



Florence County School District Three

Board of Trustees

Board Minutes

District Office Board Room

Thursday, March 19, 2015

6:30 PM

In Attendance: Lane Floyd, Barbara Bryant, Paula Morris, Terrie Bryant, John Graham, Michael Blakeley, Debra McKnight, Toby Ackerman, and Julia Mims.

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Dr. Lane Floyd, called the March 19, 2015 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 amended. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented passed 9-0.

1. Consent Agenda:

Michael Blakeley made the motion to approve the March 19, 2015 consent agenda. Barbara Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. This consent agenda contained the following items: minutes from the February 26, 2015 board meeting and the Certified Personnel Report for March.

2. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

a) Special Recognition

- i. Ronald E. McNair Digital & Essays Contest Winners – *Barbara Woodbury, Director of Instruction and Curriculum (4K – 5th grade) & Instructional Technology*
- ii. Junior Scholars – *Jeanette Altman, Assistant Principal, REMJH*
- iii. Patriot's Pen – *Jeanette Altman, Assistant Principal, REMJH*
- iv. National Citizenship Education Teacher Award – *Jeanette Altman, Assistant Principal, REMJH*
- v. Perfect Attendance Recognition
 - Food Service – *Donald Navorska, Food Service Supervisor*
Betty Wright-Smith, REMJH; Willie Fulmore, REMJH; Zilphia Speights, LLC; Lottie Nelson, LLC; Jeanette Porter, JCL; Precious Graham, JCL; Neomia Burgess, JCL; Anna James, JPTIS; Sandra Pringle, JPTIS; Peggy Haygood, SEs;

Charlotte Morris, SES; Elaine Myers, SES all received an attendance incentive for perfect attendance from July, 2014 to December, 2014.

- Transportation – Sharon McClam, Transportation Supervisor
Ella Graham; Gearldine Felder; Sara Nero; Sarah Brown received an attendance incentive for perfect attendance from July, 2014 to December, 2014.
- Maintenance – *Jay Alexander, Director of Facilities*
Luther Anderson, JCL; Rickey Brown, JCL; Willie Flowers, SES; Bruce Henneghan, REMJH; Raleigh James, REMJH; Jimmy Jones, DO; Clifford Moore, REMJH; Jerome Singletary, LCECC received an attendance incentive for perfect attendance from July, 2014 to December, 2014.

b) Board Chair Report

i. Report of Any Meetings Attended

Dr. Floyd attended the Transform SC conference in Columbia Monday, March 9, 2015 with Ms. Hickson and Dr. Callicutt. This will be covered during the Superintendent's report, therefore, he will hold talking about this until then.

ii. Request to Attend Any Meetings – None were requested.

c) Public Participation- No one signed up to speak.

d) Staff Reports

i. Monthly Finance Report – Donna D. Sullivan, Director of Finance

The February finance and transparency reports are linked to this agenda as well as posted on the Florence School District Three website. Board checks for this meeting will be issued during the April 10th, 2015 payroll.

The Audit RFP has gone out and bids are due back April 10th. Hope to present this outcome during the May regular monthly board meeting.

The General Obligation (GO) Bond is up for approval on tonight's agenda.

ii. Instructional Update – Ms. Laura Hickson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Part of the information received from the Transform SC came from the Educational Oversight Committee (EOC). The EOC has adopted a template for the November 2015 state report cards that will require school districts' principals and SICs to complete the following statement:

"Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the SC Graduate by....."

Ms. Hickson shared with board members an update on the Instructional Program study by Dr. Rainey Knight. At this point, Dr. Knight has completed all of the school visits

(including the Alternative Center for Education), and she is compiling the data. This final report is scheduled to be ready by March 25, 2015. Ms. Hickson would like to go over this report with board members at the Board Planning Retreat on Monday, March 30, 2015, beginning at 6:00 pm. The location of this meeting will be the Lake City United Methodist Church Fellowship Center. The purpose of this retreat is to establish district priorities, goals and metrics based on student Academic data and district study results. Ms. Hickson provided board members with an agenda of this retreat.

Ms. Hickson also reminded board members of the Stakeholders Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, beginning at 6:00 pm in the NanYa Plastics Meeting Hall. Dinner will be provided for this event.

Ms. Hickson shared another date with board members. DARE to be D.E.A.F (Dream, Educate, Aim, Focus) alumni will meet Saturday, March 21, 2015, from 9:00 am – 2 pm.

e) Superintendent's Report

i. *Legislative Update*

The bond bill (state bond) went down in flames during the House Budget debate. The governor stated she would veto any bond bill that was included as part of the budget. This bill would probably have received a favorable vote in the House, but there was a needed 2/3's vote in case of a veto.

ii. *SY 2015-2016 Budget - 1st Reading*

Ms. Hickson and Mrs. Sullivan along with Dr. Callicutt presented to the board the 1st draft of the 2015-2016 budget. As everyone knows, as a district, we do not know what the state will do with the budget, but our budget will need to be completed before the 1st of June, which is when the state budget is due. Therefore, tonight is just a review of the revenue and expenditures for the 2015-2016 SY. Dr. Callicutt expressed to board members that the ONLY item that has already been placed in this budget for approval is a raise for our bus drivers. Through the salary study completed earlier, it may have been evident on why we cannot retain bus drivers in our district. A large percentage of the FSD3 students ride buses, and if we cannot get our students here on time, which is hindered by bus drivers having to do double and triple routes, we cannot educate our students to be prepared for college or career.

Since 1977, when the Education Finance Act was passed, the Base Student Cost (BSC) has ranged from \$747/student to \$2801/student (projected cost). The BSC is what the team of economic advisors say is needed to fund a student's education. The actual BSC out of the house for the 2015-2016 SY is \$2220. In 38 years, this BSC has only been fully funded 9 times. The last time the BSC was fully funded was 2007-2008 just before the economy tanked. Also, please note that we only receive approximately 82% of this BSC amount. This is based on the ability of our citizens to pay. Last year's BSC was \$100 less/student. The question was asked about lottery funds. Answer: Lottery funds are

on a year to year basis. Based on this information, Dr. Callicutt the Board of Trustees know that FSD3 will not be able to do all we want to do with this budget.

Dr. Callicutt reminded everyone of the law that has been in place now for approximately 3 years. After this 1st reading from the board, a balanced budget will be brought to the public in the form of 2 public hearings. The 1st public hearing will be April 23rd. The 2nd public hearing is scheduled for May 7th. The final and 2nd reading of the 2015-2016 SY budget will be at the May 21st, 2015 board meeting.

Donna Sullivan gave the board a summary of the projected budget including the following items:

- BSC of \$2,220
- Loss of Lottery funds for k-5 and 6-8 Enhancement offset by increase in BSC with a net gain of approximately \$285,000
- Projected enrollment of 3,600 is based on 45th day enrollment in FY 2015-; will be updated with the 135th day enrollment.
- Allowable millage increase has not yet been received from Office of Research and Statistics – will not be available until after 04/01 (this is how much we can raise the millage).
- All employees have received a step increase; bus salaries increased on an average of 28% as result of salary study. Other position recommendations still being reviewed.
- Health Insurance – 4.55 projected increase in employer cost to be absorbed by the State.
- State Retirement – increase for both employer (.16%) and employee (.16%); insurance surcharge still pending – estimated .20%.

iii. 2015 Transform S. C. Spring Conference

This is an education initiative of the SC Council on Competitiveness, a collaboration of business leaders, educators, students, parents, and policy makers hopefully transforming the public education system so that every student graduates prepared for college or career (definition Ms. Hickson explained earlier). This is going to be the guiding definition as we make decisions now and well into the future for public education. As we go through the sessions concerning goals for Florence School District Three, ask is this what we are doing in order for our students to be prepared - being able to learn for their next step after graduation. Right now, Lake City could have been on the stage at this event for the New Tech initiative going on in our district. Dr. Callicutt expressed his desire to be invited back once Lake City is recognized at this event.

Lane Floyd was impressed with Project-based learning where the teacher's role is changed to more of the facilitator than s/he is the leader. This will take some major re-

training for parents, staff, and students. Project-based learning is New Tech. We did learn that our district is the only one in the state with New Tech in multiple schools (LCHS & REMJH)

f) Action Items

i. 1st Reading of SY 2015-2016 Budget

Michael Blakeley made the motion to approve 1st reading of the 2015-2016 SY budget as presented. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the 1st reading of the 2015-2016 SY budget passed 9-0.

ii. General Obligation Bond Resolution

Bids for the sale of this bond to not exceed 1.7 million will be accepted in April. This is maxing out our 8% constitutional debt limit. FSD3 is allowed to issue debt up to 8% of the assessed value of the district (right now is about \$44 million). Anything over 8% has to be done as a referendum. A general obligation bond has been issued about every 3 years. This bond is concerning capital projects and only is totally separate from the General Fund Budget just discussed. Yes, this money does have to be paid back. Terrie Bryant made the motion to accept the General obligation Bond Resolution as presented. Michael Blakeley provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept the General Obligation Bond Resolution passed 9-0.

iii. 2015-2016 Contract Recommendations

Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources, presented to the board the 2015-2016 Contract Recommendations which are based on annual performances, previous contract status, and state law. Principal assignments are to be determined.

Julia Mims made to the motion to accept these contract recommendations as presented. Debra McKnight provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept the 2015-2016 contract recommendations as presented passed 9-0.

g) Public Comment – To comment on items that appeared on the agenda

No comments.

h) Adjourn

There being no further business for the board of trustees, Barbara Bryant made the motion to adjourn. Terrie Bryant provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 9-0.

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Paula Morris, Secretary