



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, September 19, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair Jac'Kel called the September 15, 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.

Dr. Hickson requested prayers for all FSD3 staff, students, families and for special prayers for the family of Donald Burgess and the Harris family, Coach Baker (whom she spoke to his wife, he is home and progressing well), Ms. Mary Boston Presley, Ms. Betsy Parker, Ms. Abra Bolling Nettles and Ms. Kimberly Cooper. She then proceeded to lead all attendees to observe a moment of silence and then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown and board members Rebecca Yates, Barbara Bryant, Rutha Frieson, Paula Morris, Julia Mims, Gloria Robinson, and Jason Kirby, attended. Mr. Board Chair let the record show that Ms. Mattie Thomas was attending the meeting by phone.

Approval of the Agenda: Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Paula Morris 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 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd 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: Mr. Jason Outlaw, Ms. Samantha Brookes and Ms. Madelyn Teabritch attended and shared a presentation. They had a slide presentation. Mr. Jason gave thanks for time to present in such short notice. The presentation is for the infrastructure project that is happening adjacent Dr. Ronald E. McNair. This project has been going on for a few years and is now in phase 2. The purpose of coming to inform the school district of the project and get access to property to make the improvements. This project is to better the neighborhood. It will help with rainwater and flooding. It will have 3000 linear feet of drains; clean the debris already in the river behind DREM, to allow the water to flow much better. They will be removing fencing and reset the fences when done. They will work to not disturb school hours or school pick up times. On the school property, they will be cleaning and removing debris from behind the school. They will be cleaning out the ditch. City requested that area be available for future use of cleaning. To do all the work they will need easements for construction and cleaning. Taking all the consideration requested by school and staff. The easement will be about 25 feet to cover the channel all the way around. The time on school grounds will be quick, approximately 2 days to 2 weeks depending on when it can be done. If they can schedule about fall break in November when no school. Possible need road closures. Mr. Outlaw answered question for Ms. Barbara Bryant.

Board Chair Report

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Ms. Paula Morris attended LCECC the end of grandparent’s day. Mr. Cole was energized young man. Spoke with Mr. Cook at LCHS about the percentage of graduates are going up every year. Hats off to Mr. Cook and his staff. She would like to have a shout out to the principals at every board meeting. Also reflected on the vision of our school district of the Power of 1 Care. Ms. Barbara Bryant spoke of the Veterans Hall of Fame coming up on Nov. 15, 2024. Ms. Rutha Frieson went to Scranton grandparent’s day. She enjoyed the event very much and learned the history of Scranton.

Special recognition of the Champions for Public Education Award. Special guests SCSBA President Michele Branning and our Regional Directory Mr. Ervin Richardson. They recognized the Lake City Alumni Class of 1982 for their contribution and collaboration with Florence School District 3. The class was here to receive their award and be showered with all the earned praises of all the different ways they have given to enhance FSD3 and being true Champions for Public Education. A representative for the Class of 1982 gave an acceptance speech. She explained how the Alum began the idea of how to start the scholarship and all of the work and events they do to support FSD3. She gave thanks to all who acknowledged them and supported them as they worked to take care of the youth of our district. Ms. Barbara Bryant thanked the Class of ’82.

Superintendent’s Report

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

Started with a special recognition. She received a letter from Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver, which said FSD3 has 2 students who received perfect scores in SC Ready in Math. Over 1800 students across the state received a perfect score in one or more of the SC Ready test. This placed them in a distinguished top 1% of students in grades 3-8 across South Carolina State. JC Lynch principal Mr. Devine and Ms. Burgess their teacher are here to recognize these students. Jase Kirby and Kirklen Hair.

The New I Policies were presented for the Second reading.

- IHBEA-R ‘Instructional Services for Multilingual Learners’,
- IHBF ‘Medical Homebound Instruction’,
- IKB ‘Homework’, and
- IKD ‘Honor Rolls’.

Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve the 2nd reading of the new I policies 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 new policies presented passes 9-0.

Policy revisions were read for the 1st reading

- IJL - Library/Media Center Materials Selection and Adoption
- IKADD - Content and Credit Recovery
- IJOA - Field Trips

Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the 1st reading of the I policy revisions presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 1st reading of the I policy revisions presented passes 9-0. This only requires one reading.

Ms. Mary continued to update the board SC Ready ELA percentages of averages of the state. Also, continuing with the ELA Highlights with their programs to improve reading including the “30 for 30” reading challenge. In Math, there was minimum growth, but it is still growth. State averages as well. She spotlighted what Math programs are being used there to improve our percentages higher and what support our students need. DreamBox / Math180 is the weekly date focus. In Science, we had not been

testing in a while, but it is back. We had a major increase in science. We are at 40.75% and we have out achieved the state. We are very proud of our science data. We asked our teacher to see what we did to get such great results. Highlights and celebrations! Scranton STEAM Academy, Title One Engagement Cookout in the Park. Mr. Burgess is doing great with his hands-on STEM kits. Save the Dates for October 2024. Board Chair Jac'Kel noted custodian Mr. Willie Flowers was teaching guitar.

Board member presentation- Dr. Hickson, Superintendent

Dr. Hickson to present board members with achievement awards.

Finance Update – Hope Gibson, Finance Director

September Financials – Ms. Hope presented the September 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 \$34,142,053.00 and gave print out of the revenue and expenditures as of August 31, 2024 for the fiscal year 2024-2025. No questions.

