

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 13, 2025

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 2025, 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
Dr. John Bradley, Vice Chair
Mr. Jim Broome
Mr. Colen Lindell
Mrs. Liz Morris
Mr. Barry Moulton
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Deborah Tyler

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Corey Murphy, Superintendent
Mrs. Kim Chriswell, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education

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

Chairman Nuessle led Moment of Silence and Pledge.

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

- Minutes of the Special Called Meeting – Budget Workshop of April 15, 2025, were presented for approval: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting – Budget Workshop of April 15, 2025' SECONDED by Mrs. Morris; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2025, were presented for approval; Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2025; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SRP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION-AFFINITY CARD PRESENTATION

SRP Federal Credit Union Affinity Debit Card Donation in the amount of \$290, 019.25 was given to Aiken County Public Schools.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Chasity McDaniel, Counselor at Millbrook Elementary School was recognized as the South Carolina Palmetto State School Counselor Association School Counselor of the Year,

Jonathan Dixon, a student at Midland Valley High School, was recognized for receiving a Perfect Score on the ACT Exam.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025-2026 BUDGET & MILLAGE RATE INCREASE

- Mr. Westley Guyton spoke in favor of the millage rate increase proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- Dr. Theresa Pope spoke in favor of the millage rate increase proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- Ms. Wendy Willams spoke in favor of the millage rate increase proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

- Mr. Christopher Emmanuel spoke in favor of the millage rate increase proposal for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Bobby Hall spoke in favor of the use of District Football Fields by Area Recreation Football Leagues.
- Ms. Laurie Snyder spoke regarding support for Redcliffe Elementary School.
- Ms. Tasia Johnson spoke regarding negative social media posts about Redcliffe Elementary.
- Ms. Emily Satterfield spoke regarding the safeguarding of students at Redcliffe Elementary.
- Ms. Cathy Cobb spoke regarding the banning of books here in South Carolina by state officials.
- Ms. Victoria Pierce spoke on behalf of her father Gene Bush regarding safe school plans for undocumented students.
- Ms. Alyssa Pitts spoke regarding staff and student wellbeing at Redcliffe Elementary.
- Ms. Kelly Sullivan spoke regarding school district transparency and Redcliffe Elementary.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK – Chairman Nuessle thanked all district teachers for their dedication and hard work in educating the students of Aiken County.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2025-26, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2025-26, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2025-26, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, and classified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, SECONDED by Dr. Bradley ; Mr. Broome MOVED TO AMEND MOTION and remove appointment #32 pending the results of an investigation; SECONDED by Mr. Silas: MR. BROOME WITHDREW MOTION TO AMEND; Mr. Broome MOVED TO MOVE DISCUSSION OF ITEM A-1 TO EXECUTIVE SESSION; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – SECOND READING: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve on second reading the proposed Code of Student Conduct for each level as presented by the administration; SECONDED by Mr. Morris; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 POLICY JLCG SEIZURE SAFE SCHOOLS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy, first reading Policy JLCG Seizure Safe Schools; SECONDED BY Ms. Morris; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 POLICY JLCD ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICINES, ADMINISTRATIVE RULE JLCD-R ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH MEDICINES, POLICY JLCDA INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS (IHPS), ADMINISTRATIVE RULE JLCD-R INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS (IHPS): Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to Approve The following policies. First Reading: Policy JLCD Assisting Students with Medicines, Policy JLCDA Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and approve the following administrative rules: Administrative Rule JLCD-R Assisting Students with Medicines, Administrative Rule JLCDA-R Individual HealthCare Plans (IHPs); SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT ITEMS

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Murphy recommended ratifying the expulsion of students not appealing this action as submitted by the Hearing Officer.
- B-2 PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS, 2025-2026: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the proposed meeting schedule of the Aiken County Board of Education for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2025-2026: Superintendent Murphy recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-4 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS IN 2025-2026: Superintendent Murphy 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 SERTOMA CLUB OF NORTH AUGUSTA DONATION TO AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT-DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES – FY25: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the \$10,800.00 Sertoma Club of North Augusta donation to the Aiken County School District and adjustments to the FY25 Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-6 SILVER SPIRIT BANDS INCORPORATED DONATION THE NEW ELLENTON MIDDLE STEAM MAGNET SCHOOL– FY25: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the Silver Spirit Bands, Inc. instrument donation valued at \$3,748.44 to New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School.
- B-7 SUBMISSION OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STRONGER CONNECTIONS SUBGRANT ADDITIONAL FUNDS APPLICATION – DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES – FY26: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the submission of the SC Department of Education Stronger Connections Subgrant and receipt of funds, if awarded.

- B-8 SUBMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS) SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SVPP) GRANT APPLICATION – AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT -FY26: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the submission of Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Grant application and the receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-9 CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR THE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL FIELD LIGHTING REPLACEMENT AT SOUTH AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL: Superintendent Murphy recommended authorizing the administration to accept the low base bid of \$1,749,150.00 and enter into a contract with West Electrical Contractors of Newberry, Inc. for the replacement of the football, baseball, and softball lighting at South Aiken High School.
- B-10 GMP #1 FOR MOSSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SECURE VESTIBULE CONSTRUCTION: Superintendent Murphy recommended authorizing the administration to negotiate a contract with H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc., in the amount of \$266,749 for constructing a secure vestibule utilizing the CM at Risk delivery system. The RFP number is 121223.
- B-11 IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS DISTRICT-WIDE FOR AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the contractor firm as provided by the committee and authorize the administration to evaluate, design, administer the irrigation maintenance and repairs as needed over the next five years, as approved by the Board.
- B-12 CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ` FOR THE 2025 INSTALLATION OF FLOORING AT A.L. CORBETT MIDDLE: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving Change Order Number 1 for 2025 Installation of Flooring at AL Corbett Middle from MAR Construction Company, Inc. Flooring credit in the amount of <\$18,650.00>.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-12 as presented;
SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- C-1 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORTS FOR THE NEW AIKEN COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-2 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH ATHLETIC FIELDS PHASE 4 PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AREA ONE ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS - Mr. Nuessle MOVED to reappoint Ms. Albertine Grant, Mr. Clarence Jackson, Ms. Linda Karapatakis, Mr. Josh Raines and Mr. Eugene White to the Area One Advisory Council; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AREA TWO ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT – Mr. Lindell MOVED to appoint Mr. James Whitehead to the Area Two Advisory Council; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AREA FIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – Mr. Broome MOVED to reappoint Ms. Iris Glover, Mr. Bruce Turner, and Ms. Ashley Brittain to the Area Five Advisory Council; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY– Mr. Bert Postell presented a brief overview of Policy IKA – Grading/Assessment Systems.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update

Dr. Murphy discussed various events celebrated by the district the past couple of weeks including Teacher Appreciation Week, School Nurse Day, School Principal Day, and the AMP the appreciation event honoring all employees held in downtown Aiken. He announced the passing of AL Corbett employee Mrs. Tiffany Washington and asked that we keep her family and the Corbett staff in our prayers. Superintendent Murphy congratulated students that were recognized at the Celebration of Character event on May 12 and that a few of our STARS of Education winners would be participating in Celebrity Waiter Night to benefit Children's Place on May 19.

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 – a.) Student Appeal – Area Two, b.) Student Appeal – Area Two and Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment – Director of Transportation, b.) Administrative Appointment – Chief Officer of Human Resources and Administration, c.) A-1 Personnel Appointments.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:31 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:45 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:20 p.m.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to Return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell;
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 – a.) Student Appeal – Area Two, b). Student Appeal – Area Two and Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment – Director of Transportation, b.) Administrative Appointment – Chief Officer of Human Resources and Administration, c.) A-1 Personnel Appointments.

STUDENT MATTERS

- a) STUDENT APPEAL AREA TWO – The Board heard an appeal from a parent of an area two middle school student. Mr. Lindell MOVED to uphold the alternative placement for the 24-25 school year only; MOTION FAILED for lack of a second; Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the hearing officer of alternative placement for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year and until the interim of the first nine weeks of the 2025-2026 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Lindell opposed)
- b) STUDENT APPEAL AREA TWO – The Board heard an appeal from a parent of an area two middle school student. Mr. Lindell MOVED to uphold the alternative placement for the 24-25 school year only; MOTION FAILED for lack of a second; Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the hearing officer of alternative placement for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year and until the interim of the first nine weeks of the 2025-2026 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Lindell opposed)

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

- a) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Director of Transportation; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson opposed)

- b) CHIEF OFFICER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Chief Officer of Human Resources and Administration; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; Mr. Broome MOVED to AMEND MOTION to hold appointments pending the completion of investigations; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION TO AMEND FAILED on a vote of 3-5 (Mrs., Morris, Mr. Lindell, Dr. Bradley, Mr. Nuessle and Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson opposed); MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Broome opposed).

- c) **A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS** Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2025-26, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2025-26, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2025-26, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, and classified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, SECONDED by Mrs. Morris ; Mr. Broome MOVED TO AMEND MOTION and approve all on list except #32 pending conclusion of investigations; MOTION FAILED for lack of second; Mr. Lindell MOVED TO AMEND MOTION to approve all on list and that #32 not report to new position until investigations are complete; SECONDED by Moulton; MOTION TO AMEND FAILED on a vote of 3-5 (Mrs. Morris, Dr. Bradley, Mr. Nuessle, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson, Mr. Silas opposed); MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Broome opposed).

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

NO ITEMS THIS MEETING

LEGAL MATTERS

NO ITEMS THIS MEETING

Dr. Bradley MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED: