



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, July 20, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the July 20, 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: Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve tonight's 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 July 20, 2023 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mattie Thomas 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: June 15, 2023 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report and student transfer requests.

Public Participation: None.

Special Recognition:

- Justin McNair, 2023 LCHS Graduate, is the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.
- Tyler Green, JPT student, has become an author of the comic book, The Story of Hero.
- 3 students, Jahara Carzo, rising LCHS Senior, Faithfulynne Gibson, rising JPT Senior, and Annarrie Washington, rising LCHS Senior participated in the Palmetto Girls State Program.
- Kierra Hernandez, 2023 graduate, Janaya Holmes, rising LCHS Senior completed the Patient Care Technician Apprenticeship Program this past summer. Both girls are currently working at MUSC.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the July 20, 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.

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – None
2. Request to attend any Meetings – None.

Superintendent's Report

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

June Financials - The June 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 was amended to safety and \$136,114 for projects in development. 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 June 30, 2023.

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

Mrs. Scott gave kudos to the principals for being vigilant in trying to make sure vacancies in their schools. Right now there are 1 elementary, 1 early childhood, 1 English (have a candidate), 1 Science (have a candidate) and 1 SS (have a candidate). Band Program is back!

SCSBA Recommendations for Sections A & B –

As requested by the board, SCSBA is currently doing a review of the FSD3 policies. Sections A and B were sent with the recommendations as follows:

Section A: Policy AA – School District Legal Status revised to the model policy which deletes extraneous information regarding the structure and selection of the State Board of Education, Policy AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity revised to the model policy to include general information applicable to all areas of operation within the district. FSD3 information was inserted as appropriate, Policy AD was replaced with policy ADA – School District goals and Objectives with an administrative rule-FSD3's mission statement was updated, Policy ADD – Face coverings was kept, and ADF-District Wellness was kept in place as well. The following polices were relocated, and therefore, deleted: AB, ABA, ABB, ABCC, ABCF, AC, ACA, AEA, AEBA. The motion of was to accepted the revisions and to delete the policies of section A as recommended by Jac'Kel Brown. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept the revisions and delete the policies recommended of section A passed 9-0.

A motion to approve 1st reading of new policies for section A: ACB – *Educational Equity*, ACE – *Service Animals (Public)*, ADB-*Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace and Schools*, and ADC – *Tobacco-Free School District*, was made by Jac'Kel Brown. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1st reading of new policies ACB, ACE, ADB and ADC passed 9-0.

Section B: Policy **BA** – *Board Operational Goals* was revised with new introductory language to include the FSD3 goals, Policy **BB** – *Board Legal Status* replaced AB and ABA, the highlighted section specific to local law has since been changed, and therefore, paragraph #4 was deleted. Policy **BBA-Board Power and Duties** replaces policies ABB and BBA. This policy combines both of these policies and paraphrases state law. Policy **BBB-Board Membership/Elections** replaces FSD3 policy ABCC. Policy **BBBA-Board Member Qualifications** replaces FSD3 policies BBB and BBA. Policy **BC-Board Members Conduct** replaces FSD3 policy BH, Policy **BCA-Board Member Code of Ethics** replaces FSD3 policy BCC, Policy **BCB-Board Member Conflict of Interest** replaces FSD3 policy BHA, Policy **BD-Organization of the Board** with an administrative rule replaces FSD3 policy BBAA. Board members agreed to “**voice**” vote and in paragraph #2, 2nd sentence, “Officers can serve no more than ‘**two**’ consecutive terms.” Policy **BDE-Board**

Committees replaces FSD3 policy BBC. However, in this policy (BDE) 1st sentence, it will read “there will be no standing committees of the board, other than the ongoing policy committee **unless the need arises, and the board will determine then as needed.**” Policy **BDF** – *Advisory Committees* with an administrative rule replaces FSD3 policy BBF. Policy **BDG** – *Board Attorney/Legal Services* with an administrative rule replaces FSD3 policy BBE. Policy **BE**–*Board Meetings* replaces FSD3 policies BC (which was revised), BCA (which was revised) and BCBF. In policy **BE** board members agreed to “**no later than 8:00 pm.**” Policy **BEC** *Executive Session/Open Meetings* replaces FSD3 policy BCBK. Policy **BEDA**–*Board Meeting Notification* replaces FSD3 policy BCBB. Policy **BEDB**–*Board Agenda* replaces FSD3 policy BCBD. Policy **BEDF**–*Voting Method at Board Meetings* replaces part of Policy BCBF. Policy **BEDG**–*Minutes of Board Meetings* replaces FSD3 policy BCBH. Policy **BEDH**–*Public Participation at Meetings* replaces FSD3 policy BCBI. Policy **BEE**–*Public Hearings* replaces FSD3 policy BCAE. Policy **BG/BGD**–*School Board Policy Process/Board Review of Administrative Rules* with an administrative rule replaces FSD3 policies BD and BDF. Policy **BIA/BIB**–*New Member Orientation/Board Member Development Opportunities* replaces FSD3 policy BBB and BBBC. Policy **BID**–*Board Member Compensation and Expenses* replaces FSD3 policy BBBE, and Policy **BK**–*Board Memberships in Professional Associations* replaces FSD3 policy BGA. Jac’Kel Brown made the motion to approve the recommended revisions and delete policies these revisions replaced. These policies were AB, ABA, ABB, BBA, ABCC, BBB, BBBA, BH, BCC, BHA, BBAA, BBC, BBF, BBE, BCBF, BCBK, BCBB, BCBD, BCBF, BCBH, BCBI, BCAE, BD, BDF, BBBB, BBBC, BBBE and BGA. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the recommended revisions and delete the policies these revisions replaced passed 9-0.

Jac’kel Brown made the motion to accept 1st reading of the following new policies for section B: **BAA**–*Board Self-Evaluation*, **BBAA**–*Board Member Authority and Responsibilities* with an administrative rule, **BBBC**–*Board Member Resignation*, **BBBD**–*Board Member Removal From Office*, **BBBE**–*Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies*, **BDD**–*Board-Superintendent Relationship*, **BDH**–*Board Consultants/Staff Assistant*, **BEDI**–*News Media Services at Board Meetings*, **BEDL**–*Board Members and Electronic Communications*, **BEDM**–*Electronic Participation in Board Meetings*, **BEDN**–*Board Members’ Use of District-Owned Portable Devices*, **BIE**–*Board Member Insurance Liability*, and **BJ**–*Board Legislative Program* with administrative rule and exhibit. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approved 1st reading for the new policies presented under section B passed 9-0.

Instructional Updates –Mrs. Tonyelle Thomas, Director of Early Learning, Student MTSS and Academic Support & the ARTS

Mrs. Thomas began her report by reviewing the over 20 learning opportunities for students to “EXCEL” during the summer of 2023. She continued with the administrative professional development opportunities during the months of June and July. She ended her report with a list of ‘Save the Date!’-July 24th –Opening ceremonies at 8:30 am-LCHS, July 27th – Open House 3:00 to 7:00-All schools, August 1st-is the 1st day of school for students, August 10th-Back to School Parent Conference-6:00 pm-LCHS Gym, and August 14th-begins the 21st Century Afterschool programs.

Operations Updates – Mrs. Kasey Feagin, Chief Operations Officer

Policy Revisions Needed - Policy II, Testing Programs – The SCSDE has added the following verbage addressing electronic communications devices specifically:

- “The Use of any electronic devices (e.g., cell phone, smartphone/watch camera, PDA or playback device, etc.) that could allow students to view, access, retain or transit information for state-mandates assessment is not allowed by students. Only students who use an electronic device for documented medical purposes (e.g., glucose monitoring, cardiac monitoring) may be allowed access to the device(s) during testing.
- FSD3 schools will collect and secure prohibited devices that are not allowed during testing. If a student has an unauthorized device during state testing, this is a testing violation and will result in disciplinary action (an administrative hearing/manifestation determinations⁰ and may invalidate the student’s test.”

Also, the following changes by SC law were made to Policy IHE, Promotion and Retention as follows:

Change the following:

- Grade 9 – Promotion from 8th grade
- Grade 10 – ~~5 units~~ 6 units with 1 math unit and 1 English unit ~~The student must have at least one unit in a required English and one unit in a required Math and be enrolled in courses leading to an additional unit of credit in both English and math.~~
- Grade 11 – ~~11 units~~ 12 units with 2 math units and 2 English units ~~The student must have at least two required units of English and two units of required Math.~~
- Grade 12 – ~~17 units~~ 18 units with 3 math units and 3 English units ~~The student must have at least two units each in English and mathematics and be enrolled in course work for the following year that will allow them to complete the 24 units needed for the state high school diploma.~~

Change the following:

Promotion/retention decisions for all students will be determined by the student’s ability to perform at the current grade level based on assessment results, the student’s class performance and/or teacher judgment as defined by the Education Accountability Act (EAA) of 1998. Other factors that may be considered are reports cards, interim reports, portfolios, attendance records and intervention records. The final decision concerning promotion or retention rests with the principal **collaborating with the teacher.**

Jac’Kel Brown made the motion to approve the revisions to policies II and IHE 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 revisions made to policies II and IHE as presented passed 9-0.

Other Legislative and District Updates – Dr. Laura Hickson, FSD3 Superintendent

Get Connected – LCHS graduate, Mary Ellen Player was present to talk to board members and those present for tonight’s meeting, about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for parents. This program is federally funded, that no knows about, but could be very beneficial to members of the FSD3 community. 2 parts to this program:

- Monthly \$30 subsidy for in-home internet service
- Up to \$100 one-time discount towards a laptop, desktop or tablet

Ms. Player explained what households are eligible for this program and explained the 2 steps it takes for this program to work and the local options for families. Next.....Getting the Word Out.

Legislative Updates

Dr. Hickson let board members know legislature is not in session, however, each board member got the updated 2023 SC Legislative Manual. Updates were given on cafeteria renovation at SES, which is on schedule.

Enter into Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation 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 into public session passed 8-0. (Gloria Robinson left the meeting during executive session.)

PUBLIC SESSION

No action was needed from executive session.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Jason Kirby 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

Jason Kirby, Secretary