



# Florence County School District 3

## Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

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Thursday, October 17, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the October 17, 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 and all other members were present.

Dr. Hickson requested prayers for all FSD3 staff, students, and families. We observed a moment of silence and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Dr. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mattie Thomas 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 9-0.

**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 9-0.

**Public Participation:** None

### **Board Chair Report**

- Board chair Mr. Brown spoke of visiting a North Carolina middle school with vice chair Rebecca Yates and Dr. Hickson. They were given a tour of the Paxton Patterson labs at their school. It showed how exposing students to these kind of career choices before they get to high school will help prepare them more by possibly knowing what they may want to do as a career choice. Ms. Rebecca agreed and added that she liked the fact that some of those career hands on training can be used in their own homes.
- Ms. Barbara Bryant spoke about attending the National Drop Out conference in New Orleans with Ms. Mattie Thomas, Mr. Ned Blake and Mr. Leon Burgess. Mr. Blake and Mr. Burgess were presenters and captivated their audience with good very enlightening information, as were the other speakers at the conference. A lot of information is coming to help our students be winning students.
- Rutha Frieson attended the Pee Dee Regional Advocacy Meeting at Aynor High School, with other board members, where they received an extraordinary welcome and gave lots of good information. She also attended Beyond the Basics in Columbia which also provided a lot of information. As a board we need to know the questions to ask when we see the data for our district and schools. She attended a webinar regarding homeless students and meeting their needs. We must know that mental health service is necessary and important for them. Also, the

Lions Club conducted their annual vision screening at our school sites. Here is some of the data we had on that.

- LCECC screened 297 and 50 students received referrals to see their eye Dr. for further assessment.
- MSE screened 269 and 95 received referrals.
- JCL screened 232 and 45 received referrals. (4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders did not get tested. Only get screened every other year.)
- OMS screened 179 and 38 received referrals.
- SES screened 355 and 68 received referrals.
- **TOTAL OF 1332 screened and 305 referrals.**

Board chair Mr. Brown thanked the Lions Club for the free vision screenings for our students.

- Ms. Mattie Thomas share that she also attended the two events Ms. Bryant attended. Agreed with Ms. Bryant and added her story of David. Do we teach to the test or to the student? It needs to be to the student like David.
- Dr. Julia Mims also attended the Regional Advocacy which was centered on Story Telling and how that helps in teaching our students. She was impressed with Ms. Barbara Bryant's story and another of a blind man and his sign. It is very important how we tell our story and we believe we, Lake City, need to get out there and tell our story of what kind of buildings we have and what kind of challenges we have with children, we cannot expect a different result.

**SCSBA Delegate Nomination:** Rotation shows that Ms. Mattie Thomas shall be our delegate and Ms. Rebecca Yate is our alternate. Motion by Rutha Frieson and 2<sup>nd</sup> provided by Mr. Jason Kirby. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve Ms. Mattie Thomas as our Delegate and Ms. Rebecca Yates as our alternate passes 9-0.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Hickson introduced Dr. Annette Melton, Cognia's Senior Director Mid-Atlantic Region to celebrate Lake City High School's 100 years of accreditation. Letter from the CEO and President, plaque and banner were presented to Jason Cook, LCHS principal.

- **Legislative Updates:** We will submit the Delegate Nomination form with Ms. Mattie as the delegate and Ms. Rebecca as our alternate. They will represent us at the Legislative Advocacy conference in December.
- **Grant announcements:** 1-Ms. Mouzon, through the USDA Food Grant, will have additional funds for transportation in food service of \$16,045.19. 2- Another grant, name withheld for now, is for \$268,711.00 for telemarketing and telehealth. 3- This grant was not published on Dr. Hickson's slides because she just got the email this afternoon. The grant is for \$712,724.00. Dr. Commodore, Andrew and Dr. Hickson have been working on gathering all the information needed to submit the application. The grant will impact a lot of our students in FSD3 and allow us to meet the needs of all our students. It will enhance the services and add to our mental health effort for our students and will give extra support to those who need additional mental health support.
- Dr. Hickson did have to make a call to SC Superintendent Weaver to let her know that we did have three HVAC units go out/burn during the tropical storms, hurricanes, and other needs that we have. In just sharing those needs and concerns, superintendent Weaver shared that there will be funds coming to help. The short application has been completed and submitted to Dr. Weaver's office. We should be getting more funds later this month. Even with all that

additional financial help, we do have other needs that we really need to take care of. Dr. Hickson handed out a matrix of our district's needs for each school site. Shows all the needs that we have and some of the issues we have throughout our district. Dr. Hickson reviewed the power point of all our needs and how it impacts our different departments, which is posted on our website. We need a finance source. She is recommending reviewing finance options. This requires the board to approve a loan.

