



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting*

*Minutes*

*Location: FSD3 Board Room*

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**Thursday, January 20, 2022**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Jac'Kel Brown, Almeta Fleming Paula Morris, Rutha Frieson, Gloria Robinson, and Mattie Thomas.

**Absent:** Jason Kirby

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the January 20, 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:** Julia Mims made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Rutha Frieson 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 8-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Jac'Kel Brown 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 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: December 16, 2021 board minutes, the January 3, 2022 Called Board meeting, and the Certified Personnel Report.

**Election of Board Officers:** Superintendent, Dr. Laura Hickson, opened the floor for nominations for the Florence County School District #3 Board Chair for 2022. Julia Mims nominated Barbara Bryant. Rutha Frieson seconded this nomination. With no other nominations on the floor, the group voted Barbara Bryant as the Florence County School District #3 Board Chair for 2022.

The newly elected Board Chairman, Barbara Bryant, continued with the election of Board Officers for 2022. Chair Bryant opened the floor for nominations for Florence County School District #3 Vice Chair. Gloria Robinson nominated Julia Mims. Almeta Fleming seconded this nomination. With no other nominations on the floor, the group voted Julia Mims as the Florence County School District #3 Board Vice-Chair for 2022.

Ms. Bryant opened the floor for nominations for the Florence County School District #3 Board Secretary. Jac'Kel Brown nominated Rutha Frieson. Paula Morris seconded this nomination. With no other nominations on the floor, the group voted Rutha Frieson as the Florence County School District #3 Board Secretary for 2022.

**Public Participation:** There were no requests for public participation.

**Special Recognition** – SCSBA recognizes Board Member, Dr. Julia Mims.

**Board Chair Report**

1. *Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended* –Barbara Bryant attended virtually the Martin Luther King celebration. Several board members are attended designated schools this month in appreciation of their service to the community as a school board member. Paula Morris visited Olanta Elementary Creative Arts and Science Magnet school while Gloria Robinson visited Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy. Barbara Bryant will be visiting Main Street Elementary School of Arts virtually.
2. *Request to Attend Any Meetings* – About 7 board members will be attending the SCSBA Annual Convention February 17-20, 2022.

As usual during this time of year, Board members re-affirm their commitment to the Code of Ethics. All board members present read and signed this poster.

**Staff Reports**

**Finance Update** – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

*December Financials* - The December 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.

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

MAP and TE21 data provide teachers with meaningful insight into students' progress and needs for improvement. Schools are able to establish goals aligned to the state report card. With this data, students are provided targeted intervention by the following: small group with Interventionist, Lexia, DreamBox, Read180/Systems44, and Edgenuity. Mrs. Howard provided board members and those attending tonight's meeting with MAP & TE21 comparisons of Fall 21 and Winter 22 showing how much growth with ELA and Math. MSE also donated over 200 canned goods to the Greater Lake City Community Resource Center in December as a service learning project. The school hosted a virtual BINGO night where students were given one beingo card for every 3 can goods brought in for the project.

**In the Spotlight** – **Main Street Elementary's (MSE) 21<sup>st</sup> Century AfterSchool Program** have the opportunity to participate in a series of nutrition lessons thanks to a partnership with the Greater Lake City Community Resource Center and the Clemson Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. This is a 6-week lesson program that allows students to learn about and taste new and healthy foods. MSE premiered its Inspirational Choir, MSE Cheerleaders, as well as the Ladies and Gentlemen's Club last month.

Coming events:

The FCSD3 Spelling Bee has been rescheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a virtual event.

The Lottery window for Olanta Elementary Creative Arts and Science Magnet School and J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts and Science Magnet School is now open and taking applications for the 2022-2023 SY.

Reports Cards will be issued Thursday, January 27, 2022.

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Day is scheduled for Friday, January 28, 2022.

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

**COVID 19 cases update** - A summary of cases in December and January as well as a breakdown of cases by schools was presented to board members and those present for tonight's meeting. 13 of F2F students were quarantined due to exposure/contact or tested positive in December. 1364 F2F students were quarantined due to exposure/contact or tested positive in January. 5 virtual students in January. These number were updated as of 1/20/2022 9:30 AM.

**Cell Phone Policy Feedback** – Feedback from the cell phone policy was presented as discussed during the December Board Meeting. There were 181 responses. Most of the responses supported the current cell phones policy but have some concerns. Under the High School Students section, it is recommended to take out 2 of the bullets under this section: during classroom instruction when directed by the teacher and other times in the presence of the principal/administrator. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to accept the revisions to Policy JCDAG 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 accept the revisions to policy JCDAG as recommended passed 8-0.

**Revision to Administrative Rule IKA-Grading & Assessment Systems** – An addition to this administrative rule came from the State Department of Education and worded by the SCSBA model administrative rule policies as follows:

*Students who are enrolled in dual enrollment classes must earn an 80 or higher to continue enrolling in dual enrollment classes. If a student earns less than 75 in an dual enrollment course, the student must retake the class to improve the grade before enrolling in a new dual enrollment course. If a student refuses to retake the class and enrolls in a new dual enrollment class, the student/parent will be responsible for paying for the dual enrollment course.*

This was presented to the board as information.

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

**2022-2023 Proposed District Calendar** – The calendar committee has 2 calendars, one traditional and one with a modified schedule. There are several dates scheduled to present these calendars to stakeholders for information and their choice. A recommended calendar will be presented during the February board meeting.

**Legislative Updates** – Proposed bill S.935 to provide funding for public school students to pay for private schools or courses online. The bill will be taken up by a Senate Education Subcommittee. Depending on the fiscal impact of the bill, the program could cost public schools and the state \$2.9 billion by the fifty year if passed. The House Education Committee will pick up where they left off at the end of the 2021 session by taking up some K12 bills that passed out of subcommittee near the end of the session last year.

**Requested Use of Fund Balance** – The current fund balance is \$8,383,421.00. Dr. Hickson is requesting to move \$950,000 to the general fund balance for the following requests: 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. This could help with recruitment and retention (\$226,503), and upgrade Athletic Facilities such as new bleachers; weight room improvement (\$100,000). This would

leave the current fund balance \$7,433,421, which still meets our 3 months of operational budget requirement. Julia Mims made the motion to move the \$950,000 as requested. 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 to transfer \$950,000 to the general fund for the listed improvement requests passed 8-0.

**COVID Testing Sites** – Currently FCSD#3 is partnering with The Pharmacy in Florence for employee COVID testing. Beginning January 24, 2022, FCSD#3 will offer Free COVID 19 testing at Lake City High School on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. This drive-up event will be in the parking lot behind the school. Participants will enter on the road between the gym and track. The hours of operation will be 9 to 4 PM as long as the school is in session. This is for students and staff only. Advanced registration is required. We are also working on setting up a weekend COVID vaccination site.

**eLearning Day Friday** – Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> has been designated as a district-wide elearning day for students due to the forecast for inclement weather. Students will be given assignments from their assigned school to complete from home and submit in within five days. Students and staff will return on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The FCSD#3 food service staff will distribute a meal bag for all students at the end of the school day on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Also, there will be no athletic events, no after-school or extended day programs on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Executive Session:** Rutha Frieson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Gloria Robinson 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 8-0.

**Exit Executive Session** – Almeta Fleming made the motion to exit executive session. Julia Mims 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 passed 8-0.

## PUBLIC SESSION

### Action from Executive Session:

Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to extend Dr. Hickson's contract to June 30, 2026 and give her a 5% increase in salary as stated in her contract. Paula Morris provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to extend Dr. Hickson's contract to June 30, 2026 and give her a 5% increase in salary passed 8-0.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Almeta Fleming provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

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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