

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 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:

Mr. Cameron Nuessle, Chairman
Mr. Dwight Smith, Vice-Chair
Dr. John Bradley
Mr. Jim Broome
Dr. Patricia Hanks
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Barry Moulton

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

Moment of Silence and Pledge were led by Chairman Nuessle.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-0-3 (Mr. Nuessle, Mr. Silas, and Mr. Smith abstained)

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Danny Geddes spoke regarding the building of the new baseball and softball fields at North Augusta High School.
- Mr. Eugene White spoke regarding the possibility of a State of the School District Address/Event.

PUBLIC INPUT -ESSER FUNDING PLAN: No Requests to Speak.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Nuessle reminded board members that Statement of Economic Interest Forms are due to the state by March 30, 2024.
- 2024-2025 Budget - Board Members discussed and developed a prioritized list of budget ideas.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2024-25, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2023-24, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25, and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY KCAAA STUDENT-COMMUNITY RELATIONS, FIRST READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy KCAAA Student-Community Relations, First Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 REQUEST RELATED TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST PAY SCALE PLACEMENT; Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve for (1) newly hired psychologists' placement to be based on certificate years or based on service credit, whichever is more beneficial and (2) adjustment of placement for current school psychologists who would benefit from the new handling with an effective date of March 1, 2023. SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 CONSIDERATION FO ARP ESSER SPENDING REVISION #4: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve ARP ESSER Amendment #4; 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 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-3 PILOT TRAVEL CENTERS, LLC GRANT AWARD TO AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT– FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$10,000.00 Pilot Travel Centers, LLC 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-4 UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS – WUNDERMAN THOMPSON DONATION TO NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL -FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$9,999.00 U.S, Marine Corps-Wunderman Thompson Donation to North Augusta High School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-5 CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR THE 2024 SCRUBBING AND COATING OF GYMNASIUM FLOORS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the bid and enter into a contract with The Flooring Connection, LLC for Base Bid A (\$48,646.00); Base Bid B: (\$34,209.00); for the 2024 Scrubbing and Coating of gym floors.
- B-6 2024 INSTALLATION OF FLOORING AT J.D. LEVER ELEMENTARY: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low Base Bid A and enter into a contract with Merit Flooring of Augusta, GA in the total amount of \$396,000.00 for the 2024 Flooring at J.D. Lever Elementary.
- B-7 2024 LED EXTERIOR SIGNS AT EAST AIKEN ELEMENTARY, NORTH AIKEN ELEMENTARY, AIKEN HIGH, NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH, AND SOUTH AIKEN HIGH: Authorize the administration to accept the low bid of \$126,740.00 and enter into a contract with Signs Unlimited of South Carolina to add exterior LED signs at East Aiken Elementary, North Aiken Elementary, Aiken High, and South Aiken High.
- B-8 2024 FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PRIVACY WALL: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low bid of \$29,925.00 and enter into a contract with Carpet Creations to build the office privacy wall in the Facilities Construction Department at the Operations Center with funds from the Operations Center Project account.

B-9 VINYL COATED FENCING AT NORTH AUGUSTA ELEMENTARY AND HAMMOND HILL ELEMENTARY: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low bid of \$70,205.00 and enter into a contract with Ground Zero Construction for the Vinyl Coated Fencing at North Augusta Elementary and Hammond Hill Elementary.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-9 as presented;
SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

C-1 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Silas recognized former school board member Mr. Andrew Yaun who passed away at the end of February.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Superintendent Laurence announced the STARS of Public Education Banquet will be held Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Aiken High and that the Battle of the Books Event is scheduled for March 26 & 27, 2024 at the Six Points Learning Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Nuessle 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 Two, Employments Matters – Employee Matter – Breach of Contract, Chief of Operations & Student Services, and Employee Matter – School District Attorney.

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

Regular Session recessed at 6:59 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:10 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:18 p.m.

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

Chairman Nuessle 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 Two, Employments Matters – Employee Matter – Breach of Contract, Chief of Operations & Student Services, and Employee Matter – School District Attorney.

STUDENT MATTERS

- STUDENT APPEAL – AREA TWO

The Board heard an appeal from the parents of an Area Two High School Student. Dr. Bradley MOVED to overturn the decision of the District Hearing Officer and return the student to school with time served; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION FAILED tied vote 4-4 (Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson Mrs. Tyler, Mr. Broome and Mr. Smith opposed).

Mrs. Tyler MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district's alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION FAILED tied vote 4-4 (Mr. Silas, Mr. Nuessle, Dr. Hanks, and Dr. Bradley opposed).

Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer of placement in the district's alternative program until or if a virtual school option is available; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION FAILED on a vote of 3-5 (Mrs. Tyler, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson, Mr. Nuessle, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Bradley opposed).

Mr. Smith MOVED to return the student to their home school and place in in-school suspension until a MDR is completed; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION FAILED on a vote of 0-8 (all opposed).

Mr. Broome MOVED to return to Executive Session; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION PASSED on a vote of 6-2 (Dr. Bradley and Mr. Smith opposed).

Regular Session recessed at 8:39 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 8:40 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:13 p.m.

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

Chairman Nuessle announced while in executive session discussion continued regarding Student Matter – Student Appeal Area Two.

STUDENT MATTERS

Mrs. Tyler MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district's Alternative Program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 6-2 (Mr. Nuessle, Dr. Bradley opposed).

EMPLOYEE MATTERS

- a) EMPLOYEE MATTER – BREACH OF CONTRACT – Mr. Silas MOVED to direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employee A's breach of contract; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS & STUDENT SERVICES – Mr. Smith MOVED to accept the administration's recommendation and appoint the top candidate as the Chief Officer of Operations & Student Services; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c) EMPLOYEE MATTER – SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTORNEY – No Action Taken.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: