

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 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. John Bradley  
Dr. Patricia Hanks  
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson  
Mr. Brian Silas  
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARS MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Barry Moulton

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 of July 11, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 11, 2023; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-2(Mr. Smith & Mrs. Tyler abstained). Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 18, 2023 were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 18, 2023; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Ben Lacy with the Southern Pickleball Academy spoke in support of the possible addition of pickleball as a sport in district schools.
- Mr. Matthew Brackett spoke in regards to the district's expulsion policy.
- Ms. Sarah Beth Gadus, Mrs. Mary Allison Pettigrew and Ms. Jana Jackson spoke in regards to safety concerns at Aiken High School.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Zeb Proctor of Midland Valley High school was recognized for twelve years perfect attendance.

#### VIDEO RECOGNITIONS

- The events, groups or individuals below were highlighted in slide show presentation during executive session intermission:

Back to School Highlights

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Nuessle reiterated that the Safety of students and staff is the Board of Education's Top Priority.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified retire rehire personnel for school year 2023-2024, classified personnel for school year 2023-24, classified personnel for school year 2022-23, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, classified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24 and non-employee supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2023: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the resolution to provide for the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds series 2023; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT ITEMS

- B-1 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS IN: 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 (\$1,000.00 family cap)
- B-2 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT: Superintendent Laurence recommends that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.

- B-3 AIKEN COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL CITIZENS Inc. DONATION TO OAKWOOD-WINDSOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$1,081.17 Aiken County Association for Special Citizens Inc. donation to Oakwood-Windsor Elementary School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-4 SUBMISSION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STRONGER CONNECTIONS SUBGRANT APPLICATION FOR AIKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the South Carolina Board of Education Stronger Connection Subgrant Program Grant application submission in the amount of \$25,000 per year for two years (\$50,000 total), and receipt of funds and adjustment to the FY24 and FY25 Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the grant if awarded.
- B-5 TEAM WORKS FUNDRAISER DONATION TO NEW ELLENTON MIDDLE STEAM MAGNET SCHOOL-FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$2,923.60 Team Works donation to New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Funds to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.

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

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- C-1 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE AIKEN HIGH AUDITORIUM SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-2 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE HAMMOND HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

- C-3 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-4 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- C-5 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MAY 31, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

#### INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

##### AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

- ADDITION OF A DISTRICT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Mr. Broome MOVED to ask the Administration to bring back proposals for a District Athletic Director Position; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler: MOTION FAILED 4-4 (Mr. Nuessle, Mr. Silas, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Hanks opposed); Mr. Broome MOVED to ask the administration to bring back proposals in regards to a Supervisory role over the District's Athletic Programs; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley: MOTION Carried 7-1 (Mr. Nuessle opposed).
- INDEPENDENT STUDY OF DISTRICT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM: Mr. Broome MOVED to authorize the District to bring back proposals for maintenance study/evaluation; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; Mr. Broome & Mr. Silas RESCINDED THEIR MOTIONS.

##### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Superintendent Laurence welcomed back students and staff for the 2023-2024 school year. He announced that the number of meals being served has increased with our partnership with new food service provider Chartwells. Mr. Laurence also reiterated that the Safety of our students and staff is the administrations number one priority.

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- Employee Contractual Matter, Contractual Matter Concerning Superintendent's Evaluation; Legal Matters- Legal Update on Pending Litigation, and Discussion of Information Related to Security Plans.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:30 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:45 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 10:23 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 matters. for the purpose of considering the following matters in such order as the Board deems appropriate. Employment Matters- Employee Contractual Matter, Contractual Matter Concerning Superintendent's Evaluation; Legal Matters- Legal Update on Pending Litigation, and Discussion of Information Related to Security Plans.

STUDENT MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

EMPLOYEE MATTERS

EMPLOYEE CONTRACTUAL MATTER

Mrs. Tyler MOVED to direct the administration to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employees A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H's breach of contract; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONTRACTUAL MATTER CONCERNING SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION – No Action Taken

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

LEGAL MATTERS

LEGAL UPDATE ON PENDING LITIGATION – No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: