

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY  
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 18, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 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  
Dr. John Bradley  
Mr. Jim Broome  
Dr. Patricia Hanks  
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson  
Mr. Brian Silas  
Mrs. Deborah Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Barry Moulton  
Mr. Dwight Smith, Vice-Chair

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.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: Superintendent Laurence swore in Mrs. Deborah Tyler as newly elected Board Member.

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 March 28, 2023 were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 28, 2023; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-0-1(Mrs. Tyler abstained).

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mrs. Donna Moore-Wesby spoke in support of community use of school facilities.

VIDEO RECOGNITIONS

- The following were highlighted in slide show presentation during executive session; Month of the Military Child, District Stars of Public Education, Aiken High School Academic Team District Champions and Perfect Prom.

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 2023-2024, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2023-2024, certified personnel for school year 2022-23, certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2022-2023, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year classified personnel for school year 2023-24, classified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2023-24, classified personnel for school year 2022-2023, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-23 and certified supplemental personnel for school year 2022-23; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY.

- A-2 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the re-employment for the 2023-2024 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 reasons before the start of the 2023-2024 school year); SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-3 RE-EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS. FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and authorize the re-employment for the 2023-2024 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 DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the 2023-2027 District Strategic Plan Update 1 and District Waivers; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-5 2023-2024 BUDGET – FIRST READING: Dr. Hanks MOVED to approve the first reading of the 2023-2024 budget; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Dr. Bradley MOVED to have administration bring back for consideration an additional two percent cost of living raise and retention bonuses for classified staff except bus drivers; Dr. Bradley withdrew MOTION; Dr. Bradley MOVED to direct administration to bring back for consideration an additional two percent cost of living raise and a non-recurring retention bonus for staff identified by the administration; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### CONSENT ITEMS

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to ratify the expulsion of students not appealing the action as submitted by the Hearing Officer.

- B-2 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS -TRANSFERS OUT 2023-2024:  
Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.
- B-3 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS IN 2023-2024:  
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 family cap).
- B-4 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the foreign exchange student listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in July of 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
- B-5 TEXTBOOK ADOPTIONS FOR 2023-2024: Superintendent Laurence recommended to adopt the textbook recommendations of the teacher committees.
- B-6 AIKEN STANDARD COMMUNITY CHRISTMA CARD DONATION TO AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$9,058.00 Aiken Standard Community Christmas Card Donation to Aiken County Public School District and adjustments to the FY23 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-7 UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS – WUNDERMAN THOMPSON DONATION TO NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL – FY23: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$2475.00 U.S. Marine Corps -Wunderman Thompson Donation to North Augusta High School and adjustments to the FY23 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-8 SUBMISSION OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT – AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT -FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the submission of the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Development Grant application and the receipt of funds, if awarded.

- B-9 HEAD START COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDING APPLICATION – FY-23: Superintendent Laurence recommended to decline funds associated with the funding opportunity under The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, signed into law on December 29, 2022.
- B-10 AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACPSD) HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA REVISION – FY23: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the revisions to the Head Start/Early Head Start Selection Criteria for Enrollment for pregnant women.
- B-11 AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACPSD) HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM REQUEST FOR DISABILITIES WAIVER – FY23: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the submission of a disabilities waiver request for the 2022-2023 program year.
- B-12 AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACPSD) HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM COVID-19 MITIGATION POLICY – FY23: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the adoption of the Head Start/Early Head Start COVID-19 Mitigation Policy.
- B-13 CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR THE 2023 SCRUBBING AND COATING OF GYMNASIUM FLOORS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the bid and enter into a contract with The Flooring Connection, LLC for Base Bid A: (\$33,375.00) and Base Bid B: (\$28,500.00) for the 2023 Sanding and Coating of gymnasium floors.
- B-14 2023 INSTALLATION OF FLOORING AT J.D. LEVER ELEMENTARY: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the low base bid and enter into a contract with Merit Flooring of Augusta, GA in the total amount of \$158,603.00 for the 2023 Flooring at J.D. Lever Elementary.

B-15 CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR 2022 REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS OF CLEARWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve Change Order #1 from H.G. Reynolds Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the 2022 Replacement of Windows at Clearwater Elementary School.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve items B-1 through B-15 as presented; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

C-1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented

C-2 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

#### 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 welcomed Mrs. Deborah Tyler to the Aiken County Board of Education.

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. Internal Auditor Year End Update/NAHS Athletic Booster Club; Student Matters – Student Appeal – Area Two, Student Appeal Area One; Employment Matters-Administrative Appointment-Aiken Elementary, Employee Matter; Legal Matter-Update on Pending Litigation.

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 7:16 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:30 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:32 p.m.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to Return to Regular Session; SECONDED by Dr. Bradley; 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. Internal Auditor Year End Update/NAHS Athletic Booster Club; Student Matters – Student Appeal – Area Two, Student Appeal Area One; Employment Matters-Administrative Appointment-Aiken Elementary, Employee Matter; Legal Matter-Update on Pending Litigation.

INTERNAL AUDITOR YEAR END UPDATE/NAHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

No Action Taken

## STUDENT MATTERS

### Student Appeal – Area Two

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Two Middle School Student. Mr. Silas MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of alternative placement at the Center of Innovative Learning at Pinecrest for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Student Appeal – Area One

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area One High School Student. Dr. Bradley MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the Hearing Officer of alternative placement at the Center of innovative Learning at Pinecrest for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Silas; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## EMPLOYEE MATTERS

### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT – AIKEN ELEMENTARY

Dr. Bradley MOVED to accept the administration's recommendation and appoint the top candidate as Principal at Aiken Elementary; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### EMPLOYEE MATTER

Dr. Bradley MOVED to approve the change in special programs department leadership from Director II to Assistant Superintendent; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

## LEGAL MATTERS

UPDATE ON PENDING LITIGATION – No Action Taken



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Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mrs. Tyler; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: