

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the District Office, 1000 Brookhaven Drive, Aiken, SC at 6:00 p.m. In accordance with S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, amended Section 30-4-80, the print and broadcast news media were notified of the time, date, place, and web location of this meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. John Bradley  
Mr. Jim Broome  
Dr. Patricia Hanks  
Mr. Barry Moulton  
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson  
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Cameron Nuessle, Chairman  
Mr. Dwight Smith, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Brian Silas

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. King Laurence, Superintendent  
Mrs. Kim Chriswell, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board of Education

Superintendent Laurence called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Superintendent Laurence announced that with the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair and in accordance with Board Policy BD, a temporary chairman would need to be elected for the duration of tonight's meeting. Dr. Hanks MOVED to elect Dr. John Bradley as Temporary Chairman for the duration of the February 27, 2024, meeting; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moment of Silence and Pledge were led by Temporary Chairman Bradley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Temporary Chairman Bradley stated if there were no objections the agenda would stand as submitted.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of February 1, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on February 1, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of February 5, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on February 5, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of February 6, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on February 6, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of February 12, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on February 12, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Dr. Josh Pniewski spoke in favor of the hiring of athletic trainers for the district's high schools.
- Mrs. Melanie Pniewski, a nurse practitioner, spoke about athletic injuries and the need for athletic trainers for our high schools.
- Mr. Peter Delorme spoke in favor of the District Strategic Plan Goal #3.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Mr. John Hutchens, Chairman of the Grant Review Committee for Public Education Partners, presented a check in the amount of \$5,517.65 for classroom teacher grants.
- North Augusta Middle School Guidance Counselor Ms. Marlee Calloway was recognized as the South Carolina Middle School Counselor of the Year. North Augusta High School Guidance Counselor Mrs. Anya Stewart was recognized as the South Carolina High School Counselor of the Year. North Augusta High School Assistant Principal Kristin Risher was recognized as South Carolina School Guidance Counselor Advocate of the Year.

### OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Temporary Chairman Bradley reminded board members that Statement of Economic Interest Forms are due to the state by March 30, 2024. Temporary Chairman Bradley also congratulated the first class of inductees elected to the Silver Bluff High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

#### INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2024-25, certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, classified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25, non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25, and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – FINANCIAL AND PROCUREMENT AUDIT SERVICES; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the proposal from Green Finney Cauley, LLP to perform financial and procurement audit services for fiscal years ended June 30, 2024, through June 30, 2028; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to ratify the expulsion of students not appealing this action as submitted by the Hearing Officer.
- B-2 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS-TRANSFERS OUT 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS-TRANSFERS IN 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be allowed to enroll in Aiken County Schools. The parent/legal guardian would be responsible for paying the \$750.00 tuition fee (\$1,000 family cap).
- B-4 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUEST – TRANSFERS IN 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be allowed to enroll in Aiken County Schools. The parent/legal guardian would be responsible for paying the \$750.00 tuition fee (\$1,000 family cap).

B-5 PUBLIC EDUCATION PARTNERS (PEP) OF AIKEN COUNTY GRANT AWARDS TO THE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$5,517.65 Public Education Partners (PEP) of Aiken County Grant Award to Aiken County Public School District and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

B-6 MERRICK & COMPANY DONATION TO AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL -FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$3,000.00 Merrick & Company donation to Aiken High School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-6 as presented;  
SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

C-1 SOAR UPDATE: Mr. Bert Postell, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools presented Power Point Presentation regarding Students of Aiken, Re-engaged proposal.

#### INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

##### AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

##### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

#### OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Superintendent Laurence thanked Public Education Partners for their continued support, and announced plans were being finalized for Enrichment/Intercession Week April 1-5, 2024.

- Temporary Chairman Bradley congratulated Dr. Corey Murphy on being selected the district's next Superintendent effective July 1, 2024.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Temporary Chairman Bradley announced the Board would need a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the following matters in such order as the Board deems appropriate. Student Matters – Student Appeal Area One.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to enter Executive Session for the purpose as stated; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Regular Session recessed at 7:08 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:18 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:43 p.m.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to Return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Temporary Chairman Bradley announced while in Executive Session the board considered or received information concerning the following matter for the purpose of considering the following matters in such order as the Board deems appropriate. Student Matters – Student Appeal Area One.

## STUDENT MATTERS

- STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE  
The Board heard an appeal from the parents of an Area One High School Student. Dr. Hanks MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district's alternative program for a 45-day placement; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: