



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: The Continuum Lecture Room

Thursday, December 19, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the December 19, 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 by Board Secretary: Ms. Rutha Frieson reported that Ms. Gloria Robinson was on her way and all other board members were in attendance.

Moment of Silence: Dr. Hickson requested prayers for all FSD3 staff, students, and families. We observed a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Hickson led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Ms. Gloria Robinson arrived and took her seat with other board members.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ms. Paul Morris made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Julia Mims 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.

Board Chair Report: Ms. Barbara Bryant spoke of her visit to Dr. Ronald E. McNair and the Ladies Club at Main Street.

Recognition of Board members: Chair Jac'Kel Brown and Dr. Hickson recognized the two exiting board members for their years of service to Florence School District 3. A plaque of gratitude was present to each of them. Barbara Bryant from 2011 to 2024, 13 years of service and dedication. Gloria Robinson from 2019 to 2024, 5 years of service and dedication.

Superintendent's Report: *—Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson introduced Mr. Ben Zeigler to go over the resolution adopted at the December 3rd, 2024 called board meeting and the Formal Approval of Special Obligation Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$25 million.

Approval of Special Obligation Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$25 million. Ms. Julia Mims made the motion for Formal Approval of Special Obligation Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$25 million as presented. Julia Mims 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.

Finance Update *—Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

November Financials – Ms. Hope was out ill. Dr. Hickson presented the November 2024 financial updates. Dr. Hickson went through the PowerPoint, which is posted on our website and is linked to the board agenda online. She reviewed the board approved balance of the general fund budget \$34,142,053 and gave print out

of the revenue and expenditures as of November 2024 for the fiscal year 2024-2025. \$36,719,944.00. – She also explained, in some detail, the revenue and expenditures to the board.

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

Ms. Mary reviewed the board goals, Academic Achievement and Reading Readiness. She then introduced each principal for four FSD3 schools to present their school SC Report Card, Plan Goals and Plan Strategies.

- J.C. Lynch – Mr. Thomas DeVine
- Olanta Creative Arts and Science Magnet School – Ms. Melanie McKnight
- Dr. Ronald E. McNair – Ms. Charm Eaddy
- Lake City High School – Mr. Jason Cook

Ms. Mary also reviewed some “save the dates”, Winter Break, and District Spelling Bee information. All of which are on her PowerPoint, which is posted on the FSD3 website.

Other Legislative and District Updates – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson gave updated student attendance data as of December 6, 2024, in which we are down by 202 students from last year at this time of school year. A legislative update will be done by Ms. Mattie Thomas, our delegate, at our January board meeting. State Legislators will be back in session in January 2025. Dr. Hickson delivered a few Thank You messages from FSD3 employees for the bonuses given in December 2024 via a video. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Enter into Executive Session – Ms. Barbara Bryant 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 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 9-0.

Exit Executive Session – Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and enter public session. Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd 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 9-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – There were no actions or matters to vote on during executive session.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Paula Morris 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

Jac’Kel Brown, Chair

Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary

