



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting

Minutes

District Office Board Room

Thursday, November 19, 2020

6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Paula Morris, Almeta Fleming, & Rutha Frieson. Via telephone: Mattie Thomas and Jason Kirby.

Absent: Jac'Kel Brown. Gloria Robinson joined the meeting right before Staff Reports began.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the November 19, 2020 regular monthly 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 Chair Bryant led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Rutha Frieson 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.

Consent Agenda: Julia Mims made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept the consent agenda as presented for tonight's meeting passed 7-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the October 15, 2020 regular monthly board meeting and the Certified Personnel Report.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Board Chair Report

- i. *Public Participation Suspension* - Due to COVID-19 and safety to the Public, Paula Morris made the motion to suspend the Public Participation portion (Policy BCBI) for this board meeting. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members approved. The motion to suspend the Public Participation portion for this board meeting passed 7-0. Tonight's meeting is being streamed on Facebook.
- ii. *Report of any Meetings/School Events Attended* – Almeta Fleming along with Barbara Bryant and Gloria Robinson attended the Regional Advocacy Meeting in Columbia. Ms. Fleming stated this meeting was well-attended and well-managed for social distancing purposes with discussions of what's happening in districts, what's working in districts, etc. Several board members also participated in this week's COGNIA review of accreditation. The preliminary report from this review has been great, nothing negative, but the final report will be received in the next few weeks.

Ms. Bryant congratulated board members who ran for re-election and will be re-seated in January. She also commended opponents, Pamela Lawhon, Gregory McKnight, and Gracie Hannah, for very well run races.

- iii. *Request to attend any Meetings* – Rutha Frieson will be the voting delegate for FSD3 at the December 4, 2020 SCSBA Legislative Business Meeting, which will be held in Columbia. Mrs. Gloria Robinson will be the alternate in case Ms. Frieson will not be able to fulfill this obligation. Both will be participating in the Virtual Advocacy conference that begins December 3, 2020.

The SCSBA Annual Convention will be held, as of this date, face-to-face in Hilton Head, SC February 18, 21, 2021. 300 members will be allowed to attend. Registration will open on December 4, 2020. There will be no refunds to this event. Barbara Bryant, Mattie Thomas, Jason Kirby, Julia Mims, Rutha Frieson, and Paula Morris asked to attend this meeting.

GLORIA ROBINSON JOINED THE MEETING.

Staff Reports

Finance Update – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

The October financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. Our current budget remains at \$29,832,700, which includes the \$200,000 board approved use of fund balance for facility safety improvement measures. Our auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins, have completed the audit of SY 2019-2020. Original submission to the SC Department of Education (SCDE) was scheduled for December 1, 2020, however, due to circumstances beyond our control, this report is scheduled for submission December 18, 2020 after the December 17th board meeting when this report will be submitted for your review and approval. This is still ahead of the SCDE's extended submission date of January 15, 2021.

Tonight, we are asking for approval of a Reimbursement Resolution for the purposes of paying back expenditures for building maintenance needs and technology needs. In the past, FSD3 has had a General Obligation (GO) bond issue every other year. FSD3 is scheduled for an issue in 2021. After consulting with our bond attorney FSD3's best course is a Reimbursement Resolution. This is a simple placeholder that will allow FSD3 to use a portion of the proceeds to the Spring 2021 Bond to pay ourselves back for these expenditures. Without this resolution, which declares our intent to use the proceeds of tax exempt bonds to pay ourselves back, the 'look back' period is 60 days from each expenditure. The reimbursement resolution will establish a 60-day look back from its adoption which will carry forward with respect to all expenditures listed in the resolution. Paula Morris made the motion to approve the adoption of the Reimbursement Resolution 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 Reimbursement Resolution as presented passed 8-0.

Maintenance and Facilities Update – *Jay Alexander, Facilities and Maintenance Director*

Jay Alexander, Facilities and Maintenance Director, then gave board members a summary of capital projects that are ongoing now. A handout of this summary was provided. Page 1 of includes the upgrades to REMJH renovations totally approximately \$170,000. Other upgrades with the 2020 Funds include Graham Road Adult Education building renovations totally approximately \$44,000, and renovations to the MSE 100 building totally approximately \$9,800. Page 2 listed the Graham Road

Shared Alternative High School funds project, using Proviso 1.88 funds. Renovations include Roof replacement, camera system upgrade, door upgrades, HVAC equipment upgrade, exterior wall repairs & waterproofing, LED lighting upgrade, and painting both interior and exterior. Page 3 is a list of upcoming prioritized capital projects being considered as part of the next bond issue that Mrs. Humphrey just presented. A total of all of these projects would total approximately \$1.18 million over a 1 to 2 year period.

Instructional Update – *Allana Prosser, Chief Academic Officer*

Monitoring our Kids – The District Instructional team conducts data dives with all schools to be sure we are on the right track to help our students where they need it most. Data is not only compared from last year and our first benchmark scores this year, but scores from the last report card for each school are considered to establish goals outlining where we need to go. FSD3's priority is to ensure our students get the best we can give them during this pandemic. When report card grades are finalized, we will also look at where students were last year at this time compared to this year. Mrs. Prosser gave board members a comparison of Fall 19-20 and Fall 20-21 ELA and Math scores/grade. A more detailed report of these scores will be given during the December board meeting.

Survey Participation - Dr. Rainey Knight, Education Oversight Committee (EOC), visited with a group of district and school level leadership to discuss learning during shut down compared to learning now using hybrid and virtual and some of the challenges we face. The EOC will use the information gathered from us and other school district to conduct a study and determine needs to help academic achievement during the pandemic. Results of this study will be shared once we receive them.

Results from eLearning Survey – Mrs. Prosser shared with board members the results of survey from parents concerning the eLearning day. Two questions were given – 1) 'How did you and your child feel about the eLearning assignments? Having 67 responses, 77% said the work sent home was just right. 2) How satisfied were you with the Mock eLearning Day? 1 being not satisfied and 5 being very satisfied. Having 67 responses, 72.4% were really satisfied with the eLearning Day.

Operations Updates – *Kasey Feagin, Chief Operations Officer*

Parent Survey for 2nd Semester – A parent survey is currently available in order to gather parent feedback concerning 2nd semester. This survey will be active until the 1st week of December. This survey is on the FSD3 website and Facebook page. A Mode of Learning Change form is also posted for all parents if they want to make a change for 2nd semester.

Approved Administrative Rule for Policy IKA – After the administrative rule for Policy IKA was approved during the October 15, 2020 board meeting, some of the FSD3 educators have voiced some concerns. Due to the multitude of concerns, a task force has been formed consisting of board members, administrators, and teachers. A preliminary meeting took place earlier today. Mrs. Feagin provided a handout with highlighted areas showing the main areas of concern. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 3:45 p.m. Therefore, we are asking for a motion to place this administrative rule on hold until the task force is able to bring back recommendations of common ground. Julia Mims made the motion to place administrative rule for policy IKA on hold until it is brought to the board with new recommendations. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to place administrative rule for policy IKA on hold passed 8-0. *NOTE: Before this revised administrative rule was brought to the board for*

approval, feedback was requested from all staff members. It was not until the new rule was put in place that educators saw what impact the revisions made, which is their reason for wanting to bring this administrative rule back to the table.

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

Legislative Updates – None- Session will resume in January.

2021 Annual School Board Convention – FSD3 did submit a proposal to present during this conference entitled Engaging your Board and Stakeholders in the District's Strategic Planning process for Continuous Improvement annually and during the Pandemic.

COGNIA Review Visit - We will get a final report within 30 days. Once received we will share, but our exit conference was a success. Thanks to everyone who participated in interviews and preparations with a very special thank you to Mary Howard, who was the operating system that made sure everyone was where they needed to be when they needed to be there which made the week run very smoothly.

December 21 & 22 – Remote Learning/Work Days

When we revised the school calendar due to COVID and the late start, we reduced the number of winter break days. Therefore, we are make the request to make December 21st & 22nd remote learning/work days for all. Paula Morris made the motion to make December 21st and 22nd, 2020 as eLearning and remote work days for staff and students. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to make December 21st and 22nd, 2020 as eLearning and remote work days for staff and students passed 8-0.

Update on Desk Drive – As of today's date, FSD3 has given out 94 desks for student's home use. & more will be given out tomorrow, 11/20/2020.

Reopening Plan (2nd Semester) – FSD3 is preparing for 2nd semester and continuing to implement a plan that keeps safety as a priority.

Executive Session –Paula Morris made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue regarding hiring, termination, resignation 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.

Exit Executive Session – Almeta Fleming made the motion to exit executive session. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session passed 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action taken from Executive Session – No action was needed.

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 8-0.

Date approved

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Paula Morris, Secretary