

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 23, 2024

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 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. 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 for the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2024, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2024; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-3 (Dr. Bradley, Dr. Hanks & Mr. Smith abstained).

#### SRP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION-AFFINITY CARD PRESENTATION

SRP Federal Credit Union Affinity Debit Card Donation in the amount of \$256,658.70 was given to Aiken County Public Schools.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Larry Nelson spoke regarding the naming of the South Aiken High Stadium .
- Mr. Dave Paullin spoke against the Aiken County Schools Strategic Plan update.
- Mr. Jon Mallory spoke against the Aiken County Schools Strategic Plan update.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH WELDING TEAM: Members of the Wagener-Sally High School Welding Team were recognized for placing in recently held state competitions.

#### 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 retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, classified personnel for school year 2024-2025, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2024-25, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24 certified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25, and classified supplemental personnel for school year 2024-25; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to authorize and approve the re-employment for the 2024-2025 school year of all certified personnel shown on the attached list (with the exception of employees who have given formal notice of retirement or of their intent to resign for relocation or other personal reason before the start of the 2024-2025 school year); SECONDED by Ms. Tyle; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNE, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED that the Board accept the Superintendents' recommendations and authorize the re-employment for the 2024-2025 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.
- A-4 REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY KCAAA STUDENT COMMUNITY RELATIONS, SECOND READING; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy KCAAA Student Community Relations, Second Reading; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-5 DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the District Strategic Plan Update 2 with District Waivers; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Nuessle opposed)

- A-6 DISTRICT EARLY DISMISSAL TIME: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following district early dismissal days for the 2024-2025 school year; Wednesday, August 21, Wednesday, September 18, Wednesday, November 20, Wednesday, January 15 and Wednesday March 19; approve the following schedule for early dismissal; elementary schools 11:30, middle school 12:10 and high school 12:30 and Area 4 RSM Elementary 11:55, RSM Middle/High School 12:15 & 12:20, Busbee Elementary 11:55, AL Corbett Middle 12:00 and Wagener-Salley High 12:10; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-4 (Mr. Broome, Mr. Nuessle, Mr. Moulton and Mr. Silas opposed).
- A-7 REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT – FIRST READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve on first reading the proposed Code of Student Conduct for each level as presented by the administration and to have a workshop for board members prior to the second reading; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION Carried on a vote of 8-0-1(Mr. Silas abstained).
- A-8 SELECTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to allow the Administration to negotiate a contract with H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc, Hood Construction, and Contract Construction for the building of future projects utilizing the Construction Management at Risk delivery system; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-1-1(Mr. Broome opposed and Mr. Silas abstained).
- A-9 BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 2023-2024 FOR FUNDS 1 AND 3: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve Budget Adjustment #1; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A-10 2024-2025 BUDGET – FIRST READING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve Use of Fund Balance Scenario #1 - \$1,000.00 bonus for employees making less than \$50,000 base salary, 2% for greater than \$50,000; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to AMEND original motion and to distribute bonus in two payments; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Mr. Silas MOVED to move the hiring of athletic trainers to the 2024-2025 budget by removing the student-teacher ratio hard cap for grades 3-5; SECONDED by Mr. Nuessle. Mr. Silas WITHDREW MOTION. Mr. Silas MOVED to remove student-teacher ratio hard cap for grades 4 and 5 and use the savings to fund athletic trainers at all high schools. SECONDED by Mr. Broome; MOTION FAILED on a vote of 3-5 (Dr. Bradley, Dr. Hanks, Mr. Smith, Mr. Moulton, and Mrs. Tyler opposed). Mr. Smith MOVED to approve the First Reading of the 2024-2025 budget with any change resulting from board discussion; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; 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 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the foreign exchange students listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in July of 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.
- B-4 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT 2024-2025: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released for out-of-district transfer.

- B-5 JOHN DEERE PLTW LAUNCH GRANT AWARD TO MOSSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$10,000.00 John Deere PLTW Launch Grant Award to Mossy Creek Elementary School and adjustments to the FY25 (& 26) Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the grant award and expenditures.
- B-6 SUBMISSION OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SCDE) STRONGER CONNECTIONS SUBGRANT APPLICATION – DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES – FY25: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the submission S.C. Department of Education Stronger Connections Subgrant and receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-7 2024 PAINTING OF CHUKKER CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low bid and enter into a contract with MAR Construction Company, Inc. for the total amount of \$147,770.00. Funding coming from the 2024-2025 Five-Year Facility Improvement Plan Painting Budget.

Mr. Moulton MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-7 as presented; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

No Items This Meeting

#### 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 – No Update This Meeting.

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 – a.) Student Appeal Area One-Withdrawn, b.) Student Appeal Area One, c.) Student Appeal Area One, d.) Student Appeal Area Two-Withdrawn; Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment-Director of Maintenance & Operations, b.) Administrative Appointment-Director of Teaching & Learning, c.) Discussion of Area One Administrative Appointment, d.) Employee Matter-Professional Termination; Contractual Matters – Discussion of Property Matter – Clearwater Elementary; Legal Matters – Legal Advice on Resolution Agreement.

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

Regular Session recessed at 9:08 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 9:18 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 10:49 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 – a.) Student Appeal Area One-Withdrawn, b.) Student Appeal Area One, c.) Student Appeal Area One, d.) Student Appeal Area Two-Withdrawn; Employment Matters – a.) Administrative Appointment-Director of Maintenance & Operations, b.) Administrative Appointment-Director of Teaching & Learning, c.) Discussion of Area One Administrative Appointment, d.) Employee Matter-Professional Termination; Contractual Matters – Discussion of Property Matter – Clearwater Elementary; Legal Matters – Legal Advice on Resolution Agreement.

## STUDENT MATTERS

- a) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE – WITHDRAWN 4/23/24.
  
- b) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE  
Dr. Bradely MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district’s alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
  
- c) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA ONE  
The Board heard an appeal from the grandfather of an Area One High School Student. Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to uphold the decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the district’s alternative program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Nuessle opposed).
  
- d) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA TWO – WITHDRAWN 4/23/24.



EMPLOYEE MATTERS

- a) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS: Dr. Bradley MOVED to postpone the appointment of the Director of Maintenance and Operations; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Dr. Hanks opposed)
  
- b) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Director of Teaching and Learning; SECONDED by Mr. Broome; MOTION carried on a vote of 7-2 (Mr. Silas & Mrs. Tyler opposed).
  
- c) DISCUSSION OF AREA ONE ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the recommendation of the administration for the Area One Administrative Appointment; SECONDED by Mr. Moulton; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
  
- d) EMPLOYEE MATTER - Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to authorize the Board Chairperson to execute an Order on behalf of the board terminating the employment of a professional employee of the District, such Order having been reviewed by the Board; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

- DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY MATTER – CLEARWATER ELEMENTARY - No Action Taken.

LEGAL MATTERS

- LEGAL ADVICE ON RESOLUTION AGREEMENT –. No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: