

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 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, 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
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson
Mr. Brian Silas

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Barry Moulton
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 November 14, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-1(Mr. Silas abstained).
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on November 16, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, Special Called Meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-0-2(Dr. Bradely and Dr. Hanks abstained).
- Minutes for the Special Called Meeting on November 28, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023, Special Called Meeting; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-1(Dr. Bradley abstained).

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Troy Raudebaugh spoke regarding the use of technology in classrooms and training for teachers and administrators.
- Mr. David Paullin spoke regarding the District Strategic Plan Goal #3.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- The South Aiken Women's Volleyball Team were recognized as 2023 4A State Champions.

VIDEO RECOGNITIONS

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

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Mrs. Mahoney reviewed the procedures for the election of Board Officers and distributed ballots for electing a Chairman. Mrs. Mahoney counted the votes and announced the appointment of Mr. Cameron Nuessle as Chairman of the Board. Ballots were distributed for the election of the Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Mahoney counted the votes and announced the appointment of Mr. Dwight Smith as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- No items This Meeting

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Smith MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2023-24, and classified personnel for school year 2023-24; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 RESULTS FROM ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED, JUNE 30, 2023; Dr. Bradley MOVED to accept the audit results for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL PROGRAM PROPOSAL; Dr. Bradley MOVED to accept the request to increase two existing psychological positions to 12-month positions; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A-4 ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY GBEBE GAVIN'S LAW (SEXUAL EXTORTION) (STAFF), SECOND READING; POLICY JICFB GAVIN'S LAW (SEXUAL EXTORTION) (STUDENTS), SECOND READING; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy GBEBE Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff), Second Reading, Policy JICFB Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Students), Second Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; 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 SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS INSURANCE TRUST RISK CONTROL GRANT – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the submission of the application for the South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust Risk Control Grant and the receipt of funds, if awarded.
- B-3 2023 NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT SILVER BLUFF HIGH SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL FIELDS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the bid and enter into a contract with Windham Services in the amount of \$49,400.00 for the New Irrigation System at Silver Bluff High Softball and Baseball Fields with the funds coming from the 2023-2024 Athletic Facilities Account.
- B-4 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR 2023 ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR PRESSURE WASHING DISTRICTWIDE FOR AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. BID # 2023-003: Superintendent Laurence recommended to allow the administration to enter into a contract with the following firms on an annual basis for various pressure washing services over the next year.
- B-5 CUSTODIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to Authorize the administration to accept the proposal submitted by Augusta Janitorial Supplies & Equipment and enter into a contract with this company for Custodial Equipment.

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 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION: Ms. Judy LeGrand with the South Carolina School Boards Association shared results of focus group and community input meetings as well as on-line survey responses related to the District Superintendent Search Process.

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 – Superintendent Laurence spoke about the upcoming performance of East Aiken School of the Arts students at the Christmas at Hopeland Gardens event.

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 – Student Appeal Area Three and Student Appeal Area One, Employment Matters – Superintendent Search.

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

Regular Session recessed at 6:45 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 6:55 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:14 p.m.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to Return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Mr. Smith;
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. Student Matters – Student Appeal Area Three and Student Appeal Area One, Employment Matters – Superintendent Search.

STUDENT MATTERS

a) STUDENT APPEAL - AREA THREE

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Three 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 a 45-day placement;
SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Silas opposed).

b) STUDENT APPEAL - AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area One Middle School Student. Dr. Hanks MOVED to overturn the decision of the District Hearing Officer of expulsion and place the student in the District's Alternative Program for a 45-day placement; SECONDED by Mr. Broome; Dr. Bradley MOVED to AMEND ORIGINAL MOTION and place the student in the District's Alternative Program for the minimum of a 45-day placement and if longer placement is needed the amount to be determined by the administration; MOTION FAILED for lack of a Second; Mr. Nuessle MOVED to AMEND ORIGINAL MOTION and place student in the District's Alternative Program for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH – No Action Taken

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

LEGAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: