

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the District Office, 1000 Brookhaven Drive, Aiken, at 7:00 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. Levi Green, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Cecil Atchley
Mr. Tad Barber
Mr. John Wesley Hightower
Mr. Keith Liner
Mr. Jeremy Mace
Mr. Ronnie West

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Richard Hazen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Sean Alford, Superintendent
Dr. Shawn Foster, Chief Officer for Operations
and Student Services
Mr. Tray Traxler, Comptroller
Mr. William Burkhalter, General Counsel
Mrs. Mattie Dillon, Interim Chief Officer
for Administration
Mr. King Laurence, Associate Superintendent
for Instruction
Mrs. Janice Kitchings, Executive Director
for Elementary School
Mrs. Laurie Reese, Executive Director
For Elementary School
Mrs. Joy Shealy, Executive Director
for Middle School
Dr. Tim Yarborough, Executive Director
for High School
Dr. Randy Stowe, Director of Administration
Mrs. Vicky Durden, Administrative Assistant
to Board of Education

Chairman English called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Devotional and Pledge were led by Mr. William Burkhalter.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 23, 2016; were presented for approval. Mr. Green MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 23, 2016; SECONDED by Mr. Liner; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- Dr. Alford made a brief statement regarding Ag teachers and Guidance Counselors to dispel rumors about the Ag programs being cut from the schools. Dr. Alford also stated that the change in contract days would not result in any financial loss for the Ag teachers and Guidance Counselors.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 - Patricia Lobb spoke regarding Agricultural Education.
 - Will Gibbs spoke regarding Agricultural Education.
 - Charles Sharpe spoke regarding Agricultural Education.
 - Butch Dorman spoke regarding Area 4 Property and New Holland Fire Department.
 - Jackie Busbee spoke regarding Agricultural Education.

- Haley Williamson spoke regarding Agricultural Education.
- Doug Busbee spoke regarding Agricultural Education.

Board members wanted to go on record to state their commitment to the Agricultural programs in our schools.

- OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

Chairman English gave a brief update of the tour at MTU on February 26, 2016.

Chairman English reminded the Board of the School Board Committees – Instructional Workshops scheduled for March 15, 2016.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A-1 DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: Mrs. Glover and Pastor Talmadge presented a power point presentation regarding District Strategic Plan Update.
- A-2 FINANCIAL REPORT, AS OF JANUARY 31, 2016: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- A-3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mr. Liner gave a brief update regarding Legislative issues.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board ratify the expulsion of students not appealing this action.
- B-2 MIDLAND MECHANICAL, INC. DONATION TO MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – FY16: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board approve the Midland Mechanical, Inc. donation to Midland Valley High School and adjustments to the FY16 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the grant and expenditures.
- B-3 DISTRICT TELEPHONE UPGRADE – VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP): Superintendent Alford recommended the Board allow the administration to accept the base bid totaling \$297,380.73 and enter into a contract with Arrow SI.
- B-4 SUBMISSION OF THE SUMMER READING CAMP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board approve the submission of the Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant and the receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-5 TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS FOR 2016-17: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board adopt the textbook recommendations of the teacher committee as submitted to the Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services.
- B-6 SUNSHINE HOUSE DONATION TO EAST AIKEN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – FY16: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board approve the Sunshine House donation to East Aiken School of the Arts and adjustments to the FY16 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the award and expenditures.

B-7 CURB APPEAL LANDSCAPING PROJECT: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board allow the administration to use the funds generated by the sale of the Aiken Elementary Property to proceed with landscaping and grounds improvements at the eleven school sites.

B-8 SOUND AND LIGHTING UPGRADES FOR THE AUDITORIUMS AT MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, SILVER BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTH AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board allow the administration to accept the low base bid totaling \$211,455.68 and enter into a contract with Troxell Communications.

B-9 SOUND UPGRADES FOR AIKEN HIGH AND STADIUM: Superintendent Alford recommended the Board allow the administration to accept the low base bids totaling \$76,284.58 and enter into contracts with Troxell Communications and Unified AV.

Mr. Liner MOVED to approve items B-1 through B-9; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS:

C-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Liner MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2015-2016; certified personnel for school year 2016-2017; classified personnel for school year 2015-2016; and classified supplemental personnel for school year 2015-2016; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS:

No items this meeting

OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

Superintendent Alford gave a brief update of events around the District. Mrs. Jett, Mr. Young and Mr. Fueller presented information regarding SC Blue Ribbon Application for South Aiken High School. Ms. Bassford presented a power point presentation regarding Instant Decision Day.

Chairman English announced the Board will need to go into executive session for the purpose of considering the following matters in such order as the Board may choose: Student Appeals: three student appeals from Area 4; two from Area 1; one from Area 2; and an out of district transfer appeal from Area 2; Legal Briefing: brief update on one litigation matter and update on a charter school consideration; and Contractual Issue: update on property issue.

Mr. Mace MOVED to enter Executive Session for the purpose as stated; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The regular session recessed at 9:10 p.m.

Executive session convened at 9:16 p.m.

Regular session resumed at 10:52 p.m.

Chairman English announced while in executive session the Board considered, or received information concerning, the following matters: Student Appeals: three student appeals from Area 4; two from Area 1; one from Area 2; and an out of district transfer appeal from Area 2; Legal Briefing: brief update on one litigation matter and update on a charter school consideration; and Contractual Issue: update on property issue.

CONTRACTUAL ISSUES:

- CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPERTY PROPOSAL: Mr. Mace MOVED to authorize the administration to move forward with the Area 4 property as discussed; SECONDED by Mr. West; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS:

- LEGAL BRIEFING: No action necessary.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

No items this meeting.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

No items this meeting.

Mr. Barber MOVED to waive Board policy and extend the meeting time past 11: p.m.;
SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPEALS:

- a. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an elementary student in Area 4. Mr. Atchely MOVED the Board allow the student to return to the Center of Innovative Learning on strict probation; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Barber opposed).
- b. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 4. Mr. Liner MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and expel the student for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Barber opposed).
- c. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 4. Mr. Liner MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and expel the student for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Barber opposed).
- d. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a middle school student in Area 1. Mr. Mace MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and expel the student for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Liner; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY

OFFICIAL MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2016

Page 9 of 9

- e. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a middle school student in Area 1. Mr. Liner MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and expel the student for the remainder of the 2015-2016; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Barber opposed).

- f. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 2. Mr. Mace MOVED to allow the student to attend the Center of Innovative Learning on strict probation and short term assignment; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- g. TRANSFER APPEAL: The Board heard a transfer appeal from the parent of a high school student in Edgefield County. Mr. Barber MOVED to allow the student to enroll in North Augusta High School for the 2016-2017 school year provided tuition is paid and adequate space is available; SECONDED by Mr. Liner; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Green MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

Submitted by: Vicky Durden

APPROVED: