

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

**MONDAY – APRIL 18, 2011 – 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, April 18, 2011. At 6:00 p.m. the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. 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, Vice Chairman
Terry Hall
Cheryl Mole
Willie Priester, Chairman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

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

OPEN SESSION: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Mr. Cave.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Smith moved to amend the Agenda adding to item #12 under Superintendent's Office approval of senior trip. Item #16 will be executive session and item #17 is Adjournment. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2011 Regular Monthly Meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

GOOD NEWS

JROTC – Adopt-A-Highway – Dr. McClain said this group has won the Adopt-A-Highway Group of the year for Allendale County. A certificate was presented to Cadet Sgt. Major Jasmine Fields.

Clean Sweep Award: Mr. Harney presented the Clean Sweep Award for the month to Allendale Elementary School. Principal Leath accepted on the school's behalf.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Priester said remarks made during public comments are limited to 3 minutes, names must not be called and a response to public comments will be in writing from the Superintendent at a later date.

Teacher Ms. Lena Green read a letter on behalf of the teachers at Allendale Elementary School. *A copy of the letter is on file with the Board Minutes.*

Ms. Gina Altman said she is the parent of children that attend Hampton School District 1. They live in Allendale County but pay tuition for the children to go to Hampton 1. Their children have been there since pre-k and it is their desire for them to stay there. They have been told that they need a letter releasing the children from Allendale County Schools.

The Myrick's said they are also asking for a release for their daughter.

Ms. Angela Holland said she is requesting the same thing and she has put her request in writing and submitted it to the Superintendent's Office.

BOARD REPORT – NSBA CONFERENCE – SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Ms. Mole said former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke at the conference and gave a good presentation on children and don't count them out. Even if these children are doing the least, look at every child and don't judge them because they are doing the least. She said do your best as teachers and administrators to pull them up to a higher level.

Ms. Smith said she: 1) went to Wes Moore's session. He wrote a book about expectations and living up to your expectations. He said we sometimes judge children on the home they come from. Instead of judging them have high expectations for children; 2) another session focused on don't let students off the hook – if they don't turn a report in – giving them a 0 is easy – hold them accountable; 3) as board members partnership is important – we need one another. Mr. Hall showed us the way in California – teamwork is important.

Mr. Hall said the theme of the conference was *“Bring A Brighter Future Home”* and he attended sessions that talked about student achievement, technology and climate in the schools. However what stood out to him was: 1) one session on student achievement a school in Kentucky – the board and principals came out with guidelines on how to evaluate teachers to have successful students. Everything was still failing and they had an idea of letting the students evaluate the teachers. Within a year the school system was turned around and made AYP. Sometimes we

must go to the students to find out if a teacher is teaching; 2) a district out in Texas changed the requirements for graduation. Everyone who walked across the stage had to get a diploma and in the past few years the graduation rate went up 100%; 3) a district out of Texas went paperless and they saved over \$100,000 going paperless. The students had laptops and no paper went home to parents.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Discipline Reports: Chairman Priester said there has been no discussion on this item for a while. How is PBIS working this year as compared to last year? Dr. Alridge said PBIS is in all the schools and is up and running. There is no data available on this today but we will give you information in the future. Principal Leath, AES said PBIS is working at her school. For a small percentage of students PBIS is not working. These students are not concerned about Tiger Bucks or going to the PBIS store. But we are trying to come up with something that will work for that group of students. As the year goes on PBIS has less of an effect. We have talked about some of the prizes – may have to beef this up – we did a survey of students and asked what they would like to see in the PBIS store. We will try to get some of the items the students want to see in the PBIS store. Principal Fludd, AFMS said as the year goes on PBIS lose some of its value. We have been creative with the celebrations. We remind students that to participate they must earn Tiger Bucks.

APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD

Alternative World Inc., Facility Use – Mr. Andrae Walker said: 1) the purpose of the program is athletic or basketball; 2) many of the students are very talented in playing basketball and they try out for the school team and some do not make it; 3) physical fitness and health is also part of the program; 4) there is a high level of hypertension in the community because of a general lack of exercise; 5) community interaction {dealing with common issues in the various counties}; 6) giving out information at each game – from the schools or board; 7) in the future bringing a cultural center to the community and 8) players eligibility – about 60 people in the community are interested in playing but only 15 players per team. Students must maintain a B average and adults must have positive behaviors on and off the court. There have been some worries that this program will take away from the school's athletic programs, but this program is for students who don't make the middle or high school teams. Chairman Priester asked how this program will operate in conjunction with the County Recreation Dept. Mr. Walker said if they can work independently with each other he is open to that. Chairman Priester asked who will bear the responsibility for security; custodial services and utilities? Mr. Walker said he talked with the high school and they said the District may have to provide the security. He may be able to go to the local law enforcement and get some kind of agreement with them. He will bear the responsibility for cleaning up and utilities he is not sure who will bear the responsibility. They may be able to work out something with the school on the utilities.

Mr. Hall asked what time of year will the program take place – the middle and high school have their basketball programs. Mr. Walker said it will not be the same as the schools – it will be during the end of the schools program. Mr. Hall asked about liability – the students getting hurt – does your organization offer some type of insurance or who would be responsible for this. Mr. Walker said his cousin has a non-profit group and they could provide the liability for insurance. He also has forms typed up stating those in the program would have to come at their own risk. Chairman Priester said this item would be taken under consideration.

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

APPROVALS

Student Release Requests: Dr. Alridge said the information was in the Board packets – 4 letters from the families requesting student release to attend school in other district. Chairman Priester asked that the Board be allowed to review the information before they made a decision. Mr. Cave moved to accept the recommendation to review the information. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

2011-2015 – District Strategic Plan: Dr. McClain said addition information must be added to the Strategic Plan before it is presented to the SDE. Presenting the Plan are Ms. Camille Nairn; Ms. Kay Gooding and Mr. DeWayne Ennis. Ms. Patricia Jenkins had an emergency at work. Ms. Nairn presented the executive summary stating: 1) Dr. Mitchell pulled them together in October 2010 and they started looking at what they were going to do; 2) everything done was based on student achievement, teacher quality and good school climate; 3) the strategies will support what is needed in all schools; 4) we met in January and March 2011; 5) Dr. Stuckey was the outside person who came and guided us through the process; 6) the 2 main strategies are: a) develop and implement a plan for communication and public relation to build trust with all stakeholders; b) develop and implement a District-wide process for the evaluation of all program effectiveness. Mr. Ennis presented the demographics and said Allendale County is an: 1) extremely rural community with few public services and little access to technology; 2) costly to serve and economically challenged; 3) difficulty recruiting and retaining highly qualified teacher; 4) meeting academic performance standards and maintain parent/community involvement; 5) the student body is made up of 1,405 African Americans, 3 Hispanics, 3 Asians and 39 White students; 6) the County is challenged by poverty and lack of employment and families traveling miles away to work on a daily basis and 7) the County continues to be hit hard by the diminishing economy.

Ms. Gooding presented the mission and parameters: 1) “The mission of Allendale County School District is to provide the highest quality education for all students by implementing best practices in all area”; 2) the parameters are – we will always make decisions in the best interest of students; we will not tolerate disrespect on the part of anyone and we will always strive for open and honest communication. Dr. McClain asked the Board to approve the Strategic Plan understanding that improvements will be made to the Plan. Mr. Hall moved to approve the 2011-

2015 District Strategic Plan with the amendments as they come forth. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all. Dr. McClain thanked the people that came to present the Plan tonight.

