

**REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. TWO
DISTRICT OFFICE**

January 27, 2014

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Florence County School District No. Two was held in the District Administrative Office of Florence County School District No. Two on Monday, January 27, 2014.

Those present: **Mr. Raleigh O. Ward, Jr.**
 Dr. W. L. Coleman
 Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins
 Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews
 Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr.
 Mrs. Angela P. Keith
 Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston

Call to Order

Mr. Raleigh O. Ward, Jr., called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming the visitors. Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins, served as secretary. (Due to family illness, Mr. Hyman and Mr. Gibbs were not present at the meeting).

Recognition of Visitors

No special recognition was given at this time.

Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. W. L. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., to accept the December 16, 2013, minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Communication to the Board

Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that the **Audit** will not be presented tonight by Mr. Jack Holt, but will officially be presented at their February Board Meeting.

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A **Common Core 101** presentation was made by Ms. Kim Poston (Pee Dee Regional S²MART Center Math Instructional Specialist), Mrs. Debbie Carter (HPEM), and Mrs. Angel Tanner (HPEM). First, Ms. Poston gave the Board her business card if they needed additional information. Next, she gave the Board an informal presentation on how the State Department of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. She stated that at the initial introduction of the Common Core Standards, Dr. Jim Rex was the Superintendent and the state had three transition years. In 2011, however, when Dr. Mick Zais became Superintendent, he decided to cut one of the transition years. She stated that 45 states adopted the Common Core Standards, but these standards are not federally mandated. Both a cost analysis and a comparison of how our previous standards stack up with these new standards was conducted. Mr. Ward wanted to know how our teachers felt about the new standards. Mrs. Poston stated she met with some of our elementary/middle math teachers in small groups during the initial stage and this aided grades K-8 in having a jumpstart in learning these new standards. Mrs. Tanner stated that it is new and when the teachers get more comfortable with it, it will get better. Ms. Poston also stated that these standards are new and it is the most political thing she has seen in 30 years. She stated since this has been adopted by our state, we have to remember that we are here to support the teachers and students. Mrs. Keith wanted to know what resources are available. Ms. Poston told the Board that more resources are gradually beginning to be available. Mrs. Tanner then presented the Board with a 5th grade math problem that the teachers are using. She gave an example that would help students associate with an every day, real-life situation, i.e., measuring a room for flooring (area = length x width). After the Board reviewed the example, Mr. Jenkins expressed his concerns on planning a public forum on the Common Core Standards. The Board agreed that an open forum with parents and community is needed. Ms. Poston informed the Board that full implementation will be during the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Poston assured the Board that links are being posted on the Hannah-Pamplico PTO web page and that the February PTO Meeting at Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School will be a Common Core Night for parents (February 18, 2014). Next, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Tanner reminded the Board that homework with the Common Core Standards, which are rigorous, are for the students to work on and not the parents. Mrs. Tanner showed how one cable news network broadcasted that 36% of the 2013 college graduates placed in mal-employment; in other words, these graduates could not get jobs in the field they planned. Mrs. Tanner stated these Common Core Standards will then help with technical skills both in college and careers. Ms. Tanner reiterated how it will get better and that students are already showing signs of using these new standards. Ms. Poston stated that the next year, the 3rd grade will be fully using the Common Core since they are the first group to start from Kindergarten. She explained that Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School Administrators have been identifying gaps for those who had not used Common Core in previous grades and that the district will continue to teach these standards from the early grades on up through to the upper grades. The question was again asked, "How do we get the community more involved?" Ms. Poston said they will need to "talk the facts" by means of PTO meetings and K-12 meetings. In conclusion, Mrs. Carter discussed the ELA Common Core and how it too will be vital in college and in the job market. She stated ELA is helping students to be able to express themselves, to have an opinion, to support that opinion, and to argue that opinion. In turn, this teaches them to support what they say. Informational texts in ELA are being taught now throughout the school setting, i.e., use of textbook manuals and problem-solving reading in general. Again, it was stressed by the Board to establish a plan on how this information will be presented to the public. The Board thanked Ms. Poston, Mrs. Carter, and Mrs. Tanner for the informative presentation.

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The old method and the new **evaluation** system for teachers and principals were given to the Board. The state is looking at a new rating scale which many fear will have an impact on a district rating and on each teacher's evaluation. The new teacher effectiveness score will be based on four evaluation areas/proposed weighting (Observation - 50%, Individual Student Growth - 30%, School Value-Add -10%, and Family Input - 10%) At this time, Florence District Two's teachers are observed based on their level of contract (Induction, Annual, or Continuing), especially if something is being presented that is new through staff development. The principal evaluation scale consists of nine factors: (Vision, Instruction, Effective Management, Climate, School-Community Relations, Ethical Behavior, Interpersonal Skills, Staff Development, and Principal's Professional Development). The full principal evaluation battery will be done every other year and only four factors are addressed in alternate years. The education community had until January 30, 2014, to weigh in their opinion on the State Department of Education website. Mrs. Carter said it is scary to think about the manpower it will take to get all the paperwork done on each individual teacher. Mr. Sullivan will keep the Board abreast on the new evaluation format for teachers and principals.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that the **Statement of Economic Interest Forms** will have to be completed online. It is each Board member responsibility to complete the form by the March 30, 2014. Late filing and failure to file will result in penalties starting at \$100 if the report is not filed within five(5) days of the new March 30, 2014, deadline. Mr. Sullivan reminded the three Board members which seats are expiring, if they plan to run again, they will need to also complete the Campaign Disclosure Form online.

Report of the Superintendent

A motion was made by Dr. W. L. Coleman and seconded by Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., to accept the March 27, 2014, date for the **Annual Citizen's Board of Trustees Election**. Copies of the Announcement (It will run in the legal section of the Morning News on February 2 and 16) and the Board Seat Expire were given to the Board. A candidate can file beginning January 28, 2014, until Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 4:30 p.m., in the District Administrative Office. The Budget Meeting will be held on May 13, 2014.

Mr. Sullivan presented the Board with the **Finance Report**. The current cashflow sheet balance is \$2,113,135.32. The expenditure report through December 31 shows a balance of \$3,866,247.66 and the revenue sheet with a balance of \$3,801,577.43. Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that the employer portion of the insurance will increase.

Mr. Sullivan presented the **2014 Index of Taxpaying Ability** to the Board for their perusal. This document assists districts in budgeting by providing them with the approximated Index factors to be used by the State Department of Education in apportioning the districts' EIA/EFA funding. A copy of the Index is on file in the Superintendent's office. (*See November 22, 2010, January 23, 2012, and January 28, 2013*).

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Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that the **School Board Appreciation Night** will be held on **February 24, 2014**, at 6:15 p.m., at Hannah-Pamplico High School. The Board will review and make a decision whether to change the Board Appreciation Dinner to January before the next school calendar is finalized. January is the official month the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) set for districts to acknowledge school board members; however, District Two has always waited until the February meeting to have the special dinner.

Old Business

An update was given on the **Administrative Rule ADF-R – School Wellness**. First, Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that the verbiage was changed to read, “All snack foods served/sold to students during the school day *should* meet USDA standards for FMNV, staff *will monitor for USDA Standards* and be limited to the following maximum portion sizes.” Mr. Sullivan gave the Board copies of the list of items that will be sold during the 8th Grade Canteen Friday and the news article entitled, “Feds Post Food Allergy Guidelines for Schools.” At this time, Mrs. Keith is still concerned on how our district cannot have classroom parties because of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) in reference to serving/selling candy bars and popsicles, in lieu of, how other neighboring districts are not restricting these items from their students. Mr. Legrande Richardson gave the Board an update of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) new nutritional focus on sodium and caffeine. Ms. Tarah McCreary, SDE Nutritionist, will be coming to review the USDA guidelines with Mrs. Johnnis Tanner. The district’s nutritional committee will also be meeting in the near future to discuss these new updates and guidelines. Policy ADF - School Wellness was adopted in 2009.

Mr. Sullivan gave the Board an update on the January 28-29, 2014, Winter Storm Impacts and Assessment for our area. Mr. Sullivan said there may be an early dismissal on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. A letter went out to the staff and the parents of Florence School District Two. The news media were also contacted. The announcement will also be placed on the district’s website. Mr. Sullivan told the Board that he was happy with the coverage that the news media was broadcasting.

Mr. Sullivan also reviewed the days each Board member will be attending the SCSBA Annual convention on February 20-23, 2014. The convention will be held at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The following documents were mailed to the Board on **January 15, 2014**, as information.

- 1. Board Minutes - December 16, 2013 [Please Review]**
- 2. January 9, 2014, Invitation - Governor Nikki Haley - K-12 Education Reception & The K-12 Education Reform Initiative - 2014**
- 3. January 2014 Calendar of Events - HPHS**
- 4. January 2014 Calendar of Events - HPEM**

Copies of these documents are available in the Superintendent’s office.

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New Business

At 8:25 p.m., Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the **Superintendent's Evaluation**. Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

At 9:04 p.m., Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

In Open Session, no action was taken.

Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins. The motion carried unanimously.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-89 (d), as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: Morning News, Florence County School District No. Two, Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Administrators of Florence County School District No. Two.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Mr. Raleigh O. Ward, Jr.
Board Chairman

Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins
Secretary