

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 26, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 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. Jim Broome
Mr. Barry Moulton
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Dwight Smith, Vice-Chair
Dr. John Bradley
Dr. Patricia Hanks

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 March 12, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2024; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-0-1 (Mr. Moulton abstained).

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Dr. John Tiffany spoke on the need for athletic trainers in schools.
- Dr. Josh Pniewski spoke on the need for athletic trainers in schools.
- Mr. Jerrod Soloman spoke in regard to the administration and athletics at Silver Bluff High School.
- Ms. Emma Braswell spoke in regard to athletic eligibility at Midland Valley High School.
- Ms. Ashley Brittain spoke in regard to the support of athletes at Silver Bluff High School.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Nuessle reminded board members that Statement of Economic Interest Forms are due to the state by March 30, 2024.

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, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, 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; MOTION FAILED for lack of a SECOND, 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, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, 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; and correct line #78 typographical error that currently reads the 2023-24 school year but should read school year 2024-25 SECONDED by Mr. Moulton ; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY KCAAA STUDENT-COMMUNITY RELATIONS, SECOND READING: Mr. Silas MOVED to table Policy KCAAA Student-Community Relations, Second Reading to a future meeting due to publishing error regarding on-line agenda; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 STUDENTS OF AIKEN RE-ENGAGED (SOAR) PROPOSAL FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED that the board approve the plan for SOAR as outlined above for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year up to the full plan proposed. SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; 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.

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- B-2 APPOINTMENT TO REPRESENT ACPSD FOR FIRST STEPS AIKEN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD: Superintendent Laurence recommended appointing Ms. Lauren Enter, Coordinator of Elementary Special Programs, to serve on the Aiken County First Steps board.
- B-3 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS, 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the proposed meeting schedule of the Aiken County Board of Education for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- B-4 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-5 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-6 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-7 TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS FOR 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommends adopting the textbook recommendations of the teacher committees.
- B-8 SUBMISSION OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HIGH-INTENSITY TUTORING GRANT APPLICATION – AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT – FY25: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the submission S.C. Department of Education High-Intensity Tutoring Grant and receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-9 REBECCA AND DANNY JEWELL DONATION TO MOSSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$5,000.00 Rebecca and Danny Jewell donation to Mossy Creek Elementary School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

B-10 CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR KENNEDY MIDDLE AND SCHOFIELD MIDDLE ENTRANCE MODIFICATIONS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low bid of \$183,800.00 and enter into a contract with J.D. Stewart Builders, Inc. to modify the entrances of Kennedy Middle and Schofield Middle Schools.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-10 as presented;
SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

C-1 ONE CENTS SALES TAX TIMELINE: The administration presented an update regarding the renewal of the one cents sales tax.

C-2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JANUARY 31, 2024: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

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 congratulated the winners and honor court members announced at the STARS of Public Education on March 21, 2024. He also discussed the signing of a legislative bill by Governor Henry McMaster while visiting J.D. Lever Elementary on March 20, 2024.

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 Three, Administrative Appeal – Area One, Administrative Appeal – Area One and Administrative Appeal – Area One; Legal Matters – Legal Advice on Policies BDD, CB, CC, CCA.

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

Regular Session recessed at 6:59 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:10 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:17 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 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 Three, Administrative Appeal – Area One, Administrative Appeal – Area One and Administrative Appeal – Area One; Legal Matters – Legal Advice on Policies BDD, CB, CC, CCA.

STUDENT MATTERS

a) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA THREE

The Board heard an appeal from the parents of an Area Three High School Student. Mr. Silas 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 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL – AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the administrator of an Area One High School. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to overturn the decision of the District Hearing Officer of return to school with strict probation and place the student in the district's alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL – AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the administrator of an Area One High School. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to overturn the decision of the District Hearing Officer of return to school with strict probation and place the student in the district's alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL – AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the administrator of an Area One High School. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to overturn the decision of the District Hearing Officer of return to school with strict probation and place the student in the district's alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGAL MATTERS

- LEGAL ADVICE ON POLICIES BDD, CB, CC, CCA –. No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: