



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Jac'Kel Brown called the April 11, 2024 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

Roll Call: Secretary Rutha Frieson informed the Board Chair, Jac'Kel Brown, that board members Jac'Kel Brown, Rebecca Yates, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, Paula Morris, Julia Mims, Gloria Robinson, and Barbara Bryant were present. *Paula Morris* was not in attendance.

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. A moment of silence was observed after which Board Chair Brown led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the April 11, 2024 agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Rebecca Yates 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. This consent agenda contained the following items: minutes from the 3/21/2024 Board meeting, the Certified Personnel Report, and student transfer requests for SY 2024-2025.

Public Participation: No one signed up for public participation.

Board Chair Report

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Trustee, Julia Mims shared her attendance at the SCSBA 'A Day at the Capital'
2. Request to attend any Meetings – None.

Superintendent's Report

Finance Update – Hope Gibson, Finance Director

February Financials - The February financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2023-2024 current budget is the final approved amount of \$38,424,333.00. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function as of February 29, 2024.

Preliminary First Reading of the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget – Ms. Gibson went over the district goals for SY 2024-2025. She went through the 135 Average Daily Membership (ADM) Trend with a projected 2,654.24 ADM for 2024-2025, which is a decrease of 118. This budget is projected so this is just a proposed projected for this budget. Ms. Gibson explained the Education Funding Reform: Aid to Classrooms Program. Still in the House Ways and Means is Teacher Pay radical adjustment with different increases by degree and extends the years of experience from 23 to 28 years. Bus Drivers: 1.5% - Proviso

117.142 School Bus Driver salary and fringe funding to school districts shall be increased by one and a half percent. Step Increase for Teachers who have worked at least 152 days and classified employees who have worked at least 80% of their contract days. These are for salaries only, not on stipend scales. Health insurance Proviso 108.6 updates the State Health Plan to January 2025 and sets the employer premium increase at 11.8%. State Retirement figures are to be determined.

Local tax – Millage for 23/24 SY was 234.20 with a 0% population increase. The cap mill increase for 24-25 SY is 243.85. An increase of 9.65. Ms. Gibson also gave a millage history for operations, a chart of the surrounding Florence County millage rates for 23-24 SY, and a comparison example of the fair market value x assessment ratio x the millage rate with 23-24 and 24-25 millage rates. The final portion of this presentation, Ms. Gibson presented the preliminary SY 24-25 General Fund projected revenue of \$33,671,569. Please note no numbers have been determined yet from the state department.

In the event in the timeline for this budget process will be the 1st public hearing on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Gibson then presented the RFP for banking services. These bids were due back on 3/14/24 by 4:00 p.m. Only one bid came in from this RFP which is the current bank for FSD3, South State Bank. There was an evaluation team of 3 individuals, Ms. Gibson, Director of Finance, Dr. Hickson, Superintendent and Mr. Donnie Boland, FSD3 Financial Consultant. The bid was evaluated to give FSD3 the same services and no increased cost. This item will be brought back to the board in the April monthly meeting. Barbara Bryant made the motion to accept 1st reading of the SY 2024-2025 General Fund Budget. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 1st reading of the SY 2024-2025 general fund budget passed 8-0.

Policy Recommendations

The following policies were recommended for 2nd reading in section “I” (Instruction):

- IB ‘Academic Freedom’
- IC ‘School Year’
- ID ‘School Day’
- IE ‘Organization of Instruction’
- IGCA ‘Service Learning’
- IHAA ‘English/Reading/Writing/Language Arts Education’
- IHAB ‘Mathematics Education’
- IHAD ‘Science Education’
- IHAE ‘Physical Education’
- IHAF ‘Arts Education’
- IHAG ‘Music Education’
- IHAH ‘World Language Education’
- IHAJ ‘Computer/Technology Literacy’
- IHAK ‘Character Education’
- IHAO ‘Environmental Education’
- IHAP ‘Consumer Education’

- IHBH 'Charter Schools'
- IHC 'Proficiency-Based Credit Courses'
- IHCF 'Childcare Programs'
- IIA 'Grouping for Instruction'
- IJA 'comparability of Services'
- IJK 'Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption'
- IJKA 'Technology Resource Selection and Adoption'
- IKAB 'Report Cards/Progress Reports'
- IKACA 'Parent conferences'
- IKAD 'Grade Adjustments'
- IL 'Evaluation of Instructional Programs'
- IMG 'Animals in Schools'

Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve 1st reading of these policies in section "I" (Instruction). Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1st reading of policies IB, IC, ID, IE, IGCA, IHAA, IHAB, IHAD, IHAE, IHAF, IHAG, IHAH, IHAJ, IHAK, IHAO, IHAP, IHBH, IHC, IHCF, IIA, IJA, IJK, IJKA, IKAB, IKACA, IKAD, IL and IMG passed 8-0.

Human Resource Update – Mrs. Angelia Scott, Director of HR and Federal Programs

Mrs. Scott presented to board members the current vacancies for FSD3 SY 2024-2025 are as follows:

- ✓ 2 Early Childhood teacher positions
- ✓ 1 PE teacher position
- ✓ 1 School Counselor position
- ✓ 1 School Librarian position
- ✓ 1 Special Education teacher positions
- ✓ 1 Spanish teacher position
- ✓ 1 Music/Band teacher position
- ✓ 1 Psychologist position

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

School Report - Mrs. Howard's monthly updates began with a mid-year review of J. C. Lynch Elementary School and Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy. Principals T. J. Devine and Jami Kirby gave a detailed report of the progress their students are making in each of these schools as evident by the Fall and Winter growth scores. Each principal also shared what programs and/or procedures are working in their respective schools and what the next steps they will take to continue and improve in whatever areas are needed. J.C. Lynch Elementary is now a Lighthouse School.

Tutoring Update – Mrs. Tonyelle Thomas updated board members and those present for tonight's meeting about the FSD3 Tutoring Center. The Lake City site currently has 37 students from 7 of the district's schools. The Olanta site is currently serving 12 students. The Mathnasium opportunity is

currently serving 8 FSD3 students. Five of the students being served were at tonight's meeting to be recognized for a wonderful growth in points and percentiles. Mrs. Charlene Papel spoke to the board about what an amazing turnaround this opportunity has made for her child and her as a parent in having someone to help her understand how she can access and keep up with what is expected from her child in school. Khloe & Zoey Speights 3rd grade students from SESA spoke about how they have benefited from this opportunity. A statement from Eulon Kale's mother was also read about her experience with the tutoring center and her child.

In the Spotlight – The Social Emotional Counselors led students in a week of mindfulness and celebration of each other with guest speakers, activities, and even a parade to celebrate kindness and leadership.

National History Day (NHD) has come and gone. The Junior Pee Dee Competition, which was held on March 5, 2024. Students from SESA, OES and REMJH advanced to the state competition, which will be held on April 27, 2024 in Sumter SC. The Primary Pee Dee Competition was held on March 12, 2024. Students from LCECC, JCL, OES, MSE, and SESA all took home ribbons and medals for top projects placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

The JPT Academic Challenge Team has won the region and will travel to Winthrop College Friday, 3/22/2024 to compete in the state competition.

Upcoming Events – Reports cards were issued today, 3/21/2024; March 28th is SESA's Leadership Day beginning at 9 a.m.; April 1-8th is Spring Break; April 8th is a Professional Day for staff; April 8th will also begin 3K and 4K testing; and April 12th is MSE's Leadership Day.

Operational Updates – *Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer*

Mrs. Feagin shared with board meeting the upcoming testing dates:

- SC Alternate Assessment is March 11 - April 26 (this is for students with severe disabilities)
- Ready to Work Career Assessment (11th, 1st time taking this test, and 12th graders, these are students who are re-taking one or more parts, is March 25 – April 19

Policy JICFB 2nd reading - Mrs. Feagin presented 2nd reading of Policy JICFB, Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student). Paula Morris made the motion to accept 2nd reading of Policy JICFB. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2nd reading of Policy JICFB passed 8-0.

Legislative Updates – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson shared the following updates:

- ✓ 1.52 (SED: Graduation Rates) requires a detailed plan form districts with a graduation rate below 70 percent (was 60 percent) for increasing its graduation rates.
- ✓ 1.70 (SED: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) updates the state's Southeastern Average Teacher Salary from \$58,048 to \$59,866.
- ✓ 1.8 (SED: Retired Teacher Salary Negotiation) extends the ability of school districts to negotiate salaries for hiring retired teachers.

- ✓ 117.142 (GP: State Employee Compensation) stipulates that school bus driver salary and fringe funding to school districts is to be increased to provide a 1.5 percent pay raise to school bus drivers based on the state minimum school bus driver pay.
- ✓ 1.103 (SED: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) directs school districts to implement a policy prohibiting the use of cell phones or personal electronic communication devices (one not authorized for classroom use) by students during direct classroom instructional time.
- ✓ 1.104 (SED: District Accounting Systems and Best Practices) creates an 11-member study committee to examine and propose necessary revisions for improving district accounting systems and best practices.
- ✓ 1.108 (Chapter Schools in Poverty) provides charter schools with an additional \$1,000 per pupil if the school has a poverty index of 75% or above and a state report card rating of good or excellent.

SC Home School Enrollment Survey

Dr. Hickson shared the report FSD3 has to complete about how many students in our district are under the auspices of Home School Associations. By January 13th of each year, all associations shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school Districts. (SC Code of Law 59-65-40, 59-65-45 and 59-65-47). Home School Association have to report #s but NOT any names

SY 2023-2024 Board Meeting Dates

The approved board meeting date is April 11, 2024 thinking that artfields would be the 3rd week of April, however, it actually the next week. On the FSD3 Parent Calendar is mistakenly listed as the 18th of April. Does the board want to go ahead and keep the board meeting date on the 11th? Consensus from the board was yes to keeping the April 11, 2024 board date.

Enter into Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to enter 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). Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 8-0.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – No action was needed from the executive session

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Mattie Thomas 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

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary