



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting*

*Minutes*

*Location: FSD3 Board Room*

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**Thursday, April 14, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Rutha Frieson, Almeta Fleming, Paula Morris, Gloria Robinson, Jason Kirby, Mattie Thomas and Jac'Kel Brown was in attendance via telephone.

**Absent:** None.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the April 14, 2022 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order. 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 Bryant led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented passed 9-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Almeta Fleming made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda as presented passed 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: March 17, 2022 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report, and Student Transfer Requests.

**Public Participation:** There were no requests for public participation.

## **Board Chair Report**

- 1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended –Board Chair Barbara Bryant mentioned the following events she participated/attended: the all-staff meeting on 3/27/2022, the Super Salute to Seniors on 3/25/2022, the SEL Parenting Series on 3/26/2022, the Star Gala on 4/7/2022, the Easter Egg Hunt at Scranton Town Park hosted by Board Trustee Jac'Kel Brown, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Budget Hearing held earlier this afternoon. Board Trustee Rutha Frieson participated in the 3/26/2022 zoom SEL Parenting Series. On 3/30/2022 she visited Main Street Elementary and the Panther Academy. She also attended the Reading Under the Lights session. Board Chair Barbara Bryant cautioned board members when visiting schools to make sure to not ask questions of or evaluating staff.*
- 2. Request to Attend Any Meetings – Several board members will be attending the April 18-22, 2022 Magnet School Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Several board members will also be attending the April 27, 2022 SCSBA 'A Day at the Capitol'.*

**Staff Reports****Finance Update** – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

*March Financials* - The March financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2022-2023 current budget is the final approved amount of \$29,900,845. \$573,497 and \$376,503 were amounts approved use of fund balance for Employee appreciation/retention bonus and Band, Chorus, Athletics and Potential Housing, respectively. This brings the total amount to \$30,850,845. The General Fund budget was also shown by Object Code.

The 1st Public Hearing of the 2022-2023 General Fund budget was held at 5 p.m. this afternoon.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing of the 2022-2023 General Fund budget will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this budget will be held at the May 19, 2022 Board meeting.

**Human Resources Update** – *Angelia Scott, HR & Federal Programs Director*

The district is required to give certified employees written notice of the status of the contract being offered for the forth-coming year. The three types of contracts are 1) induction, 2) Annual, and 3) Continuing. Therefore, Mrs. Scott presented to board members the 2022-2023 Certified Contract recommendations for approval. Almeta Fleming made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 Certified Contract recommendations as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 2022-2023 Certified Contract recommendations passed 9-0.

**Instruction Update** – *Mary Howard, Elementary & Early Childhood Director*

Mrs. Howard began her report with the spring data updates by reviewing the fall to spring data. Schools are working on individual students' glows and grows, especially in math, preparing for state testing.

*Camp Power Up* – Summer learning begins Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and ends Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Within these three weeks are 12 programs within the district for students to participate in as well as several off-site summer enrichment camps. These include, but are not limited to, a 4K camp, Read to succeed, Community Grant-Innovative Literacy camp, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs at LCECC, MSE, OMS, JPT and REM, Extended School Year, Middle School Promotion, SEL camps (integrated), Credit recovery and initial credit for high school, Gifted and Talented Arts camps, and culinary Arts camps (Young Chef Academy & JR Chef Academy Powering Up with Chef Tasha Mac).

*Expanded Learning Opportunities* – There will also be a multitude of other learning opportunities available including JCL's Enrichment STEAM Summer Camps.

All of these summer opportunities are on social media with signup instructions.

*In the Spotlight* – FSD3 celebrated Assistant Principal Week! All of the FSD3 Assistant Principals are a vital part of our family.

**Upcoming events:**

Spring Break April 15-22nd

Registration for SY 2022-2023

JCL Leadership Day on April 28 beginning at 9 a.m.

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

**COVID 19 cases update** - A summary of cases in April as well as a breakdown of cases by schools was presented to board members and those present for tonight's meeting. 0% of district or school staff tested positive and 0% were quarantined due to exposure/contact in since April 1st. 0% of students tested positive and 0% of students were quarantined due to exposure/contact since April 1st.

**State Assessments:** The following state assessments will be given as stated:

- ✓ WorkKeys – March 21-April 29, 2022 – Grades 11 & 12
- ✓ SC Ready & SC Pass – Last 20 days of school – Grades 3 - 8
- ✓ EOC – Last 15 days of school – Algebra I, Biology, English 2 & US History

**Strategic Plan Goals** – The plan was approved for five years, however, the district does have to send updated data each year. Mrs. Feagin shared with the FSD3 BOTs that the data will be sent and reviewed what the goals in the Strategic Plan are by the 2024-2025 SY.

**Textbook Recommendations** – The following textbooks were recommended by the textbook committees:

- ✓ South Carolina Economics (Savvas Learning)
- ✓ South Carolina, myWorld Interactive, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (Savvas Learning) K-2
- ✓ South Carolina, myWorld Interactive, World History Survey, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (Savvas Learning) Grade 6
- ✓ Economics, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition, AP Edition (McGraw-Hill)
- ✓ Contemporary Human Geography, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (Savvas Learning)
- ✓ The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, AP Edition (Savvas Learning)

Almeta Fleming made the motion to approve the recommended textbooks as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the recommended textbooks passed 9-0.

### **Superintendent's Report-** *Laura Hickson, Ed. D., Superintendent*

**Legislative Updates** – The following updates were shared with board members:

The Senate Finance K12 Subcommittee's recommendations passed on a 4-1 vote and now heads to the Senate Finance Committee

- ✓ Each school district will receive the same amount of funding from the state that is currently receives, which was termed as "the stake in the ground funding" by subcommittee members.
- ✓ \$227 million in new funding that was appropriated for K12 in the House plan, will be distributed to school districts based on the new funding formula.
- ✓ Funding will be based on a 75% state share and 25% local share.
- ✓ Teacher pay will be increased by \$2,000, which will raise the minimum starting teacher pay from \$36,000 to \$38,000 – which is a decrease from the House plan of \$4,000.

The subcommittee made the following changes to student weightings:

- Added back and decreased the weightings for Pre-career and Career Technology Education (CATE) from 1.29 to 1.20 (New formula was 1.0)
- Added back and increased the Limited English proficiency weighting from .15 to .20.
- Deleted the add-on Speech Therapy weighting of .15.
- Deleted the Dual Credit weighting of .15.

**School Safety** – Dr. Hickson shared with board members some information concerning school safety, in the area of school shootings. According to a Post and Courier analysis of Center for Homeland Security and Defense data, in 2021, SC had the most significant number of school shootings in 47 years. There were nine shootings in K-12 schools last year, up from three shootings in 2020 and one in 2019. School shootings are in the spotlight after the death of 12-year-old Jamari Jackson by a classmate at Tanglewood Middle School on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Nationally, K-12 schools across the country are seeing increasing levels of violence. Health and school safety experts attribute this increase in violence to the mental health crisis children experiencing from the pandemic. Children’s mental health issues have been rising for years, but the pandemic intensified existing problems. Data analysis found that a third of the 2021 shootings happened at an elementary school, and approximately 56% occurred at high schools. Dr. Hickson made the following recommendation:

*“With the increase of violence in the area and guns in schools – statewide and nationwide, I would like to suggest that we place a hold on purchasing housing for staff and use the funds to secure our schools with metal detectors.”*

Dr. Hickson also provided a quote total price for all equipment, accessories, assembly, setup and training of \$9,000, including 8% sales tax/system.

Paula Morris made the motion to approve the purchase of metal detectors for all schools. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the purchase of metal detectors for all schools passed 9-0.

**Executive Session:** Julia Mims made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Rutha Frieson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 9-0.

**Exit Executive Session** – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session. Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session passed 9-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Action from Executive Session:**

Paula Morris made the motion to accept the staff recommendations from Dr. Hickson. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. 8 board members voted in favor of this motion. Jason Kirby abstained from this motion. The motion to accept the staff recommendations from Dr. Hickson passed 8-0.

Julia Mims made the motion to accept the staff organizational chart as presented from Dr. Hickson. Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept the staff organizational chart as presented from Dr. Hickson passed 9-0.

Dr. Hickson presented the following staff and assignments for SY 2022-2023:

Terrell Fleming – Principal of LCHS

Charm Eaddy – Principal of REMJH

Jami Kirby – Principal of SES

Melanie McKnight – Principal of OES

With the retirement of Michelle Humphries, Dr. Hickson named Hope Gibson as Finance Director  
With the retirement of Jay Alexander, Dr. Hickson named Brian Huckabee as Maintenance & Facilities Director and Mitch Driggers as the Assistant Maintenance & Facilities Director  
Tonyelle Thomas (presently OES principal) and Shanda Poston (presently SES principal) will join the District Office academic support team for SY 2022-2023.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Almeta Fleming provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 9-0.

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Date approved

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Barbara Bryant, Chair

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Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

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Rutha Frieson, Secretary