



# Florence County School District 3

## *Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room*

**Thursday, August 17, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Jac'Kel Brown, Jason Kirby, Gloria Robinson, Mattie Thomas, Rebecca Yates, Julia Mims. Paula Morris and Rutha Frieson attended via telephone.

**Absent:** None.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the August 17, 2023 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:** Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve tonight's 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 August 17, 2023 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as 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 the consent agenda as presented passed 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: July 20, 2023 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report and student transfer requests.

**Public Participation:** None.

### **Board Chair Report**

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the July 20, 2023 board meeting either personally or on Facebook. As always, the board's quest is to keep everyone informed and involved about what is going on in Florence School District 3.

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Barbara Bryant and Gloria Robinson commented on attending the opening ceremonies welcoming back the FSD3 staff on Monday, July 24, 2023. These board members also commented on enjoying the opportunity to greet students as they came in and waving to car riders as they were leaving at SES.
2. Request to attend any Meetings – Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Jason Kirby, Mattie Thomas, Gloria Robinson, Rutha Frieson, and Paula Morris will be attending the SCSBA School Law conference August 26-27, 2023. Several board members also mentioned wanting to attend the Civility workshop planned for October. Registration has not yet opened for this event.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

*July Financials* - The July financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2022-2023 current budget is the final approved amount of \$34,270,135. The board-approved use of the

Fund Balance is \$535,106 for Classified Salaries increase. The total amount board approved use of fund balance is \$34,805,241. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function as of July 31, 2023.

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

Currently, we are in a good position with our vacancies and the principals are doing a fantastic job of filling those vacancies with current staff. We still do have positions needed for Special Education. Once school starts and we stabilize our enrollment, we will take another look at the needed vacancies.

*SCSBA Recommendations for Sections A & B* –

As requested by the board, SCSBA is currently doing a review of the FSD3 policies. In July sections A & B were reviewed with several revisions, deletions of policies, and approval of new policies with 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

- ✓ New policies require 2 readings to be approved. Therefore, the following policies were presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in Section A as follows:

**ACB** – Educational Equity

**ACE** – Service Animals (Public)

**ADB** – Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace and Schools

**ADC** – Tobacco-Free School District

Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policies ACB, ACE, ADB and ADC 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policies ACB, ACE, ADB and ADC passed 9-0.

- ✓ For Section B, the following policies were presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as follows:

**BAA** – Board Self-Evaluation

**BBAA** – Board Member Authority and Responsibilities

**BBBD** – Board Member Removal from Office

**BBBE** – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies

**BDD** – Board-Superintendent Relationship

**BDH** – Board Consultants/Staff Assistants

**BEDI** – News Media Services at Board Meetings

**BEDL** – Board Members and Electronic Communications

**BEDM** – Electronic Participation in Board Meetings

**BEDN** – Board Members' Use of District-owned Portable Devices

**BIE** – Board Member Insurance Liability

**BJ** – Board Legislative Program

Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policies BAA, BBAA, BBBD, BBBE, BD, BDH, BEDI, BEDL, BEDM, BEDN, BIE and BJ as presented. Mattie Thomas provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members presented voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policies BAA, BBAA, BBBD, BBBE, BD, BDH, BEDI, BEDL, BEDM, BEDN, BIE and BJ passed 9-0.

**NOTE: There was one policy BBBC – Board Member Resignation that the board did not include in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading approval of policies. Therefore, this policy was not approved as a new policy.**

- ✓ Revision of policies **BBB-Board membership/Elections & BD-Organization of the Board**  
Barbara Bryant suggested for the board review the following addition to policy BBB:

- Insert a paragraph below the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph to read as follows:  
*“The members of the board must be elected in nonpartisan elections. A member of the board representing an election district must be a resident of the election district from which he/she is elected.”*

Jac’Kel Brown asked why these policies were pulled out for revision when they were just revised last month. Barbara Bryant stated that she asked for the revision(s) in BBB and BD. Mr. Brown asked why the insertion was made to BBB concerning board member residency when it is stated in SC law, and who on this board does not live in the area they represent. Ms. Bryant stated that it was not directed at anyone. Ms. Bryant stated that revisions can be requested. Much discussion followed. Mattie Thomas also mentioned that she wanted to receive the agenda earlier, which will be done with September board materials.

It was also suggested for the following revisions to be made to policy BD as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph below subtitle “Election Process”, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence remove “voice vote” and insert “a show of hands”
- Under subtitle “Nominations” insert a 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to read: *“Effective 1/18/2024, no officer will hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms and must have a break of at least two terms before being voted back into his/her original office.”*

Jac’Kel Brown made the motion to approve the recommended revisions as presented. Rebecca Yates provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the revisions recommended to policies BBB and BD passed 9-0.

#### Instructional Updates – Mrs. Mary Howard, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Curriculum

*New Programs* - Mrs. Howard gave an overview of curriculum and programs being implemented in the FSD3 schools. New programs include FrogStreet, which is a Pre-K dual-language curriculum. The middle school is implementing Read 180/Math 180. Other programs being used are Lexia for K-8 and DropBox also K-8.

*After-school programs* – LCECCA, JPT, and REM are using the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program. Start date was August 14<sup>th</sup> and will operate for 30 weeks.

JCL and MSE are using the 06 afterschool program which provides students with hands-on, individual support from teachers to achieve their academic goals in a fun learning environment. Both of these programs operates Monday through Thursday with at least 2 certified teachers and aids students in the completion of homework assignments to reinforce school-day learning.

*Additional Academic Supports* – FSD3 is still offering parents other means of academic support for their child(ren) such as Mathnasium, the tutoring and homework center, Clemson reading program, ParentChild+, and a new tutoring site: Olanta Public Library, 3 day/week and every other Saturday.

*In the Spotlight* – FSD3 are committed to 30 minutes reading in our schools. 30 for 30 reading Challenge challenges students to read for an *additional uninterrupted reading* 30 minutes at home.

*Save the Dates* – August 28 – district level PD 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Parent Teacher conferences/Interims Issued

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Early dismissal

*Special Education Updates – Mrs. Amishacoe Graham, Director of Office of Exceptional Children*

Mrs. Graham shared the current enrollment for the FSD3 Special Education program. As of August 14, 2023 there are 492 special education students with 25 Special Education staff.

*Opportunities* – FSD3 is working the SC vocational Rehabilitation Department to deliver Pre-employment transition Services (Pre-ETSO to students with disabilities as a part of a new program Valuable Impact through community Training: Occupational readiness for Youth, known as VICTORY SC. With this program, students will explore career opportunities, career and technical education pertinent to their local areas and students will exit high school as Career Ready. VICOTRY SC will assist SCVRD and FSD3 with a framework for identifying and providing structured Pre-ETS to students' ages 13-21 enrolled in school.

*New IEP System* – SCDOE have contracts for boeth systems (SC Enrich and SCPCG-EDPlan SC) for the 2023-2024 SY. FSD3 will continue with Enrich until the end of this SY, however there are tentative plans for the new system (EdPlanSC). The configuration and planning will be from July 2023 through December 2023. The Power User Training will start in January 2024. There a lot of questions concerning this switch of databases.....more to come as FSD3 learns.

*Operations Updates – Mrs. Kasey Feagin, Chief Operations Officer*

*Back to School conference* - Mrs. Feagin began her report with a look at the Back to School conference held on August 10 in the LCHS Gym. The Office of Title I hosted this event with the Parent Liaisons. 117 were in attendance including vendors. The Keynote speaker was Glenda Skipper-founder/CEO of One Child at a Time (Human Trafficking). Attendance, Reading, CCR, and parenting were other topics discussed during this conference. This day also included singing and door prizes.

*H.4122* – this bill approves the administration of lifesaving medication in schools (Narcan). Specifically, this bill will allow school nurses and other designated school personnel to administer lifesaving medications, including but not limited to Narcan. It allows the director of public Health for DHEC to issue a standing order for the administration of these medications. Guidance will be issued in the near future from the Department of Education and DHEC.

*Textbook Recommendations* – 2 textbooks were up for approval by the board – CTE Textbook – digital Media – Saavas Learning Company LLC – MyLab for Adobe Web Design and Personal Finance (this is a new requirement within the law- any 9<sup>th</sup> grade student enrolled this year will have to have course before they graduate) Managing Your Personal Finances, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (National Geographic/Cengage). Mrs. Feagin also provided the links to view these textbooks.

Jac'kel Brown made the motion to approve CTE Textbook – Digital Media and Personal Finance textbooks as presented. Mattie Thomas provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present

voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve CTE Textbook-Digital Media and Personal Finance textbooks as presented passed 9-0.

**Legislative Updates**

Dr. Hickson provided board members with a copy of the 2023 SC Legislative Manual. The legislative session officially begin in January 2024. Dr. Hickson informed board members that due to the population changes from the 2020 census, some member districts must adjust to comply with voting precinct regulations. SC House Representative Roger Kirby will be at the September Board Meeting to share the suggested changes.

*Alternative Learning updates* – Currently, FSD3 has 1 student (6<sup>th</sup>) at the Elementary Panther Pride at JC Lynch; 9 students (5-7<sup>th</sup>; 4-8<sup>th</sup>) at the Junior High Panther Pride at Virtual Center; and 6 students (3-9<sup>th</sup>, 2-10<sup>th</sup> and 1-11<sup>th</sup>) at the High School Panther Pride at LCHS Mobile.

*Student Enrollment* – Dr. Hickson also shared the current student enrollment for FSD3 of 2814 students as of 8/14/2023 of 5K-12<sup>th</sup> grade and an enrollment of 2956, which includes the 3K and 4K students. Ethnicity percentages are 64% Black or African American; 31% White or Caucasian; 3% Hispanic/Latino; 1% two or more races; and 1% Asian/American Indian; Alaska Native; or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

**Enter into Executive Session** – Jac’Kel Brown made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Julia Mims 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** – Jac’kel Brown made the motion to exit executive session. Mattie Thomas 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 and enter into public session passed 9-0.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**No action was needed from executive session.**

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Jac’Kel Brown 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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Jason Kirby, Secretary