

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

**MONDAY – OCTOBER 27, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.
FAIRFAX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – GYMNASIUM**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 27, 2014. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Search and Personnel. The Meeting was held at Fairfax Elementary School in the Gymnasium. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT Alonzo Frazier
 Terry Hall
 Willie Priester, Secretary (delayed due to an accident on Hwy. 301)
 Wilda J. Robinson, Chairperson
 Valaree Smith, Vice Chairperson (same as W. Priester above)

FROM THE SCSBA: Dr. Paul Krohne, Executive Director

FROM BOYKIN & DAVIS, LLC: Charles Boykin, Esq.

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Walter L. Tobin, Interim Superintendent
 Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
 Angela Grant, Director of Finance
 Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Robinson called the Meeting to order at 6:03 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 presented. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1: Mr. Frazier moved that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for the purposes of the Superintendent Search and Personnel. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

OPEN SESSION: Mr. Priester moved that the Board return to Open Session at 7:23 p.m. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all. Chairperson Robinson thanked the audience for their patience in waiting for the Board to return from Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting with the necessary corrections. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chairperson Robinson directed everyone's attention to the District's Mission Statement printed on the Board Agenda. She said this is our mission and guiding light.

BOARD REPORT – SCSBA Risky Business Conference: Mr. Frazier reported: 1) this was a very important conference that talked about the risks districts face; 2) districts need to look at inflatable houses for children, this is a big issue; 3) when districts have special events and an accident happens, who is liable. They suggested districts look at their insurance policy and make sure they are covered in case of these types of accidents. It would be the schools liability; 4) schools should sign-off on waivers so the school is not responsible; 5) risk of iPads and insurance for these and 6) one session talked about slip resistant shoes for employees.

Mr. Hall reported: 1) on October 2nd he attended the SC Public Education Partners Conference and one of the things discussed was how can communities attract and retain good teachers; 2) leadership and respect should be shown throughout the district; 3) have respect for students, teachers and staff and 4) a principal talked about mentoring first year teachers and giving them the support they need.

Ms. Smith reported: 1) one session talked about looking at the health of the workers or employees. If they are healthy they will come to work more often; 2) have exercise classes and monitor what you eat; 3) take ownership of what you eat to be in better health and 4) they talked about workers compensation, don't run away from it, but take care of the person first.

Mr. Priester reported: 1) one presenter had experienced what it was to lose a child to school violence. The most important thing he came away with was planning is very important; 2) make sure people know the truth; 3) practice in case an incident occurs; 4) we don't expect aggression or violence in a school, but these things happen; and 5) work with law enforcement before things happen and they can help carry out the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Robinson said the Board is pleased to have everyone at the meeting tonight. The Board Meeting is held in the public, but it is not a public meeting, but an opportunity for the public to participate.

PRESENTATIONS: Chairperson Robinson said 2 persons are leaving the Board, not running for re-election, Mr. Willie Priester and Ms. Valaree Smith. The Board would like to honor them for their commitment to education and dedication to the students of Allendale County Schools. Mr. Priester has served as Chairman of the Board for 3 years during his tenure. We thank him for his vision, love and commitment to the children. Ms. Smith has been on the Board for 4 years. If she has to make a decision she internalizes it, thanks for your concern for your fellowman and love for the children.

Fairfax Elementary School Presentation: Chairperson Robinson thanked Ms. Green and FES for hosting the Board and thanked her staff for their hospitality and making them feel welcome. Mr. Moses presented the FES Ensemble and said the group includes grades 2-6 and they performed the "*Best Days of our Life.*"

GOOD NEWS

Allendale Elementary School – SC Commission Arts Grant: Mr. Moses, Music Teacher said at the beginning of the school year Ms. Leath asked him to write a grant. He had never written a grant before. He started thinking because he wanted to expose the students to a wider variety of interests. At Fairfax Elementary they have a small set of guitars. The grant will allow them to purchase ukuleles, which are small guitars. The grant is for 5th and 6th graders. They will be able to purchase 26 ukuleles and recorders for all the 4th graders at AES. They are getting students ready for the spring concert. Ms. Leath said the grant is from the SC Arts Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Report: Mr. Hall said he wants to ensure that discipline is being done fairly and everyone is treated the same, regardless of the gender. For example, some girls were fighting and got 10 days and some males fighting got only 3 days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

AFMS/AFHS SDE Waiver Approved: Dr. Tobin said see the information is in the packets. The Department of Education approved the consolidation of Allendale-Fairfax Middle and Allendale-Fairfax High Schools to have one administrator on campus. Mr. Hemby will be responsible for the entire campus with 2 assistant principals on campus.

Greenhouse Demolition and Replacement: Dr. Tobin said this project will go through Maintenance to be completed.

Vocational Sign: Dr. Tobin said the falling down sign has been replaced. He talked with Ms. Hall about this, Maintenance removed the old sign and a more appealing sign will be added.

1-to-1 Limitless Learning Distribution: Dr. Tobin said in July the District received word from the SDE that they will be offering funding for this initiative. The Board met and approved the grant and on July 25th the grant was submitted. A digital device will be provided for all 7th graders; STEMs Engineer Labs, one of these STEM Lab is at AFMS. The plan is for one to be at the lower level for 9th and 10th graders and one for 8th graders. And students come away with certification and a portfolio. Gateway to Technology is a Pre-Engineering program at AFMS and what Ms. Farmer is teaching is meshing with the STEM Lab. We have invited Dr. Couch, former Director of the CATE Program who is operating one of the top 10 schools in the country delivering technology for students. Various partners have been invited to help set-up the STEM Labs. The District will provide an iPad for every 7-12 grader. There is a full curriculum for Math and Science. Allendale is the only school in the State to receive a grant from Apple which will provide our students with a world class education.

Technology: Ms. Jamison, Director reported 1) the iPad roll out plan; 2) the SDE Device Pilot Grant is for every middle and high school student to have access to the curriculum without regard to the student's home internet access capabilities; 3) they will be coming back and asking us how we are doing and we want to show them that we are

good stewards with the funds; 4) 580 devices, we do not have this number of students at the high school; 5) students will receive an iPad Air 2 which was announced a week ago. The iPads have 64 gigs of memory; the cost is \$440,000; 6) the grant allows 60 devices for teachers, MacBook Air and the new iPad Air 2 and the AppleCare; 7) Apple representatives have been coming down and working with a team of staff; 8) the 3-year lease is at a 0% interest rate, fixed cost will occur every year, hold some funds back and build some equity; the lease has a \$1 dollar buyout plan; can continue to use the iPads in the District or get a credit after 3 years and get a discount towards the new system; 9) the District's down payment is \$110,000; 10) see the handout at the table tonight, this is just a summary. Ms. Jamison said she would like to order the equipment as early as next week because she is concerned about the Christmas rush and having the equipment by December 1st. The actual rollout will not occur until January 3rd and January 5th in the same style as the Back-to-School Bash; 11) milestone dates for community meetings; sheriffs; community groups; pawn shops; and training for parents; 12) continued staff development for this project; 13) there is a backlog request at AFMS on the iPads purchased last year; 14) continued iPad training for teachers so on January 6th when students return teachers will be ready; 15) technology usage fees to cover accidental. The District is asking the Board to approve a \$50 usage fee for parents. When it is paid in full, iPads will be distributed to students; would like to have a payment plan for \$10 per week; this would be an annual fee; 16) the buildings must be ready for the iPads usage, wireless survey and have a map to show where wireless access points can be; 17) included in the proposal is a draft of a "Report to the People" to communicate our goals, strategies and lesson plans for the public. Ms. Smith asked about the \$50 for every child, for example if a parent had 5 children. Dr. Tobin said the price may be reduced, but we will work out something. Maybe some entity in the community will support this because it is so valuable. Mr. Hall said leasing the iPads and charging \$50 annually for 3 years, a child pays for 3 years and there are no incidents to the iPads where does the \$150 go and do we have a Policy to cover the iPads. What is the \$50 for? Dr. Tobin said it will cost more than \$50 to fix an iPad. If the Board says turn the money over to the students then we will. The lease means that you don't have to distribute the money all the time. Chairperson Robinson said if there is no breakage and it is returned in good working order return the \$50 or give them some credit towards the next year. Look at this a little further and come back with a revised plan. Ms. Smith said in some districts students don't get the \$50 back. It is just like insurance, even if you don't have it, when you have an accident you are glad you have it. Mr. Priester said give the Board an opportunity to choose from multiple opinions, if there is no damage, then next year the parent does not have to pay. It is an incentive for students to take care of the iPad. Mr. Frazier asked if the iPads were going to be used at home. Dr. Tobin said yes. Mr. Frazier said in rural areas they do not have internet services. Is the District going to assist with this? Ms. Jamison said they are looking at a Learning Management System. Dr. Tobin said they can carry some of these funds over. Funds do not have to be spent all at once. The loss of Scott Flowers was great. This caused so many other people to step up. Mr. Frazier asked where the money is coming from to finance the iPads. Dr. Tobin said the Board met in July and approved the SDE Grant. The SDE first said the District was getting \$150,000, but the District is looking to get another \$900,000 this week. So the money is coming from the State. The District is getting almost \$1 million dollars. Mr. Frazier said the

Board needs the information in writing. In many cases they are told things and they are not in writing so we can go back. Ms. Smith said if they approved this tonight, it will not be ordered until the money comes in. (This is the Limitless Learning). Chairperson Robinson asked for a motion to approve this project as presented with the procedures for the usage fee be tweaked and brought back to the Board. Mr. Priester moved to accept the recommendations with the adjustments as indicated. Ms. Smith seconded. Ms. Smith said but not until the funds are in our hands can the District order the iPads. Mr. Frazier said since the information on parents paying \$50 is not clear, wait to make the final decisions. Chairperson Robinson said the District wants to order the equipment. Mr. Priester said time is of the essence. If the money came tomorrow we would have to wait until another Board Meeting. Mr. Frazier said we are talking about a roll-out in January. Chairperson Robinson said there are a number of steps in the rollout. Be in a ready state to order the equipment and not get held up in the Christmas rush. Ms. Grant, Finance Director said she has a copy of the email from the SDE, Ms. Jinnette stating when the funds will be received in the District. Mr. Frazier said he wants parents and everyone to be responsible, can the grant partially fund the \$50 that is going to the parents. Ms. Smith asked for the total cost of this project. Dr. Tobin said the grant includes Professional Development, STEM Engineering Labs and the curriculum to be placed on the iPads. The Lab at AFMS was about \$80,000-\$90,000. Ms. Smith asked why lease when the District has the funds. Dr. Tobin said Apple recommends leasing to sustain the program. Mr. Frazier said the conversation would not be needed if the information was in writing. He does not disagree with the Grant. He wants to see the schools get it. Labs coming out of the grant, this did not come up until the superintendent started talking. Chairperson Robinson said the information is in the grant. The motion was approved by Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester and Ms. Smith. Mr. Hall and Mr. Frazier opposed. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2.

USDA Grant Award: Dr. Tobin said the District received this grant. Information is in the Board's packets.

Federal Promise Zone Grant: Dr. Tobin said Senator Clyburn wants to include Allendale in this grant. Chairperson Robinson wrote a grant and the District did not get it because Allendale is not a Promised Zone. This is being developed at this point and could have a great impact on Allendale and the surrounding communities. There are no Promise Zones in the Southeast. But the District will be proceeding with this.

ESEA Grades: Dr. Tobin said 1 school maintained and 2 schools grades declined. The High School went from an F to a C. The District is appealing the grade for AES because two students were not tested. Ms. Smith suggested doing a "want ad" because students know where student are when adults do not. Dr. Tobin said the student's in question ID numbers were lost. Mr. Hall asked for the District's last 4 years of ESEA Grades to see how it is going up and down.

Emergency Management Meeting: Dr. Tobin said Emergency Management wants each County to prepare a Crisis Management Plan just in case Ebola comes to the area. He will be meeting with the school nurses on this subject.

MOA Allendale County Recreation Department – FYI: Dr. Tobin said this is in the packets. The last MOA was agreed to in 2010. Chairperson Robinson asked for this to be updated.

Teachers Presentation: Fairfax Elementary School Teachers Ms. Maitland and Ms. Moncheck using their iPads demonstrated: 1) students can email their work; 2) iBooks (math equations on the other side) 3) BrainPop uses animation to help students learn; 4) students can research for example who they choose to study for Black History Month; 5) students can take notes – this is like an encyclopedia for students; 6) some of the students' families do not speak English. They can talk into the iPad and it will translate from English/Spanish, etc.; 7) Ms. Priester, AFMS Teacher said the iPad helps students with their writing skills. She uses this as a warm-up activity for students; 8) she can monitor the student's progress and see what they are doing; 10) the Kahoot app is used for review. Students can play before they take the test. It is a great review tool. If students don't get the correct answers, it lets her know what she needs to go back and teach; 11) look at where or how the students learn best. Some may learn best with iPads and others iPhones.

APPROVALS

Blue Ribbon Schools – Mr. Bart Teal, President: 1) proposal, what can they do to help create an epicenter of learning; invite the Steel Drum Band to Disney World for the 2014 Blueprint for Educational Excellence Conference; 2) starting at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow he will start raising money for this trip. Students will stay in the finest hotel in Disney and students and teachers will have an opportunity to participate in Disney's Leadership Institute. We want to get everyone excited about what will be happening in Allendale; 3) there are 9 critical performance areas in the Blueprint for Excellence. One of them is building a culture where students believe they can learn and teachers believe they can teach; 4) must support students; active teaching and learning; 5) transformation schools in SC where he has worked include Greeleyville Elementary, Mitchell Road Elementary and Bates Middle School and 6) this will be a template for other people to come and see what Allendale is doing to turn education around. Mr. Frazier said he heard the presentation last week and was impressed. What Mr. Teal talked about tonight does not cover half of the information. He asked Mr. Teal to talk about raising funds. He is meeting with United Funds and AT&T who are interested in helping. He will also be meeting with Senators Hutto and Pinckney. And he will ask the Lutheran churches in South Carolina for donations, the local businesses to help out are have the children work on something to earn money. The Federal Promise Zone seems very lucrative. But the Board will get a huge effort out of him. Mr. Teal said he met Mr. Hall at the SC for Public Education Meeting. Mr. Frazier said for the sake of discussion he would like to make a motion that the District enter into agreement with the Blue Ribbon Schools to proceed with the process. Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Frazier said one of the big things he looks at in the whole process is that it will give our children an opportunity to explore. He could feel how good the children felt when they made the presentation before the SCSBA and having the Steel Band play at Disney World and some of what he has not said is that this investment can go further. Ms. Smith said this is a learning process and the students will be performing. Mr. Teal said yes, the classroom is the theme park, Epcot, Magic

