

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

**MONDAY – JULY 26, 2010
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The **Regular Monthly Meeting** of the Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees was held on **Monday, July 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: Charlie Cave
Willie Priester
Alexis Zeidan, Chair

ABSENT: Timothy Hall, Vice Chair
Cheryl Mole, Secretary

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

FROM THE BOYKIN LAW FIRM: Charles Boykin
Reagan Flemming

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Zeidan called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Mr. Cave.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Priester moved to amend the agenda to include – before Public Comments #7 Parks and Recreation Presentation and the numbers will change thereafter. Mr. Cave seconded. Mr. Priester changed the motion adding #7 Parks and Recreation; #8 Presentation by Dr. Townsend, President of Denmark Tech and #9 Approval of H4838. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Priester moved to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2010, Regular Monthly Board Meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mr. Tim Bennett, County Administrator said the last direction was the School Board Attorney would present a paper that would meet the needs of the School Board and the County and be in compliance with the Parks and Recreation development grant regulations. He is not sure what the procedures are for tonight. Chairperson Zeidan said they thought the County would be doing a presentation. Mr. Bennett said they made a presentation 3 weeks ago and they were waiting on direction from the District's attorney. He said his hope is tonight to reach a joint use agreement between the County and School Board to use PARD funds to build a concession stand, restrooms and storage at the FES ball field. The joint use agreement is required by the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) grants process. Funds allocated to the County must be spent and the project on the ground by October 31st there is a sense of urgency – he would like to walk away with a decision tonight. If the Board does not want to join the County in this endeavor they will just move forward. Chairperson Zeidan said they met with her and Mr. Hall and she said they wanted the matter to come before the Board and it was just the two of them and she wanted the entire Board to decide. Mr. Bennett said he was aware of this – and he knows a decision needs to come from the Board tonight. Mr. Priester said there appears to be an urgency to complete the project – has this been in the making for sometime – or were they contacted after the approval of the grant. Mr. Bennett said they had about \$70,000 to \$80,000 Parks and Recreation Development Funds allocated to them from 2008-2011 some was spent on the Educational Trail on Hwy. 301 and some talked about using as seed money for the track at AFHS and some being used for other projects that County Council had in mind. Two people actively pushed for this 3 months ago – County Council Member Carl Gooding and Marvin Love from Fairfax Town Council. Mr. Gooding mentioned to get moving on this and this was his marching orders – so that is what he did. They want to make this happen for the kids. Attorney Boykin said to Mr. Bennett they were asked by their client to look into the matter and deal with the issue of land lease to apply for the grant. They asked the County for the information but they did not receive it. Under the Freedom of Information Act they did contact the Parks and Recreation Dept. and were told that no application was submitted for the project in question. Mr. Bennett said they have provided the Firm with the documents as well as the direct phone number to PARC to talk with them and they have provided everything they needed to provide to make this happens. Mr. Boykin said they may have given them all that they have – but not what is required or requested. Recreation is out of the scope of what school districts do. If school districts commit its resources for that purpose it needs to have the flexibility so it can pull it back for educational purposes. Chairperson Zeidan said she asked the County for a list of things pertaining to the field and the concession stand – whose responsibility would it be – would the District be required to pay for the water, electricity and items like that for over 20 years. If people wanted something else added who would be responsible for that. You were going to take the information to the District Office, but when I spoke with Dr. McClain he did not have it. Mr. Bennett said they talked with the School's attorney and they have provided a sufficient amount of material and information for the Board to say thumbs up or down. Chairperson Zeidan said they do not have enough information on their end to make a decision. Mr. Cave said they are

here to serve the people – not one or two – but the citizens of Allendale County. He feels there is a communications breakdown – it is too much to lose for the people. He is wondering if communications can be taken care to get the requested information and move forward. Something that is beneficial for the people of Allendale County – let’s not let one little thing turn them around. Communicate with the Attorney – he feels the Board will have no objections – having the information on paper – they represent the people and Recreation is part of them. Attorney Flemming said they asked for a completed application that was submitted to State Parks and Recreation for approval – they received a blank application. In talking with Lori Joyner and PARD she said one had not been completed and submitted for approval. But one was going to be submitted in conjunction with the Joint Use Agreement. Mr. Priester asked if the County had a draft in the development stages – a rough draft to prepare for a joint use agreement. Does this exist? Mr. Bennett said they were waiting on the School District to give them a thumb up – they were waiting on the joint use agreement to be signed. Chairperson Zeidan said they cannot agree to a joint lease until they know what they are agreeing on – they need this on paper and everything laid out. Chairperson Zeidan said they do not have specifics as to utility, water lines, insurance – would the County also be insuring the building – maintaining the field – the sand, grass – nothing was addressed. What the County and what the District will be responsible for during this 20 years agreement. Mr. Priester said if there is not an agreement tonight – are you saying everything is off the table. Mr. Bennett said the project must be completed by October 31st. Mr. Priester said every item in question – they need to review – if they were to give you a list of every item they need – who will pay for the water, who will pay for the lights, etc. – they can answer yes to some items and maybe no to others – it sounds like to him none of the questions have been answered. They are at an impasse – he is willing to review fairly quickly and look at the items and if they cannot come to a conclusion then they can write it off. Chairperson Zeidan said the list can be provided by tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Bennett said he would give them something back by Wednesday. Mr. Bennett said the 20 years - \$1,000 per year investment is this etched in stone at the State level. Attorney Boykin said school district funding in light of the cuts – is a sensitive matter. The question asked in regards to the School District providing operating funds is a very serious question.

DENMARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Dr. Michael Townsend, President said he is the 10th President of Denmark Tech College – (in the audience a commissioner on the Board Mr. Leon Harden) – quick updates about Denmark Tech: 1) they have a new phrase “Denmark Tech a new beginning where great things are happening”; 2) college established in 1947 with HBCU; 3) house about 368 students – about 95% of the students receive some form of financial aid – maybe federal funds or alumni funds; 4) 56 acres and about 17 dorms; 5) about 95% of the students are African American, 4% Caucasian and ages 18-25, 60% are female; 6) students are from around the world, California, New York, etc; 7) some programs are short term – 2 year college degree in accounting, nursing, plumbing, short term is for those wanting quick training – big on continuing education; 8) they have quite a few

partners – a new Campus in Allendale in Spring 2011 located next to the new Library in Allendale; 9) pipe welding, auto mechanical, industrial instruction will be offered at the next campus; 10) thanks to Dr. Alridge who was interim in Allendale at the time – he worked with them to provide articulation agreements for AFHS. Offering dual credit opportunity – when they graduate in June they will have some college credit under their belt. The college operates on an \$8.5 million dollar budget – some of these resources are from tuition dollars and funding from the State Board of Education and grants. If you know any student who graduated this past June – and major in Science Technology, Engineering or Math – that student can receive a free ride. Help them grow the STEM Academy. Board members received a copy of Denmark Tech Campus Update – July 2010/August 2010 newsletter. Mr. Cave said they appreciate Dr. Townsend coming tonight to speak with them.

APPROVE HOUSE BILL H4838: Mr. Priester moved to approve item #1 teacher supply – funding will be available to teachers for supplies. #2 recommends it is their intent not to provide step increases as indicated in H4838 to teachers and/or administrators. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. Mr. Priester said when Finance Director Robinson makes his Financial presentations it would be in everyone’s best interest that he makes some remarks about why this is being approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

School Improvement Grant (SIG-Update) – Dr. McClain said the elementary and middle schools wrote a School Improvement Grant – states competed for these funds. SC was not chosen in the 1st round but was chosen in the 2nd round. To ensure that we understand what this grant is asking and what they have committed to do he asked Ms. Kennedy to reiterate some points in the grant they must comply with to implement the grant. They have been awarded \$2.7 million over a 3 year period. In the last week they have looked at the feasibility and possibility of providing these same experiences in the other elementary school.

Ms. Kennedy said 1) the program addresses teacher effectiveness – accountability this will play a major part; 2) teacher modeling – consultants will come in and present workshops to help teachers become better and more efficient and effective teachers; 3) additional funding to increase professional development; 4) school leader effectiveness – teacher teams, flex scheduling - extending the school day – schools can restructure; 5) extended learning and teacher planning time and community oriented schools; 6) Success for All foundation connects the staff, students and teachers to reach one common goal and that is student achievement; 8) staff will be trained in PowerPoint instructional strategy in reading and math; 9) school wide approach to classroom management; 10) focus on leadership, curriculum assessment, effective grouping practices and tutoring struggling students; 11) teachers must be able to take the student to the next level and this is student achievement and is mandatory; 12) thru this professional

development the teacher behavior should change drastically – and should see in student achievement. The components of the grant are: 1) developing and increasing teacher and leader effectiveness – using the SAFE-T Evaluation; 2) signing bonus for teachers who meet specific criteria – a retention incentive; 3) hiring academic interventionists; 4) increasing learning time and creating community oriented schools – 90 minutes reading time at FES and 60 minutes at AFMS; 5) providing operational flexibility and sustained support – staffing, budgeting and transparency. Pearson Learning consultants will be assisting them at AFMS. With Title I funds were able to bring AES on board with Success for All.

ACS Charter School Proposal Refutation: Dr. McClain said this proposal was completed a few weeks ago as of today the charter school application has been denied at this juncture at the State Charter School District. However, the writer of the grant has an appeal process – tonight this is information that the District may use at some point to continue to fight this initiative.

High Schools That Work (HSTW) – Mr. Brockington, Principal presented a handout on HSTW. He said they went to several workshops this summer dealing with HSTW and the initiative – this is the model of how a high school should be run. Outlined: 1) the 10 guiding principles – these create an atmosphere of challenge and success for all students; 2) high expectations – motivate more students to meet high expectations; 3) program of study – each student must complete an upgraded academic core and a concentration; 4) academic studies – teaches more students the essential concepts of college preparatory curriculum. Nine students went to the college summit at the College of Charleston – all of the students loved the program – they got firsthand knowledge of what college would be like; 5) career/technical studies – new program metronics – using robots in technology program. The new CATE director – one of her initiatives is to get students to enroll more in the vocational courses; 6) work-based learning – stresses looking at increasing dual enrollment; 7) teachers working together; 8) students actively engaged – they want to look at bringing back the culinary arts program or shooting instructional videos; 9) guidance – involve students and their parents in the guidance and advisement system that develops positive relationships; 10) extra help – using PLATO, virtual schools and credit recovery; 11) culture of continuous improvement. We are in a data driven society and these tools must be used to measure growth. It is not just about teaching, teaching and no growth, but moving the students forwarded. Their slogan is “Working collaboratively, sprinting side by side to achieve excellence at AFHS.”

Summer Cleaning – Mr. Harney said good programs are important and so are clean buildings. They are in great shape – all classrooms will be ready by August 19th. They do the Clean Sweep Award – but he wanted to recognize one school that is so much ahead. And that school would be Allendale-Fairfax Middle School.

Chairperson Zeidan and Board Members presented to Dr. Alridge a plaque for his dedication for coming in and taking over and coming and sphere heading the programs they heard about tonight. Mr. Priester said thank you for the dedication you have shown.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

APPROVALS

General Obligation Bond Resolution – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said in the packet was a Resolution requesting the Board approval for 2010-2011 not to exceed \$250,000 used to address facilities needs in the District. Approval of the Resolution will not result in an increase in millage – it will stay the same as last year. Last year the District borrowed \$220,000 with the issuance of General Obligation Bond – paid back in March 2010 – this is similar. The Resolution has been reviewed by the McNair Law Firm who serves as legal counsel for SCAGO. Mr. Priester asked how the bond was paid back last year – which funds. Mr. Robinson said the bond was paid back by the Debt Millage Issuance of local tax. Mr. Priester moved to approve the Bond Resolution for the fund not to exceed \$250,000. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation

Bank Signature Changes: Mr. Robinson asked for authorization to change the signatures from Dr. Alridge to Dr. McClain – for accounts at Allendale county Bank, Palmetto State Bank and the County Treasurer Account. Mr. Cave moved to accept the recommendation. Mr. Priester seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation

Budget Changes Report – June 1-30, 2010 – Mr. Robinson said these changes reflect changes necessary to get rid of all the negative balances and adjust the accounts in the General Fund. Mr. Robinson said before the auditors return there are a few more entries that need to be made and close out the year. They are not ready to turn things over to the auditor – they are still receiving bills from last year – the bulk of the work has been done – may be sometimes in August – they will start working next week on preliminary work that needs to be done.

Resolution H4838 – Mr. Robinson said the Board just approved this earlier – due to the funding crisis in the State – several measures for financial flexibility for school district. 1) teacher supplies funds - \$275 for supplies from the State and the option continue provide the State funds to teachers or to not pay funds to teacher and use to help with overall expenditures in the District; 2) teachers would not receive a step increase – historically they received this increase as part of their regular salary each year for years of experience – but due to the crisis within the State financially – this was an option provided to districts – if districts did not give the step increase – they would be required to give no district administrators a salary increase – retain the same salary in 2009-2010 – only increase was teachers going from one degree to another.

Budget Report by Function – June 1-30, 2010 – Mr. Robinson said this is not the final report – expecting some additional revenue from the County – once they receive this it will be added to the report. Some expenditures are still coming in. Revenues for the month is \$439,211,000 and year-to-date revenue is \$11,962,473. Expenditures summarized by function – see page 6 - \$1,799,951 and year-to-date is \$11,888,826.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Personnel Recommendations – Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director said the District is still in the process of recruiting and advertising. She asked for a motion of approval on the recommendations discussed in executive session. Mr. Priester moved to accept the recommendations made by the administration. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Staff Planning Retreat – July 27-29, 2010 – Dr. McClain asked Board Members to drop in – they will be making “*Soup*” – we are reading this as a school district. The book talks about things that you knew – but help to refocus – builds a culture within an organization. They will deal with this and some of the proposals you heard tonight.

Thursday, August 12, 2010 – New Teacher Orientation

August 13-18, 2010 – Professional Development Days – Dr. McClain said because of the SIG grant elementary and middle school teachers are asked to return early for training – August 10

Thursday, August 19, 2010 – First Day for Students

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

Back to school bash – August 14 at AFHS football field from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.