PowerSchool Parent Portal – Ms. Jamison, Director of Technology: the information was included in the Board packets. The presentation is for information only and was presented at Parent University. PowerSchool is: 1) a web based student information system; 2) demographic information; 3) attendance; 4) grades; 5) discipline; 6) test and 7) scheduling. Parents can receive information such as: 1) real-time grades; 2) attendance; 3) comments; 4) scores and 5) alert notifications. After the presentation Mr. Hall asked how is the word getting out for parents to sign up for PowerSchool Parent Portal. Ms. Jamison said the next session is scheduled for April 21st at FES and on May 5th at AFMS for parents to come out and receive information and we can help them with log-ins and do some hands-on. A call will be made on the School Messenger System to inform parents of upcoming sessions. Ms. Smith asked what if some parents cannot attend the planned session. Is there another option for them to receive training? Ms. Jamison said some of these sessions may be done over the summer are at PTO or PTA meetings.

2011-2012 District Calendar: Mr. Everett said he and the District Calendar Committee is seeking approval for the calendar. Mr. Hall asked about spring break the 1st week in April and coming back going into HSAP. Would it be feasible to have spring break after HSAP testing? Dr. McClain said there was an effort to do that this year and spring break ended up coming at the end of April. Mr. Everett said in developing the calendar we had teachers from all schools and we had spring break the week after Easter and the high school had a concern about this being right before HSAP testing. The high school and others suggested having spring break the 1st week in April. The complaint was like this year, spring break would be too late in the month. Mr. Cave moved to approve the calendar. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

District Closing – July 4-8, 2011: Dr. McClain said we are asking for the opportunity to do this to provide one week of vacation for everyone. Rather than spreading two weeks across the summer – this is an effort to have access to people during the summer months. Mr. Hall asked are these paid days, how will this affect 240 and 220 days employees. Dr. McClain said these are vacation days. Mr. Hall asked about people who don't have vacation days. Ms. Mole asked if it had to be the whole week, maybe take a few days. Dr. McClain said when he came to the District last year – they had teachers to hire and people were on vacation. We had a week to get so much done in a short time. Ms. Mole asked to table this item for further discussion and information. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF SENIOR TRIP: Principal Youmans said they are requesting out-of-state travel for the senior trip – April 28 to May 1 – 46 students will be attending and they have 4 chaperones for the trips. One is an SRO Officer who will also provide security. The trip is to

Florida for grad night. Ms. Smith asked that they increase the number of chaperones (add 1) for the trip. Mr. Youmans said they will have to find the funds to do this. Ms. Mole moved to approve the trip providing they have more chaperones. Ms. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by all. Mr. Youmans asked if they cannot find an additional chaperone is the trip canceled. They would have to come up with an additional \$414 for the trip. Dr. McClain will make sure this happens.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Budget Changes Report – April 1-30, 2011 – Mr. Robinson, Finance Director said listed in this report are all the transfers of funds in the general funds. This is for information only.

Budget Report by Function – April 1-30, 2011 – Mr. Robinson said the 1st page is a schedule of all revenues. Revenues for the month are \$727,248 and year-to-date is \$6,762,171. The following 6 pages are summarized reports of expenditures for the general fund for the month of March. Page 6 current expenditures are \$1,113,944 and year-to-date \$7,631,158. The following pages are the detailed report of the expenditures by function and account numbers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA School Law Conference – Charleston, SC – August 13-14, 2011

Executive Session: the Board went into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss contracts and personnel.

Open Session: the Board returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the MOA with Inspiring Growth Counseling Services, LLC. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith moved to remove the item tabled at the last Board Meeting concerning the salary schedule. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the salary schedule for administrators for the upcoming school year. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the resignation of MC with the following condition “be available upon request throughout the duration of the current signed contract.” Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Smith moved to accept the contracts for Certified and Administrative staff. Ms. Mole seconded. Mr. Hall recused himself. The motion was approved by all other Board members.

Ms. Smith moved to deny the request of letters numbering 1, 2, 3 and 4 for transferring students to another school district. Ms. Mole seconded. The motion was approved by all.

No action was taken on the request from Mr. Walker. The Board will table and revisit this item later.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.