

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 23, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 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, 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 of the Special Called Meeting-Student Discipline of May 2, 2023, the Special Called Meeting of May 8, 2023 and the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes the Minutes of the Special Called Meeting-Student Discipline, May 2, 2023, the Special Called Meeting of May 8, 2023 and the Regular Meeting, May 9, 2023; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson & Mr. Silas WITHDREW their motions to approve all three sets of minutes.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting-Student Discipline of May 2, 2023; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-0-3(Mr. Smith, Mr. Broome and Dr. Hanks abstained).

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of May 8, 2023; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-2 (Mr. Broome & Mr. Silas abstained)

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2023; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-0-1 (Dr. Bradley abstained)

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no requests this meeting.

COMMUNITY INPUT – RETURN TO IN PERSON LEARNING/CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN – There were no requests.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- John Burke of Midland Valley High School was recognized as Individual State Wrestling Champion for 2023.

- Student's from various schools across the district were recognized as National Merit Scholarship Winners
- Pride of Silver Bluff Band Winter Guard were recognized as SC Band Directors Association's Winter Champion Novice Division and Bronze Medal Winners for AAA Division.
- New Ellenton STEAM Magnet Middle School and Silver Bluff High School Band Directors were recognized for the SC Band Director's Outstanding Performance Award.
- Dr. Tim Lintner with USCA recognized district teachers who participated in the Secondary Social Studies Master Teacher Series.

#### VIDEO RECOGNITIONS

- The following were highlighted in slide show presentation during executive session; Regional Wrestling Champs, Pride of Silver Bluff SC Winter Ensemble Association Bronze Medal Winner (AAA division), Chukker Creek Mighty McClain's Battle of the Books, NJROTC Brain Brawl Academic Team Nationals 6<sup>th</sup> place – NAHS, 2023 Fine Arts Festival, 2022-23 Golden Apple Award Winners.

#### OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Nuessle had no items for this meeting.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified retire rehire personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified personnel for school year 2022-23, classified retire rehire personnel for school year 2023-24, classified retire rehire personnel for school year 2022-23, classified personnel for school year 2022-23, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, classified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24 and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2022-23; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY DKA PAYROLL PROCEDURES/SCHEDULES, FIRST READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following Policy DKA Payroll Procedures/Schedules, First Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY GCOA EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF, SECOND READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy GCOA Evaluation of Instructional Staff, Second Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY GCQE RETIREMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF, SECOND READING, POLICY GDQC RETIREMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF, SECOND READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy GCQE Retirement of Professional Staff, Second Reading, Policy GDQC Retirement of Support Staff, Second Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-5 UPDATE OF 2022-23 RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the school district's updated 2022-23 Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A-6 REVISIONS 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 Mr. Silas; Mr. Broome MOVED TO AMEND MOTION to remove expulsion recommendation after 18<sup>th</sup> tardy and substitute with a student and parent behavior contract with understanding if behavior contract fails, expulsion recommendation will be next steps; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson. Mr. Broome and Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson WITHDREW AMENDED MOTION. Dr. Bradley MOVED TO AMEND MOTION that after the 15<sup>th</sup> tardy along with the recommendation of three days OSS that a behavior contract be signed by parent and student and that if behavior continues the next step would be recommendation of expulsion; MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND; Mr. Broome MOVED TO AMEND MOTION that after the 15<sup>th</sup> unexcused tardy along with three days OSS, a behavior contract would be signed by both student and parent and at the 18<sup>th</sup> tardy the next option would be recommendation of expulsion; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION FAILED on a vote of 3-5 (Mrs. Tyler, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson, Mr. Nuessle, Mr. Smith and Dr. Hanks opposed). ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-7 2023-2024 SECOND-FINAL READING: Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve the second/final reading of the 2023-2024 budget with any changes resulting from Board discussions; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to ratify the expulsion of students not appealing the action as submitted by the Hearing Officer.
- B-2 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-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.
- B-4 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the foreign exchange student listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in July of 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- B-5 LOCAL BOARD APPROVED COURSES FOR 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the Local School Board Courses for 2023-2024.
- B-6 CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR 2023 REPLACEMENT OF EXTERIOR SIGNS AT BUSBEE ELEMENTARY, GREENDALE ELEMENTARY, SCHOFIELD MIDDLE, AND SILVER BLUFF HIGH: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve Change Order #1 from Signs Unlimited of SC, LLC credit in the amount of \$29,205.00 for the 2023 Replacement of Exterior Signs Projects.
- B-7 CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM RESTROOMS AND CONCESSIONS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve Change Order #1 from J.E. Stewart Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$66,372.38 for the North Augusta High School.

Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve items B-1 through B-7 as presented; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No Items This Meeting

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 gave update on meeting with his high school student advisory committee. He congratulated the retirees that were honored at the recent banquet. He also congratulated student's recognized at the Senior Scholars Dinner on May 18, 2023.

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 One, Student Appeal-Area One, Student Appeal – Area One; Employment Matters-Administrative Appointment-JD Lever, Administrative Appointment – Millbrook Elementary and Employee Grievance.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:31 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:40 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:54 p.m.

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

Chairman Nuessle announced while in Executive Session the board considered or received information concerning the following matters. for the purpose of considering the following matters in such order as the Board deems appropriate. Student Matters – Student Appeal – Area One, Student Appeal-Area One, Student Appeal – Area One; Employment Matters-Administrative Appointment-JD Lever, Administrative Appointment – Millbrook Elementary and Employee Grievance.

#### STUDENT MATTERS

a) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from a parent of an Area One High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the District Hearing Officer and expel the student for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year: SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from a parent of an Area One High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the District Hearing Officer of alternative placement for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and that student complete the alcohol and drug program at the Aiken Center; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE – Appeal will be rescheduled.



EMPLOYEE MATTERS

1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – JD LEVER ELEMENTARY

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the administration's recommendation and appoint the top candidate as Principal of JD Lever Elementary; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – MILLBROOK ELEMENTARY

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the administrations recommendation and appoint the top candidate as Principal of Millbrook Elementary; SECONDED by Mr. Nuessle; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED that after reviewing the record of the employee grievance and discussing it during executive session that the Board finds that the allegations in the grievance are unsubstantiated and the Board denies the request for any further proceedings; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

LEGAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: