification of Delegates for Delegate Assembly**

Chairperson Zeidan asked if any Board Member wishes to be a delegate at the Assembly. Mr. Priester said they may want to revisit this item because delegate certification is for any items brought forward to the floor. Each county has a specific number of persons who are able to vote. The District only has 1 delegate and larger districts may have multiple votes. He said they should have their District represented as part of this, but he is not sure of the deadline. Chairperson Zeidan said how many delegates' districts have is based on population and Mr. Hightower is the representative. Mr. Priester said this is something else. This is to vote at the December meeting on issues brought forward and changes and regulations. Chairperson Zeidan said these are changes to the constitution for the SCSBA. Mr. Hall asked who is attending the December meeting. Mr. Priester said they have until November 15<sup>th</sup> to return the form. The Board tabled this item until the October meeting. Mr. Priester and Mr. Hall are registered to attend the December meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

**Discipline Reports:** Dr. Alridge said the reports are in the Board packets. Mr. Priester asked in general and not specific to one report, in the past they discussed the PBIS program. Do we see the efforts in PBIS are helping in the schools? Dr. Alridge said last year in looking in Educator Handbook, it shows a decrease in the number of referrals at each school. At the high school the program is very effective.

Dr. McClain said he was in a meeting this afternoon and they talked about PBIS at FES. The reduction in the number of referrals was at 300 but now it is down to around 80. If FES is an indication of the impact PBIS is having on the school it is having a positive effect. Mr. Priester said when you look at outcomes, one of the positive things they could have for each school is have a graph showing last school year and this school year. And when PBIS was instituted this is where we are and where we have moved since PBIS. Ms. Mole commended all the principals and their staff on a job well done. Last year this time they had high levels of discipline referrals. Keep up the good work.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

### **Action**

**Allendale First Steps Endowed Scholarships Funding Opportunity** – Ms. Fitts, Chairperson spoke on behalf of Ms. Hall and First Steps. Ms. Fitts said they are in contract with the School District to provide childcare services for some of the high school students. There is an opportunity for some funding and Ms. Hall talked with Dr. McClain about this. The grant is there to support Little New Steps in their efforts to provide more childcare services to children and teen moms in our District. The numbers are up and they are asking initially for \$25,000 and First Steps will match this money. Whatever the school can provide from the State level they will match the funds. The funds will be used for teen mothers. With all the budget cuts across the board they do not have enough funds to address this. Information was included in the Board packets. First Steps must submit this ASAP the deadline is fast approaching. Little New Steps was a model school, they had NAEYC Accreditation. They have a contract with the District to reimburse the District for paying upfront for a Parent Educator. She asked that they please allow Dr. McClain to proceed with what they need by tomorrow. Mr. Priester said this program is important, but his question is the number of students. Is the District aware of the number of students willing to participate? Ms. Fitts said some of the parents were contacting them about the program. They need and want the program. Mr. Hall asked what is the ratio from 0-2 year olds teacher per student. Ms. Fitts said she is not sure about the ratio. But these funds may allow her to have an additional person. Ms. Mole asked if the program will pay for Little New Steps to have an additional person or just the mothers. Ms. Fitts said it will pay the childcare services for that particular young parent which in turn would be placed in their budget but would go back as a reimbursement to the school District. Mr. Priester asked is the scholarship amount what is in the proposal, amount per child. Ms. Fitts said yes, this is what she is talking about. Chairperson Zeidan said they are estimating or asking \$25,000, which would give you \$75,000. But will that be enough to incorporate all the children you are looking at here. Ms. Fitts said she was not sure, but it was based on the need they currently have. Chairperson Zeidan said the \$75,000 would hire the extra personnel. Ms. Fitts said she believe it would. They need to get the grant information in ASAP. She will leave the information for signatures with the School Board tonight. This item will be further discussed in executive session.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – SCSBA Criminal Checks – Policy GBEBDA** – Ms. Mole moved to accept the second reading. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**Code-of-Conduct Handbook:** Dr. McClain said this was provided to the Board as information last month. He asked the Board to approve the Code of Conduct handbook. Mr. Priester said he did not get his edits in. But he has a few questions of things the Board needs to agree fully on before it is accepted. He said they could make this part of the information at the Board Retreat.

**Volunteer Application Procedures Handbook:** Dr. Alridge said they looked at what the law said and came up with what they are proposing. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading so please ask any questions or share any concerns you may have. Chairperson Zeidan said the National Sex Offender Register, when they are pressed to offer contracts to teachers, how long would it take for this to come back. Ms. Rivers said with teachers go thru FBI checks thru the SDE if there is anything like this the SDE will not grant teachers a certificate. Everyone must go thru this same process. They get the results immediately once they get date of birth, SS#, etc.

**Clean Sweep Award** – Mr. Harney presented the first award of the year to the 301 Campus – AFLC.

### **Discussion**

**SIG Grant Update** – Ms. Kennedy gave a summary of where the District is with the SIG Grant. Information was included in the Board packets. On page 4: 1) detailed description of activities and component; 2) the transformation model selected by AFMS and FES is Success-for-All (SFA); AES is not listed in the SIG grant but they are part of the program. But they were added so everyone could be on the same page and moving in the same direction; 3) SFA consultants have visited the District several times; 4) they have help unpack material, trained staff and assisted with testing for regrouping; 5) schools were involved in the first phrase which is known as “Getting Along Together” or GAT; 6) GAT is taught in homeroom classes for 90 minutes at the elementary schools and 60 minutes at the middle school level and 7) AFMS is working with Pearson Learning to build capacity with teachers as instructional leaders. Chairperson Zeidan asked if parents will be invited in to see the program. Ms. Kennedy said this is required in the grant to have community oriented schools.

**Review on Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA)** – Ms. Jamison said information was included in the Board packets. This is an annual review of the Internet Safety Policy as well as the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA is a Federal Law enacted by Congress to address concerns about access to explicit context over the internet on schools and library computers. This is required for all districts receiving E-Rate and the District is 90% E-Rate. Other Acts highlighted were: 1) Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act and 2) Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. Filtering is a technology that allows them to block access to visual depictions that are deemed obscene or harmful to minors. This is required on all computers in the District. Filtering for adult internet use can be unblocked for bona fide research. Some things teachers may need access to for educational purposes we allow them to unblock that filter. The District use “Lightspeed Total Traffic Control Filer” which is being updated to Version 8. They have created student log-ins at AFMS and AFHS to help with accountability. Faronics Insight Software is used so the teacher in a lab or library can see every student’s computer at their workstation. This helps to monitor where students are going when they are online. The District also has an Acceptable Use Policy to promote the educational

pursuits of ACS. Mr. Hall said on the monitoring technology the District is using Farnocis Insight Software and it allow or disallows a website, but if student “a” logs in and try to go to a website that is blocked will it record this to student “a”, “b” or “c”. Ms. Jamison said Lightspeed will show the website the student tried to log on to. Because the District is using generic login accounts, she cannot tell which student tried to access that information. This is why they are implementing the student login so when they get the report back they can work with the student on what is appropriate and what is not. Chairperson Zeidan said they were at a conference and spoke with a technology person who told them they had put in what they thought was a good system and before the end of the day students came in and they let them work on the system to see if they could get pass the blocks. Within 5 minutes the students had gotten pass every block that was put on the computer.

**PERSONNEL REPORT:** Dr. McClain said Personnel had nothing to report. Ms. Mole asked if every position was filled. Dr. McClain said not all positions were filled. Ms. Rivers said the District is working with Teachers-Teachers.com, CERRA and Palmetto Priority Schools to fill the Biology position. With the passing of Mr. Salley the Building Construction position is open. She has given Mr. Youmans at the high school a candidate to see if they are still interested in the position. Ms. Mole said with long-term subs is the District trying to find candidates for these positions also. Ms. Rivers said no teaching positions have long term subs. But some teachers are out on medical leave and will be back soon. The subs in the class are not certified teachers.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – Finance Director Mr. Robinson reported on the Budget Update – September 2010.** Information was included in Board packets. He highlighted: 1) due to budget reductions last year many salaries that would have been paid for in the general fund had to be paid for from some of the special revenue funds this year in order to maintain these positions. He estimates about \$900,000 salaries and benefits funded thru State grant funds would have been in general funds if not for the budget cut; 2) supplies, travel and professional development will see a reduction because of these cuts; 3) significant reduction in State carry over funds the District would normally have at the beginning of the year are using carryover funds to fund these positions; 4) next year the District will lose about \$1.1 million in stimulus funds thus they are looking at budget cuts next year for expenditures. The Administration will be reviewing the budget for State and Federal funds to look at what initiatives may have to be suspended during the year. Chairperson Zeidan said her understanding is they have enough residual funds to fund everyone for this year. Mr. Robinson said they do have enough, however, the lost of the stimulus funds and the impact this will have next year. The intent is not to be in such dire straits next year. Any money they can save this year will potentially save positions for next year. Chairperson Zeidan asked if they formulated a plan of what programs the District definitely need to keep, what programs they need to eliminate. Mr. Robinson said he told Dr. McClain he would have a detailed plan of what they have total in revenues coming in and special revenue funds this year and an overview of what they will spend. This will give an idea of how much will be left over

and at this point they will sit down and discuss what things they can potentially do without during the year. Chairperson Zeidan asked if this could be ready for Board Retreat time. Mr. Robinson said he will have an overview. Mr. Priester asked if Mr. Robinson was saying he could have specific program costs so that in the event they are looking at staffing and prioritizing what is most important and what we could manage if we did not have. Mr. Robinson said yes they could have a prioritized list.

**Budget Change Report – August 1-31, 2010** – Mr. Robinson said most of the transfers done was to prevent any negative balances.

**Budget Report by Fund – August 1-31, 2010** – Mr. Robinson said on page 1 is the revenues for the month of August which is \$371,865. The year-to-date is \$753,037. Page 6 expenditures for the month of August are \$624,100 and year-to-date is \$874,910.

Ms. Mole said on the Budget Change Report to pay for changes to check software, what change is this. Mr. Robinson said the signature changes had to be paid for. One of the banks had to change account numbers on checks so this had to be paid for, for processing of payroll checks.

Chairperson Zeidan asked about the audit process. Mr. Robinson said the Auditors came in the month of August and will be back the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October to finish the work they started. They have a few more things to do to close out all the books for the year. The Report will be available by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. McClain said the Debate Team is scheduled to go to competition in North Carolina. He asked Principal Mr. Youmans to talk about this. Mr. Youmans said they need the Board's approval for out-of-state travel. They are working with Mr. Siren from USC-Salkehatchie. He wants to take the team to this competition. He will provide travel and funds are set aside for the Debate Team. He is excited about the caliber of students he is working with and is sure they can come away with some wins. Mr. Cave moved to approve this trip. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Meeting – on TV – Sept. 30, 2010 – 6:00-7:30 p.m. – AFMS Media Center**

**Board Retreat – October 9, 2010 – Time/Place TBA – will be held locally**

**Board Retreat – Draft Agenda – October 9, 2010**

**Executive Session:** At 8:40 p.m. Mr. Cave moved that the Board go into executive session. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.



**Open Session:** The Board returned to open session at 9:05 p.m. Sec. Mole stated no action was taken in executive session. Mrs. Mole made a motion to have Dr. McClain review the original proposal for the Scholars Program presented last year and report to the Board on the amount of students selected for each grade level. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.