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 Special Ed at LCECC, and 1 Librarian at Main Street Elementary. Ms. Scott also reviewed the recommendation. Ms. Paula Morris asked Ms. Scott again a personnel question regarding international teachers. She wanted to know if we could look into maybe trying to keep our international teacher by possibly giving them a five year contract. At LCHS, we have four math teachers. We will need those replaced at one time when their time is up. Ms. Scott explained that the purpose of the international program is an exchange program, not for recruiting. She also explained that our current SC Teacher are provided an annual contract. We are not able to bind them for five years. Ms. Paula followed up with questioning if we are able to start recruiting now for the international math teachers, even if they have not graduated yet. Ms. Scott said recruitment season is normally in January; however, her recruitment starts now. Marketing a new website for HR, which is brighter and more attractive to help bring people in. Ms. Scott also went over the volunteer guidelines. For safety concerns, we are issuing volunteer ID's. Julia Mims brought up the difficulty of getting volunteers approvals more streamlined and easier. Response: The application is easier and online. Lowered the number of safe school video's they need to do. Can we have a station or date for helping volunteers to sign up and make it easier? Ms. Scott said we could set up at different events to help volunteers. We also have HR open to help those who are not computer savvy.

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

Ms. Kasey began with the Second reading of the first group of New J Policies.

- JCA – Assignment of Students to Schools
- JFABG – Educational Opportunity for Military Students
- JFABH – Military Temporary Remote School Enrollment
- JHCB – Released Time for Religious Instruction
- JIAB – Discrimination, Harassment & Retaliation (Students)
- JIB – Student Involvement in Decision Making
- JICJA – Social Media & Electronic Communications
- JICJB – Student-Tracking Safety Devices

- JIJ – Student Protests, Demonstrations & Strikes
- JIG – Contests for Students
- JJI – Interscholastic Athletics
- JK – Student Discipline
- JLCDC – Food Allergies & Special Dietary Needs
- JLCDD – Service Animals (Students)
- JLCF – School Nurses
- JLD- School Counseling
- JLIJ – Sun Safety

Julia Mims made the motion to approve 1st reading of the new J policies presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve 2nd reading of the new J policies presented pass 9-0.

Next Ms. Kasey presented the new model policy for JICJ- Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day. She explained how we had discussed that back in June we talked about how the state legislatures had passed the law about the ban of cell phones and the state was going to be working on the policy. Dr. Hickson has sent you a copy of the model policy. The law states that if the school district does not adopt this policy, it can lose 20% of state funding. Every school board must adopt by January 2025. 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, who is prohibited and consequences that will be in place. Q- Julia Mims asked if this was for students only or for teachers as well. Ms. Kasey as written says students. Dr. Hickson said that they have also talked with staff about that and that they need to be a model and not have it showing. She believes what we expect from students, we need to model it as well. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the 1st reading of New Model Policy JICJ Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day as presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 1st reading of New Model Policy JICJ Prohibition of personal electronic devices during the school day as presented passes 9-0.

Other Updates – *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson shared Legislative updates with the board. One being the Proviso 1.103. Ms. Feagin has just gone over that so she did not want to repeat for the sake of time. Dr. Hickson did want to bring up the why behind the prohibiting of the electronic communication device. Well it is so all students will be Free to Focus. Right now, it is very difficult for teachers to teach because our students are more focused phones and electronic devices and not on instruction. We are also having more direct instruction and not having them use the computer and it goes both ways. Free to focus on learning, Free to focus on Friends, Free to focus on Safety, Free to focus on Instruction. It will restrict cell phone usage through the day and gives students the freedom to focus during the school day. The policy does not ban cell phones on campus or from being used as medical devices and after school for extra curriculum activities. Parents may depend on them to communicate with the kids. Statewide implementation rather than classroom by classroom. The power point goes on to give the status of what other states are doing. Student enrollment update chart. We are down 99 students as of 9-5-24. Our ethnicity makeup is the same. What is concerning is that in 7th grade we have the most loss. Not sure why. 12th grade is lower, but some students graduated early. Maintaining safe schools presentation that Ms. Feagin and her worked on talking with principals to

remind them of the protocols and maintaining safety as a priority. We really need to build and maintain those relationships to have safe school. When you have those positive relationships and show that, we care and students will talk to you. We have Dr. Commodore, the other guidance counselors and we have target students, students assigned to counselors at ongoing, community health. Therefore, we have things in place to create; create a safer school environment. We also share that it is everyone's responsibility to have a safe environment. If you see something get in there, help, and fix it. If you know, something say something. Do not stand around for others to fix. We are making sure we keep an eye out for our Student scholars are in a safe environment. Our motto is still Florence 3 Forward. Continue to move forward in Academics, the Arts and Athletics. We are on Phase one at LCECC, Dr. Hickson will get a list of what we have already done. Scranton has a new addition that is beautiful, more space that provides faster lunches. We have more of the Arts with the new band and they have ordered band equipment. Thank You to the board for all they do to continue to move forward.

Enter into Executive Session – Rutha Frieson 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) Marketing Service Contract, superintendent's contract & policies. Barbara Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 9-0.

Ms. Mattie Thomas is disconnected from phone call for Executive Session.

Exit Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and enter public session. Julia Mims provided the 2nd 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 2nd 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 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

Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary