



# Florence County School District 3

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

Thursday, July 18, 2024

6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair, Jac'Kel Brown called the July 18, 2024 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

**Roll Call:** Chairman Jac'Kel Brown informed the Board that board members Rebecca Yates, Gloria Robinson, and Rutha Frieson were on (speaker) phone and all other board members were present in the board room. Jac'Kel Brown, Jason Kirby, Mattie Thomas, Paula Morris, Julia Mims, and Barbara Bryant were present in board room.

**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. A moment of silence was observed after which Dr. Hickson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Julia Mims made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Barbara Bryant provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the July 18, 2024 agenda as presented passed 9-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Barbara Bryant made the motion to approve the consent agenda. 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 passed 9-0.

**Public Participation:** No one signed up for public participation.

**Board Chair report and other members of the Board:** Ms. Barbara Bryan is a member of the VA Hall of Fame committee. She shared that there is a new initiative coming to Florence School District 3 that Veterans can apply to be in the Veterans Hall of Fame. The criteria is coming out, flyers will come out, they urge all Veterans that have been honorably discharged to look at the information, follow the criteria and submit their information to see if they are one of the ones who can be in our Hall of Fame.

**Superintendent's Report**— *Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson gave board members an overview and update of the 2024-2025 general fund budget process. The general fund proposed budget is focused on our mission to ensure our students are college and career ready as well as focus on our 6 operational goals with safety still a priority.

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

Ms. Gibson presented the July 2024 Board meeting finance update. She read the Florence School District 3 Mission statement. Her power point included the general fund slides with the transparency of all balances and expenses. The only change was the fund balance that was requested in April 2024 for retention bonuses and band instruments and repair. She reviewed all slides in detail. No questions or comments from board members.

Facilities Update – *Brian Huckabee, Director of Communications, Technology, and Facilities*

Back in May Mr. Huckabee had brought an update about the partnership with Schneider Electric and that they would be doing an assessment across the district. Since then they have completed the assessments and Mr. Justin was here to share his findings and what they are recommending for us to do initially. Mr. Huckabee introduced Mr. Justin.

Mr. Justin from Schneider Electric shared more about the Capital Recovery and Reinvestment Program. Mr. Justin shared his PowerPoint of the detail findings and solutions his company is recommending. They are at the final stage for development process. He gave a general concept from the high level of these projects. Trying to evaluate all facilities for a balanced solution for FSD3. Mr. Justin had a list a various areas and methods to improve the buildings throughout FSD3. As going through the district wide initiative and process they determined that the district still had some ESSER funds available and can use those funds in an impactful manner for our district, since the ESSER funds need to be expended by the end of this year. Taking into account the shorter timeline and looking at engineering efforts, material resources, lead time and installation times, they started focusing on Early Childhood Center due to the feedback from district administration that that building was going to be here for the long term future so that made sense to make the efforts to invest and modernize and get that building into a real good place and have a real comfortable learning environment place for years to come. Mr. Justin then went into detail regarding the steps that would be taken to improve the building. There will be two phases/components to the process. Components 1A and 1B. Today he was going over 1A component which include the ESSER funds to use to modernize the building. Among many things, he spoke of how to seal up areas that allow moisture into that building and also making some modifications on the existing roof of the building to ensure safety and extend the longevity of the roof. Additionally he gave a brief look at what the 1B component for that building is, once the external part of the building has been done, to maximize the energy conservation within the walls. He also was looking into a larger phase 2 in the future with helping FSD3 bring this solutions to all the FSD3 buildings. Board members asked questions to Mr. Justin. Dr. Hickson also gave more financial information on the ESSER funds, 2023 Bond funds and Safety grant. Mr. Justin added that they are also still working with a grant writer to submit 3 grants already and submitting more. The hope is to strengthen the application process for receiving grants.

Human Resources Update – *Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources*

Ms. Scott stated that our school staff returns on Tuesday.

Certified vacancy: CSR for Early Childhood, Science position that principals are working on, Special Ed position and school librarian. Update: Hired Spanish teacher. HR will continue to work on getting these filled.

Instruction Update – *Mary Howard, Director of Early and Elementary Education*

Ms. Howard began with introducing the board policies that will require first reading as recommended by School Board Association.

IHBEA: Instructional services for multi-lingual learners

IHBF: Medical homebound instruction

IKB: Homework

IKD: Honor roll

Dr. Hickson requested to the board chair that we bring the first readings back for the next board meeting for action, since it was not placed on this board meeting with action needed on agenda. Board Chair approved.

Through a power point, Ms. Mary gave the highlights of summer learning. They had 19 camps and activities that happened through the summer break with over 600 students served including the innovate students with the grant. Students were engaged in team building, bridging the gap and accelerating learning. At the end of summer learning they had an end of year showcase & Scranton Elementary was able to offer a variety of hands-on camps. They had other come people & organizations come into our camps and share new experiences with our students. Really used the 3 weeks to maximize some instructional time. In June, they also had adult learning with administrative professional development. They had a team represented at SCASA, attended Model Schools, The Education Business Summit with Mr. Burgess as a presenter there. In July, Admin. PD, new staff orientation, SRED, Career Lab and the SC Institute for Planning conferences were attended. More FSD3 professional development was shared as well. Ms. Mary gave the save the dates for future events of the FSD3 calendar.

*Superintendent's Report continues— Dr. Laura Hickson, Superintendent*

Dr. Hickson handed out a notebook to each board member with list of consultants and vendors and other information requested by board member Paula Morris.

Legislative updates.

**Proviso 1.3 State Aid to classroom:** Increase to Teacher schedules and monthly reporting of the fund balance. Training on that request for best practices state wide so there is consistency state wide. Starting August.

**Proviso 1.47 Full Day 4K:** Requires EOC to collect daily attendance data for CERDEP students.

**Proviso 1.70 Teacher Salaries:** Southeastern average teacher salary

**Proviso 1.104 District accounting systems and best practices:** They are forming a study committee to examine and propose necessary visions of improving districts accounting systems and best practices.

**Other legislative updates:** *Funding for school safety.* Dr. Hickson was in a meeting today on cellphone committee. State Superintendent Weaver shared additional funds coming, they haven't decided how they are going to roll out yet. Dr. Hickson thinks it may be in a grant process.

*Antibulling and school safety:* Requires schools to implement a policy adopted by State Board of Educations that prohibits cellphones. In that same meeting with the cellphone committee they got some work done, however, even in that committee there were differences.

**At the June board meeting,** board member, Ms. Mattie Thomas asked for list of our consultants and vendors that we use and pay out of our general funds or other grants. Dr. Hickson was excited to share this information and the outcome and impact. Whatever we do, she wants to make sure that we are receiving impact and outcomes with our students. Reviewed our mission statement. We must accomplish our 6 operational goals as well. Every purchase service person consultant and contract services are secured with the base or the question that she tries to base her decisions on, "is will this service produce impact for our students and the district over all?" They do the same for other funds as well. The notebook has the list and the impact of what we do. Dr. Hickson continued to share the other programs and events that are done to focus on students and to give them opportunities and experiences to help with our mission and vision for all our students. She also reviewed the binder in detail with the board members

and explained some of the tabs and pages. Dr. Hickson finished her report with a quote that is in the binder from the Ron Harris. Board members did not have questions, however, there were comments regarding positive personal experiences shared with her and what FSD3 has to do to get it right with our students. “We need to do what we need to do to make sure our kids get the BEST possible education and the BEST possible teachers in Florence County School District 3!!” She applauded Dr. Hickson and the staff of FSD3 for doing what they have to do to make it right for our children. Other comments were made by board members and Dr. Hickson.

**Enter into Executive Session** – Barbara Bryant made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss student discipline or potential legal matters, and personnel matters (possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters, or charter request) discussion of proposed contract relations with Schneider Electric. Dr. Julia Mims provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 9-0.

**Exit Executive Session** – Barbara Bryant made the motion to exit executive session and enter into 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 executive session and enter back into public session passed 9-0.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Action from executive session** – Dr. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the contract with Schneider Electric for energy savings and construction services that were discussed in executive session along with the construction addendum for the phase 1A work at the Early Childhood Center and she further moved that we authorize our superintendent to execute the contract on behalf of the board. Jason Kirby provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion passed 9-0.

Barbara Bryant made the motion to allow the Charter school to lease the Florence School District 3 Alternative building to house their students for two years. Paula Morris provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion was passed 9-0.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Barbara Bryant and Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Jason Kirby and Paula 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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Elizabeth Acuña, Recording Clerk

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Rutha Frieson, Secretary