



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, May 26, 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 for tonight's meeting. Board members: Jac'Kel Brown, Rebecca Yates, Rutha Frieson, Mattie Thomas, Barbara Bryant, Gloria Robinson, Jason Kirby, Paula Morris and Julia Mims.

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 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the May 16, 2024 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. 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 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: minutes from the 4/11/2024 Board meeting, minutes from the 4/23/2024 called- 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

Trustee, Barbara Bryant shared her attendance at the Gentlemen's Club Leadership celebration. Trustee, Jason Kirby attended the FSD3 Gala. Gloria Robinson attended Leadership Day at Lake City Early Childhood Center and the JROTC Banquet at Lake City High School. She also attended the Gentlemen's Club, the Athletic Banquet, and the Lake City Early Childhood Center's Pearl's Club EOY celebration as well as the J. C. Lynch Elementary School's promotion ceremony. Rutha Frieson attended the Gentlemen's Club Leadership celebration. Mattie Thomas attended the FSD3 Gala. Paula Morris attended the ROTC Banquet at Lake City High School, the Future Teacher College Signing day at Lake City High School, the Athletic Banquet and the FSD3 Gala. Julia Mims attended the Dual Enrollment celebration.

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

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

READ 180 Educational Awards - Mrs. Howard began her report beginning with some special celebrations with a message from Mr. Albert Morton with READ 180. Across the nation educators go above and beyond. Tonight READ 180 educational awards recognizes 2 of FSD3's own who make an impact on and for students. Lakasha Carrington from Olanta Elementary School and Vanessa Hannah, from Dr. Ronald E. McNair Jr. High School. Amy from HMH was present to present these awards to Ms. Carrington and Ms. Hannah.

Student Recognitions – Andre McFadden-Pressley in Football: 4x All Region, 3x All State, 4x All area, all WBTW, all Florence Morning News, all WPDE all zone winner, and played in the SC/NC Shrine Bowl. Wrestling: 4x All Region, 4x Region Champion, 4x Region Wrestler of the Year, 4x All State, 2x State Champion in the 285 lb. division, and All American runner up at the National competition in the 285 lb. division. He has signed a full athletic scholarship at Old Dominion University. He has a 3.9 dual enrollment GPA and is ranked #12 in his class.

Chandler Brandon an 11th grade student at J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts & Science Magnet School is one of only 5 SC winners of the Dominion Entergy History Student Essay Contest.

The girls' softball team won their pay-off game. This is the first playoff win for this program in 10+ years.

School Data information – Mrs. Jonte' Singletary shared the Lake City Early Childhood Center's MAP and IRLA data with board members and those present for tonight's meeting.

Dr. Sharon Williams also shared data analysis & action strategies for Main Street Elementary School (MSE) with board members and those present for tonight's meeting.

In the Spotlight – MSE is a 2024 Read Live School of the Year! MSE is awarded a \$2,000 Read Naturally Gift Certificate to be used any way the school wishes on Read Naturally products. In addition, the school will receive a trophy and certificate to display, as well as a \$100 Amazon gift card for the nominating teacher.

District Arts Strategic Plan – Mrs. Tonyelle Thomas presented this 5-year plan created by the Arts Steering Committee. Six goals were presented with objectives for each. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the District Arts Strategic Plan as presented. Barbara Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 5-year District Arts Strategic Plan as presented passed 9-0.

Mrs. Howard again mentioned the summer opportunities for FSD3 students and the upcoming events: May 23rd – JPT Graduation at 6 p.m.; May 24th is early dismissal, the last day of school for K-8 with report cards issued and LCHS graduation at 7 p.m. High School report cards will be mailed June 1st.

Finance Updates – Ms. Hope Gibson, Finance Director

April 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 April 30, 2024.

General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – As required by SC Law, the 2nd reading of the upcoming General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 took place at 5 p.m., May 16, 2024. Ms. Gibson now presents to board members the 2nd reading of the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. A review of the 135th day Average Daily Membership (ADM) trend was presented. Next the

Education Funding Reform: Aid to Classrooms program was reviewed. This is the basis of the 2024-2025 fund budget. The strategy of this funding is to fund classrooms based on a statewide average student/teacher ratio of 11.23:1. This funding is based on number of teachers, WPU and Index of taxpaying ability. Districts will have flexibility to spend funds as determined best; however, the statewide minimum teacher salary scale must be met. Ms. Gibson continued to share the specifics and requirements of this funding source. Local tax and millage history were provided as well as a millage levy chart of surrounding school districts. The millage for the 2023-2024 school year was 234.20. The cap mill increase is 9.65, which will make the millage for the 20244 tax year (2024-2025 SY) 243.85. For 2nd reading of the 2024-2025 General Fund budget there is a probable total revenues of \$33,671,359.00 and expenditures of \$40,270,384.00. Expenditures will be decreased and the district has not yet received the projections from the State Department of Education. Due to this, the General Fund budget is out of balance until final reading, which will have a balanced budget. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve 2nd reading of the 2024-2025 General Fund budget 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 2024-2025 General Fund Budget as presented passed 9-0.

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

Tentative 2024-2025 certified vacancies:

Early Childhood – 4

Elementary – None

English - 1

Math – 1

Science – 2

Social Studies – None

Special Education – 1

Art – None

Music/Band – 1

PE – 1

Spanish – 1

School counselor – 1

School Librarian – 1

Psychologist - 1

Legislative Updates – Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent

District/School Facilities' Assessment – Brian Huckabee, Director of Communications, Technology and Facilities presented this report. This assessment is being done to develop a plan for updating all of the district facilities, resulting in brighter, safer and more comfortable learning environments for students and staff. The assessment by Schneider Electric focuses on three areas: Academics, Arts and Athletics. The goals of this partnership with Schneider Electric are:

- 1) Address critical deferred maintenance needs while modernizing facilities
- 2) Find a long-term partner that delivers quality solutions

- 3) Improve operational efficiency and standardization
- 4) Increase community and student engagement

The comprehensive surveys of all FSD3 facilities have been completed with a focus on the following areas:

- Lighting
- HVAC equipment
- Thermostats/control systems
- Building envelope
- Roofing Electrical infrastructure

A development timeline was also provided concerning this project. Schneider Electric has a grant writer on staff to assist in this endeavor for FSD3. Dr. Hickson and her team have weekly meetings with Schneider Electric for updated information.

Legislative Updates – Dr. Hickson informed the board of the amended Bill H.4280, the Educator Assistance Act which proposes:

- Certificates are permanent unless revoked or suspended therefore no certificate renewal would be required. *Currently certificates have to be renewed every 5 years.*
- Teachers who submit their contract before May 11th may withdraw from their contract up to 10 days after the district's salary schedule for the coming school year has been published.
- The State Board of Education may not hear a breach of contract complaint from a school board unless it is received within 30 days of the breach.
- A certificate suspension must begin on the date the contract is breached for a period not to exceed six months of the date of the breach or the date of the board's determination if the educator is employed by another public school or public school district.

Dr. Hickson also reviewed Bill S.305 which the House has given 2nd and 3rd readings concerning an educator certificate and awarding years of experience for occupational experience in, or related to the content field of the certificate for which the individual qualifies.

International Trip for the summer of 2026 – Mrs. Cantley, JPT teacher, came to the board to introduce a proposal for an international trip for FSD3 students. Dr. Hickson is now asking permission from the board to move forward with a committee to plan this International Trip to London for students scheduled for the summer of 2026. Julia Mims made the motion to allow a committee to be formed to plan an international strip to London for qualifying students the summer of 2026. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve a planning committee for an international trip to London for qualifying FSD3 students in the summer of 2026 passed 9-0. *Further information concerning this trip was given to board members to read at their leisure.*

Amended Bond Resolution – Dr. Hickson is requesting approval to amend the current bond resolution for the following reasons:

1. Funding of the expansion of Scranton Elementary School's cafeteria was covered with ESSER funds, thereby not having to use the bond funds, which was stated in the original bond request.
2. Because the monies for the Scranton Elementary School's cafeteria was completed without using the bond funds, Dr. Hickson has an amended list of for the funds:

- A. Gym Floor @ JPT – Estimated cost is \$98,000 (this is actually a safety issue)
- B. Gym bleachers @ JPT and REMJH – Estimated cost is \$324,000.
- C. Technology – UPS Battery 70 devices for 70 devices – Estimated cost is \$105,000.
- D. Repair classroom floor @ JPT dance room – Estimated cost is \$40,000

The motion to amend the bond resolution by deleting the Scranton Elementary School's cafeteria expansion and using an amended list of needed upgrades was made by Barbara Bryant. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to amend the bond resolution by deleting the Scranton Elementary School's cafeteria expansion and using an amended list of needed upgrades passed 9-0.

2025 Graduation Dates – Dr. Hickson requested approval of the following graduation dates for 2025:

- ✓ J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts & Science Magnet School -----May 22, 2025 at 6 p.m.
- ✓ Lake City High School-----May 23, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the JPT and LCHS graduation dates and times for 2025. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the JPT and LCHS graduation dates and times for 2025 passed 9-0.

FSD3 Board of Trustee Meeting Dates for SY 2024-2025 – Dr. Hickson requested approval for the FSD3 Board of Trustee meeting dates for SY 2024-2025. All board meeting dates are on the 3rd Thursday of each month with the exception of February and April 2025. February is the SCSBA Annual convention which is always the 3rd weekend in February, therefore, this date has been moved to February 18, 2025, which is the 3rd Tuesday. Spring Break is the 3rd week of April, therefore, the board meeting date has been requested to be moved to April 10, 2025, which is the week before Spring Break. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the 2024-2025 SY FSD3 Board of Trustee monthly meeting dates as presented. Gloria Robinson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 2024-2025 SY meeting dates of the FSD3 Board of Trustees as presented passed 9-0.

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 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 9-0.

Julia Mims left the meeting during executive session.

Exit Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and enter into public session. Paula Morris provided the 2nd 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 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

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

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Paula Morris 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 8-0.

Date approved

Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary