

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 14, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 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
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Cameron Nuessle, Chairman
Mr. Dwight Smith, Vice-Chair
Mr. Barry Moulton

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. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to elect Dr. John Bradley as Temporary Chairman for the duration of the May 14, 2024, meeting; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; 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 April 16, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of April 16, 2024; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2024; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of May 6, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of May 6, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PEP TEACHER GRANT CHECK PRESENTATION

- Mr. John Hutchens, Chairman of the Grant Review Committee for Public Education Partners, presented a check in the amount of \$6,146.39 for classroom teacher grants.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024-2025 BUDGET
 - Mr. Dave Paullin spoke regarding a DEI position and equity audit mentioned in the Strategic Plan Update #2.

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN
 - Ms. Lindsey Eckles in email response would like to see expansion of student handwashing practices at gyms and playground entrances and for district to provide more details on cleaning and sanitizing of the cafeterias, class furniture, and shared computers.
 - Ms. Jean Pesce in email response would like to see continued consistent access for students to the internet for independent study, the availability of food access at the career center, consideration of reducing student course loads, programs to encourage student to hold jobs, and to continue advanced studies programs to include building trades, tourism, and hospitality along with elder and child-care studies.
 - Ms. Darlene Bell in email response would like to see continued use of air purifiers in classrooms.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Josh Pniewski spoke regarding athletic trainers' alternative coverage model and effects on the budget.
- Mr. Dave Paullin spoke against the Aiken County Schools Strategic Plan update, goal #3.
- Ms. Paulette Beaufort spoke against DEI training.
- Mr. Jon Mallory spoke against the Aiken County Schools Strategic Plan update.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- HOSA STATE WINNER: ACCTC student Aubria Johnson was recognized for placing first in microbiology at the recent HOSA state conference.
- SC ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS' LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Angie Gray of Aiken Intermediate School was recognized as SCASL Paraprofessional of the Year.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- No items this meeting.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2024-25, re-employment personnel for school year 2024-25, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, and certified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – POINT OF SALE SYSTEMS FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the recommendation to award the POS system purchase to Primero Edge beginning in the 2024-2025 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A-3 REVISION TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – SECOND READING; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve on second reading the proposed Code of Student Conduct for each level as presented by the administration. SECONDED by Mrs. Taylor; Dr. Bradley MOVED TO AMEND ORIGINAL MOTION that any appeal of an alternative placement will be conducted during a Board of Education Executive Session using only the record from the hearing conducted by the Hearing Officer; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; AMENDED MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY; ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 UPDATE OF RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN; Mr. Silas MOVED to approve the school district's updated Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, 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 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the foreign exchange students listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in July of 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-4 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – 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 AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT WITH HONORS WEIGHTING FOR THE ACGATEWAY SUMMER PROGRAM – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended approving high school credit with Honors weighting for the acGateway Summer Program.
- B-6 SUBMISSION OF THE DISTINGUISHED ARTS PROGRAM (DAP) 2024-25 ARTS CURRICULAR INNOVATION GRANT (ACIG) APPLICATION BY EAST AIKEN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS -FY25: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approving the submission of the Distinguished Arts Program (DAP) 2024-25 Arts Curricular Innovation Grant (ACIG) application and the receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-7 SUBMISSION OF SC ARTS COMMISSION – ARTS IN BASIC CURRICULUM GRANT APPLICATION BY EAST AIKEN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – FY25: Superintendent Laurence recommended approving the submission of the application for the SC Arts Commission Education Arts in Basic Curriculum Grant and the receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-8 SC DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE DONATION TO AIKEN COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended approving the \$4,000.00 SC Department of Employment & Workforce donation to the Aiken County Career and Technology Center and adjustments to the FY 24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-9 PORTABLE BLEACHERS AT HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL:
Superintendent Laurence recommended authorizing the administration to accept the low bid and enter into contract with MasterCraft Renovations Systems, LLC in the amount of \$45,250.00 with the funds coming from the athletic account at Highland Springs Middle.
- B-10 CONTRACT DOCUMENTS DRAWINGS/BUDGET FOR THE NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH ATHLETIC FIELDS PHASE 4 FROM MCMILLIAN PAZDAN SMITH ARCHITECTURE AND GMP #1 FROM H.G. REYNOLDS COMPANY THE CM AT RISK CONTRACTOR:
Superintendent Laurence recommended approving construction document drawings/budget for the North Augusta High Athletic Fields Phase 4 presented by McMillan Pazdan Smith, and authorizing the administr47,381,428.00.pt GMP #1 for the North Augusta High Athletic Fields Phase 4 package from H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc. in the amount of \$47,381,428.00

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- C-1 FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY CHANGE ORDER NOTIFICATION: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-2 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 29, 2024: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

DR PATRICIA HANKS- Dr. Patricia Hanks announced she will not seek re-election this November.

DR. JOHN BRADLEY -SUSPEND POLICY FF NAMING FACILITIES & NAME SOUTH AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM – Dr. Bradley MOVED to suspend section of policy FF requiring a person be deceased for at least three years before a facility can be named for that person and name the football stadium at South Aiken High School for James “Jim” Dawsey the first principal of South Aiken High School; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 4-0-2(Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson and Mrs. Tyler abstained).

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Superintendent Laurence announced the groundbreaking for the Aiken County Career and Technology Center at Aiken Technical College would be held on Thursday, May 16 and Community Input Meetings have begun for the One Cent Sales Tax Renewal.

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 – a.) Student Appeal Area One-Withdrawn; Employment Matters – a.) Employee Matter – Breach of Contract, b.) Administrative Appointment-New Ellenton Middle, c.) Administrative Appointment – North Augusta Elementary, d.) Administrative Transfer; and Contractual Matters – Discussion of Property Matter – Clearwater Elementary.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:13 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 8:06 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:10 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 – a.) Student Appeal Area One-Withdrawn; Employment Matters – a.) Employee Matter – Breach of Contract, b.) Administrative Appointment-New Ellenton Middle, c.) Administrative Appointment – North Augusta Elementary, d.) Administrative Transfer; and Contractual Matters – Discussion of Property Matter – Clearwater Elementary.

STUDENT MATTERS

- STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE – WITHDRAWN 5/14/24.

EMPLOYEE MATTERS

- a) EMPLOYEE MATTER – BREACH OF CONTRACT: Ms. Rhinehart -Jackson MOVED to direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employee A and Employee B's breach of contract; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – NEW ELLENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Principal of New Ellenton Middle School; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – NORTH AUGUSTA ELEMENTARY – Mrs. Tyler MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Principal of North Augusta Elementary School; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- d) ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER – No Action Taken

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

- DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY MATTER – CLEARWATER ELEMENTARY - No Action Taken.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mrs., Tyler MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: