



# Florence County School District 3

## Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

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Thursday, August 15, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Rebecca Yates called the August 15, 2024 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:** Due to an emergency, Chairman Jac'Kel Brown was not able to attend this meeting tonight. Dr. Hickson came forward to observe a moment of silence and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Note: All other board members, Barbara Bryant, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, Paula Morris, Julia Mims, Gloria Robinson, and Jason Kirby, were in attendance.)

**Approval of the Agenda:** Rutha Frieson 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 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: minutes from the 7/18/2024 Board meeting, the Certified Personnel Report, and student release requests for SY 2024-2025.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** \_ Jason Kirby made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 8-0.

**Public Participation:** Tonya Wilson from Lake City High School addressed the board regarding a senior trip they want to allow the 24-25 seniors attend the field trip to Universal Grabbash on April 24 thru April 26, 2025. An interest survey shows that about 50 seniors are interested in attending. The positive aspect is that this class has not had any disciplinary issues, some are college and career ready, they have been working hard to balance their schedules and some have not had a Disney experience or been outside South Carolina. This is a good experience to have with their classmates. This trip had been done in previous years, 2010 & 2011 and have not had any problems taking them to this kind of field trip. They gave an itinerary to the board. Board member Mattie Thomas asked if they would have chaperones. Ms. Wilson said yes, normally it is 10 students per 1 adult chaperone. Board member Rebecca Yates asked if this was for all the seniors or just the ones at Lake City High School. Ms. Wilson stated that she was only here to represent LCHS. If approved, they have fundraiser ideas to raise funds for the trip for the students. The Board will review and let her know.

### **Board Chair Report**

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Ms. Barbara Bryant stated she attended the School Law Conference. Being that she would have a long report, because the School Law Conference does give a lot of good information regarding the laws and regulations, of what we can and cannot do and she asked any of the other board members, who also attended, if they would like to speak of their experience at the conference. Ms. Rutha Frieson spoke regarding the State statutory updates of Expulsion Rules; Senate 1188 passed May 21, 2024. She read the update to the board and audience. Ms. Mattie Thomas spoke of her class that was on the First

Amendment. She reviewed the various types of speech and read part of a handout given to her. She also shared her opinion regarding one of the speakers. Ms. Julia Mims spoke of the speaker, from Beaufort that spoke of banning books that were spoken of on 60 minutes. Books in libraries and in classrooms. The legislature has passed a law that we have to provide a list of our books within three days of a parent requesting them. So, it will be important that we inventory our books often to be able to provide such a list in a quick manner. She was also privileged to go to Columbia to the Power Forward event. With the great event exciting for our children, well behaved and represented us well. This will be a game changer. Gloria Robinson spoke of the roles of the Superintendent and the Board. People believe that the board has power over the superintendent because they hire them, however, they hire them but do not go over their head while they are doing their job as superintendent. That misinformation is out in the public. Ms. Barbara Bryant asked if we have "opt out" forms for the parents from the library. Where a parent can fill out and opt out of their child from reading certain books. Dr. Hickson replied that we implemented a system that is in place, and we do have a procedure that will be used when a book has been challenged. However, in the last year, we have had about 3 books challenged and they have been situation where a parent has made such a request. They do follow up and take action when that happens.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Board member presentation-** *Dr. Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson to present board members with achievement awards.

On behalf of SCSBA and FSD3, she was honored to introduce the awards to board members who have reached 1 of the 6 levels during the 2023-2024 school year. The members who have reached a new level in 23-24 school level are Jac'kel Brown- Level 4, Jason Kirby- Level 3, Paula Morris- Level 4 & Rebecca Yates- Level 1.

#### **Finance Update** – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

August Financials – Ms. Hope presented the August 2024 financial updates. The FSD3 mission statement was read. Ms. Gibson went through her PowerPoint, which is posted on our website and is linked to the board agenda online. She reviewed the board approved fund balance of \$36,719,944.00 and general fund budget \$34,142,053.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025.

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

Mrs. Scott presented to board members the current personnel report with vacancies for FSD3 SY 2024-2025 that are as follows: Certified needed are 1 in Early Childhood at Lake City Early Childhood C, 1 in Special Ed at LCECC, and 1 Librarian at Main Street Elementary. Ms. Scott also reviewed the recommendation from SC Board Association, which was in a PowerPoint. She revisited policy GCQF-R. Discipline we reviewed earlier when covering the G policies. Earlier we discussed that we remove that section because our lawyers are the ones who request the subpoena's. Based on state statute, the language is actually taken from there and states that the lawyers request subpoenas on our behalf. Therefore, we are now recommending that the statement be placed back into our policy. Dr. Hickson explained that we had removed the section in red when we reviewed the G policies, however, after submitting the approved updated policies to the So. Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA), and their lawyers reviewed the policy. They sent this one back stating that the section must be included in this policy. Ms. Paula Morris asked Ms. Scott a personnel question regarding international teachers. She wanted to know how many years the international teachers are hired to work at FSD3. Ms. Scott gave a

thorough answer in part explaining that it depends on different factors of the program and the purpose of the program to share the culture of our country and that the employee return to their country with the knowledge and culture from our country. Ms. Yates asked for a motion to approve the revisions of the policy in which Julia Mims made the motion; however, Ms. Yates then withdrew her request for a motion. This was solely for information for the board and did not need approval.

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

Ms. Mary gave the current policy IJ and L that we have regarding the “opt out” book challenges that parents can submit and how our district policy responds to it. The New I Policies were presented for the First reading.

- IHBEA-R ‘Instructional Services for Multilingual Learners’,
- IHBF ‘Medical Homebound Instruction’,
- IKB ‘Homework’, and
- IKD ‘Honor Rolls’.

These policies are mentioned within other policies that we currently have, however, the SCSBA recommends that we give these 4 policies more detailed information. Ruth Frieson made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the new I policies 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 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the new policies presented passes 8-0.

Ms. Mary continued to update the board on the curriculum and programs that the schools will be using this year. Also, continuing their 30 for 30 reading challenge. Reviewed the Save the Dates for August 2024.

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

Ms. Kasey began with reminding the board of all the policies we worked on in July 2024. Tonight, we are having the First reading of the first group of New J Policies.

- JCA – Assignment of Students to Schools
- JFABG – Educational Opportunity for Military Students
- JFABH – Military Temporary Remote School Enrollment
- JHCB – Released Time for Religious Instruction
- JIAB – Discrimination, Harassment & Retaliation (Students)
- JIB – Student Involvement in Decision Making
- JICJA – Social Media & Electronic Communications
- JICJB – Student-Tracking Safety Devices
- JIJ – Student Protests, Demonstrations & Strikes
- JJG – Contests for Students
- JJI – Interscholastic Athletics
- JK – Student Discipline
- JLCDC – Food Allergies & Special Dietary Needs
- JLCDD – Service Animals (Students)
- JLCF – School Nurses
- JLD- School Counseling
- JLIIG – Sun Safety

Paula Morris made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the new J policies presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the new J policies presented pass 8-0.

Next Ms. Kasey presented the First reading of J Policies with Revisions:

- JA – Student Policies, Goals & Objectives
- JB – Equal Educational Opportunity/Nondiscrimination – replaces JAA
- JEB – Entrance Age – replaces JBB
- JFAA – Admission of Resident Students – replaces JBC (part of it) and JGCB
- JFAB – Admission of Nonresident Students – replaces JBC (part of it)
- JFABC – Transfer Students – replaces JBCD
- JFABE – Admission of Multilingual Learner & Migrant Students – replaces JFABE
- JFABF – Students in Foster Care – replaces JFABF
- JFB- School Choice – replaces JBCC
- JI – Student Rights & Responsibilities– replaces JC
- JIAC – Student Sex, Gender Discrimination– replaces JIAA
- JICEA – School-Related Student Publications & Productions– replaces JHCC
- JICF – Secret Societies/Gang Activity – replaces JCDAF
- JICFA – Hazing– replaces JICFA
- JICFAA – Intimidation, Bullying or Harassment– replaces JI
- JICG – Tobacco Use by Students– replaces JCDA
- JICH – Drug & Alcohol Use by Students – replaces JCDA
- JICI – Weapons in School– replaces JICI (revised language)
- JIE/JIF/JIG- Pregnant Students/Students with Children/Married Students– replaces JQE
- JII – Student Concerns, Complaints, & Grievances– replaces JCE
- JJAB – Limited Open Forum– replaces JHCA
- JKA – Restraint, Seclusion and Intentional Physical Contact– replaces JDA
- JLCC – Communicable/Infectious Diseases and Conditions– replaces JGCC
- JLCDB – Use of Lifesaving Medications– replaces JLCDB
- JLCE – First Aid & Emergency Care– replaces JGC
- JLCEF – Concussion & Student Athletics – replaces JLCEF
- JLF – Student Welfare– replaces JG
- JLIB – Student Dismissal Precautions– replaces JBF, JGC (part of it)
- JLIE- Student Automobile Use– replaces JGFF
- JQ– Student Fees, Fines & Charges– replaces JQ
- JFABD – Admission of Homeless Students– replaces JFA
- JH – Student Absences & Excuses– replaces JB and JBD (part of it)
- JICA – Student Dress– replaces JCDB
- JICDA – Code of Conduct– replaces JCDA
- JICJ – Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School– replaces JCDA – Waiting on policy from Proviso 1.103
- JIH – Student Interrogations, Searches & Arrests– replaces JCAB
- JIHC– Use of Metal Detectors– replaces JCAC
- JJ/JJA – Student Activities & Organizations– replaces JHC & JHD
- JJE – Student Fundraising Activities– replaces IKF, JK & JKA
- JKD– Suspension of Students– replaces JDD
- JKE – Expulsion of Students– replaces JDE

- JLCD- Assisting Students with Medications – replaces JGCD (part of it)
- JLCDA –Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)– replaces JGCD (part of it)
- JLDDB – Suicide Prevention, Intervention & Postvention– replaces JLDBB
- JRA – Student Records– replaces JR

Julia Mims made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the J Policies with Revisions presented. Jason Kirby provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the J Policies with Revisions presented passes 8-0.

Last, we have the First reading of the J Policies to Delete.

- JGG– Student Transportation – moved to EEA

Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the J Policies to delete presented. Barbara Bryant provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the J Policies to delete presented passes 8-0.

#### Other Updates – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson would like to share an update with the board on the Innovation Program and the Impact it has had. This program was started last year, and we have completed one year of the Panther Choice School of Innovation. Mr. Ned Blake will present the update. She will also share the programs being used to have our students follow our vision and to improve our outcomes of career readiness.

Mr. Ned said they are super excited about the results and are optimistic as to what is to come for some of our high-risk students in our district. A couple months ago, they shared the program and what it could do and tonight he will provide a brief update on the impact. Our mission is to accelerate and ensure the success of our over-aged and under credited students and scholars. Some of his goals are to decrease the number of students dropping out of High School, empower our students to graduate on time, ensure college and career readiness, internships that become employment and more. Changing the narrative, at Dr. Ron E. McNair & J Paul Truluck Magnet 39 students were served last year. From then to last summer, we had 21 students earn either English, math, or elective credits. 28 students earn soft skills, more than 80% of those students got promoted to their next grade level. Some of whom were not going to be promoted. But a lot of work and time helps them earn their goal to get promoted. He is very thankful to help our students. In addition, for our middle school students, 17 students are taking college classes during their courses, which is also very exciting. Parental champions get a shout out. Our parents have been calling the schools and asking how they can help their students do better. Getting involved with their child's education. Impact report was handed out by Mr. Blake. Barbara Bryant gave her comments on how happy it makes her to give the adult students an opportunity to learn and continue in their education.

Career Readiness was shared by Mr. Leon Burgess. A new curriculum being brought to FSD3. We have a game changer for our students. Paxton Patterson career labs that are very engaging. The students will have hands-on skills. The curriculum allows the students to get 10 hours and 10 days of instructional time with the labs. The students will be able to learn from each module and the teacher can see how the students are progressing. Red, Yellow and Green zones help the teacher when the student is ready for

the hands-on engagement so that the students focus more in the earlier stages of the module/skill. The PowerPoint was very detailed of all the different careers that the students can choose from. They want to purchase 21 labs of 21 different careers that our students can learn by learning hands on. Mr. Burgess explained the Vet module, Nursing module, plumbing module and more. The students can try the modules of different careers paths to see what they are interested in. As we go along, we can learn what other modules our students are interested in. These are all Career Training Education (CTE). They were able to set up the module at Dr. Ronald E McNair to show how the modules work. They all have real tools and items that are needed for the career it is teaching. This can help FSD3 prepare all of our students for success. Ms. Mattie was very excited about seeing these in person and REM. Ms. Barbara Bryant noted that FSD3 has a lot of amazing things. We need to do infomercials. Some are E-learning because they can learn through their devices. It is versatile and can learn 8-9 different careers. Dr. Hickson stated that 80% of our students are not going to college but can still get a certification and make a very good salary. This will help our students identify their gifts.

Few more announcements to the board regarding upcoming conferences for board members. Also, 25 scholars in the Power Forward Program for networking and scholarship information. The Veterans breakfast will be at the Bean Market on Friday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Enter into Executive Session** – Julia Mims 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** – Rutha Thomas made the motion to exit executive session and enter public 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 the executive session and enter back into public session passed 8-0.

## PUBLIC SESSION

**Action from executive session** – Motion to report the employee to the State Board of Education for Breach of Contract by Julia Mims. Gloria Robinson proved the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. The motion to report the employee to the State Board of Education for Breach of Contract has passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Paula Morris provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

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Date approved

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Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

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Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

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Rutha Frieson, Secretary