



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, September 21, 2023

6:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Bryant, Jac'Kel Brown, Gloria Robinson, Mattie Thomas, Rebecca Yates, Julia Mims, Paula Morris, and Rutha Frieson. Jason Kirby attended via telephone.

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the September 21, 2023 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: Jac'Kel Brown 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 September 21, 2023 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda 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 consent agenda as presented passed 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: August 17, 2023 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report and student transfer requests.

Special Recognition – Four of FSD3's board members were recognized by the SCSBA for achievement in the association's 2022-2023 Boardmanship Institute. Board members can achieve up to six levels of recognition by earning points that are accrued annually from July through June for participation in statewide conferences and training provided on-site in their district.

Board members recognized and their levels of achievement for the 2022-2023 SY are:

- Jason Kirby - Level 2
- Paula Morris - Level 3
- Rutha Frieson - Level 4
- Mattie Thomas - Level 4

Public Participation: None.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the September 21, 2023 board meeting either personally or on Facebook. As always, the board's quest is to keep everyone informed and involved about what is going on in Florence School District 3.

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended – Board members which attended the SCSBA School Law conference commented on the workshops they attended.

2. Request to attend any Meetings – Several board members are scheduled to attend the Risky Business Seminar at Hilton Head Island October 2-4, 2023 as well as the Civility workshop and the Regional Advocacy Meeting later in October.

Superintendent's Report

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

August Financials - The August financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2023-2024 current budget is the final approved amount of \$37,723,138.00. The board-approved use of the Fund Balance is \$535,106 for Classified Salaries increase. The total amount board approved use of fund balance is \$3,453,003. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function as of August 31, 2023.

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

Mrs. Scott presented to board members a new policy, GCCAC/GDCC 'Paid Parental Leave'. Currently, FSD3 does have the administrative rule in place; however, now that SC Law has put the mandate of paid parental leave for state employees, this policy is presented for approval. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve Policy GCCAC/GDCC, 'Paid Parental Leave' as presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve Policy GCCAC/GDCC, 'Paid Parental Leave' as presented passed 9-0.

A difference between the previous administrative rule and this policy: in the administrative rule, an employee had to be employed at least 3 months while in policy there is no qualifying time of service to receive this benefit.

Children's internet Protection Act (CIPA) – *Brian Huckabee, Director of Communications, Technology, & Facilities*

Because FSD3 receives federal E-rate funds, it is required to make sure of certain assurances to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for internet access or internal connections through the E-rate. For internet content filtering, FSD3 has in place **Cisco Umbrella**, which is a cloud-native platform that delivers the most secure-reliable, and fastest internet experience to more than 100 million users daily. Umbrella unifies firewall, secure web-gateway, DNS layer security, cloud access-security broker (CASB) and threat intelligence solutions into a single platform to help businesses of all sizes secure their network. FSD3 also implements **Google for Education**. This program has built-in protections, strong compliance protections, no ads and data transparency. With Google for Education schools own their data. Google operates its own secure servers and platform services, and makes it easy for admins to manage data security. **GoGuardian** is another filtering and monitoring program used by FSD3. With this program, teachers may easily recognize when a student strays from assigned material while also interacting with student screens. This program will also analyze students' browsing behavior to alert people concerned of students at risk of suicide or self-esteem. Finally, FSD3 requires, as stated in FSD3 **Policy IJNDB, 'Acceptable Use Policy'** (AUP), to be signed by all students and FSD3 employees. This AUP is a set of rules applied by the owner of a network that restrict the ways the network may be used and sets guidelines as to how it should be used. This has been provided as information.

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

Mrs. Howard began her report by sharing Goal 2 and 3 Board Goals. 2) Academic Achievement-to improve the academic success of all students, and 3) Reading Readiness-to increase the number of students reading on grade level in grades K-3. Mrs. Howard continued her report by giving general information concerning the state testing results, which will be released publicly at a later date. Some data shared at tonight's meeting:

SC READY ELA – FSD3 is at 40.4% for 22-23, up 10.4% from last SY. The state average is 53.8%

SC READY MATH – FSD3 is at 24.1% for 22-23, up 6.3% from last SY. The state average is 40.8%

SC READY Science – FSD3 is at 19.7% for 22-23, down 7.36% from last SY. The state average is 45.0%

Mrs. Howard also shared highlights from ELA and Math as well as the next steps for Science.

Mrs. Howard completed her report with upcoming events:

- Parent Teacher conferences are the week of September 18-21, 2023
- Tuesday, September 26th is the Gentlemen's Club Induction program @ 6:00 pm at LCHS
- October 3rd is the 45th day of school
- October 4th-6th are intercession days
- October 12th report cards will be issued

Operations Update – *Kasey Feagin, Chief Operations Officer*

Mrs. Feagin has 2 policy revisions for approval from the FSD3 Board of Trustees in her report. Policy JFABE 'Admission of Limited Proficiency and Migrant Students'.

Revisions recommended for approval:

Name change to 'Admission of **Multilingual Learners** and Migrant Students'

1st paragraph, 1 sentence, remove "students with limited English proficiency" and add "**multilingual learners**".

2nd paragraph, 1st sentence, remove "Students with limited English proficiency" and add "**Multilingual learners**".

2nd bullet of 4th paragraph, at the end of statement add "**as stated in State Board Regulation 43-272**".

7th paragraph, 1st sentence, remove "Students with limited English proficiency" and add "**Multilingual learners**".

Under legal references, add "**State Board Regulation 43-272**".

Paula Morris made the motion to approve the revisions to Policy JFABE as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the revisions to Policy JFABE as presented passed 8-0. *Jason Kirby left meeting before this vote.* The 2nd policy revision presented was for Policy IKAB 'Content and Credit Recovery'. The revisions presented are as follows:

1st paragraph, end of 1st sentence remove "for non EOC courses only". End sentence at "...or credit recovery programs."

1st paragraph, remove 2nd sentence completely ("If a student fails a class that has a SC End of Course State Assessment attached, the student must retake the class and retake the End of Course State Assessment.")

Paragraph under subtitle Credit Recovery, remove last sentence, which reads ("Students who are enrolled in courses with an SC End of Course exam, will not be able to complete credit recovery and will be required to repeat the entire course and retake the EOC exam.")

Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve the revisions to Policy IKAB as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board member present voted for this motion. The motion to approve the revisions to Policy IKAB as presented passed 8-0.

Legislative Updates

Dr. Hickson began her report that the legislative sessions will officially begin in January 2024. Dr. Hickson invited Representative Roger Kirby to address board members concerning the population changes from the 2020 Census. Due to this change, some member districts must adjust to comply with voting precinct regulations. Representative Kirby was accompanied by Mr. Drew Gregory and Mr. Will Roberts from Columbia. These gentlemen work in this field and were available for any questions and/or concerns in reference to this re-alignment of voting precincts. However, there is still some time before this will take place and it is only minor changes.

District Innovation Fellowship– Dr. Hickson continued her report with the participation of FSD3 in a statewide fellowship, which is on of State Superintendent's Weaver Initiatives. There will be a learning tour, October 24-26 in San Antonio, TX. This gives FSD3 a unique opportunity to meet with other district teams across the state to explore how innovative approaches may help address specific needs of our district. Of course, feedback from staff, students, community stakeholders and board will be part of this process.

Facilities Assessment – Based on feedback from our surveys, there is a need for a full assessment of all buildings/schools looking at all areas, not just athletics, academic and the Arts. Dr. Hickson requested approval to move forward with this project. The cost should not exceed \$5,000 to \$8,000. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to approve Dr. Hickson to move forward with this facilities assessment. Rebecca Yates provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to give Dr. Hickson to move forward with the FSD3 facilities assessment passed 8-0.

Updated Student enrollment after Labor Day - Dr. Hickson gave board members an updated enrollment count after Labor Day. It looks like the enrollment only decreased by 11 students since the beginning of the SY enrollment.

Enter into Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation, superintendent's contract, student discipline or potential legal matters. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 8-0. *Paula Morris left the meeting during executive session.*

Exit Executive Session – Julia Mims made the motion to exit executive session. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session and enter into public session passed 7-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve for Dr. Hickson to carry over ALL of her unused vacation days from previous years each school year. Mattie Thomas provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve for Dr. Hickson to carry over ALL of her unused vacation days from previous years each school year passed 7-0.

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

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Jason Kirby, Secretary