

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 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  
Mr. Jim Broome  
Dr. Patricia Hanks  
Mr. Barry Moulton  
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson  
Mr. Brian Silas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. John Bradley

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 Regular Meeting February 14, 2023 were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 14, 2023; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mrs. Ashley Murphy spoke in favor of banning food dyes found in some classroom snacks.

PUBLIC INPUT HIGHLAND SPRINGS ZONING OPTIONS

- No Sign-ups to speak

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Mrs. Nancy Marks, Public Education Partners Chairman, presented a check in the amount of \$3,843.72 for classroom teacher grants.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

Chairman Nuessle reminded board members of the upcoming special called meeting on March 7, 2023 and the STARS of Public Education event on March 30, 2023.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified personnel for school year 2022-23, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2022-23, classified personnel for school year 2022-23, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2022-23, non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2022-23; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-1(Mr. Silas abstained).
- A-2 CONSIDERATION ON THE 30-MINUTE UNENCUMBERED TIME REQUIREMENT: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve creation of 38 aide-level positions to meet the new 30-minute unencumbered time requirement, in advance of the final budget approved for 2023-2024; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 REVISION TO THE WEAPONS – KNIVES SECTION IN EACH LEVEL OF THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Mr. Moulton MOVED to approve the revision to the Code of Student Conduct on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Nuessle opposed).

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 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 IN 2022-2023: 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-4 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-5 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.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve items B-1 through B-5 as presented; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- C-1 HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE ZONING OPTIONS UPDATE: Representatives from MGT Consulting presented update in regards to zoning options survey results for the new Highland Springs Middle School.
- C-2 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE AIKEN HIGH AUDITORIUM SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-3 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE HAMMOND HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITIONS AND RENOVATION PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-4 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

- C-5 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR WAGENER SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: 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 discussed the various events being held across the district for Read Across America Week, and staffing for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### 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, Student Appeal – Area Three, Student Appeal – Area Three, and Student Appeal – Area Three; Contractual Matters-Contractual Matter Concerning Head Start.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:07 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:15 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:28 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 Three, Student Appeal – Area Three, Student Appeal – Area Three, and Student Appeal – Area Three; Contractual Matters-Contractual Matter Concerning Head Start.

#### STUDENT MATTERS

a) Student Appeal – Area Three

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Three High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED overturn the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of expulsion and assign the student to the Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest; MOTION FAILED for lack of a Second; Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and expel the student for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson opposed).

b) Student Appeal – Area Three

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Three High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to overturn the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of expulsion and return the student to school with time-served; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c) Student Appeal – Area Three

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Three High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to overturn the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of expulsion and return the student to school with time-served; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d) Student Appeal – Area Three

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Three High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer and expel the student for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### EMPLOYEE MATTERS

- No Items This Meeting

#### CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

- Contractual Matter Concerning Head Start  
Mr. Silas MOVED to relinquish the Head Start/Early Head Start grant effective **June 30, 2023**; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

- No Items This Meeting

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: