



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board room

Thursday, May 11, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Gloria Robinson, Julia Mims, and Rebecca Yates.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the April 6, 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. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented passed 6-0.

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 6-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: April 6, 2023 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report and student transfer requests.

Public Participation: None.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the May 11, 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 – Ms. Bryant along with several other board members attended the SCSBA 'A Day at the Capital'. As Ms. Bryant stated it is always good to go see the representatives that are delegating the laws that affect our school districts.

Gloria Robinson joined the meeting at this time.

Paula Morris visited Scranton Elementary School a couple of weeks ago while they had their leadership day. Jac'Kel Brown, Gloria Robinson along with some FSD3 administration and staff members visited a Lexington County school implementing a modified alternative education program where the students are housed on the same campus. Several board members also attended the Strategic Plan Luncheon.

2. Request to attend any Meetings – Barbara Bryant, Rutha Frieson, Gloria Robinson, and Paula Morris asked to attend the School Law Conference, which will be held August 26-27, 2023 in Greenville, SC.

Superintendent's Report

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

April Financials - The April 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 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 March 31, 2023.

2nd reading of the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget – Ms. Gibson present to board members and those present for tonight's meeting the 2nd reading of the 2023-2024 General Fund budget. During this presentation, she explained the basis of budget, which are Senate projections using the Aid to Classrooms Program Allocation and EIA Funds. She also presented the new items in the Senate projections such as the raise in teacher pay, bus drivers, step increase, health insurance and state retirement. She explained the local tax millage for the 23-24 SY along with a history of this millage through the years. She also included a comparison of tax millage of our surrounding school districts. After the presentation of this information, Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve 2nd reading of the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget as presented. Jason Kirby provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2nd reading of the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget as presented passed 7-0.

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

Mrs. Scott began her report sharing with board members and those present for tonight's meeting that certified contracts, by law, had to be issued by May 1st and returned by May 10th. Our numbers are down from the numbers given during the April meeting. Currently, we have 1 Early Childhood, 2 Elementary, 1 English, 1 Math, 2 Science, 1 SS, 4 Special Education, 1 CATE, 3 Music/Band, 1 School Counselor, and 1 School Librarian vacancies.

Mrs. Scott continued her report by asking for 1st reading of Policy GBRC 'Unencumbered Time' which has been put into law to provide at least thirty minutes of unencumbered time on each regular school day to all full-time teachers teaching in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approved 1st reading of Policy GBRC 'Unencumbered Time'. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approved 1st reading of Policy GBRC 'Unencumbered Time' passed 7-0.

Instruction Updates – *Mrs. Mary Howard, Elementary & Early Childhood Curriculum Director*

Policy IFBD – Mrs. Howard asked board members to delete the current policy IFBD and approve 2nd reading of the model policy IFBD provided in order to establish the local board's direction for selection and use of library/media center materials and the basic structure of handling questioned or challenged library/media center materials. Rutha Frieson made the motion to delete the current IFBD policy. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to delete the current IFBD policy passed 7-0. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve 2nd reading of the model policy IFBD. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2nd reading of the model policy IFBD passed 7-0.

Summer Learning – Mrs. Howard shared that the district is now in ‘full-blown’ planning of Summer Learning. As mentioned several times before, no summer learning will be for promotion this summer, but FSD3 will have camps to enhance as many skills as possible. The summer season will continue with Mathnasium and the Clemson reading program. The Boys and Girls club already has 60 students. The tutoring center will be open during the summer. Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday beginning May 31st through June 23rd. It will also re-open with these same hours after the week of July 4th. There will be 4 schools with 21st Century programs. FSD3 will also be offering classes such as photo camp, hair braiding, cooking and drama through mini camps.

In the Spotlight – Main Street Elementary has been named, and certified, a ‘Leader in Me Lighthouse School’! by Franklin Covey Education. Franklin Covey Education has designed the Lighthouse Rubric to measure outcomes in 3 areas: teaching leadership principles, creating a leadership culture, and aligning academic systems.

Save the Date – May 25th will be Early Dismissal and the JPT Graduation at 6:00 p.m.; May 26th is another early dismissal day and the LCHS Graduation beginning at 7:00 p.m.; May 29th is Memorial Day, and May 31st Summer camps begin!

Operations Updates – Mrs. Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer

Current Testing Windows open –

SC Ready for 3rd – 8th grades: ELA, Math, and Science

EOC for subjects Eng 2, ALg1, Biology, and US History

Front Office Safety Training – This training was conducted April 17, 2023 for all front office school personnel. Policies and procedures were reviewed concerning the following items:

- Bomb threats
- Lockdowns
- Buzz in systems, cameras, etc.
- How to deal with angry parents & students
- Safety protocols

2nd Reading for Policy JICI ‘Weapon’ –Mrs. Feagin brought Policy JICI ‘Weapon’ to the board for 2nd reading. Paula Morris made the motion of approve new policy JICI ‘Weapon’ as presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approved 2nd reading of Policy JICI ‘Weapon’ passed 7-0.

Policy JCDAG ‘Cell Phones/Technology and Communication Devices’ – Mrs. Feagin gave board members the feedback from the survey of staff and students concerning the items from this policy. From the staff survey there were 112 responses. From the student survey there were 265 reponses.

Q1: the policy states the following concerning middle school students: Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property: until the beginning of the school day bell/signal and after school denoted by the ending school day bell/signal. (Cell phones should not be used during any other times during the school day) Do you agree with this part of the policy?

Staff: 65% Yes; 15%. Students: 50% Yes; 38% No

Q 2: The current policy states the following for high school students: Students may possess or use personal electronic devices on school property during the following times: *before the bell rings to geing the instructional school day *after the dismissal bell at the end of the instructional school day

*during lunch while in the cafeteria (Cell phone should not be used at any other times during the school day) Do you agree with this part of the policy?

Staff: 68% Yes; 1% No. Students: 65% Yes; 28% No.

Q3: Current policy states the following concerning cell phones on buses: While riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the board or on a school bus or board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, these electronic devices are only to be used for silent activities such as reading, texting, games with the sound muted or using headphones, or viewing web pages. Distracting behavior, to include talking on the phone to another individual, which creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated. Do you agree with this part of the policy?

Staff: 88% Yes; 11% No. Students: 82% Yes; 17% No.

Q4: Below are the current consequences for violating the cell phone policy:

1st offense – Student warning; parent conference with administrator; device will be confiscated and returned at conference in which parent and student signs a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

2nd offense – Electronic device will be confiscated for a total of five days; parent conference with an administrator in which parent and student will sign a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

3rd offense – electronic device will be confiscated for a total of 30 days; parent conference with an administrator in which parent and student will sign a memorandum of understanding outlining cell phone policy.

4th offense and beyond – electronic device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school year.

Do you agree with these consequences?

Staff: 77% Yes; 9% No. Students: 42% Yes; 48% No.

Q5: Is the current cell phone policy being enforced at your school?

Staff: 49% Yes; 50% No. Students: 80% Yes; 20% No.

After this information was provided the board made on action to this policy. It remains as is.

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

Legislative Updates – there are only a few days left in the 2023 legislative session, and currently, the General Assembly has not adopted a FY 2023-2024 state spending plan, which needs to be in place July 1 for the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Custodial Services

Currently, the district has 7.5 vacant custodial positions open. This leaves a lot of schools short-handed for custodial services. In specific cases, such as MSE having so many outside evaluators coming to the school, we had to hire a cleaning service to come in and clean the school. Current vacancies are MSE-3; REM-1; JPT-1; OES-1; JCI-1; Panther Pride & Graham Road-.5. Therefore to ensure we have safe, clean buildings, we will contract with an outside cleaning agency to help the remainder of the school year and this summer to ensure schools are deep cleaned for the new school year. Because this service may be needed long-term, an invitation for Bids was published on the SC Procurement website. We received bids from 5 cleaning companies: CMA Services, Interstate, Defender Services, Carolina Surface Restoration and HES Facilities Management. CMA Services won the bid. The plan is to contract 3 schools for the new school year as a pilot: JPT, JCL, and MSE. Current custodians will be shifted to

current vacancies to create a full staff at SES, LCECC, LCHS, OES, REMJH, and Graham Road. This project will be evaluated as to the effectiveness throughout the SY, and Dr. Hickson will keep the board informed.

Secondary Panther Academy

Monday, May 1, 2023, a team visited the Academy of Success, in Chapin SC – Lexington School district. The attendees were Dr. Hickson, the staff from Panther Academy (7), and board members, Gloria Robinson and Jac'Kel Brown. It was a great visit, and the information received was informative. This team will meet next week to discuss take-a-aways from the visit and how we could set up a similar program that builds upon the current success of our alternative school.

Finance IMPACT Report: FSD3's Risk Score

The SC Department of Education recently conducted their annual risk assessment of all SC School Districts and assigned a risk score based upon overall financial and programmatic performance as demonstrated through 10 criteria. Overall risk scores 18 or below indicate low risk, risk scores between 19 and 28 indicate medium risk, and risk scores 29 and above indicate high risk. **FSD3's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 risk Assessment Score is "9", which is Low Risk!**

Lake City District Stadium Options/Upgrades

Mr. Hal Fuller, Architect, F.W. Architects, Inc. presented the board 2 options for the Stadium Upgrades. Option #1 will be upgrades to the current Ward Stadium, which include separating the visitor and home sides. The visitor side will include entrance, seating, and locker rooms separate from the home side. The estimated cost of these upgrades is in the neighborhood of \$3,612,050.

Option #2 will be an entire NEW stadium on the LCHS campus centered around the current track. The softball field would have to be moved and the tennis courts, which are currently not in use, would have to be removed. This option's estimated cost would be in the neighborhood of \$11,385,680.

Mr. Fuller informed the board that construction of either option, of course, would have to be during the 'off season' for the sports and would be at least a 4 to 6 month process. All of this, however, is dependent upon when the project can start and being able to get the materials as quickly as possible. Matt Apicella, Athletic Director, and Josh Jennings, Teacher and Coach, were both available to give a staff input about the 2 options. Coaches would really like to have the new facility on the LCHS campus. The board asked for some more student and community input on these options. After receiving the results, this may come to the June meeting, or maybe, a called meeting to discuss.

Enter into Executive Session –Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd 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 –Paula Morris made the motion to exit executive session. Mattie Thomas 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 7-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from Executive Session: Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to amend the Superintendent's contract to pay for medical premiums. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board

members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to amend the Superintendent’s contract to include payment of medical premiums passed 7-0.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Jac’Kel Brown made the motion to adjourn. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 7-0.

Date approved

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Jason Kirby, Secretary