



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room

Thursday, April 10, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the April 10, 2025 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

Declaration of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-809d, as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: Morning News, Lake City Shopper, WBTW, WPDE, & WMBF. This agenda is also posted on the Florence County School District Three website.

Roll Call by Board Secretary: Ms. Rebecca Yates reported that all board members were in attendance, except Jason Kirby.

Moment of Silence: Dr. Hickson requested prayers for all FSD3 students, staff, and families. We observed a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Hickson led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Public Participation: Jaime Daniels representing Educational Foundation of Lower Florence County to talk about the accelerator-reading lab.

Board Chair Report: Ms. Mattie Thomas shared experience of visiting two Career Centers in Columbia. Lexington and Fairfield County's. She also spoke of the visit to the Capitol on May 9th alongside with other board members who also went. Ms. Julia Mims stated she had a great day at the Capitol. She met with representatives. No Senators. She noted there are many challenges in the future.

Request to attend meeting: Let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña.

Superintendent's Report: –*Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Instructional Updates– *Mary Howard Ed. S., Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Curriculum*

Ms. Howard reviewed the Board Goals for all school sites. Including reviewing the Spring 24 to Spring 25 ELA & Math MAP statistics. Summer Extended Learning Opportunities for Primary and Secondary students are getting ready. Ms. Howard went over the program goals for these camps that will be held this summer. We applauded in celebration for FSD3 Celebrated Assistant Principal Week. Lastly, she went over the upcoming events. April 11th is Interims, April 14-18th is Spring Break, April 21st is PD Day for Staff- No students and on April 22, 2025 Students return to class.

Operation Update – *Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer*

Ms. Kasey went over the new policies – 2nd readings:

*JBAC – Comprehensive Health Education Program compliance – link was given for more information.

*JLCG – Seizure Safe Schools – link was given for more information.

Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of JBAC and JLCG as presented. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve as presented passed 8-0.

Strategic Plan Goals- Ms. Feagin thoroughly reviewed the Strategic Plan Goals 2021-22 thru 2025-26. Slide presentation with all 11 goals is on our website.

Mr. Ned Blake, Ed. S., went over the Impediment to Implementation Waiver for strategic plan for board approval. Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of JBAC and JLCG as presented. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve as presented passed 8-0.

Dr. Yvonne Commadore & Mrs. Linda Hair read the FSD3 Policy Section K revised and new policies recommendations and submitted for board approval.

** Section K Revised Policies read KA, KB, KBE, KCA, KCD, KD, KDB, KDC, KDDA, KE, KF, KHC, KHE, KI, KJ, KLG, & KLGA - Ms. Paula Morris made the motion to approve the recommendation of policies KA, KB, KBE, KCA, KCD, KD, KDB, KDC, KDDA, KE, KF, KHC, KHE, KI, KJ, KLG, & KLGA as presented. Ms. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve as presented passed 8-0.

**Section K New Policies 1st Reading of KBB, KC, KDCB, KDD, KEC, KFA, & KFD – Ms. Ruth Frieson made the motion to approve the 1st reading of policies KBB, KC, KDCB, KDD, KEC, KFA, & KFD as presented. Ms. Rebecca Yate provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

**Section K Policy Title Change -1st Reading - Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the 1st reading of Section K Policy Title Change as presented. Ms. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Mr. Brian Huckabee read the FSD3 Policy Section L – Revised policy recommendation and submitted for board approval

**Section L Revised Policies LA & LDA - Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the recommendation of policies LA & LDA as presented. Ms. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Section L New Policies LBA & LH 1st Reading - Ms. Paula Morris made the motion to approve the recommendation of policies LBA & LH as presented. Ms. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Section L Deletion Policies – MA & MFB and Delete Section M - Ms. Paula Morris made the motion to approve the recommendation for deletion of policies MA & MFB as presented. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Section L Policy Title Change - Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Title Change Approval of section L as presented. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

All policy details are on the Florence School District 3 website.

Finance Update – Hope Gibson, Finance Director

April 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and district goals. Ms. Hope presented the March 2025 financial updates. She went through the PowerPoint of the General fund reports, which are posted on our website and is linked to the board agenda online. She reviewed the board approved balance of the general fund budget \$34,142,053. The board approved use of fund balance was \$2,414,000.00 for 24-25 general fund balance, \$1,506,000.00 of the use of fund balance for fy 24-25 & \$163,891.00 for fy 23-24 the band instrument, repair & supplies. The board approved general fund is \$38,225,944.00. No questions asked by board. Ms. Hope Gibson continued to go over the dates for 2025-2026 school year's General Budget Approval Process. The Timeline for 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Process was shared with the board as follows: Thursday, March 20, 2025 1st Reading of PROPOSED Budget; Thursday, April 10, 2025 1st Public Hearing @ 5:00 pm; Thursday, May 15, 2025 2nd Reading; Friday, May 16, 2025 2nd Public Hearing @ 12:00 pm; Thursday, June 19, 2025 FINAL Reading.

Human Resources Updates: – Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources

Ms. Scott began her presentation with the Future Teacher College Signing Day Invitation on May 1st at the FSD3 Boardroom. She reviewed the certified vacancies- tentative for 2025-2026. Ms. Scott presented the board with contract recommendations that needed board approval. She reviewed the different contracts and levels of those contracts. Induction, Annual and Continuing Contracts. The board will discuss in executive session.

Other Legislative and District Updates – Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent

Dr. Hickson shared that our Teachers of the Year were recognized at the state house on Thursday April 3rd, 2025. She did give the Legislative updates. Bill H.3247, the amended Bill H.3196 – The Educator Assistance Act. Increase for teachers and bus drivers. More updates were provided about the progress in the upgrades to our school sites. She also invited the board to Dual Enrollment graduation.

Enter into Executive Session – Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit regular session to go into executive session to discuss student discipline or potential legal matters, and personnel matters (possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters. School-Level Administrators for 2025-2026 SY and Interim Superintendent discussion and receipt of legal advice. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 8-0.

Exit Executive Session – Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to exit executive session and enter public session. Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit the executive session and enter back into public session passed 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – Ms. Scott's contract recommendations that needed board approval. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the certified contract recommendations as presented. Ms. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to have a called board meeting on April 21, 2025 at 6:00pm to discuss the interim Superintendent. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve passes 8-0.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

Date approved

Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

Rebecca Yates, Secretary