- Dr. Hickson introduced a possible funding source company. Mr. Mike Gallagher explained to the board what a loan of 20 million dollars will look like for our district, and how it could be used to improve many parts of Florence School District Schools. Their PowerPoint is also on the website. This funding source needs approval from the board by vote. The board requested more time to review all the specifics.

The motion to table Phase 1B for LCECC & Other District Capital Projects until October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by Ms. Rebecca Yates and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was provided by Ms. Rutha Frieson. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve to table the decision of Phase 1B for LCECC & Other District Capital Projects until October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 passes 9-0.

The Veterans Hall of Fame is Nov. 15, 2024, at the Bean Market from 8:30 until 11:30 board members will be getting an invitation, an invitation for Best Practices showcase at DREM on Nov. 14, 9:30-12:00. Mini libraries by Ms. Tonyelle. Construction is complete. Met with administrators and media specialists to go over the process of getting books and procedures and locations of these mini libraries. Input for the remaining of the 3 boxes and we need clearance from the city of Lake City. Reviewed all the procedures of mini libraries.

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

Ms. Mary reviewed our literacy and reading instruction plan. She reviewed the results of our previous goals and shared the spring goals for our students. All of which are on her PowerPoint, which is posted on the FSD3 website. Save the date: DREM Run/Walk this weekend October 19<sup>th</sup> and Reading Under the Lights on November 4<sup>th</sup>. She also recognized that October is National Principals Month.

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

October Financials—Ms. Hope presented the October 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 September 30, 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, in process of finalizing the Adult Ed. part-time Special Ed., and 1 Librarian at Main Street Elementary. Acknowledged employees for September & October National Days. Coastal Carolina Buses rolling in. Coastal Carolina Practicum Day. Approximately 54 students LCECC, Scranton Elem and MSE. Will be for half day on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, half day on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> and a full day on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and will be partnered with teachers. -No questions asked.

#### Operational Updates—*Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer*

Ms. Kasey present the second reading of New Model Policy JICJ Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day. Must be adopted by January or can lose state funding. . First part of policy talks about the purpose and definitions of what constitutes as electronic device. It continues by stating the details of what is prohibited, all electronic devices including smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds etc. and it is from bell to bell. The whole school day. No cellphone should be in use at all. IEP, 504 plans are exceptions and Volunteer fire organization. No specific consequences for violation in this policy. That is up to the district. Ms. Mattie made the motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the New Model Policy JICJ Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day and Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of New Model Policy JICJ Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day as presented passes 9-0.

With that being approved, we needed to remove policy JCDAG Cell Phone, Technology and Communication devices, which is being replaced by the new JICJ Policy. We are going to take the consequences part and create an administrative rule with the first offense, second offense list in previous policy.

Consequences:

- First 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.
- Second 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.
- Third 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.
- Fourth offense and beyond – Electronic device will be confiscated for the remainder of the school year.

Note: Although the district will take appropriate steps to safeguard all cellular telephones and electronic devices that are confiscated, the district will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to remove policy JCDAG and 2<sup>nd</sup> was provided by Ms. Paula Morris. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to remove policy JCDAG was approved as presented passes 9-0.

Ms. Kasey recommended that we really advertise the change of policy, especially the consequences. Advertise in district level and public level.

**Enter into Executive Session** – Dr. Julia Mims 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) Barbara Bryant 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 9-0.

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. Paula Morris 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 8-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Action from executive session** – Motion to accept the Contract Marketing Specialist was provided by Barbara Bryant. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept Contract Marketing Specialist was passed 8-0.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Barbara Bryant provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

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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