

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 22, 2025

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 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
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2025, were presented for approval; Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2025; SECONDED by Mrs. Morris; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. Maretha Harris spoke regarding board policy IKA Grading/Assessment Systems - Academic Honors.
- Ms. Jillian Forrest spoke regarding concerns about Redcliffe Elementary.
- Mr. Andrew Satterfeld spoke regarding Special Education classes at Redcliffe Elementary.
- Ms. Skylar Fowler spoke regarding concerns about Redcliffe Elementary.
- Ms. Maggie Williams spoke in favor of pay increases for district support staff/classroom aides.
- Mr. Eddie White spoke regarding concerns about Redcliffe Elementary.
- Mr. Dave Paullin spoke regarding the District's Strategic Plan 2023-2027.
- Ms. Maria Sullivan spoke regarding the District's Strategic Plan and Social and Emotional Learning.

RECOGNITIONS

No Recognitions for This Meeting

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

No Items for This Meeting

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS


- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Lindell 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 2024-25, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, classified supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2025-26, SECONDED by Mrs. Morris; Mr. Moulton MOVED TO AMEND MOTION and remove Redcliffe Elementary appointments #27 and #28 from list to approve; SECONDED by Mr. Broome: MOTION TO AMEND FAILED on tied vote 4-4 (Mrs. Morris, Mr. Nuessle, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson and Mrs. Tyler opposed) ; Mr. Broome MOVED TO AMEND MOTION and remove Redcliffe Elementary appointment #27 from list to approve; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION TO AMEND Carried on a vote of 5-3 (Mrs. Morris, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson and Mrs. Tyler opposed); AMENDED MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 5-3-1 (Mrs. Morris, Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson and Mrs. Tyler opposed, Dr. Bradley abstained)
- A-2 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Nuessle MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel related to school board members for school year 2025-2026; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-0-1(see attached form).
- A-3 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to authorize and approve the re-employment for the 2025-2026 school year of all certified personnel shown on the attached list (with the exception of employees who have given formal notice of retirement or their intent to resign for relocation or other personal reasons before the start of the 2025-2026 school year; SECONDED BY Mr. Lindell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the Superintendent's recommendations and authorize the re-employment for the 2025-2026 school year of the certified employees shown on the attached list. Subject to the conditions, stipulations, requirements, or qualifications set forth for the employees; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RECUSAL FORM
(SC ETHICS ACT)

Name: Jim Broome Date: 4/22/2025

Action from which seeking recusal: A-2 Personnel Appointment

Reason for recusal: Appointee is my family member

Signature:  JAMES G. BROOME Date: 4/22/2025

- A-5 DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the District Strategic Plan Update 3 with District Waivers; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-0-1(Mrs. Tyler abstained).
- A-6 REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – FIRST READING: Mr. Lindell MOVED to consider on first reading the proposed Code of Student Conduct for each level as presented by the administration; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-7 2025-2026 BUDGET-FIRST READING: Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve the tentative first reading of the 2025-2026 budget; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-2(Mr. Broome, & Mr. Lindell opposed).

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 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2025-2026: Superintendent Murphy recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-3 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the foreign exchange student listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in July for the 2025-2025 school year.
- B-4 ADDITIONAL LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD COURSES FOR 2025-2026: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the Local School Board Courses for 2025-2026.
- B-5 SUBMISSION OF THE SC ARTS COMMISSION – ARTS IN BASIC CURRICULUM GRANT APPLICATION BY NEW ELLENTON STEAM MAGNET SCHOOL – FY26: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving New Ellenton STEAM Magnet School submission of the SC Arts Commission – Arts in Basic Curriculum Grant Application for \$12,500.00 and the receipt of funds if awarded.

B-6 ANONYMOUS DONATION TO RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AND WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – FY25: Superintendent Murphy recommended approving the \$2,500.00 donation from an anonymous donor to Ridge Spring-Monetta Middle/High (\$1,500.00) and Wagener-Salley High (\$1,250.00) and adjustments to the FY25 Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

B-7 2025 PAINTING OF AIKEN INTERMEDIATE AND MOSSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Superintendent Murphy recommended Authorizing the administration to accept the low bids and enter into a contract with TFJ Construction, Inc. for the total amount of \$387,334.00.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-7 as presented;
SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; 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

No Items This Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update

Dr. Murphy discussed various events and recognitions occurring this month and around the district over the next few weeks, including Public School Volunteer Week, National School Bus Driver Day, Autism Awareness Month, and National School Library Month. He announced that Friday, April 25, would be "purpling up" day to show support for the children of our military families and that the Superintendent's Advisory Councils would be meeting on Thursday, April 24. He also reminded the audience that AMP the Appreciation would be taking place again in the alley of downtown Aiken on Friday, May 2.

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. Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment – XSEL b.) Administrative Appointment – Aiken Intermediate School, c.) Administrative Appointment – Paul Knox Middle School, d.) Interim Chief Officer for Human Resources & Administration, e.) Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board of Education. Contractual Matters - Employee Matter – Breach of Contract and Legal Matters – Receipt of Legal Advice regarding employment matter.

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

Regular Session recessed at 8:31 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 8:45 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:36 p.m.

Dr. Bradley MOVED to Return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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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. Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment – XSEL b.) Administrative Appointment – Aiken Intermediate School, c.) Administrative Appointment – Paul Knox Middle School, d.) Interim Chief Officer for Human Resources & Administration, e.) Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board of Education. Contractual Matters - Employee Matter – Breach of Contract and Legal Matters – Receipt of Legal Advice regarding employment matter.

STUDENT MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

- a) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – XSEL: Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Director of XSEL; SECONDED by Mrs. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- b) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – AIKEN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Principal of Aiken Intermediate School; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – PAUL KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mrs. Tyler MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Principal of Paul Knox Middle School; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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- d) INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Lindell MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Interim Chief Officer of Human Resources and Administration; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD OF EDUCATION: Dr. Bradley MOVED to reclassify the current position to Office Manager; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Broome opposed).

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

EMPLOYEE MATTER – BREACH OF CONTRACT: Mr. Silas MOVED to direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employee A and B's breach of contract: SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGAL MATTERS

RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING EMPLOYMENT MATTER – No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Lindell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: