

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF AIKEN COUNTY
AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Aiken County Board of Education met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 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 Broom
Dr. Patricia Hanks
Ms. Patrice Rhinehart-Jackson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Barry Moulton
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.

A-000

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 October 24, 2023, were presented for approval; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2023; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Logan Ford spoke regarding the wearing of NJROTC chords at graduation ceremonies.
- Mr. Lowell Koppert spoke regarding the wearing of NJROTC chords at graduation ceremonies.
- Mr. David Paullin spoke regarding the District Strategic Plan Goal #3.
- Ms. Ivy Cousin Clark spoke against In School Suspension as a form of discipline.
- Mr. William Buck spoke in favor of a student's right to use the restroom.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Aiken High School Students Amelia Harper and Jared Allison were recognized as 2023 Swimming State Champions.
 - The Silver Bluff High School NJROTC Unit was recognized for being named the 2022-2023 Most Improved Unit in the Nation.
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VIDEO RECOGNITIONS

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

OFFICE OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Nuessle announced there will be two Special Called Meetings, the first is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Penny Sales Tax. The second Special Called Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, regarding the Superintendent Search process.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- A-1 PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve lists of certified personnel for school year 2023-24: classified personnel for school year 2023-24, certified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24, and classified supplemental personnel for school year 2023-24; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-2 ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY JFABD ADMINISTRATION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS, SECOND READING; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy, Policy JFABD Admission of Homeless Students, Second Reading; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A-3 ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY: POLICY GBEBE GAVIN'S LAW (SEXUAL EXTORTION) (STAFF), FIRST READING; POLICY JICFB GAVIN'S LAW (SEXUAL EXTORTION) (STUDENTS), FIRST READING; Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the following policy: Policy GBEBE Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff), First Reading, Policy JICFB Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Students), First Reading; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-4 UPDATE OF RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve the school district's updated Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A-5 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – COMPREHENSIVE COMPENSATION STUDY: Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to accept the panel's recommendations to hire Management Advisory Group (MAG) International Inc. to conduct the comprehensive compensation study; SECONDED by Dr. Hanks; 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 OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRANSFER REQUESTS – TRANSFERS OUT: Superintendent Laurence recommended that the students be released from Aiken County to attend the out-of-district schools.
- B-3 REQUEST TO ADMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the foreign exchange student listed on the attached sheet for admission to the School District of Aiken County in January of 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. The students have unusual compelling circumstances prompting their requests at this time.

- B-4 BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS TIRE OPERATIONS, LLC DONATION TO AIKEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$1,500.00 Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC donation to Aiken Elementary School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-5 BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS TIRE OPERATIONS, LLC DONATION TO MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the \$2,500.00 Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC donation to Midland Valley High School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the donation and expenditures.
- B-6 DHEC RECYCLING EDUCATION GRANT AWARD TO MOSSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Recycling Education Grant Award to Mossy Creek Elementary in the amount of \$1,500.00 and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the award and expenditures.
- B-7 GREGG GRANITEVILLE FOUNDATION INC. GRANT AWARD TO MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the receipt of the \$9,465.00 Gregg-Graniteville Foundation, Inc. Grant Award to Midland Valley High School and adjustments to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the award and expenditures.
- B-8 SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS COMMISSION – ARTS IN BASIC CURRICULUM LEARNING LOSS GRANT AWARDS – EAST AIKEN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS – FY24: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve the South Carolina Arts Commission ABC Arts in Education Learning Loss Grant in the amount of \$4,998.00 and receipt of funds and adjustment to the FY24 Special Revenue Fund to reflect the amount of the grant award and expenditures.
- B-9 2023 ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PAINTING FOR DISTRICTWIDE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to accept the bids and enter a contract with Carpet Creations, MAR Construction Company, Inc. and G&S Adventures, Inc. for annual districtwide painting for small projects.

B-10 2023 CLEARWATER ELEMENTARY CANOPY PROJECT: Superintendent Laurence recommended to allow the administration to accept the low base bid of \$59,000.00 and enter a contract with H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc for the Canopy at Clearwater Elementary with the funding coming from the Five-Year Facilities roofing account.

B-11 GREENHOUSE INSTALLATION AT MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH: Superintendent Laurence recommended to authorize the administration to enter into a contract with J.E. Stewart, Inc. in the amount of \$294,100.00. The funding will come from the ninety million bond project contingency account.

B-12 CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE PROJECT-MAIN BUILDING PACKAGE GMP #2: Superintendent Laurence recommended to approve Change Order #2 from H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc. in the credit amount of <\$1,541,855.48>.

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to approve item B-1 through B-12 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 HIGHLAND SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

C-3 CONSTRUCTION STATUS REPORT FOR THE WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH SCHOOL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

C-4 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

C-5 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023: The Board reviewed and accepted the information as presented.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

AGENDA ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD POLICY UPDATE – POLICY KCAAA-BLOODMOBILE VISITS – Moved to an upcoming meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO BOARD MEMBERS

No Items This Meeting

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

- Superintendent's Update – Superintendent Laurence gave a brief overview of Leadership Aiken County's visit to the Aiken County Career and Technology Center.

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 One, Student Appeal Area One, Student Appeal Area Five, Student Appeal Area Two. Employment Matters – Employee Matters-Breach of Contract and Legal Matters – Legal Advice – Policy JICJ.

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

Regular Session recessed at 7:14 p.m.

Executive Session convened at 7:25 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 9:17 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 One, Student Appeal Area One, Student Appeal Area Five, Student Appeal Area Two. Employment Matters – Employee Matters-Breach of Contract and Legal Matters – Legal Advice – Policy JICJ.

STUDENT MATTERS

a) 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 decision of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the District's Alternative Program for a 45-day placement; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b) STUDENT APPEAL - AREA ONE

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area One Middle School Student. Dr. Bradley 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 Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

c) STUDENT APPEAL – AREA FIVE

The Board heard an appeal from the parent of an Area Five Middle School Student. Dr. Bradley MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the District Hearing Officer of expulsion and expel the student for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d) STUDENT APPEAL - AREA TWO

The Board heard an appeal from the parents of an Area Two High School Student. Mrs. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to uphold the recommendation of the District Hearing Officer and place the student in the District's Alternative Program for a 45-day placement; SECONDED by Mr. Nuessle; MOTION FAILED on a vote of 2-3-1 (Dr. Bradley, Dr. Hanks, and Mr. Broome opposed) (Mr. Smith abstained); Dr. Bradley MOVED to return the student to school for the remainder of the school year; SECONDED by Mr. Broome; MOTION carried on a vote of 3-2-1 (Mr. Nuessle and Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson opposed) (Mr. Smith abstained)

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

EMPLOYEE MATTERS – BREACH OF CONTRACT

Mr. Smith MOVED to authorize the Superintendent or his designee to make a formal complaint to the State Board of Education regarding Employees A, B, and C's breach of contract; SECONDED by Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

No Items This Meeting

LEGAL MATTERS

LEGAL ADVICE – POLICY JICJ – No Action Taken

Ms. Rhinehart-Jackson MOVED to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Mr. Smith; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Chriswell

APPROVED: