



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Board Room

Thursday, March 20, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the March 20, 2025 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

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.

Roll Call by Board Secretary: Ms. Rebecca Yates reported that all board members were in attendance, with Mr. Jason Kirby on speakerphone.

Moment of Silence: Dr. Hickson requested prayers for all FSD3 students, staff, and families. We observed a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Hickson led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Rutha Frieson 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.

Public Participation: None requested

Board Chair Report: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown spoke about his attendance to the Power Forward year-end celebration. Ms. Rutha Frieson shared her experience attending the Annual SC School Board Association conference. Ms. Rebecca Yates had also talked about the Annual conference that she attended with other board members and the Mock Interviews at Dr. Ronald E. McNair. Ms. Mattie Thomas shared more about the Annual SCSBA conference and her visit to Dr. Ronald E. McNair to see the new amazing gym. Ms. Julia Mims spoke of her favorite points of the Annual SCSBA conference and did Ms. Paula Morris. Mr. Gregory McKnight and Steve Locklair both shared about the New Board member orientation. They received and took in a lot of information for new board members. Mr. Gregory also was at J.C. Lynch at 6:45am to help with the car rider line and Mr. Locklair attended the J.C. Lynch's Cinderella play.

Conferences to attend: Let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña.

Superintendent's Report: –*Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Instructional Updates–*Mary Howard Ed. S., Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Curriculum*

Ms. Tonyelle Thomas gave an update on the FSD3 unique tutoring center. Lake City site has 35 students, Olanta site has 14 students and we have 5 students in Mathnasium from Florence. These sites are being served by our teachers. They are provided 1 hr. session twice a week per student. She was happy to celebrate that scores are growing and they are preparing the students with strategies for end-of-year testing. Ms. Mary Howard spoke of the districts successful Read Across America week. Additional spotlight events were shared. Junior Pee Dee Competition was on March 4th. We had 34 entries from 5 schools. DREM has students advancing to State Competition on May 3rd. National History Day Winners were

announced as well. Primary Pee Dee Competition was on March 6th and we had 16 entries from 4 schools. We had winners in all categories. Our Social Emotional Counselors had a week of mindfulness and self-awareness with our students. Lake City High School: EOC Incentive for all 60 students who made 60% or higher on EOC tests. CTE students attended to compete at Skills USA in Columbia; SC. Lady Panthers made it to the Lower State Championship at the Florence Civic Center! JROTC Leadership Team advanced to the 2025 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship in Washington, DC. Thank you was given to Mr. Jimmy Hudson and the two students who built their goat pen for Scranton Elementary over Thanksgiving Break. Ms. Mary finished her presentation with the upcoming events. March 1-31st Title one needs assessment survey, March 21st Report cards issued, March 28th SESA's Leadership Day, April 14-18th Spring Break, April 21st PD Day for Staff and Climate surveys close on April 11th.

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

Ms. Kasey went over the new policies – 2 readings: Action Needed

*JBAC – Comprehensive Health Education Program compliance – link was given for more information.

*JLCG – Seizure Safe Schools – link was given for more information.

Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the 1st reading of JBAC and JLCG as presented. Ms. 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.

Policy Revisions: Action Needed

*ECAA – Threat Assessment - link was given for more information.

-Adding Administrative Rule

*JLCDA – Individual Healthcare Plans - link was given for more information.

*JLCDB-Use of Lifesaving Medications- link was given for more information.

Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the Policy Revisions of ECAA, JLCDA & JLCDB as presented.

Ms. Rebecca Yates 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.

Math Textbook Adoptions: Action Needed

*K-5th grade – Curriculum Associates --iReady - link was given for more information.

*6th – 8th grade –Accelerate Learning – Math Nation - link was given for more information.

*Geometry –Accelerate Learning – Math Nation - link was given for more information.

*Algebra 1 & 2 with Probability –SAVVAS Envision Math - link was given for more information.

*Applications & Modeling – BW Walsh – Application and Modeling - link was given for more information.

*Reasoning in Mathematics –SAVVAS Thinking Mathematically - link was given for more information.

*Precalculus –SAVVAS Precalculus with Limits (Blitzer) - link was given for more information.

*Statistical Modeling –SAVVAS Elementary Statistics: Picturing the World - link was given for more information.

Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to accept/approve the Math Textbook Adoptions of K-5th grade – Curriculum Associates, 6th – 8th grade –Accelerate Learning, Geometry, Algebra 1 & 2 with Probability, Applications & Modeling, Reasoning in Mathematics, Precalculus, and Statistical Modeling as presented.

Ms. Julia Mims 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.

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

March 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and district goals. Ms. Hope presented the February 2025 financial updates. She went through the PowerPoint of the General fund reports, which are posted on our website and is linked to the board agenda online. She reviewed the board approved balance of the general fund budget \$34,142,053. The board approved use of fund balance was \$2,414,000.00 for 24-25 general fund balance, \$1,506,000.00 of the use of fund balance for fy 24-25 & \$163,891.00 for fy 23-24 the band instrument, repair & supplies. The board approved general fund is \$38,225,944.00. No questions asked by board. Ms. Hope Gibson continued to go over the dates for next year's General Budget Process.

Timeline for 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Process was shared with the board as follows: Thursday, March 20, 2025 1st Reading of PROPOSED Budget; Thursday, April 10, 2025 1st Public Hearing @ 5:00 pm; Thursday, May 15, 2025 2nd Reading; Friday, May 16, 2025 2nd Public Hearing @ 12:00 pm; Thursday, June 19, 2025 FINAL Reading.

Preliminary First Reading of General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and district goals. Slide presentation of the 135 average daily membership trend. Ask the board to focus on the 2025-2026 on bottom of page. Projected is a decrease of 159.14. Education funding reform: aid to classrooms program – proposed in FY 25-26 Executive Budget slides, pages 5 & 6, were read aloud. Local Tax projections by millage, was also read aloud. Millage history for operations graph from 19-20 through 25-26 presented. Next slide was of millage levy fy 2024-2025 chart showing Florence School District 3 is the lowest of all Florence school districts. Going on to next slide showing the method used to calculate local taxes for school district with examples from home fair market values. The next 4 pages of Preliminary General Fund Budget for FY 2025-2026. Started with projections of revenues. The final slide was the Timeline for 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Process was shared with the board as follows: Thursday, March 20, 2025 1st Reading of PROPOSED Budget; Thursday, April 10, 2025 1st Public Hearing @ 5:00 pm; Thursday, May 15, 2025 2nd Reading; Friday, May 16, 2025 2nd Public Hearing @ 12:00 pm; Thursday, June 19, 2025 FINAL Reading. This completed her presentation of the first reading of the Preliminary of the General Fund Budget for FY 2025-2026. No questions asked.

Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the First Reading of the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget as presented and Ms. Paula Morris 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.

Human Resources Updates: – *Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources*

Ms. Scott began her presentation with the new app FSD3 has for Application launching. Sign up for job alerts and view job opportunities. Link on the website. She also announced the 2025-2026 Employees of the Year. School Level:

Lake City Early Childhood Center Teacher of the Year is Teri Burgess and Support Staff is Gwen Graham
Main Street Elementary Teacher of the Year is Rena Robeson and Support Staff is Pearl Major
J.C. Lynch Elementary Teacher of the Year is Dawn Frazier and Support Staff is Tae'sha McFadden
Olanta CASM Teacher of the Year is Ashley Bonilla and Support Staff is Tanisha Lancaster
Scranton Elem. STEAM Academy Teacher of the Year is Bethany Jackson and Support Staff is Sonya Hudson
Dr. Ronald E. McNair Teacher of the Year is Mary Brayboy and Support Staff is Erica Speller
J. Paul Truluck CASM Teacher of the Year is Jessica Cantley and Support Staff is Danielle McGee
Lake City High School Teacher of the Year LaTia Fleming and Support Staff is Nakisha McKnight
Clerical Staff of the Year Nominations: Doreatha Grant; Nakisha McKnight; Leigh Ann Tisdale

Custodial/Maintenance of the Year Nominations: Brian Croker; Deloris Frierson; Gerome Singletary
Food Service of the Year Nominations: Sylvia Burgess; Angela Dyson; Tamra Singletary
Health Services of the Year Nominations: Jennifer Feagin; Rhonda Matthews; Eliza Miles
Instructional Support Staff of the Year Nominations: Lizzie Barr; Lenora Caldwell; Clarence Williamson
Student Support Staff of the Year Nominations: Seneca Barron; Sonya Hudson; Brittany McCray
Transportation Staff of the Year Nominations: Marlon Brown; Abram Graham; Kristie Velaquez
Rookie Support Staff of the Year Nominations: Tyeisha Graham; Zauria Isaiah; Alishia Wiles
Rookie Teacher of the Year Nominations: Carine Brown; Va'Tia Davia; Gail Ham
International Teacher of the Year Nominations: Raymond Escudero; Emilio Geronimo; Kereka Williams
Assistant Principal of the Year Nominations: Ashley Dress; Carolina Doughty; Bridget Fleming
Principal of the Year Nominations: Jason Cook; Thomas "TJ" Devine; Melanie Dukes-McKnight
District Level Administrator of the Year Nominations: Ned Blake; Angelia Scott; Tonyelle Thomas
A round of applause was given for all. Teacher Forum Gala is May 9th at the Bean Market.

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

Dr. Hickson Support to teachers is given. SEL, through Dr. Commodore, for counseling is available. gave legislative updates that the house gave the 3rd reading and sent to the Education Scholarship Trust Fund to the Senate. Governor McMaster plans to keep teacher pay a priority and SRO funding to stay. Make up days have been used this year already. More comments on the Power Forward Co-horts, and the success of the event. Seniors are coming off but new participants are coming on. Dr. Hickson requested 2 board-meeting dates to be changed. Thursday May 15, 2025 to be moved to May 8, 2025 at 6:00pm due to graduation of 19 students from Florence Darlington Tech. And Thursday June 19, 2025 to be moved to June 12th due to having summer school ending on the 18th, then Juneteenth, we have graduations and staff members that attend i3 conference in Myrtle Beach and it has been moved up a week in June. Dr. Hickson request a vote to approve both date changes. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to change the board meeting dates from May 15th, 2025 to May 8, 2025 and June 19,2025 to be moved to June 12th, and Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit the executive session and enter back into public session passed 9-0.

Dr. Hickson then continued her report by sharing the data for the "number of students suspended for incidents" chart. We have seen a decrease in suspensions. All of her data was shared with the board and is also online. Our admin team is working very hard to keep our school safe, the students are safe while in school and work on have zero fights. We Want Zero fights. The Bond process has been completed. We will need Mr. Brown and Ms. Yates to sign the final form next Wednesday. We were able to get a good rate because we have such a good fund balance. Total amount is 21,370,000.00. The amount being deposited will be \$19,713,100.00. Procurement Administrative Rules have changed a little. Procurement limits have been raised. The last thing Dr. Hickson needed is to set a date for Board policy review and work session. Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 6:00pm. Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the Board policy review and work session for Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 5:30pm, and Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 9-0. Ms. Shelia Knotts has been contracted to work on the policies.

Enter into Executive Session – Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to exit regular session to go 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. Ms. Paula Morris provided the

2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 9-0. Mr. Jason Kirby was disconnected from the speaker phone.

Exit Executive Session – Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to exit executive session and enter public session. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit the executive session and enter back into public session passed 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – None

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Paula Morris 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

Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

Rebecca Yates, Secretary