Kingdom with Disney doing the teaching. And then they will have a project to do in their home community. We are looking at about 20 students, teachers and chaperones. They are working on getting a bus. Ms. Smith said if you don't come up with funding for the trip, are you asking the Board to contribute to this. Mr. Teal said if they don't come up with the funding, they will be asking the Board for help, but feels strongly that they can come up with the funds. His life has been devoted to children. Chairperson Robinson said Board Member Frazier, Dr. Tobin and Mr. Moses went to a summit with Mr. Teal and around the table were people from large corporations who wanted to work with Allendale County Schools. She was amazed at the excitement that they wanted to help. Mr. Teal has been a pioneer in this and he will get the money. It will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase our children and help transform the community. Mr. Frazier said when they were in Columbia the cost came up to about \$30,000. Mr. Teal said the cost is about \$900 per child and more for adults. Children would be 2-4 per room, 20 kids could be \$20,000 and the cost goes up with teachers invited. Mr. Frazier said we had a number of employees who went to the Meeting with Mr. Teal in Columbia and asked them to make their comments on this if possible. Ms. Smith said it was nothing on the presentation, but she does not want to make promises to children and the trip comes up short. Chairperson Robinson said Congressman Clyburn said he wants to do some things for Allendale.

Ms. Leath said it would be a golden opportunity for the children to go to Disney World, perform and get leadership skills is excellent. Ms. O'Banner said seeing Best Practices would unify what the District is currently doing. The motion was approved by all.

Architect Project Report, Mr. Lawrence, Brownstone: reported they are 1) working on the bus routes to be reorganized according to State standards; and Phase 1 will be closed out in November; 2) Phase 1A is the upgrade for the High/Middle School fire alarms; 3) see handout – work will start over the Christmas Holidays for the High School renovations in the cafeteria and lobby areas; 4) Phase 2 the Elementary School renovations will start in January 2015; 5) Phase 3 the Primary School, they are working on fencing, settlement, erosion, and soil sampling for the building foundation; 6) the septic tank is currently located at the Dental facilities where they are parking the cars; a plan is in place to relocate the septic system near the fence line of the District Office and combine both systems; 7) the fire alarm plan is being submitted; 8) select doors will be on an electric locking system; 9) upgrades to the cafeteria and lobby – envision making the space a bit more inviting and working on how to recapture the student seating area in the high school lobby and implementing the technology – looking at IT lounge; 10) they are not doing anything to the cafeteria flooring, just painting and new furniture. The furniture has been selected by the staff. Mr. Hall asked about the serving lines. Mr. Lawrence said renovations will be done to the general seating area. Furniture has to be selected based on the budgeted funds. Mr. Lawrence said in Phase 2 upgrades to the Elementary School the only change is ISS is now in the lower part of the gymnasium. Mold and mildew are in the band room because of roofing problems recurring. Pepco is to get all the final costs for the repair work by the end of next week and 1 of 5 contractors will be awarded. The areas for 1, 2, 3rd grades will get some updates, other areas not so much because it was updated a few years back. The standing water by the band room they are working on this; 10) Phase 3 is the Primary School; 11) leave the Dental Clinic

where it is. Give them a new parking lot. It will cost too much to move the building and then not know what you will find once the building is moved; 12) cars and buses must be separated as required by the Office of School Facilities. The SC Dept. of Transportation must approve the routing plan. Mr. Hall asked if the Plans have been approved by the Office of School Facilities. Mr. Lawrence said it is in the process. Chairperson Robinson asked about enhancing the curb appeal of the Dental Clinic. Mr. Lawrence said put all the dollars in the Primary School and do a facelift to the Dental Clinic, maybe just a color change. Mr. Frazier said the Board will be hiring a superintendent. Bring the new superintendent on and give them a chance to have some additional input. Chairperson Robinson said they will look at this in Executive Session. Ms. Smith asked for a picture of how the final design of the school will look. Mr. Lawrence said not at this time, the elementary school work and lobby work does not require OSF approval. This is more Maintenance work and adding drain lines and the space in the cafeteria and lobby. Mr. Frazier asked about the sewage lines in Gifford, Fairfax and Allendale. Do we need a septic tank or have a conversation with the 3 towns and tap into this line? Mr. Lawrence said this would be a lift station, sewage runs at a 4% slop and it needs to flow. This would hurt because of the infrastructure that would have to be put in place. Have this conversation with the Towns and not let it be a school project is his recommendation. This is not mandated by the Office of School Facilities.

