



# Florence County School District 3

## Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

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Thursday, June 20, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Jac'Kel Brown called the May 16, 2024 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

**Roll Call:** Secretary Rutha Frieson informed the Board Chair, Jac'Kel Brown, all board members were present with the exception of Jason Kirby and Paula Morris was present via telephone. Board members present F2F were: Jac'Kel Brown, Rebecca Yates, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, Julia Mims, Barbara Bryant and Gloria Robinson. Paula Morris on the telephone. Jason Kirby was absent from tonight's meeting.

**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. A moment of silence was observed after which Board Chair Brown led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the June 20, 2024 agenda as presented passed 8-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the Consent 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 the consent agenda as presented passed 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: minutes from the 5/16/2024 Board meeting, the Certified Personnel Report, and student transfer requests for SY 2024-2025.

**Public Participation:** No one signed up for public participation.

### **Board Chair Report**

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended  
Board members reported on attending the EOY activities such as the award ceremonies, graduation exercise, departmental celebrations, etc. Each board member also congratulated retirees present at tonight's meeting.
2. Request to attend any Meetings – All board members have already requested to attend the SCSBA School Law conference in Charleston in August 2024.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Finance Updates** – Ms. Hope Gibson, Finance Director

**May Financials** - The April financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2023-2024 current budget is the final approved amount of \$38,424,333.00. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function as of May 31, 2024.

*General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025* – As of the 2nd reading of the 2024-2025 GF budget, the expenditures exceeded the revenue amount by \$6,599,025. As of today, the expenditures exceed the revenue amount by \$3,991,126 which is a reduction of \$2,607,899. SDE still has not released the final revenue figures using the new Aid to Districts formula in order to complete the final 2024-2025 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget. Therefore, a continuing resolution was recommended to operate on the 2023-2024 budget until the July meeting. Finance will continue to work on trimming and balancing the budget to put in place with the final revenue numbers. Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve the continuing resolution. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the continuing resolution in which the district will continue to operate on the 2023-2024 GF budget until the July board meeting, at which time the final GF budget may be approved passed 8-0.

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

A retirement social was held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. before the board meeting began for the FSD3 2023-2024 retirees. Mrs. Angelia Scott introduced each retiree and presented each with the FSD3 retirement clock.

- ✓ Cathy Ackerman 1995 to 2023
- ✓ Carmenita Anderson 2007 to 2024
- ✓ Lenora Caldwell 2000-2024
- ✓ Robin Daniels 2018-2024
- ✓ Joyce Gamble-Brown 1995-2024
- ✓ Aquillia Graham 2013-2024
- ✓ Allen Harrison 2014-2024
- ✓ Eleta McCray 1994-2024
- ✓ Yvonne McDaniel 2006-2024
- ✓ Penny Moore 1994-2023
- ✓ Katrina Mungo 1993-2024
- ✓ Terese Patterson 1996-2024
- ✓ Jill Tisdale 1998-2023
- ✓ Kathleen Williams 2021-2024
- ✓ Shelia Knotts 1999-2024

*Operations Update* – *Mrs. Kasey Feagin, Chief Operations Officer*

*Policy Revision* – This policy is recommended for revision from the SCSBA. A

After the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph the following paragraph was added:

“The district believes school safety is an integral part of the educational program. For that reason, all schools within the district are required to instruct and drill students and staff on emergency procedures so that they may respond to an event without confusion and panic.”

Next paragraph “to achieve this goal.” was added at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. The following sentence was added after the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: “Emergency and five evacuation plans and drills will be conducted pursuant to state law and regulations along with the most recent Model Fire and Safety Programs Guidelines applicable for South Carolina School Districts and Charter Schools.”

“...and its corresponding administrative rule.” was added to the last sentence of this paragraph.

The following sections were removed from this policy: Assessment, Inspections, Evacuation Plans and Drills, Fire drills, Active shooter/intruder drills, Severe weather/earthquake drills, Classroom and Hallway Safety, and construction and renovation. This information was moved to the administrative rule for this policy.

Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the revisions made to the EBCB policy as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the revisions to policy EBCB ‘Safety Plans and Drills’ as presented passed 8-0.

*Textbook Recommendations* – 3 textbook recommendations were presented to board members:

- Chemistry 1: Science Dimensions Chemistry (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- Physics: Science Dimensions Physics South Carolina (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- World History: Modern-AP: Bentley, Traditions and Encounters (McGraw-Hill)

Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve the textbooks recommended. Rebecca Yates provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the recommended textbooks passed 8-0.

*Financial Risk Assessment* – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

The annual risk assessment conducted by the SCDE is based on 10 criteria:

1. Required Reporting
2. Turnover of Key Personnel
3. Programmatic Compliance
4. Fiscal Compliance
5. Performance
6. Frequency and Need of Technical Assistance
7. Financial Stability
8. Quality of Management Systems
9. Timeliness of Annual Financial Audit Submission
10. Other Material Factors (accreditation, confirmed cheating/test security violations, state program violations, other SCDE audits)

The scores for each criterion are totaled for an overall risk score that indicates low, medium or high-risk categories. Overall risk scores 18 or below=low risk, Risk scores between 19 and 28 = medium risk. Risk score 29 and above = risk.

Florence School District 3 received a score of 10, which is low risk.

*Legislative Updates* – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Several K12 provisos were recently adopted:

1. The Senate version of 1.65 (SCDE: Safe Schools Initiative) was amended to prohibit students enrolled in a school to possess a firearm on public school property, even if it is locked inside a vehicle.
2. A proviso that requires, before Aug 1, 2024, the SCDE to provide a list of cooperative purchasing agreements that school districts may use to maximize the impact of Education Stabilization Fund for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.
3. SDE: Carry Forward Reallocation is a new proviso authorizing carry forward funds for Facilities Assessments and Efficiency Studies during a prior fiscal year to be reallocated to support school district shared services and capital infrastructure efforts.

#### Board Policies J

Dr. Hickson asked the board for a date to conduct a workshop to discuss the revisions for the J policies that have been sent by the SC School Board Association. 2 dates were suggested – July 9, 2024 or July 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. either F2F or Virtual. Board members will let Dr. Hickson know what date, and method, is the most convenient for the majority.

#### Extra

Dr. Hickson wanted to publically thank the **Masonic Lodge** for the generous donation of \$2000 to the Gentlemen’s Club. This lodge not only donates monetarily, but supports the Gentlemen’s Club all throughout the school year.

Ms. Mattie Thomas asked Dr. Hickson to please provide board members with a list of all the consultants for the district and what each are paid. She also asked for a list of individuals being paid out of ESSER Funds.

**Enter into Executive Session** – 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 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.

***Paula Morris left the meeting after this motion.***

**Exit Executive Session** – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and enter into public session. Gloria Robinson 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 and enter back into public session passed 7-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Action from executive session** – No action was needed from the executive session.

Chair Jac’Kel Brown recognized/acknowledged the FSD3’s 2024-2025 school administrative leadership:

LCHS – Principal, Jason Cook/Assistant Principal, Ashley Dress

JPT – **Principal, Steven Barr**/Assistant Principal, Crystal Huckabee/Assistant Principal, Contessa Bradley

REMJB – Principal, Charm Eaddy Assistant Principal, Jeremy Gerken

LCECC – **Principal, Jhmal Cole**

MSE – Principal, Sharon Williams/Assistant Principal, Bridgett Fleming

JCL – Principal, T. J. Devine/Assistant Principal, Kristi Anderson

OES – Principal, Melanie McKnight/Assistant Principal, Jacob Gilliard/Admin Assistant, Caroline Doughty

SES – Principal, Jami Kirby/Admin Assistant, Cliff Gardner

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Mattie Thomas 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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Jac’Kel Brown, Chair

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Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

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Rutha Frieson, Secretary