



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting

Minutes

Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, February 24, 2022

6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Jac'Kel Brown, Almeta Fleming Paula Morris, Gloria Robinson, Mattie Thomas and Jason Kirby was in attendance via telephone.

Absent: Rutha Frieson

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the February 24, 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: Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Paula 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 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: January 20, 2022 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report, and Student Transfer Request(s).

Public Participation: There were no requests for public participation.

Board Chair Report

1. *Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended* –Barbara Bryant attended a virtual visit with Main Street Elementary, in which appreciation from the school was given for her serving as a school board member. Mattie Thomas stated she enjoyed being serenaded and cheered for by the Lake City High School (LCHS) Ensemble and Cheerleaders while visiting LCHS. Almeta Fleming sent out a heartfelt thanks to J. C. Lynch Elementary School (JCL), and she has a bagful of cards she is still reading. Jason Kirby sent a thank you to Ronald E. McNair Jr. High (REMJB) for the board appreciation basket.

Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Mattie Thomas, Gloria Robinson, Jac'Kel Brown, Paula Morris and Jason Kirby all attended the SCSBA Annual Convention February 18-20, 2022 in Myrtle Beach. Ms. Bryant and Dr. Mims also attended the Board Chair workshop that was held on February 17, 2022 as part of this conference. This conference featured speakers Kyle Maynard, Dr. Bryant T. Marks, Sr and Kelcey Tailsh. Work sessions board members were able to attend included, but

not limited to, Carolina CAP (Collaborative for Alternative Preparation), Finance 1010 and Beyond, D50's Process for moving from a Traditional Calendar to a Year-Round Calendar, 3rd Grade Safety and Survival Swimming, Legislative Updates and Superintendent Search Service. All board members attending this conference commented on the different sections attended.

2. *Request to Attend Any Meetings* – None.

Staff Reports

Finance Update – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

January Financials - The January financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2021-2022 current budget is the final approved amount of \$29,900,845. The General Fund budget was also shown by Object Code. Mrs. Humphrey also presented the timeline for the 2022-2023 General Fund Budget. The first reading of this PROPOSED budget will be given at the March 17, 2022 board meeting.

Human Resources Update – *Angelia Scott, HR & Federal Programs Director*

Mrs. Scott introduced Charm Eaddy, Assistant Principal of LCHS, who talked about the proposed calendars for the 2022-2023 school year. The research committee for this task have researched, gathered, and explored all the information possible in order to bring to the FSD3 stakeholders all of the considerations and factors concerning these two options A & B of the 2022-2023 calendars. Once the two options were finalized, the committee held stakeholder meetings and sent out surveys to staff and parents. These surveys were open January 14 to February 11, 2022. Draft A is a Traditional Calendar and Draft B is a Modified Schedule Calendar. Both calendars contain the mandatory 180 student instruction days, the 10 Teacher Professional Development days, and the 3 eLearning Days for Inclement Weather. Due to the response of stakeholders, the district is recommending Draft B to the FSD3 BOT for approval. This draft does have a start date of August 1st, which is earlier than the SC State Law requirement of not beginning school earlier than the 3rd Monday of August. Therefore, should this calendar be approved, the district will need to submit a request for a waiver of this start date. Ms. Eaddy stated the reasons for FSD3 presenting a modified calendar option:

- 1) Increased opportunities for academic support and extra help throughout the year,
- 2) Increased opportunities to makeup seat time (Secondary),
- 3) First Semester ends before Winter Break,
- 4) Allow for expanded students to participate in performance camps, interest camps, showcases and performances, in addition to opportunities currently offered by the district,
- 5) Allow for opportunities for students to earn internship hours,
- 6) Provide opportunities for students and their families to connect with more support programs,
- 7) Allow more opportunities for deep cleaning and sanitizing,
- 8) Prevent student and teacher burnout,
- 9) Decrease teacher and student absences.

Both calendar options A & B were presented with a comparison. The staff and stakeholder feedback for these options were also presented. Staff feedback consisted of 90% of staff participating. 52% preferred the Modified calendar, 42% preferred the Traditional calendar, and 5% had no preference. Stakeholder feedback consisted of 383 responses. 52% were interested in the modified calendar for the upcoming

2022-2023 SY. 8% were interested in the modified calendar for the 2023-2024 SY. Less than 20% wanted more information concerning the modified calendar, and 25% preferred the traditional calendar for the upcoming 2022-2023 SY. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to accept the recommended Modified Calendar for the upcoming 2022-2023 SY. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the recommended Modified Calendar for the upcoming 2022-2023 SY passed 8-0.

Instruction Update – *Mary Howard, Elementary & Early Childhood Director*

With February being the Love of Reading Month, Mrs. Howard began her report to the FSD3 BOT. Staff are Aligning instruction and Daily practices and Focusing on Students and Learning Systems by asking the following questions:

- Where am I now (student data)
- Where am I going (School & District goals; Clear vision of learning targets)
- Closing the Gap (using evidence of student learning to determine next steps)

Mrs. Howard continued her report with Summer of Learning information:

- 1) Planning Summer Learning Camps
 - CERDEP Summer Expansion
 - Read to Succeed Literacy Camp
 - 21st Century Camps
 - High School Camps
- 2) Researching Summer Enrichment Camps
 - Governor School of Math & Science
 - College Camps

The goal is to give ALL students opportunities for summer learning.

The Magnet School application window closed on Friday, February 11 with over 200 applications. The lottery for these applications has been completed and parents are accepting seats now.

In the Spotlight – Lake City Early Childhood Center welcomes Jemi. Students at LCECC are using Jemi to help improve their social and behavioral skills and gain the confidence they need to succeed academically and socially. Jemi is an inspiration of Dr. Mae Jemison, who was the first African American female astronaut. This is part of the Office of Exceptional Children initiative.

PSAT Scholars from J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts and Science Magnet School:

- For SY 2020-2021 – Thomas Edwards
- For SY 2021-2022 – Hunter Blanchard
- For SY 2021-2022 – Sophie Purvis

Spelling Bee winners:

- 4K/5K – 1st Place: Easton Morris (LCECC); 2nd Place: Drake Bell (JCL); 3rd Place: Terri Lynn McElveen (LCECC)
- Grades 1-2 – 1st Place: Kellyn Sullivan (LCECC); 2nd Place: Harmony Bryant (LCECC); 3rd Place tied: Raylee smith (SES and Colton Bryant (SES), and Jessiah Burrison (LCECC)
- Grades 3-4 – 1st Place: Jensen Townsend (SES); 2nd Place: Jaccari Hughes-Mccutcheon (SES); 3rd Place: Daniel Byrd (JCL)

- Grades 5-8 – 1st Place: Antjuan Richards (MSE); 2nd Place: Lily Floyd (JPT); 3rd Place: Ana Scurry (SES)
- Grades 9-12 – 1st Place: Caleb McCutcheon (JPT); 2nd Place: Daniel Thomy (JPT); 3rd Place: Kristan McKnight (JPT)

Olanta Elementary Creative Arts & Science Magnet School are doing Green Steps Focus, February Reading challenges, showing off at LCHS with 2nd and 3rd dance teams; and celebrating National School counselor's Week.

Main Street Elementary School – “Leads the Way’ in Florence participating in the SC 4-H Pinckney Leadership Round-up at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technology bldg.

Upcoming Events to mark your calendar for:

- Virtual Parent/Teacher conferences tonight, 2/24/2022, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- J. C. Lynch presents a Virtual Wax Museum for Black History Month Friday, 2/25/2022
- Student registration for SY 2022-2023 opens 3/1/2022.
- FSD3 will celebrate #SElday on 3/11/2022
- Read across America – if you have a desire to stop and read to a class, please let us know.

Operations Update – *Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer*

COVID 19 cases update - A summary of cases in January and February as well as a breakdown of cases by schools was presented to board members and those present for tonight's meeting. 15% of district or school staff tested positive and 19% were quarantined due to exposure/contact in January. 10% of students tested positive and 48% of students were quarantined due to exposure/contact in January. Only 2% of district or school staff tested positive and 1% quarantined due to exposure/contact in February. 1% of students tested positive and 8% of students were quarantined due to exposure/contact in February. This report was as of 2/23/2022 9 a.m.

State Assessments – This being the beginning of testing season, Mrs. Feagin gave board members a quick glance of the testing that is currently and/or will be going on:

- ACCESS for Multi-lingual students 1/24/2022 – 3/25/2022 (Extended dates)
- Performance Task 2/22/2022 – 3/18/2022
- SC Alt 3/7/2022 – 4/22/2022
- ACT 3/22-24/2022
- SAT 3/23/2022
- WorkKeys 3/21/2022 – 4/29/2022
- SC Ready & SC Pass – Last 20 days of school
- EOC – Last 15 days of school

Superintendent's Report- *Laura Hickson, Ed. D., Superintendent*

Annual Policy Review – Thursday, March 10, 2022 is tentatively scheduled for the Policy Review meeting. All committee chairs will be contacting members on their committees to set up a time to meet, review assigned policies, and present policy recommendations to the board on this tentative date. Dr. Hickson is recommending to have the Policy committees to be on-going for the year (January to January) and meet every 10 weeks. The committee chair will give a quarterly report of any policies that need to

be updated and/or any new policies needed each quarter. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to have the Policy Review committees to be on-going with the chairs giving quarterly reports. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to have the Policy Review committees to be on-going with the chairs giving quarterly reports passed 8-0.

Transfer of funds to General Fund – Current fund balance is \$8,383,421.00. Dr. Hickson is asking for \$950,000.00 to be used for the following items:

- Employee appreciation/retention bonus \$573,497
- Supplement donor funds (larch Funds) to upgrade needed band supplies and equipment \$50,000
- Use funds to purchase supplies, materials and uniforms for our chorus/ensemble \$50,000
- Research potential housing or a plan to support staff who travel more than 65 miles/day round trip to work \$226,503
- Upgrade Athletic Facilities such as new bleachers; weight room improvements \$100,000

This will leave the general fund balance at \$7,433,421.00, which will not exceed the required three months of operational budget of \$6,962,178.50. Gloria Robinson made the motion to transfer \$950,000 from the General Fund balance to be used for the items listed. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to transfer \$950,000 from the General fund balance to be used for the items listed passed 8-0.

Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) committee – Mrs. Cheryl Hubbard-George is in the process of forming an OEC Committee to explore our current practices and suggestions for improving services, practices, and experiences for our special needs students. Dr. Hickson would like for 2 board members serve on this committee. Mattie Thomas and Almeta Fleming volunteered to serve on this committee.

Legislative Updates - Bill S.946 Unencumbered Time for Elementary Teachers. *This bill directs elementary school principals to provide at least 30 minutes of unencumbered time to classroom teachers during each regular school day. Additionally, the bill directs a principal of any elementary, middle, or high school to provide at least 30 minutes of unencumbered time to teachers.* This bill received 2nd reading by a vote of 41 to 0 on Wednesday, and 3rd reading on Thursday. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

Bill S.203 Removal of School Board Trustee – *This bill adds school board members to the existing law authorizing the governor, rather than a county board, to remove public officials who willfully commit or engage in an act of malfeasance, misfeasance, absenteeism, conflicts of interest, misconduct, and persistent neglect of duty in office or is deemed incompetent or incapacitated. The governor must notify the board member and provide the member an opportunity to be heard.* The Senate insisted on its amendment so the bill will move to a conference committee. The House appointed Representatives Felder, Brittain and Alexander.

Bill H.4766 Coordinating Council for Workforce Development – *This bill combines the EEDA Coordinating Council with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, eliminates designees, and outlines the specific duties of the Council.* The Senate received the bill and assigned it to the committee on labor, Commerce and Industry.

COVID Testing – Test to stay – FSD3 still partners with the Pharmacy in Florence for employee COVID testing. FSD3 now also offers Free COVID-19 testing at Lake City High School 5 day/week (Monday-Friday). This drive-up event will be in the parking lot behind the school. Participants will enter on the road between the gym and track (signs are on site). The hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. as long as the school is in session. Advanced registration is encouraged. We are also working on setting up a weekend COVID vaccination site.

Salute to Seniors – February 11, 2022 Dr. Hickson held a virtual Salute to Seniors. This event was on the calendar to start in August but due to COVID, it was moved back. The next meeting is scheduled for March. The expected outcome for this event is:

- to officially salute the Class of 2022
- share important information for seniors such as how to become college or career ready, and the need to focus
- identify the various pathways of the Class of 2022
- recognize seniors who have earned College or career readiness, scholarships, and acceptance to colleges or other career pathways.

Executive Session: Paula Morris made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation 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 into executive session passed 8-0.

Exit Executive Session – Paula Morris made the motion to exit executive session. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session passed 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from Executive Session:

No action needed.

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 8-0.

Date approved

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary