



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting*

*Minutes*

*Location: FSD3 Board Room*

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**Thursday, July 22, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Paula Morris, Gloria Robinson, Mattie Thomas, Jason Kirby and Almeta Fleming.

**Absent:** Jac'Kel Brown and Rutha Frieson

**Call to Order:** Vice-Board Chair (Acting Chair at this meeting), Julia Mims called the July 22, 2021 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 Vice-Board Chair Mims 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 7-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Almeta Fleming 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 7-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the June 17, 2021 board meeting, minutes from the June 29, 2021 Called-board meeting, the Certified Personnel Report, and student transfer requests.

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

## **Board Chair Report**

1. *Report of Any Meetings/Schools Attended* – Barbara Bryant and Mattie Thomas attended the SC Black Caucus Induction conference in which Jac'Kel Brown was inducted as Committee Chair Person of this association. Mattie Thomas mentioned that she enjoyed the Legislative Update given during this conference concerning what should have and should be taught in schools for African American students.
2. *Request to Attend Any Meetings* – None.

## **Staff Reports**

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

*June Financials* - The June financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The FSD3 current budget remains at \$30,162,700, which includes the \$200,000 board approved use of fund balance for facility safety improvement measures and the board approved Christmas Bonus for FT/PT

employees. Mrs. Humphrey's presentation still includes a comparison of the General Budget of SY 19-20 and FY 20-21 based on the FY 19-20 revenues due to the Continuing Resolution.

*FY 20-21 General Fund Reports* – Currently the FSD3 Finance Department is in the process of closing the year and preparing for the EOY audit. Savings will be added to the Fund Balance. Exact numbers for these savings will be provided at a later date.

*FY 21-22 General Fund Amended by Object Code* – Mrs. Humphrey shared with board members and those present for tonight's board meeting the object codes amended for the SY 21-22 General Fund.

*Human Resources Update* – *Angelia Scott, Human Resources Director*

Mrs. Scott gave board members the latest number of vacancies needed for the 2021-2022 certified positions. Currently, needed are 3 in Early Childhood; 8 in Elementary; 1 in English; 1 in Math; 2 in Science; 5 in Special Education; 1 in SS; 1 in Music; 2 in PE; 1 Media Specialist; and an ESOL position for a total of 26 positions. The question was asked do we think we will be able to fill these vacancies. Not sure but the Human Resource Department will try and are currently trying as hard as possible. Staff has been monitoring the current student enrollment to determine if adjustments to these figures are needed.

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

*FSD3 Tutoring Center* - Mrs. Howard started her report the opening of the FSD3 Tutoring Center. This center will be open Mondays-Thursdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Currently the center is serving 30 students in grades 5K-9<sup>th</sup> in ELA and Math. There are 6 tutors, which FSD3 is partnering with FMU and are FSD3 graduates/college students.

*In the Spotlight* – **ACT Boot Camp** was July 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> conducted by teachers who attended the ACT Educator Workshop. Students took the ACT test on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**The Wynn' College Boot Camp** – July 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> for high school students; July 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> for middle school students and high school students who were not able to participate during the previous week. This four-day intensive boot camp challenges students to learn who they really are and to create realistic roadmaps for achieving their college dreams.

**SCASA 2021 i3 conference** – FSD3 will have 3 different presentations featured at the annual SCASA i3 conference. 1) Engaging & Partnering with Stakeholders (*Dr. Laura Hickson and Mrs. Kasey Feagin*); 2) MTSS Targeted Interventions that Work (*Dr. Yvonne Commodore*); 3) Strategies to Re-engage an "Endangered" Population through Effective Alternative School Practices (*Mr. Ned Blake & Mr. Jerry State*).

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

*Testing* – EOC testing for high school summer school (Initial credit) – English 2, Biology, Algebra/Intermediate Algebra and US History-all testing must be completed by August 6th. Mrs. Feagin shared with board members and those present at tonight's meeting the link to all testing dates for 2020-2021 SY

<https://ed.sc.gov/tests/tests-files/assessment-information/2020-21-assessment-schedule/>

*Bus Drivers* – FSD3 is in desperate need of bus drivers for the 2021-2022 SY. If anyone knows of anyone that may be interested, please contact the FSD3 Human Resource Department (843) 374-8652.

*Back to School Bash for Parents and Students* – This event will be August 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Lake City High School Gym. FSD3 is partnering with CommUnity for this event. More information concerning this event will be forth coming.

Proviso 1.108 – Mrs. Feagin shared with board members and those attending tonight’s meeting the SDE: Mask Mandate Prohibition, which states “No school district, or any of its schools may use any funds appropriated or authorized pursuant to this act to require that its students and/or employees wear a facemask at any of its education facilities. This prohibition extends to the announcement or enforcement of any such policy.” The SCDE interprets this language to mean that school districts are prohibited from requiring students and employees to wear a facemask while in any of its educational facilities for the 21021-2022 SY. Educational facilities include all property owned and operated by the individual district. SC State Superintendent, Molly Spearman sent a memo to all district school districts earlier this month saying her agency also has decided it will no longer enforce masks on buses either. In fact, any district that tries to put in a mandatory mask mandate, could face a penalty. “Should a district decide to act contrary to this law, state funding may be withheld,” Spearman wrote. Board Members did express individual opinions on this ‘non-mandate.’ Board members, however, will look at adjusting current policies as needed/recommended for the best practices for the FSD3 community/district.

Policy ADF-District/School Wellness – Mrs. Feagin asked for needed revisions to Policy ADF. These revisions were recommended by Valerie Mouzon, Food Service Supervisor, after consultation with SCDE (Nutrition department). Paula Morris made the motion to approve the revisions to Policy ADF as presented. Jason Kirby provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve revisions to Policy ADF as presented passed 7-0.

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

***Students need to register ASAP*** – Dr. Hickson began her report stating that all students who have not yet registered for the 2021-2022 SY, please do so. If you need assistance, please call either your school or the district office.

Theme for the 2021-2022 SY – Dr. Hickson shared with board members and those present at tonight’s meeting FSD3’s theme for the 2021-2022 SY – THE POWER OF ONE

FSD3’s Goals – 3 schools attended a meeting at the Boys & Girls Club for parents to hear issue and try to come up with solutions to these issues. Regardless of challenges, FSD3 are always required to adhere to meet the district’s 6 goals: 1) To ensure the safety of all district schools, offices, students and staff. 2) To improve the academic success of all students. 3) To increase the number of students reading on grade level in grades K-3. 4) To recruit, retain, and train excellent instructional and administrative staff. 5) To build effective school, community and business relationships/partnerships. 6) To ensure financial stability.

***Our Focus for the 2021-2022 SY – The Power of One:*** Every Student Matters, Every Employee Matters, Each one of us have the power to bring value to create the success of the Village (One classroom, one school, one district); Creating a Culture of Innovation: Leverage the Village to create transformational change, Education changes lives; Accelerating Student academic performance in all core contents: Instructional Protocols Fidelity, Tutoring/Interventions, Integrate the Arts, Focus on Post-education (college & careers); Addressing social and emotional disorders: Implement MTSS framework, Increased

social and emotional services, Consistency; Providing professional growth & development: The “ONE” Initiative for leadership development and growth, other ongoing PD that supports Student Achievement. **Tutoring Center** – As Mrs. Howard mentioned in her report, the Tutoring Center’s grand opening event is August 12, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m. The center is currently open Mondays-Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are 6 tutors focusing on math and reading. Applications are on the FSD3 website or parents can stop by the center to fill out an application. A future goal is to be open Saturdays & Sundays for 3 to 4 hours once school starts. FSD3 currently has 30 students being served at the tutoring centers (5K-9<sup>th</sup> grades); 11 students enrolled at Mathnasium; 19 students enrolled in the Clemson reading program. All of these programs are being funded by FSD3. Parents are responsible for transportation to Mathnasium and the Clemson reading program is virtual.

**Breakfast for Stakeholders** – On July 26, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at The Stables, Dr. Hickson will bring ministers, business managers, and other key supportive stakeholders together to receive an update on the “State of the District” and the role the district plays in a striving, successful community and to encourage partnerships.

**FSD3’s Retention Committee** - Dr. Hickson shared with board members meeting dates for the FSD3’s Retention Committee. The purpose of this committee is to propose, plan, and coordinate new initiatives and engage faculty in creating and participating in retention activities. This committee will also provide advice and make recommendations on programming, initiatives, and services effecting the retention of highly qualified teachers.

*Virtual Meeting(s) or Face to Face meetings(s) will be determined.*

**FSD3’s Recruitment Committee** – Dr. Hickson shared with board members meeting dates for the FSD3’s Recruitment Committee. The purpose of this committee is to partner with current stakeholders and potential candidates (from universities and programs such as “Call Me Mister,” Teacher Fellows, etc.) to propose, plan and coordinate innovative recruitment initiatives.

*Virtual Meeting(s) or Face to Face meetings(s) will be determined.*

**Legislative/District Updates** – District-level and School-level administrators will participate in professional development on Tuesday, July 27 and Wednesday, July 28 at the continuum with Dr. Stephen Peters with such topics as Title IV.

**FSD3’s BOT 2021-2022 Meeting Dates** – Dr. Hickson presented the BOT 2021-2022 schedule of monthly meeting dates. All monthly dates are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month with the exception of February, which is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to the SCSBA’s Annual Convention is held the week before, and April, which is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday due Spring Break being during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. Paula Morris made the motion to approve the schedule of the FSD3’s BOT schedule of monthly meeting dates for SY 2021-2022. 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 the FSD3’s BOT schedule of monthly meeting dates for SY 2021-2022 passed 7-0.

**Executive Session:** Barbara Bryant made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Jason Kirby 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 7-0.

**Exit Executive Session** – Almeta Fleming made the motion to exit executive session. Barbara Bryant 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 7-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **Action taken from Executive Session**

No action was needed from executive session.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Barbara Bryant 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 7-0.

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Date approved

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Julia Mims, Vice-Chair (Acting Chair for meeting)

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Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

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Jac'Kel Brown, Secretary