



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting*

*Minutes*

*Location: The Continuum*

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**Thursday, December 15, 2022**

**6:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, Jason Kirby, Almeta Fleming and Paula Morris. Gloria Robinson and Jac'Kel Brown were present with the group via telephone.

Jac'Kel Brown joined the meeting in person shortly after it began.

**Absent:** None.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the December 15, 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:** Paula Morris made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Almeta Fleming 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:** Julia Mims made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Paula Morris 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: November 17, 2022 board minutes, November 29, 2022 called board meeting minutes, and the Certified Personnel Report.

**Public Participation:** 2 individuals (Justin Hanna and Yamekia Robinson) signed up to talk at tonight's board meeting. Mr. Hanna wanted to give a rebuttal from stakeholders, faculty & staff of FSD3 to the November 17 board meeting public participation. Mr. Hanna talked about the public school shortage of teachers and staff in today's world due to the immense stress and scrutiny they have to endure on top of having to be responsible for the education of today's youth. Ms. Robinson wanted to address an incident that happened at an away basketball game, which is not in the guidelines of this avenue of communication, but she did want to thank FSD3 administration on how this situation was handled.

## **Awards and Recognition**

Outgoing board members, Almeta Fleming, was recognized for her service to the FSD3 community. Ms. Fleming has served on the FSD3 Board of Trustees from January 2017 to December 2022. Ms. Fleming reflected on her time of service, and her heart-felt wishes for the FSD3 board to continue doing what is best for the youth of this community.

### **Board Chair Report**

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the December 15, 2022 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

- ✓ Board members attended the 2-day board retreat with Dr. Lee Pritzl and Dr. Steven Peters November 28-29, 2022.
- ✓ Dr. Mims and Mr. Brown attended the SCSBA Legislative and Delegate business meeting December 2 and 3, 2022 in Charleston. Dr. Mims served as the FSD3 only vote and Mr. Brown was the alternate in case Dr. Mims was not able to attend the business meeting.
- ✓ Several board members attended the December 13, 2022 State of Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy.
- ✓ Ms. Rutha Frieson attended the Social Emotional Learners Christmas dinner.

2. Request to attend any Meetings

- ✓ The SCSBA Annual Convention registration will be opening soon. Please let Shelia know if you would like to attend.

### **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 2022-2023 current budget is the final approved amount of \$33,477,137. The board approved use of the Fund Balance is \$240,389 for housing and safety and \$136,114 for projects in progress. The total amount board approved use of fund balance is \$376,503. 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, 2022.

#### **Instructional Updates** – *Mary Howard, Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Curriculum*

**FSD3's Arbor Day celebration** was December 2, 2022. The guest speaker was Mr. Chet Foyle, Project forester for Florence and Dillon counties of the SC Forestry Commission. 36 students, 3 classes, and the REM Nature and Beautification Club were given awards totaling over \$1,000 within the categories of 4K-5K-class book; 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in the categories of Literacy and Art.

**Winter Benchmark Testing** in January will be administered with DRA/IRLA, Next Steps, easy DBM and MyIGDIs.

**Data Dives** was December 8, 2022. Principal PLO analyzed data, reviewed updates for Action Plans, interventions and small group instruction. It was a GREAT day!

### **SPOTLIGHTS**

#### *FSD3 Visual Art Talent*

- – Ka'Nuary Smith (MSE) was the winner of the Santee Electric Cooperative Christmas Card Contest.
- State-level winners of the DHEC's Radon Poster Contest at OMS were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place-Trenton Demery; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Lyza Moore; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – David Floyd
- SESA collaborated with schools across the nation for the 2022 global Traveling Mural Project. Each school starts with their own mural featuring their school and students. Pieces of it have

been sent off to be assembled with other murals as they receive pieces from other schools to assemble their own. The final product will be coming!!!!

- LCHS students are telling their story through quilting. Ms. Latoya Thompson, is a quilt artist who has work featured in many shows across the Southeast. She is sharing with these students how to express themselves through this same media. Quilt making as an art form!
- LCECC and JCL are partners with ArtsNow to promote literacy through arts integration at each of their schools. They have finished the Drama portion of their training and just wrapped up visual arts model lessons at each site.
- Board Member, Rutha Frieson, who is also President of the Lions' Club of Lake City recognized the school winners of the Lions' Club Peace Poster Contest. Kylie Dubose from JPT and Hayden Matthews from OMS. Ms. Frieson also recognized members from the Lions' Club present attending this board meeting.

### Upcoming Events

- ✓ FSD3's Magnet Lottery window will open Monday, January 9, 2023 and close Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.
- ✓ Magnet Schools showcase Night will be January 17 – OMS at 5:00 p.m. and JPT 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Dr. Ronald E. McNair Day will be Friday, January 27, 2023 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Bean Market.
- ✓ FSD3's district Spelling Bee is Tuesday, January 31, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Blanding Street Auditorium.

### Legislative Updates- *Laura Hickson, Ed. D., Superintendent*

Legislators will be back in session January 10, 2023.

### *Funding for District Needs:*

Dr. Hickson presented to board members some safety and upgrade needs of the district:

1. Upgrade all district cameras starting with the high school, magnet school and junior high school. These cameras will be inside and outside with continuous recording. An RFP is being created with an estimated budget of approximately \$100,000.
2. Upgrades to the Athletic Facility (New field house, restrooms, concessions and areas at LCHS to include the weight room; batting cages or space, and wrestling area.) We would like to form a committee, which will include students, to prepare an RFP with an estimated budget of approximately \$3.6 million. This would include to add specific extra-curricular activities such as a bowling team, chess club, golf club with a goal of involving more students in extra-curricular. It would be necessary to include approximately \$30,000 for stipends and transportation expenses.
3. Renovate SESA's cafeteria by increasing the size and updating – approximately \$580,000.
4. Marketing & Marking Materials approximately \$60,000.
5. Staff bonuses of \$622,807.12

Dr. Hickson requested the board to use 1/3 of the fund balance (\$3,669,071) and request a bond for at least \$1.2 million for these requests of additions and upgrades. Dr. Hickson gave board members a history of FSD3's bonds as well as the FSD3's fund balance history. Districts are required to have at least

8.33%, which is one month, of operating funds in the district's fund balance. FSD3 currently has 4.7 months of operating funds in the fund balance. Using 1/3 of the fund balance, as requested, would leave the FSD3's fund balance at \$7,311,143, which is a little more than three months of operating funds.

Almeta Fleming made the motion to use 1/3 of the fund balance for the additions and upgrades as presented. Paula Morris provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to use 1/3 of FSD3's fund balance to add and upgrade the listed projects as presented passed 9-0. Almeta Fleming made the motion to allow FSD3 to purchase a new bond. Paula Morris provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to allow FSD3 to purchase a new bond for the purposes of the presented upgrades and additions as presented passed 9-0.

### ***Restructuring Grade 6 at JPT Magnet School:***

Dr. Hickson is requesting for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to remain at their home school and run the lottery for JPT Magnet starting at grade 7 instead of 6. The rationale: FSD3 has seen a decline in enrollment at elementary schools. This allows 6<sup>th</sup> graders to remain together at home school instead of splitting the scores that impact report card ratings. Rutha Frieson made the motion to leave 6<sup>th</sup> graders at their home elementary school and allow the magnet school lottery run beginning with 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Jason Kirby provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to leave 6<sup>th</sup> graders to remain at their home elementary schools and allow the magnet school lottery run beginning with 7<sup>th</sup> graders passed 9-0.

**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. 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** – Jac'kel Brown made the motion to exit executive session. Jason Kirby 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**

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

No action was needed.

**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 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