

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2011

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2011, at the District Office, 1000 Brookhaven Drive, Aiken, at 6:00 p.m. Print and broadcast news media were notified of the time, date, and place of this meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Rosemary English, Chairman
Mr. Ray Fleming, Vice-Chairman
Dr. John A. Bass
Mr. Levi Green
Mr. Richard Hazen
Mr. John Wesley Hightower
Mr. Keith Liner
Mr. Dwight Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Donna Moore Wesby

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, Superintendent
Mr. David Caver, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. William H. Burkhalter, Board Attorney
Mr. Tray Traxler, Comptroller
Dr. Cecelia Davidson, Associate Superintendent
for Administration
Dr. Kevin O’Gorman, Associate Superintendent
for Instruction/Accountability
Mrs. Joy Shealy, Assistant Superintendent
for Area 1
Mrs. Peggy Trivelas, Assistant Superintendent
for Area 2
Dr. Tim Yarborough, Assistant Superintendent
for Area 3
Mrs. Janice Kitchings, Assistant Superintendent
for Area 4
Dr. Randy Stowe, Assistant Superintendent
for Area 5
Mrs. Vicky Durden, Administrative Assistant
To Board of Education

Chairman English called the special called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

CHARTER SCHOOL BILL: Mr. Fleming MOVED that the Board respond to the Aiken County Legislative Delegation in opposition of the Charter School Bill with the current proposed legislation as follow: The Board opposes the current proposed legislation due to the negative fiscal impact it will have on the District's Budget; opposes the proposed change to a simple majority vote in order to convert an existing public school to a charter school; submits that the two-thirds requirement in the present law should be left unchanged; and is opposed to charter, private, or home school students participating in athletics or extra-curricular activities; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EDUCATION FINANCE ACT: Mr. Hightower MOVED to support the EFA legislative proposals in the following particulars: The Board supports consolidation of line items if it provides maximum flexibility and does not reduce funding; prefer imputing the values of 4% property tax for calculating the Index of Taxpayer Ability (ITA); supports additional funding for poverty, English as a Second Language and Gifted/Talented; supports removal of required salary step increases and flexibility not to maintain local supplements; and the Board urges the Legislature to revisit and address Act 388.

PERFORMANCE-BASED PAY: Mr. Fleming MOVED to oppose any statewide system of performance-based pay or any performance-related system of pay that is based solely (or substantially) on student performance; SECONDED by Dr. Bass; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Smith opposed). The Board believes that such a process, if initiated, should be best left to local districts.

ETV: Dr. Bass MOVED in favor of continuing to support services provided by the ETV system, and the Aiken County Public Schools are continuing to utilize those services, including video streaming, video short segments, downloads, articles, images, and quizzes; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Mr. Hazen opposed).

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS: Mr. Hightower MOVED to support flexibility in the number of credits required for high school diplomas and redeveloping the FTE's to fit needs; SECONDED by Mr. Hazen; MOTION failed on a vote of 4-4 (Mr. Smith, Mr. Fleming, Mrs. English and Mr. Green opposed). Mr. Fleming MOVED that given the complex nature of this subject, it would direct the administration to provide more information and the Board would not take a position in the interim; SECONDED by Mr. Green; Mr. Liner MOVED to amend the motion to include that the Board did approve informing the Delegation that it was opposed to any shortening of the school year; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; AMENDED MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1 (Dr. Bass opposed); ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED carried on a vote of 6-2 (Dr. Bass and Mr. Hightower opposed).

SCHOOL CHOICE: Mr. Smith MOVED to oppose the School Choice proposals that would allow use of tax credits, or other direct diminutions of public funds for private, religious, or home school purposes was based and summed up by the Superintendent's succinct, spontaneous to the Delegation last week when she said that *public education is the backbone of American democracy and that the public schools are where the public's funds for education should go*; SECONDED by Mrs. English; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

TEACHER DISMISSAL ACT: Mr. Fleming MOVED to have the Delegation consider two issues that would be fair to the districts (the “employers”) and the employees: If a continuing contract teacher is under an improvement plan of any kind (or a formal evaluation process, regardless of the “level” of such teacher’s contract), the districts’ board of education should have until June 1 to make a determination as to those teachers’ employment status for the following year; and in addition to first year teachers (in the profession), allow a district to place any teacher new to the district on an induction-level contract for one year; SECONDED by Dr. Bass; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE DELEGATION:

GT: Based on last year’s expenditures, we spent \$1,732,533.00 in combined local and state funds for Gifted and Talented (Academic and Artistic). The most recent state allocation for these was \$783,000. Accordingly the remainder - about \$949,533.00 - was from local funds which were applied for teacher salaries and benefits for support of the academic program.

PE: Our allocation is approximately \$242,000. We added 8.80 FTE’s to meet the requirements. The cost of 8.80 teachers paid at the lowest step plus SS and retirement would total approximately \$380,000. We are underfunded by about \$150,000. (Not including health insurance).

NURSES: Our allocation is approximately \$620,000. The salary + SS + retirement for our nurses total \$738,000 (not including health insurance). We are underfunded by approximately \$125,000.

Mr. Hightower MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Submitted by: Vicky Durden

APPROVED: