



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting*

*Minutes*

*Location: Zoom*

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Jac’Kel Brown, Paula Morris, Rutha Frieson, Jason Kirby and Gloria Robinson. Almeta Fleming joined the meeting after it had already started.

**Absent:** Mattie Thomas

**Call to Order:** Vice-Board Chair, Julia Mims called the March 18, 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-Chair Mims led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve tonight’s agenda as presented. Barbara Bryant 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:** Gloria Robinson 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 7-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the February 25, 2021 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, Jac’Kel Brown, Gloria Robinson, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, and Almeta Fleming have asked to attend the virtual National MSAP virtual conference in April 2021.
2. *Request to Attend Any Meetings* – None.

## **Staff Reports**

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

*February Financials* - The February financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. Our 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.

*Policy DJEI* - Mrs. Humphrey presented to board members policy DJEI with the request of a small revision. This policy is titled Fiscal Management/Purchasing/Vendor Relations issued January 2002. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence **add the following**: *In that event those entities that do business with the district may be solicited, provided approval is first obtained from the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee.* Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to revise policy DJEI as presented. Barbara Bryant provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to add or the superintendent's designee to the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of policy DJEI passed 7-0.

### **Almeta Fleming joined the meeting at this point.**

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022* - Mrs. Humphrey continued her report with the presentation of 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Mrs. Humphrey re-stated FSD3's mission and the Board/District 6 goals. After showing board members, and those present for tonight's meeting, a 135 Average Daily membership trend, Mrs. Humphrey stated that as a precautionary measure, the district will build this budget with a 100.00 student less ADM than what is the 45 day ADM in this present school year. The implied Base Student Cost (BSC) is \$2500 compared to the present \$2489 BSC. The teacher pay step increase has been unfrozen. Health Insurance, that was frozen for 2020-2021, will increase, but the how much is not yet known. State Retirement, that was also frozen for 2020-2021, will have the 1% increase reinstated beginning 7/1/2021. Mrs. Humphrey presented the PRELIMINARY General Fund Budget for FY 2021-2022 with 3 different scenarios, No Step/retirement +1%; Teacher scale/2 steps; All (including classified/administrative employees/2 steps), that had excess expenditures over Revenues (864,301.46; 870,301.52; 976,944.05) respectively. Mrs. Humphrey stated that once all the information from the state department is finalized, this budget will be balanced. Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of this preliminary general fund budget for 2021-2022. Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the 2021-2022 general fund budget passed 8-0.

As required by law, Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. will be the 1<sup>st</sup> public Hearing for the 2021-2022 general fund budget.

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

*Preliminary Vacancy Report* - Mrs. Scott reported to board members after surveying positions returning for the 2021-2022, 25 positions were vacant. However, after talking with individuals, she is happy to report FSD3 will only be looking for 17 vacancies. These vacancies are as follows: 7 elementary; 2 Middle/Secondary English; 5 Middle/Secondary Math; 2 Special Education, and 1 media Specialist. There will a *Teacher Recruitment Fair* on Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where our own teachers will play a part in recruiting folks to “come teach with us.”

*Modified Calendar Exploratory Committee* – Mrs. Scott explained to board members the process for researching the possibility of a year-round school calendar. Stage One-assign the committee. Stage Two-The purpose of this group would be to review the research, brainstorm any additional considerations/factors, etc. If the group decides to move forward the group would also determine how feedback would be collected from all stakeholders, etc., gather feedback, develop an official proposal. In

order to allow all stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback, the committee will present the proposal during the Annual Stakeholder's Meeting.

**Instruction Update** – *Allana Prosser, Chief Academic Officer*

*End of Year Assessments* - Mrs. Prosser began her report by sharing End of Courses % scores in Biology, US History, Algebra and English from 2017-28 to 2020-2021. She also shared the preparation to be implemented for students for the end of year assessments.

*Duke Energy Grant* – Duke Energy has voted to fund the FSD3 tutoring program in the amount of \$8,000. We so appreciate Duke Energy's partnership for this program and the positive impact it will have on the children in the community.

*Summer Program Dates* – Right now summer school dates will be June 14<sup>th</sup> thru July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The application will be available on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, for teachers to apply and will go out to appropriate students in the near future. 4K will offer a Summer Jumpstart Program for new and returning students.

*SCASA Presentation* – Ed Brogdon, Josh Jennings, and Cliff Gardner were scheduled to present at the SCASA Instructional Leader's Roundtable today, however, due to weather, the meeting was canceled. This team will present at the April roundtable meeting sharing FSD3's virtual journey.

*REMJB Updates* - Terrell Fleming, REMJB Principal, shared the building and academic updates at Ronald E. McNair Jr. High School, which included, but not limited to, new fence, new marquee, updated restrooms. Mr. Fleming said great things are happening at REMJB.

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

*COVID-19* - Mrs. Feagin introduced Jennifer Lyerly, LCHS nurse, who presented the FSD3 COVID-19 Flowchart. This chart traced the procedures taken for Positive Cases, Symptomatic Person(s), and Close Contacts of the coronavirus. Mrs. Feagin then updated board members, and others present at tonight's meeting, the # of cases since February 1, 2021 and since March 1, 2021.

*Soles for Souls* – this is the third year that FSD3 has participated in this project hosted by the Greater Lake City Community Resource center. 25 students from MSE and 25 students from LCECC were identified in need for this project. These students were taken to Shoe Show and able to pick out their own pair of shoes that were purchased for them. Children are very excited and appreciative. Mrs. Feagin stated this is a very heart-warming experience.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading for Policy EBC 'Emergencies'* – 1st reading for this policy recommended by the SCSBA was approved during the February 25, 2021 board meeting. This policy has 3 administrative rules included, Virtual Board Meetings, Remote Instruction and Remote Work. Due to concerns by Rutha Frieson on the possible action from police, this policy was placed on hold by the consensus of the board members to be brought back at another time.

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

*FSD3 Vaccines* – Dr. Hickson began her report giving board members, and those present at tonight's meeting, a summary of the COVID-19 vaccines provided to FSD3 staff members. The week of 3/1/2021, a local physician provided vaccines for staff at four schools (JPT, MSE, REMJB, & SESA). A physician in the Olanta community also provided vaccines for staff at OES. On Monday, 3/8/2021, McLeod provided

vaccines for FSD3 staff at Pamplico Middle School. Currently 225 FSD3 employees, out of 537, have received the COVID-19 vaccine. This is approximately 42% of the FSD3 staff.

*Legislative Updates* – The House concurred in the Senate amendments to H. 3609, Teacher Step Increase, on Wednesday. The bill now moves on to be ratified and then signed by the governor. Details of this bill are as follows:

- Funding up to 450,000,000 to the Executive Budget Office to provide teacher step increases.
- Fringe benefits are to be included in the allocations.
- The Department of Education must distribute the funds to each school district based on set guidelines.
- Each school district must provide a one-time lump sum payment of the entire step increase due to the employee, including any amounts in arrears, by June 15, 2021.
- A position is eligible for the step increase if that position was serviced under contract as of March 1, 2021.

H.3941 (COVID-19 Sick Leave) – there's a joint resolution that encourages school districts to develop and implement emergency COVID-19 sick leave plans that use the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Plans should indicate how the district would provide paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave to eligible employees for specific qualifying reasons related to COVID-19 and mirror leave previously mandated by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). *ESSER II Update* – Dr. Hickson continued her report by giving board members, and others present at tonight's meeting, the FSD3 expenditure plan submitted for ESSER II funds. 1. Total – Safety \$1,00,600.00; 2. Total – Academic Recovery - \$4,196,905.53, and 3. Total – Student Support \$327,643.41.

*Plan to Return to 5 Days F2F Learning* – Dr. Hickson ended her report by informing board members the SCDE and policy makers have asked all school districts to offer 5 days a week F2F Learning to students. Currently, FSD3's elementary schools give parents the choice of 5 days F2F or virtual learning. The FSD3's middle and high school F2F students are currently 4 days/week. Therefore, beginning the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>, middle and high school F2F students will attend 5 days instead of 4 days.

**Executive Session:** Barbara Bryant made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Rutha Frieson 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.

**Jac'Kel Brown left the meeting and did not participate in the Executive Session.**

**Exit Executive Session** –Paula Morris made the motion to exit executive 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 passed 6-0. **(Barbara Bryant was not online for this vote, but re-entered the meeting during Public Session.)**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

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

None

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Gloria Robinson made the motion to adjourn. Jason Kirby 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 (Presiding over this meeting)

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Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

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Jac'Kel Brown, Secretary