Chairperson Robinson said she inquired about the money for the Track Project and Rep. Hosey stated that the Chairman of the Highways and Repairs Committee called him and said the \$150,000 is appropriated and this may be for just one phase. For Phases 3 and 4 they will look at getting more money to finish up the project. The \$150,000 is for Phase I the practice track. Phases 2-4 are for the field house, dressing rooms and other amenities. Then ending phase of the development will be for walking trails and other amenities the community can come in and utilize. They will continue working with Rep. Hosey for the funds.

Mr. Lawrence said he will have the design plans by Friday. He asked the Board to specially ask for what they want to see and he can give the appropriate plans. The Board said they do not need plans for the Monday Special Called Meeting.

Facilities Use Request: Mr. Frazier said at the Risky Business Conference, he wants to caution the Board if an undesirable group wants to come in and the Board has set protocol, we cannot deny that group. Also they talked about safety, when people use our Facilities without risk insurance, the risk falls back on Allendale County Schools. Rethink of the Policy. Mr. Hall said check with the insurance company to see if these people are covered or do they have their own insurance. Ms. Smith said you do not want to start something, if it was a one-time event, but not a weekly event. She does not to start an every Sunday event. Mr. Hall moved to table the request for further information. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved.

Field Trip Request – STEM Atlanta, GA: Mr. Frazier asked about the cost to students. Chairperson Robinson said it would not cost anything. Transportation will be provided by

the Challenge to Achieve Plan. Mr. Hall moved to approve the trip. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Act 155 – Student High School Diploma Petitions: Dr. Tobin said 20 petitions were received. Mr. Priester moved to approve the request. Mr. Frazier seconded. The motion was approved by all.

AFHS Sign Replacement: Mr. Hemby, Principal AFMS/AFHS gave a handout to the Board. Currently they can only advertise events for the High School, but he would like to be able to advertise for the Middle School also. Information and cost for the signs are included in the handout. He would like to target certain businesses in the areas to make annual donations and have the business names on the school marquees. Mr. Hall asked where the signs are coming from. Dr. Tobin said advertisement on the signs. Most of the current signs have been donated. Chairperson Robinson asked for a motion to allow Mr. Hemby to proceed to ask for funds. Mr. Priester moved to give permission to solicit funds for the Middle and High Schools. The motion died, no second given. Mr. Priester said he does not want it to come up in the next meeting that Mr. Hemby did not have the authority to solicit funds. The motion failed. The consensus of the Board was that Mr. Hemby did not need the permission of the Board to solicit funds.

Christmas Bonus: Mr. Frazier moved to give a \$25 gift certificate to all employees. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by all.

PERSONNEL: No report tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ms. Grant, Director of Finance said the information was in the Board packets, the Operating Statements thru the month of September and 2 budget changes to the General Fund. Guidance travel was moved into supplies, which was \$150.00. Mr. Hall asked about the Operating Fund Balance. He would like to see this as an official document from CSI.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA Annual Conference – February 19-22, 2015 – Myrtle Beach (Hotel & Registration Opens November 14, 2014)

Ms. Smith thanked the teachers and staff for all that they have done. She loves everyone and will continue to work in the community. Keep the Board Meetings to 2 hours in the future so everyone gets a fair chance.

Mr. Priester said thanks so very much to everyone for his years of service. Thanks to the Board for the spirited discussions and thanks to the constituents for voting for him for 14 years. Thanks to the teachers and administrators for all you do every day. He grew up here and is very proud of Allendale and wish everyone the very best.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2: Mr. Priester moved that the Board go into a brief Executive Session at 10:36 p.m. to wrap-up the Superintendent Search and Personnel.

Mr. Frazier seconded. Chairperson Robinson, Mr. Priester, Ms. Smith and Mr. Frazier approved the motion. Mr. Hall opposed. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

OPEN SESSION: Please provide

ADJOURNMENT: Please provide