



# Florence County School District 3

## *Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room*

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**Thursday, November 21, 2024**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the November 21, 2024 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:** Madam Secretary, Ms. Rutha Frieson, reported Ms. Gloria Robinson is attending by phone, Ms. Julia Mims is absent and all other members were present.

Dr. Hickson led a moment of silence and then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Ms. Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris 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 8-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 8-0.

**Public Participation:** None

### **Board Chair Report**

- Board chair Mr. Brown spoke of the wonderful and safe homecoming; Festivities were great; asked parent and families to become active alumni to support growth and development of our district.
- Ms. Barbara Bryant spoke homecoming; the first Hall of Fame for Veterans was warm, friendly and inviting. Culinary and ROTC did a great job. Encourages Veterans to apply in the future.
- Ms. Rutha Frieson attended Reading Under the Lights and enjoyed it. On October 30<sup>th</sup> the Continuum had a Mental Health Program. They had great speakers and booklets from Mental Health Alliance. Rev. Jac'Kel gave homecoming service. On November 14, she attended the Paxton/Patterson Career Lab. Everyone should see the lab. It has so much learning opportunities for our students.

- Ms. Paula Morris attended Reading the Lights. She said it was well-put together and great participation. Career labs of culinary arts and other modules gave Ms. Morris's heart joy to see other district visit as well. Hats off to Florence School District 3 and all staff.
- Request was made for Dr. Mims to attend the State Conference in February 2025.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

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

Ms. Mary reviewed the board goals, SC Ready 3<sup>rd</sup> ELA State Averages, the winter benchmark testing, accountability report, report card ratings, hosting public meetings to explain school ratings, its implications and steps with revising and implementing the continuous improvement plan. She reviewed some save the dates. All of which are on her PowerPoint, which is posted on the FSD3 website. –No questions asked.

#### **Finance Update**—*Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

November Financials – Ms. Hope presented the November 2024 financial updates. The FSD3 mission statement and goals were read. Ms. Gibson went through her PowerPoint, which is 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 and gave print out of the revenue and expenditures as of October 2024 for the fiscal year 2024-2025. \$36,719,944.00. -No questions asked.

#### **Human Resource Update**—*Mrs. Angelia Scott, Director of HR and Federal Programs*

Mrs. Scott presented to board members the current personnel report with vacancies for FSD3 SY 2024-2025 that are as follows: Certified needed are 1 in Early Childhood at Lake City Early Childhood Center, 1 in Elementary at Main Street Elementary, 1 in Special Education at LCECC, and 1 Librarian at MSE. Acknowledged employees for November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day, November 11-15 is National School Psychologists week. Clemson CU-Prepares Program Spotlight. Clemson has large incentives to college students studying to get a teaching degree in this teacher shortage. We have one participant in Dr. Ronald E. McNair. -No questions asked.

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

Dr. Hickson reviewed the SEL program for providing wraparound series that improves academics and attendance. She introduced Dr. Yvonne Commodore who went over "The Whole Child Approach" which focuses on education the "whole child" and aim to address students' social, emotional and behavioral needs alongside their academic development. Her full presentation is on the FSD3 website.

Legislative updates: Legislative Advocacy Conference & Delegate Assembly Dec. 7-8, 2024 and SCSBA professional development will be Feb. 21-23, 2025 in Myrtle Beach.

Dr. Hickson requested the use of the fund balance from 2023-2024 in the amount of \$1,919,054. Request is to use on 6 large purposes which total \$1,506,000. Action Required. (See breakdown on the FSD3 website.)

**Approval of Use of Fund Balance:** Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Use of Fund Balance as presented. Mr. Jason Kirby 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 8-0.

The board scheduled a callboard meeting and work session for December 3, 2024 from 5:30-7:00pm. The purpose is to finalize the \$20 million resolution and develop a final expenditure.

**Enter into Executive Session** – Ms. Barbara Bryant made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss parent appeals, student discipline or potential legal matters, and personnel matters (possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters) Gloria Robinson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 8-0.

Ms. Gloria Robinson was disconnected from phone call for Executive Session.

**Exit Executive Session** – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and enter public session. Barbara Bryant provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Action from executive session** – There were no actions or matters to vote on during executive session.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Barbara Bryant made the motion to adjourn. Mr. 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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Jac’Kel Brown, Chair

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Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

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Rutha Frieson, Secretary