

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2015

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 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. Richard Hazen
Mr. John Wesley Hightower
Mr. Keith Liner
Mr. Jeremy Mace
Mr. Ronnie West

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, Superintendent
Mr. David Caver, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Tray Traxler, Comptroller
Mr. William H. Burkhalter, Board Attorney
Dr. Cecelia Hewett, Associate Superintendent
for Administration
Mr. King Laurence, Associate Superintendent
for Instruction/Accountability

Mrs. Laurie Reese, Academic Officer
for Elementary School
Mrs. Joy Shealy, Academic Office
for Middle School
Dr. Tim Yarborough, Academic Officer
for High School
Dr. Randy Stowe, Director of Administration
Mrs. Vicky Durden, Administrative Assistant
to Board/Superintendent

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. Levi Green.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 13, 2015; were presented for approval. Mr. Liner MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 13, 2015; SECONDED by Mr. Hightower; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- BOARD APPRECIATION RECOGNITION: Dr. Everitt expressed appreciation to Board Members for their service and commitment to the students and staff of Aiken County Public Schools. Board members were presented with artwork created by a student in their area.

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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- Brad Siverhus spoke regarding NAHS field turf.
 - Rusty Flanders spoke regarding NAHS Baseball/Softball safety concerns.

- OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

Chairman English reminded the Board of the Spelling Bee scheduled for February 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the URS Building and Oversight Committee meeting scheduled for February 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- A-1 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORTS FOR THE NORTH AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.
- A-2 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mr. Liner gave a brief Legislative Update.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- B-1 RATIFICATION OF EXPULSIONS: Superintendent Everitt recommended the Board ratify the expulsion of students not appealing this action.
- B-2 EASTAIKEN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS' TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS REWARD FOR PROGRESS GRANT – FY15: Superintendent Everitt recommended the Board approve the \$5,000 Title I Distinguished Schools Reward for Progress Grant to East Aiken School of the Arts.
- B-3 SUNSHINE HOUSE DONATION TO CHUKKER CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – FY15: Superintendent Everitt recommended the Board approve the Sunshine House donation to Chukker Creek Elementary School and adjustments to the FY15 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the award and expenditures.
- B-4 APPLICATION FOR IMPACT AID: This item was postponed until February 10, 2015.

B-5 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FIVE-YEAR FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Superintendent Everitt recommended the Board approve the proposed Five-Year Facility Improvement Plan as presented. Mr. Hightower MOVED to remove from Athletic Facilities Needs for 2015-2016 Projects the following: Field Turf – Cyclic Basis – NAHS, AHS, SBHS, MVHS; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION carried on a vote of 5-4 (Mr. Atchley, Mr. Liner, Mr. Hazen and Mr. Mace opposed).

B-6 REQUEST FOR DONATION OF ONE SURPLUS MOBILE UNIT BY MR. HEZE KNEECE: Superintendent Everitt recommended the Board approve the request by Mr. Heze Kneece for donation of a surplus mobile unit.

Mr. Hightower MOVED to approve items B-1 through B-3 and B-5 with changes and B-6; SECONDED by Mr. Green; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS:

C-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Green MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2014-2015; certified retiree rehire personnel for school year 2014-2015; and classified personnel for school year 2014-2015; SECONDED by Mr. Barber; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS:

- Mr. Jeremy Mace discussed District Rebranding. Mr. Mace MOVED to set up a sub-committee for District Branding; SECONDED by Mr. Liner; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Everitt gave a brief update on events around the District.

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: Contractual Issues: Consideration of succession planning for an administrative position; Student Appeals as follow: one transfer appeal from Area 2; one student appeal from Area 2; four student appeals from Area 1; one student appeal from Area 4; Personnel Matters: One administrative appointment; proposed contract options for Superintendent Search Efforts and Procedures; Legal Briefing: two recent decisions on unemployment compensation claims; update on one litigation status.

Mr. Hightower MOVED to enter Executive Session for the purpose as stated; SECONDED by Mr. Hazen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The regular session recessed at 8:17 p.m.

Executive session convened at 8:22 p.m.

Regular session resumed at 10:51 p.m.

Chairman English announced while in executive session the Board considered, or received information concerning, the following matters: Contractual Issues: Consideration of succession planning for an administrative position; Student Appeals as follow: one transfer appeal from Area 2; one student appeal from Area 2; four student appeals from Area 1; one student appeal from Area 4; Personnel Matters: One administrative appointment; proposed contract options for Superintendent Search Efforts and Procedures; Legal Briefing: two recent decisions on unemployment compensation claims; update on one litigation status.

CONTRACTUAL ISSUES:

- CONSIDERATION OF SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION: No action necessary.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS:

- LEGAL BRIEFING: No action necessary.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

- ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT: Mr. Green MOVED to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for Director of School Food Service; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-0-1 (Mr. Hightower abstained). Mr. Karen Johnson was appointed Director of School Food Service.
 - PROPOSED CONTRACT OPTIONS FOR SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH EFFORTS AND PROCEDURES: Mr. Hightower MOVED to proceed with Superintendent search nationally by the Aiken County Board of Education based on previous procedures; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Hazen opposed).
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OFFICE OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:

No items this meeting.

APPEALS:

- a. TRANSFER APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student. Mr. Liner MOVED to deny Out-of-State transfer request as presented; SECONDED by Mr. West; MOTION carried on a vote of 6-3 (Mrs. English, Mr. Barber; and Mr. Hightower opposed).

 - b. STUDENT APPEAL: Mr. Hightower MOVED in view of the Principal's willingness to continue serving this student as a second grader, and in light of the addition interventions that have been offered from the Department of Special Programs, even though this student does not qualify under Section 504 or under IDEA, the Board voted to overturn the earlier decision of the Tribunal and allow the student to continue to be served at the school and that the student and parents cooperate with intervention efforts as may be indicated or offered, and that the student's status will be probationary and under such reasonable circumstances and conditions as the building level administration may impose, consistent with their age and understanding; SECONDED by Mr. Hazen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

 - c. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a middle school student in Area 1. Mr. Hazen MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and expel the student for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Also included in the motion, the administration will determine placement for 2015-2016 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Liner; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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Mr. Barber MOVED to waive Board policy to continue meeting after the 11:00 p.m. stated time; SECONDED by Mr. Hazen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a middle school student in Area 1. Mr. Hightower MOVED to allow the student to return to the Center of Innovative Learning at Pinecrest on strict probation and short term assignment; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION carried on a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Hazen opposed).
 - e. STUDENT APPEAL: This appeal was postponed until February 10, 2015.
 - f. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 4. Mr. Mace MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the Administration and expel the student for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year; SECONDED by Mr. Hazen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - g. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 2. Mr. Hazen MOVED to uphold the decision of the Tribunal and permanently expel the student from Aiken County Public Schools; SECONDED by Mr. Barber; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - h. STUDENT APPEAL: The Board heard an appeal from the parent of a high school student in Area 1. Mr. Atchley MOVED to allow the student to attend the Center of Innovative Learning at Pinecrest on strict probation and short term assignment; SECONDED by Mr. Mace; MOTION carried on a vote 7-2 (Mr. West and Mr. Hazen opposed).
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Mr. Hightower MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Atchley; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Submitted by: Vicky Durden

APPROVED: