

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 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
Mr. Barry Moulton
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tray Traxler, Chief Financial Officer
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.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of January 16, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on January 16, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-0-1(Mr. Broome abstained).
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of January 17, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on January 17, 2024; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting of January 18, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on January 18, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Minutes for the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-0-1(Mr. Moulton abstained).

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - No Requests This Meeting

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, certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified retiree rehires for school year 2023-24, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, classified retiree rehires for school year 2023-24, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, classified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – WEBSITE DESIGN AND HOSTING SERVICES; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the panel's recommendation to contract with Apptegy for website hosting and design services and mass communications; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the proposed Five-Year Facility Plan as presented in the attachment; 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 REQUESTS-TRANSFERS OUT 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS-TRANSFERS OUT 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.

B-4 FIDELITY CHARITABLE DONOR-ADVISED FUND GRANT AWARD TO NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$3,000.00 Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund Grant Award to North Augusta High School Choir and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-4 as presented;
SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; 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 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

C-3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Policy KCAAA Student Community Relations

Mr. Moulton MOVED to direct the administration to revise the policy as discussed for the first reading; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Area Four Transportation – Mrs. Tyler spoke regarding the bus driver shortage and how it is impacting the students of the area.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Mr. Traxler discussed the Highland Springs Middle School ribbon cutting ceremony held on February 8th.

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, Student Appeal Area One, Employment Matters – Employee Contractual Matter – Breach of Contract, Employee Matter – Position Reclassification, Discussion in Regard to In House Counsel, Contractual Matters - Superintendent, and Legal Matters- Legal Advice Concerning Policy FF.

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

Regular Session recessed at 6:35 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 6:45 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:17 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 Two, Student Appeal Area One, Employment Matters – Employee Contractual Matter – Breach of Contract, Employee Matter – Position Reclassification, Discussion in Regard to In House Counsel, Contractual Matters - Superintendent, and Legal Matters- Legal Advice Concerning Policy FF.

STUDENT MATTERS

a) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA TWO

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Two Elementary School Student. Dr. Bradley MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district's alternative program for a 45-day placement; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Smith opposed)

b) STUDENT APPEAL - AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area One High School Student. Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and expel the student for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

a) EMPLOYEE CONTRACTUAL MATTER

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employees A, B,C, and D's breach of contract; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b) EMPLOYEE MATTER – POSITION RECLASSIFICATION

No Action Taken

c) DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO IN HOUSE COUNSEL

No Action Taken

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

SUPERINTENDENT – No Action Taken

LEGAL MATTERS

LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING POLICY FF – No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: