



Florence County School District Three

Board Meeting

Minutes

District Office

Thursday, September 21, 2017

6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Lane Floyd

Call to Order: In the absence of Board Chair, Lane Floyd, Vice-Chair, Barbara Bryant called the September 21, 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: 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 Vice-Chair Bryant led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Julia Mims made the motion to approve tonight's agenda as presented. John Graham provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the September 21, 2017, meeting agenda as presented passed 8-0.

Consent Agenda: Terrie Bryant made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Almeta Fleming 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 8-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: Minutes from the August 17, 2017, regularly monthly board meeting, the Certified Personnel Report, and Student Transfer Requests.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Board Chair Report

- i. **Report of Any Meetings Attended** – Board members, John Graham, Almeta Fleming, Julia Mims, Barbara Bryant, Rodney Poston, and Paula Morris attended the SCSBA Law conference in Myrtle Beach August 19-20, 2017. John Graham mentioned that the years to come for school districts will be challenging due to the awry of laws from law suits against school districts. Julia Mims agreed with this mentioning that social media, including Facebook, is becoming a very big issue within schools.

Julia Mims, along with Dr. Floyd, Ms. Fleming, and Mrs. Hickson-Evans, attended the Regional meeting in Marion. Consolidation was debated in this meeting.

- ii. **Request to Attend Any Meetings** – None.

Public Participation – None

Staff Reports

- i. **Monthly Finance Report** – *Michelle Humphrey, Finance Director*

Finance is in the process of the annual independent audit with Mr. Jim Lawrimore of Lawrimore and Lawrimore, CPA, LLC. All General Fund reports for the month of August are linked to your board agenda as well as posted on the FSD3 website. Right now our General Fund remains balanced at \$29,150,191.59.

ii. Instructional Update – *Kasey Feagin, Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments*

Immunization – Students are given 30 calendar days from the first day of enrollment to get immunizations. If a student enrolled on the 1st day of SY 2017-2018 (8/17/2017), this date is 9/16/2017. Any student without the proper immunization will be put out of school until this documentation is received by the school. DHEC can charge \$200/student/day if a student is allowed to remain the school without this proper immunization pass the deadline.

As of the date of this reporting, FSD3 has 29 students still without this proper documentation, however, we feel this is a temporary situation, as our school's nurses are working with parents to ensure this is handled.

2017 Assessment Release Dates – Mrs. Feagin gave board members and those present in tonight's board meeting, the public release dates of test scores, which includes SC PASS (10/2/17), ACT (10/9/2017), WorkKeys (10/9/2017), EOCEP (10/2/2017), Graduation Rate (10/21/2017); Report Card (11/15/2017), and Priority School List (11/15/2017).

Action Plans

Principals have submitted their action plans based on their data and will be having a work session with Dr. Rainy Knight to look at their data and set their school's new accountability system and update performance goals.

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant

LCHS received \$2,000 for Lake City Panthers Read- Funds will be used to purchase books and promote schoolwide reading.

Thirteenth Annual Dr. Ronald E. McNair memorial 5K Run/Walk Event

Schools will be again participating in this annual event sponsored by the Ronald E. McNair Committee October 21, 2017.

Homecoming 2017

October 19th at 5 p.m. will begin the LCHS Homecoming Parade; October 20th is the Homecoming Game @ 7:30 a.m. against Aynor. Tailgating is available; October 21st is Alumni Day 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the football field. Tailgating is available on the practice field; October 22nd is the Alumni church service @ LCHS gym.

Arbor Day

This year's theme is "For the Love of Trees." December 1st is the date for this event. JPTIS will be the host school. Dr. Mims pointed out that FSD3 has played an instrumental part in Lake City becoming a 'Tree City.'

Olanta Elementary School

Olanta Elementary School received a 21st Century Grant.

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

- i. Legislative Updates – Abbeville Capital Improvement Funds have been awarded to FSD3. The SDE has approved our request for Abbeville Capital Improvement funds totaling \$1,000, 000 to support roof replacement at Lake City High School. This funding supports district-identified capital projects consistent with the district's 2017 Facilities Assessment. Any remaining funds after initial funding of eligible districts' approved projects will be prioritized and made available to address additional capital needs identified in districts' Capital Improvement applications.
- ii. Results from Forensic Finance audit – *Elizabeth Inabinet, CPA, CFA, Managing partner-McGregor & Company*

Findings were in three areas: Approved salaries, District Vendors, and Proviso Billings. To address the findings from the audit, Superintendent Laura Hickson said the district was thoroughly analyzing the district's programs, salary schedules, and systems to ensure that all areas are aligned. A copy of the report of these findings were given to board members.

- iii. Revised Policy IHE 'Promotion and Retention' – In order to better align with Read-To-Succeed Requirements and close the Achievement Gap, Mrs. Hickson-Evans recommended the following revisions to this policy:
 - 3rd paragraph 2nd sentence to read as follows: "When Formal and informal assessments indicate that a kindergarten student is not developmentally ready for first grade, retention will be considered by the teacher, principal, and **the parent will be informed.**
 - Last sentence of this paragraph was deleted. (*The parent must concur with a decision to retain a student in kindergarten.*)
 - 2nd paragraph of Assurances section on Page 2 deleted the 1st sentence of this paragraph (*No student will be retained more than once in grades one through eight without the approval of the District Academic Review Team appointed annually by the superintendent.*)
 - Of the same 2nd paragraph of Assurances section Page 2, the following was added and/or deleted to sentence 2: If a student is recommended for a ~~second~~ retention within the same grade, **a referral will be made to the Student Intervention Team.**
 - The examples listed in this paragraph ending paragraph 2 of Assurances section Page 2 were deleted (*i.e., elementary (1-5) or middle (6-8), a mandatory referral will be made to a team of school personnel to review the educational program of the student including psychological testing.*)
 - The 3rd paragraph of the Assurances section on Page 2 was completely deleted (*A student who does not meet the criteria for promotion to the next grade level and who has either been retained previously or for whom it has been determined that retention will not be academically beneficial may be referred to the District Academic Review Team for placement at the next appropriate grade level.*)
 - Page 3 'Notification to Parents/Guardians Third Grade Retention' was added to this policy.

Paula Morris made the motion to accept the revisions of Policy IHE 'Promotion and Retention' as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to revised Policy IHE 'Promotion and Retention' as presented passed 8-0.

iv. Recommendation for student makeup day: January 3, 2018

On the approved 2017-2018 SY calendar, January 2, 2018 is a weather day and January 3, 2018 is a professional day. September 11, 2017 students were out due to the impending threat of Hurricane Irma. Teachers did work on this day, therefore, this is considered a PRO for teachers. Mrs. Hickson-Evans asked for the board to consider moving the present PRO of January 3rd to January 2nd, and the weather day to January 3rd. This will allow students and teachers to return to return to school on January 3rd after the winter break and makeup for the missed September 11th day missed due to inclement weather. The January 2nd PRO day was used on September 11th therefore, teachers will be off January 2nd.

Terrie Bryant made the motion to accept the recommendation of the change request for the January 3, 2018 weather day. John Graham provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the recommendation to move the PRO day to January 2nd and the weather day to January 3rd passed 8-0.

v. Arts Programs – To meet the needs of our Arts Programs with the vacancies, we are: 1) contracting with Mrs. Betty Frances Stone to provide support to our current staff – Choreography & TAP Classes in elementary grades, 2) Contracting with Mrs. Caroline at Ollies (ART), and 3) contracting with Mrs. Janice Saulters from "A Special Touch of Music" who will do a Secondary Strings Program.

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

Exit to Executive Session

John Graham made the motion to exit into executive session to discuss employees' contracts/disciplinary actions. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit into executive session passed 8-0.

Public Session

John Graham made the motion to exit executive session and enter back to public session. Rodney Poston provided the 2nd 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 8-0.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Debra McKnight 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, Vice-Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Paula Morris, Secretary