



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting

Minutes

Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, May 20, 2021

6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Paula Morris, Rutha Frieson, Gloria Robinson, Almeta Fleming and Mattie Thomas.

Absent: Jason Kirby and Jac'Kel Brown

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the May 20, 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 Board Chair Bryant led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Paula Morris 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 tonight's agenda as presented passed 7-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Julia Mims made the motion to approve the Consent 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 the consent agenda as presented passed 7-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the April 15, 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* – Several board members attended the National MSAP conference via Zoom recently. Almeta Fleming, Gloria Robinson, Rutha Frieson, and Barbara Bryant all commented on the sessions in this conference were showcasing the students and how to reach students and parents in light of the recent pandemic. Even though this conference talked a lot to the teachers, each agreed it was a very informative conference.
2. *Request to Attend Any Meetings* – Gloria Robinson, Barbara Bryant, and Julia Mims asked to attend the SCSBA Law conference in August 2021.

Staff Reports

Finance Update – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

April Financials - The April 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.

Lump Sum Step Increase – According to the voting of H.3609 “...requires the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) to determine reimbursement...SDE provided the number of positions eligible for the step in accordance with ACT 91 of 2019, Part 1.B. Proviso 1.A.36. Positions are reported for SY 2019-2020 as of the end of the school year and for 2021-2021 as of March 1, 2021. RFA adjustments made to ensure that positions remained in the school district:

- ✓ March 1, 2021 – data was pulled from each district
- ✓ Excluded transfers
- ✓ FTE percent change: ONLY stated-funded percent
- ✓ Degree changes in 20/21 not included, (education level in 19/20)
- ✓ No step increase past year 23 (SDE scale stops)
- ✓ Retired teachers assumed to reach max; not included in step calculation”

With this information, the FSD3 Finance Director, Michelle Humphrey, informed the board that FSD3 had an anticipated Payroll date for this lump sum step increase for all **qualified** certified and classified individuals on June 4, 2021. Mrs. Humphrey also showed the anticipated cost from the FSD3 General Fund and the anticipated amount that will be coming from the state department.

General Fund Budget for SY 2021-2022 - The second Public hearing of the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget was held today, Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 5 p.m. A BALANCED budget was presented of \$29,900,845.00. This budget was built using the Base Student Cost of \$2,516 (Senate Version). This budget includes the following as well: Teacher and Classified pay increase, a \$1,000 Educator increase, a health insurance employer increase of 2.6% (no increase for the employee), a 5% increase in pay for bus drivers, a 1% increase reinstated of state retirement, and using the 5/12/2021 Senate projections of State Revenues. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve 2nd reading of this balanced budget as presented. 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 balanced budget for the 2021-2022 FSD3 General Fund budget passed 7-0. Final reading will be at June 17, 2021 board meeting.

Maintenance Updates – Jay Alexander, Director of Facilities

Bond Projects – Facilities and Maintenance Director, Jay Alexander, gave board members a brief update of the current bond projects that are going on presently and will continue thru the summer of 2021. These projects consist of the camera system upgrades for LCECC, MSE, JPT, SESA, OES, JCL, OES, and the DO, the LCHS Gym floor, which was installed in 2007 and is now 14 years old. This project will consist of changing the colors and logo. This gym floor project is scheduled to start in June and go thru July. There will also be the asphalt maintenance for LCHS & LCECC. The maintenance department will have a full summer of projects and when the ESSER II monies are released, we will be even busier. As a final note, and as an FYI, the Town of Olanta has asked to place an antenna on our tower so they can have city-wide coverage. We have agreed to allow this.

Human Resources Update – Angelia Scott, Human Resources Director

Mrs. Scott gave board members an updated vacancies listing for each department: Early Childhood – 5; Elementary – 6; English – 1; Math – 5; Science – 3; Special Education – 4; Music – 1; Media Specialist – 1;

Business/Technology – 1; ESOL (ESSER) – 1. Some of these vacancies are due to positions created by the pandemic. Mrs. Scott also informed board members that there will be Retention and Recruitment Task Force.

Instruction Update – *Mary Howard, Elementary and Early Childhood Director*

Department Updates - Mrs. Howard began her report with department updates:

- ✓ Early Childhood/Elementary – Summer Camp planning is in full swing; Academic Recovery Plan is due to SCDE by May 28, and MTSS reporting to SCDE by June 30.
- ✓ Magnet/GT – Magnet report was submitted last week; DAP funds – middle/high artist and residencies funds are available.
- ✓ Alternative/Mentoring/Secondary – The FSD3 Alternative Program was featured at Friday’s state meeting. Mr. Ned Blake was present to discuss this with board members. Mr. Blake talked about the 7 layers of success. He and Mr. Jerry State will also be presenting at the SCASA i3 conference in June. Good job to Mr. Blake and his staff. Transition meetings will be taking place May 31 to June 11. Secondary Grad Tracking meeting will take place to follow up on the 26 bubble students.
- ✓ OEC – ESY determination meetings are currently being held; Mrs. Hubbard-George is working with the CCE Task Force, which is a pilot program; the State Director’ Advisory Council is working on a discipline matrix for alternatives to suspensions.

Mrs. Howard also had 3 seniors present at tonight’s board meeting to talk about their experience and success with the College Cohort this past year.

- Ava Bingham started the cohort in January of her Junior year. Miss Bingham talked about it being a lot of work, and at first she had no idea of where she wanted to go to college except for it to be anywhere but in SC. In the end, Miss Bingham has been accepted in the Nursing program at Clemson.
- Haley Hardway also started the cohort in her Junior year. She also had no idea where she wanted to go. In her journey, she discovered the Teaching Fellows Program. Haley has been accepted into the Teaching Fellows Program and has a full scholarship to FMU.
- Jasausha Pope joined the cohort during her Senior year. She will be attending SC State with a full scholarship.

The College Cohort consists of Mr. & Mrs. Wynn, Ms. Kendra Wilson, Mr. Leon Burgess, and Mrs. Vicki Haynes working diligently with students in biweekly sessions. These sessions help students by providing hands-on guidance through each phase of the college planning and career exploration process during which students discuss such topics as liberal arts colleges, research university, cooperative education programs, dual degree programs, transfer agreements, and institutional scholarship opportunities. Guiding students in identifying the ‘right’ colleges is a comprehensive process of engaging students in a self-reflective analysis of each student’s body of work, financial background, educational/career aspirations, personality, and passions. The program focuses on guiding students through developing high quality academic resumes’ guiding students in aligning their activity and leadership involvement with their college/career aspirations.

Drone Program – Leon Burgess, LCHS CATE Director, told board members that the Drone Curriculum has been a pilot program this year at LCHS. He also shared that out of the 16 clusters, the Drone program

falls in each of these 16 clusters. The Drone program that Mr. Burgess summarized at tonight's meeting is a 12 unit program. Almeta Fleming made the motion to approve this curriculum. Julia Mims proved the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the Drone Program curriculum passed 7-0.

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

COVID-19 – COVID 19 cases since May 1 – 3 District or School Staff and 4 students tested positive. 6 District or School Staff and 219 students were quarantined due to exposure. 6 of the students are virtual and 217 are F2F or Hybrid. This data is as of May 17 at 12 p.m.

Testing – Testing continues at all schools, except for LCECC. This includes SC Ready for 3rd – 8th graders (ELA & Math); SC PASS for 4th & 6th graders (Science) and EOC for Biology I, English 2, Alg 1 & US History.

BEDS Ministry – On Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 26 beds with a mattress, mattress pad, pajamas, bed sheets and comforter will delivered to identified elementary students.

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

Recovering academic loss – Dr. Hickson began her report informing board members that FSD3 is partnering with Mathnasium (in Florence) and Clemson University Reading Development Program for interested parents that would like for their children to receive these services. The parent will only be responsible for transportation to the Mathnasium, the reading program will be virtual.

FSD3 Vaccines - Currently FSD3 has 317 employees out of 536 vaccinated. This is approximately 59%.

Masks in Schools – SC Governor Henry McMaster issued the executive Order 2021-23 on May 11, 2021 directing the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to take appropriate action to allow parents and other authorized individuals to opt-out of face coverings. DHEC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided guidance stating that the wearing of face coverings slows the spread of COVID19. Failure to wear a face-covering may subject a student to an increased risk of contracting COVID19 and spreading COVID 19 to others. DHEC also released an Opt-Out form for parents. On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Stte Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman rescinded the state face-covering policy for public schools, except on school bus transportation, which the federal government currently requires. Dr. Hickson shared with board members the current # of signed op-out forms signed by parents by school:

- LCHS – 12 students
- REMJH – 2 students
- JPT – 11 students
- LCECC – 2 students
- MSE – 0 students
- JCL – 100 students
- OES – 11 students
- SESA – 34 students

Dr. Hickson also shared survey results from the FSD3 staff. Question 2 – If offered the opportunity to opt-out of wearing a mask at school/work, would you opt out? 156 staff said Yes (37.14%) and 264 staff said No (62.86%). Question 3 – Have you received the COVID 19 vaccine? 287 staff said Yes (68.82%) and 130 staff said No (31.18%). The first Question was, what location are you assigned? 418 participants answered this question and 2 skipped this question.

Legislative Updates – State lawmakers completed their regular session this past Thursday but will return in June to finalize the state budget. Once the House finalizes its amended version, a conference committee will likely be appointed to work out the differences in June. The Board of Economic Advisers is expected to meet May 20 to update its revenue projections that could be part of the House amended plan. *K12 bills signed into law this session so far are as follows:*

- ✓ *H.3925*, a bill that waives interscholastic activities and course eligibility requirements of home-schooled students for the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 was signed into law on April 16, 2021.
- ✓ *S. 648*, a bill that provides a process for consolidating the school districts in Clarendon County that was signed into law April 12, 2021.

Consolidation discussions have picked up again. This is a goal of Superintendent Spearman and Governor McMaster. With that in mind, Dr. Hickson recognized Representative Roger Kirby, who was present in tonight's meeting. Representative Kirby came to answer any questions that board members might have concerning the push for consolidation. He mentioned that Representative Lucas in the House has insisted legislators continue to work toward improving public education. Right now, consolidation is just a discussion, but you will continue to hear the drum beat for this endeavor. The issue lies in how to continue to operate funding wise.

For information, Dr. Hickson provided board members with the ADM and actual student enrollment for the last five years, the # of students that have attended FSD3 from outside of the district, the # of students released from FSD3, and the # of students enrolled in home schools for the last five years. Dr. Hickson ended her report by thanking everyone who attended the Stakeholders' strategic planning meeting (103 participants).

Executive Session: Paula Morris 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 – Julia Mims made the motion to exit executive 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 passed 7-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action taken from Executive Session

None

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

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Jac'Kel Brown, Secretary