



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, December 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the December 14, 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: Julia Mims made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the December 14, 2023 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Paula Morris 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 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: November 16, 2023 board minutes, the 11/28/2023 called board meeting minutes, and the Certified Personnel Report.

Public Participation: None.

Special Recognition: Rutha Frieson, president of the Lake City Lions Club, along with Tonyelle Thomas, FSD3's Director of Academic Support & the Arts, gave an overview of the Lion's Club's annual Poster Contest. 280 students participated in the event. Ms. Frieson went through the criteria in which judges used to choose the winners of this year's event, 1st place Ragen McClam, 2nd place Kanja Cooper, and 3rd place Belinda Hernandez, Honorable Mention went to Alisa Feagin. Ms. Frieson also recognized several of the judges present at tonight's meeting. All of the artwork was displayed at tonight's meeting for a silent auction beginning with \$10/piece.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the December 14, 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. Ms. Bryant mentioned that she joined the Delegate Assembly workshop earlier this month, and she had attended several of the employee meetings informing of the upcoming incentive bonus. Ms. Bryant wished all employees rest, time with family, and rejuvenation during the upcoming winter break. Ms. Bryant continued with a reminder to everyone about civility amongst each other.

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Paula Morris and Gloria Robinson attended the Legislative and Delegate Assembly business meeting December 2 & 3, of which Mrs. Morris was

assigned the 1 delegate vote for business meeting on December 2, 2023 in Charleston. Mrs. Morris gave a few highlights of this meeting. The census of the meeting was that education has transferred to the 2nd tier and education could die from it. Mrs. Morris mentioned that we need to find out why are children are wanting to leave our public schools.

Jac'Kel Brown said that the board of trustees has one employee, the Superintendent, and the board's job is to manage that employee who, in turn, manages the district, as she is hired to do. He mentioned the salary study that was conducted and urged board members to revisit the results from this study. What is the use of a stadium or high-end technology when we do not have the students to teach or the teachers to teach the students.

2. Request to attend any Meetings – Ms. Mattie Thomas asks to attend the SCSBA Annual convention.

Superintendent's Report

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

November Financials - The November financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2023-2024 current budget is the final approved amount of \$37,723,138.00. 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 \$3,453,003. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function as of November 30, 2023.

Policy Review of Sections E

The following policies in section E are up for 2nd reading for adoption:

- EB 'Environmental and Safety Program'
- EBAB 'Hazardous Materials'
- EBBA 'Prevention of Disease/Infection/Other Condition Transmission'
- ECAA 'Threat Assessment'
- ECAG 'Video Monitoring/School Buses'
- ED 'Materials and Equipment Management'
- EEA 'Student Transportation'
- EEAG 'Student Transportation in Private Vehicles'

Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve 2nd reading of these policies as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2nd reading of policies EB, EBAB, EBBA, ECAA, ECAG, ED, EEA, and EEAG as presented passed 9-0.

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

Mrs. Scott presented to board members policy, the proposed calendars for SY 2024-2025 and SY 2025-2026. Each SY has 2 drafts (A &B). Three virtual meetings for all employees the opportunity to attend were scheduled on December 4, 2023. Surveys were sent to all staff members December 4-6, 2023 to vote for draft A or B. Within these calendars 180 student days, 10 teacher professional development days, and 3 eLearning days for inclement weather must be identified. 439 employees out of 494 total

employees, which is 89%, participated in the calendar surveys. A comparison of drafts A & B for each SY was provided. For SY 2024-2025 the majority of employees chose calendar draft A (54% A, 32% B, and 13.8% No preference). Mattie Thomas made the motion to adopt calendar draft A for SY 2024-2025 as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adopt calendar draft A for SY 2024-2025 passed 9-0.

For SY 2025-2026 the majority of employees chose calendar draft B (39.3% A, 45.95% B, and 14.7% No preference). Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to adopt calendar draft B for SY 2025-2026 as presented. Jason Kirby provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adopt calendar draft B for SY 2025-2026 passed 9-0.

Instructional & Operational Updates—*Mary Howard, Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Curriculum*

Mrs. Howard began her report with the Arbor Day celebration held November 30, 2023. This year's theme was *Tremendous Possibilities* with guest speaker Katie Ford, Education Coordinator at Moore Farms Botanical Gardens. 36 students received over \$1,000 in awards in the categories of 4K-5K class book, 1st-12th categories of Literacy and Art Media.

In the Spotlight –

SESA's Academic Growth-151 students met BOTH their ELA and Math MAP Goals for the Winter testing period.

SESA Service Learning-Blessing Box is up and running and the Student Lighthouse Team will be monitoring this initiative. Students also just finished the Clemson/Carolina food drive and were able to donate 1,000 cans of food to the local food pantries.

SESA was selected to present at the Leader in Me Symposium in Charlotte, NC.

REMJBH-Mrs. Cullars-White and Mr. Manning were both awarded a Bright Ideas grant through Santee Electric Cooperative.

MSE – the Young Lady Club Induction Ceremony was conducted on 10/25/23 with community members in attendance. The Original Six afterschool program took an educational field trip to Segra Park in Columbia SC for the SC Afterschool Alliance's STEAM After Dark program. MSE's Awards day had a new twist with students receiving lapel pins for their achievements and recognitions. Students at MSE also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Week.

Upcoming Events - December 15th is the 90th day of SY 2023-2024

December 18th to January 3rd will be the Winter Break

January 2nd will be a professional development day for staff

January 3rd is a work day

January 4th students return

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Day program will be January 26th 9:30 a.m. at the Bean Market

FSD3's District Spelling Bee will be February 1st beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Blanding Street Auditorium

Legislative Updates

Dr. Hickson began her report that January 9, 2024 will be the 1st day of the legislative sessions.

School Board Appreciation Month – January is School Board Appreciation Month. Each board member is assigned to a school as follows: Barbara Bryant – LCECC; Rebecca Yates – MSE; Jason Kirby – JCL; Gloria Robinson – OES; Mattie Thomas – SESA; Paula Morris – REMJBH; Dr. Julia Mims – JPT; Jac'Kel Brown –

LCHS; Rutha Frieson – Virtual Center/Panther Academy. Emails have been sent to school principals. Board members will be contacted by each school.

January 3, 2024 will be a districtwide professional development day. Dr. Hlckson shared the proposed agenda for this day.

Enter into Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation, student discipline or potential legal matters. Julia Mims provided the 2nd 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. Julia Mims 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 9-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – Julia Mims made the motion to approve the coaches’ stipend step for SY 2023-2024. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. 8 board members voted in favor of this motion. 1 board member, Jac’Kel Brown, voted No for this motion. The motion to approve the coaches’ stipend step for SY 2023-2024 passed 8-1.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Jac’Kel Brown provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 9-0.

Date approved

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Jason Kirby, Secretary