



Florence County School District Three

Board of Trustees *Board Meeting* District Office Board Room

Thursday, January 19, 2017

6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Terrie Bryant, Paula Morris, John Graham, Lane Floyd, Julia Mims, Debra McKnight, Rodney Poston, Almeta Fleming, and Barbara Bryant.

Absent: None

Call to Order: Board Chair, Lane Floyd, called the January 19, 2017, 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: Lake City News & Post and Lake City News and Shopper. This agenda is also posted on the Florence County School District Three website. A moment of silence was observed after which Chair Floyd led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: John Graham made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Barbara Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the January 19, 2017, meeting agenda as presented passed 7-0.

Swearing in of Elected Board Members: Ms. Hickson lead the 3 new board of trustees, Almeta Fleming, Seat 1; Rodney Poston, Seat 2; and Debra McKnight, Seat 3, in the Oath of Office for the Florence School District Three Board of Trustees.

Election of Officers: Ms. Hickson opened the floor to receive nominations for the FSD3 BOT Board Chair. Julia Mims nominated Dr. Lane Floyd. A 2nd for this motion was given by John Graham. Receiving no other nominations, Dr. Floyd was voted 8-0 for the office of Board Chair.

Dr. Floyd, Board Chair, opened the floor to receive nominations for the FSD# BOT Vice-chair. A motion from Terrie Bryant to nominate Barbara Bryant was given. This motion received a 2nd by Julia Mims. Receiving no other nominations, Barbara Bryant was voted 8-0 for the office of Vice-chair.

Dr. Floyd, Board Chair, opened the floor again to receive nominations for the FSD3 BOT Secretary. A motion from Debra McKnight to nominate Paula Morris was given. This motion received a 2nd by Julia Mims. Receiving no other nominations, Paula Morris was voted 8-0 for the office of Secretary.

Ethical Principles: Brian Huckabee - January is School Board Appreciation Month. SCSBA has asked for all board members to sign a statement of Board Ethical Principles. Dr. Floyd, FSD3 BOT Board Chair, read each of these principles. By Board Members signing this statement, it is a symbolic gesture publically showing support of these principles.

Consent Agenda: John Graham made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Terrie Bryant 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 at tonight's meeting passed 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the December 15, 2016 regularly monthly board meeting; the Certified Personnel Report; and a Student Transfer Request.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Special Recognition

- SCSBA recognition of Dr. Julia Mims – Ms. Hickson presented Dr. Mims with a certificate and a pin from the SCSBA for serving as a local board member for 15 years.

Board Chair Report

- i. Report of Any Meetings Attended – Barbara Bryant visited MSE by invitation. Mrs. Bryant was escorted by 2 Gentlemen of Distinction. Mrs. Bryant asked one of the gentlemen how he got to be a gentleman of distinction. He said by doing what is right. Mrs. Bryant was impressed by the teachers and staff who truly care about the students in this district.
Paula Morris visited OES by invitation. Mrs. Morris was escorted by 2 very intelligent students. Mrs. Morris wanted to say thank you to the teachers and staff. She stated what appreciation board members get in January should be given to principals, teachers, and staff. Mrs. Morris recited the motivational saying that is recited every day by students and staff.
Lane Floyd visited LCECC by invitation. Dr. Floyd stated how he loves visiting kindergarten classes. They want to group hug and hug individually. Dr. Floyd was also escorted by 2 outstanding students as well. LCECC looks as good as it did 20 years ago. He was very impressed with his visit.
Julia Mims visited SES by invitation. Dr. Mims was show the letter showing that SES is in the finalist for 'Palmetto's Finest'. She was given a hand with a saying on each one. After each saying was read, a charm was given to Dr. Mims as well as a locket to put these in of all her interests.
Almeta Fleming will be going to LCHS Tuesday, the 24th.
Rodney Poston will be going to JPTIS later this month.
Debra McKnight will be visiting REMJH next week.
John Graham will be visiting JCL sometime next week.
- ii. Request to Attend Any Meetings – Dr. Mims will be attending the Annual SCSBA conference February 17-20, 2017. Ms. Fleming and Mr. Poston will be attending the New Board Orientation on February 16, 2017 in Hilton Head.
- iii. Future Board Elections Update – Dr. Floyd and Ms. Hickson met with Roger Kirby. The bill concerning future BOT elections has gone for the 3rd reading. If this bill passes, FSD3 will not have an election next year. It will be considered an off-year election.

Public Participation – No one signed up for public participation.

Staff Reports**i. Instructional Update – Kasey Feagin, Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments**

Jeremy Evans has been named a semifinalist for the 2017 Class of the Coca-Cola Scholars program. Jeremy was one among approximately 1900 high school students running for 150 scholarships = \$20,000 each. Jeremy is also a semifinalist for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship, which is another \$20,000 renewable scholarship awarded by the Elks National Foundation.

SCHOOL SUCCESSES

OES, chartered its first National Junior Beta Club on December 20, 2016. MSE's Beta Club donated over 600 can goods to Pee Dee board of Disability. SES competed at the Junior Beta Annual Competition winning the following:

- 3rd place in Sketching
- 3rd place in Woodworking
- 4th place in Black & White photography

Joseph Myers, a 4th grader at SES, & Taylor Lee, a 6th grader at JPTIS, will be attending FMU in February to participate in the region spelling bee.

REMJBH gave 20 students the TR2 awards. These students embody the three pillars of New Tech-Trust, respect, and Responsibility. Sonic of Lake City partners with REMJBH with this award.

MSE's Stem Club has a partnership with Home Depot.

LCECC – students read 1,562 books during the 2nd nine weeks; 21st Century site visit went well; 4H and Moore's Fames will come on Thursdays to work with the Afterschool Program.

COMMUNITY GRANT

The SCDE has just announced the Request for Proposals for the 2017 Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant. Approximately \$700,000 in funding will be distributed on a competitive basis. FSD3 has submitted an Intent to Apply. Last SY FSD3 received \$70K in Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant funds.

FSD3 has partnered with the Governor's School to provide professional development for 6th-8th grade math and science teachers. The goal of the program is to:

- To improve science content and pedagogical content knowledge by conducting science investigations that use advanced data collection technology.
- To develop an understanding of how science learning technologies are incorporated into science instruction.

Teachers will receive 24 hours of training over the course of 4 months.

RONALD E. McNAIR DAY

Week of January 23-27th, 2017 FSD3 will have 2017 activities and events in all schools. The theme for this week will be "Reach for the Stars: The Life and Legacy of Dr. Ronald E. McNair." REMJH School Program will be Thursday, January 26, 2017 @ 1:00 pm.

PLAN OF ACTION

The MAP testing window will close on January 20th.

Meetings were held January 9th & 10th with each principal to discuss mid-year progress and data. MAP Winter results will be shared at the next board meeting.

PRIORITY LIST – MSE

MSE was identified as underperforming by the composite average of students scoring "Does Not Meet" on SC Ready on ELA and Math ranked in the bottom 5% in the state, therefore, MSE will be required to write a Priority plan and submit to SDE. MSE will receive \$60,000, which can be spent on the following: specific professional development for teachers in targeted areas of need, additional personnel for interventions before, during, and after school, and instructional materials that have a direct impact on student learning. MSE's plan included leveled books to add to classroom libraries & extended day program for students. Teachers will be paid \$30/hour in order to attract teachers from a variety of teachers from across the district to participate and work with MSE's students.

ii. *Monthly Finance Report – Laura Hickson, Ed. S., Superintendent*

We have implemented some new practices. Rick Melton, A/P Specialist, will be running a report of every account with a negative balance. We have done away with the credit cards except one. A purchase order will have to be done for everything to encumber the funds. Every fund account will be reviewed against the allocation coming in. The state pool has been balanced up to December 2016. Finance employees' duties have been reviewed, and the process of shifting duties has begun.

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

i. Finance corrected Action Update

Ms. Hickson gave the board members present at tonight's meeting an update of the corrected action taking place in the Finance department:

- Met with fund managers to discuss budgets and expectations for monitoring/expending budgets.
- Credit cards have been collected. However, one credit card is available at the district-level for approved purchases as needed.
- Dr. Thames has been contracted and has been actively monitoring budgets, meeting with fund managers to include principals, and setting up budgets.
- Dr. Thames has met with the finance staff to reassign roles and responsibilities to ensure a system is in place for preparing, monitoring, and completing reports.

- Weekly meetings with Dr. Thames and budget reports are monitored and discussed weekly.

The next steps to be taken are:

- Release one additional finance staff member, who has expressed retirement.
- Collect Indirect Cost from all Federal Funds which supports General Funds.
- Hire a level 2 Finance Director.
- Continue to contract Dr. Thames for the next couple of years to get the district's finances in order and start to build a fund balance.
- Hire Food Service consultant to assist with getting food Service on track.
- Claims will be done monthly beginning December.
- As positions become vacant, they are being placed on hold and/or eliminated unless absolutely necessary.

The following recommendations are made:

- Move payroll to twice a month instead of every two weeks. This will mean a revision of Policy DJC.
- Change the district's Bond Counsel from McNair to Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

The Reasons for these recommendations are as follows:

1. They are local and can be here at a moment's notice.
 2. They have a vested interest in all of Florence County's reputation of giving sound advice to districts.
 3. Associated with quality investment services and are helpful in being creative in developing long and short term bond debts for district funds.
- ii. Legislative Update – The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) voted Tuesday to approve recommendations for a single statewide education accountability plan. The recommendations now head to the General Assembly for final action and to assess school and district performance that were approved by the EOC. The recommendations rely heavily on student performance on standardized tests, end –of-course exams, ACT and WorkKeys. The committee amended the recommendation to rate schools and districts with a summative score 9 (original recommendation was to use A-F grades) and summative scores for each rating indicator to also include the use of current rating terms: excellent, good average, below average and at-risk. The indicators in the EOC plan that are used to measure performance of elementary and middle schools are: Academic Achievement, Growth, English Language Proficiency and positive and Effective Learning Environment.

Indicators for high schools are: Academic Achievement, English language Proficiency, Positive & Effective Learning Environment and College or Career Ready.

The amendment would require students annually to take tests that measure mastery of English language arts and mathematics as required by federal law and require testing in science in grades 4, 6 and 8 and testing in social studies in grades 5 and 7. In addition, one of the

recommendations calls for a sample testing of 10th grade students every three years on a national and international test for comparison purposes only.

Appointed state superintendent of Education – Two Senate subcommittees are taking up legislation this week calling for a referendum for voters to decide if the superintendent of education position should be appointed by the governor rather than a statewide elected position.

Fiscal accountability legislation back this year – The House K12 Education Subcommittee is scheduled to take up a bill that would direct the State Department of Education to develop and adopt a statewide program for identifying school districts in fiscal crisis. The bill would establish three levels of escalating financial designations that the state superintendent can apply to a school district as follows: Fiscal Watch, Fiscal Caution and Fiscal Emergency.

At each level, districts must submit a financial recovery plan which must be approved by the state department of education, which also monitors the plan implementation. The department also would provide technical assistance to districts.

Under the Fiscal Emergency designation, the state superintendent, upon approval of the State Board of Education, may take over the maintenance of the district's finances until the district is released from the designation. SCSBA is concerned about the takeover maintenance of local funds.

Bill - H.3412 – would require school crossing guards carry and use handheld stop paddles;

Bill – H.3414 – would require the State Department of Education to provide a universal screening tool for use (beginning with the 2017-2018 school year) by local school districts to screen students in kindergarten through second grade for characteristics of dyslexia;

Bill – H.3415 – would require training in identifying and assisting students with dyslexia among the required coursework for literacy endorsements in the SC Read to Succeed Act beginning with the 2017-2018 SY;

Bill – H.3427 – would enact the “South Carolina Computer Science Education Initiative” and provides that (beginning with the 2018-2019 SY) public high schools and public charter high schools shall offer certain computer science coursework.

- iii. FDTC Partnership – Met with the Darla Moore Foundation. FDTC will be coming to our community with a focus on culinary arts. Right now at the end of this semester FSD3 has 124 students who are in our culinary arts program. This will be an excellent opportunity for our students to leave this program and go into this FDTC program to get certified.

RUSH program (medical) – FSD3 has approximately 68 students enrolled in this program.

Dual Enrollment has 5 students enrolled.

Early College has 37 students enrolled. All students taking the CPT 162/170 for the 1st semester were all successful. For 2nd semester, students are currently enrolled in Sociology 101 and College Skills 103.

Action Items

- i. Proposed 2017-2018 District Calendar – *Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources*

2 options of the 2017-2018 school calendar were recommended to the staff. 86% of the FSD3 staff voted for Option #1. There are 6 PRO days at the beginning of the SY, before students begin. All 3 weather days are built in before state testing. Students last day is June 6th. A testing window is available for more flexibility. Terrie Bryant made the motion to accept Option #1 of the 2017-2018 SY calendar. John Graham provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept Option #1 for the 2017-2018 SY calendar passed 9-0.

- ii. Policy DJC – ‘Payroll Procedures’ Revision – *Laura Hickson, Ed. S., Superintendent*

John Graham made the motion to approve Policy DJC with the revision recommendation of having the FSD3 payroll process be twice monthly (15th and 30th) instead of every two weeks beginning July 1, 2017. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. The motion to accept the revision of Policy DJC as presented passed 8-1. Eight board members voted in favor of this motion. One board member, Rodney Poston, opposed.

- iii. Change Bond Counselor from McNair Firm to Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA – *Laura Hickson,*

Ed. S., Superintendent

John Graham made the motion to change FSD3’s bond counselor to Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. as recommended. Barbara Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to change bond counselor passed 9-0.

Public Comment – *To comment on items that appeared on the agenda* – NONE

Executive Session – Julia Mims made the motion for the FSD3 BOT to go into executive session in order to discuss an employee’s contract and discuss the Superintendent’s contract. Debra McKnight provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to go into executive session to discuss an employee’s contract passed 9-0.

Exit from Executive Session – Paula Morris made the motion for the FSD3 BOT to come out of executive session. Debra McKnight provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit from executive session passed 9-0.

Public Session

Action from Executive Session – Barbara Bryant made the motion for FSD3 to pursue legal action for the breach of contract. John Graham provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in

favor of this motion. The motion for the district to pursue legal action for the breach of contract passed 9-0.

Julia Mims made the motion to roll over Ms. Hickson's Superintendent's contract for one more year in order for her to continue to be on a 3-year contract with FSD3. John Graham provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to extended Ms. Hickson's Superintendent's contract for another year passed 9-0.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees Debra McKnight 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 9-0.

Date approved

Lane Floyd, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Paula Morris, Secretary