

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

January 24, 2011

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 24, 2011.

Those present: **Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston**
 Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr.
 Mr. Robert L. Carter
 Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews
 Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins
 Mr. Lawrence S. Kennedy, Jr.
 Mr. David Poston

Call to Order

Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. by welcoming the visitors. Mr. Robert L. Carter, served as secretary. Mr. Jenkins arrived at 7:29 p.m. for the meeting.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no special recognitions.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., and seconded by Mr. Robert L. Carter to accept the December 6, 2010, minutes as written. The motion carried 6-0.

Communication to the Board

Mr. Sullivan presented information to the Board on the **Projected Tier III Reimbursement for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**. The Tier III reimbursement for Florence School District Two is projected to be \$485,746 with an additional \$34,492 of Tier III reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 resulting in a total reimbursement of \$520,238. Beginning in September, these funds will be disbursed each month in ten equal payments. Mr. Sullivan stated this fund source has been great for homeowners, but have not been a good source of tax revenue for the educational system. Mr. Sullivan also stated the estimate may have to be revised once the final revenue, consumer price index (CPI), and the population figures are in for 2010-2011. Tier III is the amount from the additional one penny sales tax that goes to the Homestead Exemption Fund to reimburse school districts for the exemption on owner-occupied homes. *(See 01/25/10 Board Minutes)*

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After Mr. Jack Holt gave a brief overview, a motion was made by Mr. David Poston and seconded by Mr. Lawrence S. Kennedy, Jr., to accept the **2009-2010 Financial Audit**. Mr. Holt highlighted all the major funds to include: the Food Service Fund, the Building Fund, the Debt Service Fund, the Special Revenue, and the General Fund. He commended the District for the Food Service Fund having a \$49,000 surplus. This was due to the increase in USDA reimbursement, increase student enrollment, and free and reduced lunch reimbursement fees. Mr. Holt also stated this was a good year for the General Fund due to a 16.5% decrease in the 2009-2010 expenditures. The district was left with a \$173,000 surplus in the General Fund. Mr. Holt also informed the Board that the Debt Service is currently at 4.3 million dollars with two outstanding bonds. He commended Mr. Sullivan and the administrative staff for managing funds in this economically difficult year. Mr. Sullivan commended Mr. Holt and his staff for their patience with the audit. Mrs. Poston commended Mr. Sullivan and the Administrative Staff on behalf of the Board for all their efforts with the 2009-2010 budget. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the audit is on file in the Superintendent's office

Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that the **2011-2012 Calendar** will be presented at the February 28, 2011, Board Meeting. Mr. Sullivan told the Board, by postponing the calendar presentation a month later, this gives the calendar committee extra time to look at additional adjustments to the school calendar. The following are different scenarios that could change the calendar: (1) end-of-the-year dates, (2) 170-day school year, (3), furloughs, etc. Mr. Hyman asked the Board if they or their constituents would like to have something added to the calendar to please let him know.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board of completing the **Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) Forms** online. The law was passed on March 28, 2010 to have all elected officials to file their statement of economic interest forms and their campaign disclosure forms electronically. This information has been sent to individual Board members via email. New candidates will also be informed about these new filing procedures. Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that incumbents and candidates were not to use government equipment to file their Campaign Disclosure reports online; however assistance could be given to individuals with the statement of Economic Interest forms as long as assistance was offered to all individuals that are required to file the SEI.

Report of the Superintendent

A motion was made by Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews and seconded by Mr. David Poston to approve the voting of trustees for the **Annual Citizens' Meeting** for Thursday, March 31, 2011. At this time, the three-year terms of Mr. David Poston (Seat No. 3), Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr. (Seat No. 4), and Mr. Robert L. Carter (Seat No. 5) are expiring. The voting will take place from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Hannah-Pamplico High School Gymnasium. Mr. Sullivan also informed the Board that the Administrative Staff can schedule events, preferably home events, on this date since local legislation is being introduced to delay the Budget portion of the meeting before June thirtieth. If the local legislation does not gain the approval of the State Legislature and Governor Haley, the district would have to revert back to no events on March 31, 2011. The Board directed Mr. Sullivan to send out advertisements, etc. for this meeting. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the advertisement, the announcement, and the candidate's registration forms are on file in the Superintendent's office.

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Mr. Sullivan gave the Board an update on the **Local Legislation - Citizens' Budget Meeting**. Mr. Sullivan also informed the Board that a second amendment was sent to delete a statement from the first draft of the bill. At this time, the district is waiting to receive the final approval from the State Legislature for Florence County School District Two which will enable the district to call a separate meeting on the proposed district budget prior to June thirtieth of each year. The time and the place of this meeting must be advertised in a newspaper at least once, ten days prior to the meeting. In the past, the Citizens' Budget Meeting was always held at 8:00 p.m. after the voting of the trustees was completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawrence S. Kennedy, Jr., and seconded by Mr. David Poston to approve the **Joint Board Meeting with Florence District Three on February 2, 2011, Lake City at 5:30 p.m. and February 7, 2011, Pamplico, 7:00 p.m.** These meetings will further discuss the proposal prepared by Bond Attorneys, Haynsworth Sinlker Boyd, P.A., entitled, "Sales Tax for School Improvements in Florence County." The proposal highlighted what could be funded with the one cent sales tax, which was imposed May 1, 2007, for seven years for road construction. School districts are looking at how this money can be utilized for education after the termination date in May 2014 for road construction. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the meeting dates is on file in the Superintendent's office. *(See 11/22/10 Board Minutes)*

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board of the **School Board Appreciation Night on February 28, 2011 at Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School at 6:30 p.m..**

Mr. Sullivan presented the Board with an invitation for a **Community Chicken Bog** from Senator Hugh Leatherman. The event will take place on Monday, January 31, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at Hannah-Pamplico Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria. Citizens will be given the opportunity to discuss issues that are important to their families.

Old Business

Mr. Sullivan presented to the Board a **Sewer Update**. He stated the project was about to be completed and the district was now waiting on the hook-up by New Power, the local electric company. The district has completed the change order and no additional billing should come from B. P. Barber. This project was initially funded with the help of the former County Councilman Ken Ard. *(See 1/25/2010, 2/25/10, & 05/24/10, Board Minutes)*

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Mr. Sullivan presented as information to the Board a brief summary of the **S. C. Education Finance Reform**. This plan to restructure education funding was presented at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce by the Excellence in Education Council on January 6, 2011. . Mr. Bick Halligan, Attorney with Childs & Halligan, P.A. spearheaded the legal aspect of this reform. Mr. Sullivan highlighted how the restructuring process will help with the equalization of education finance for all school districts statewide. Citizens would also benefit from the equalization because the proposal would include a \$600,000 reduction in taxes, 100 mills cap across the state, and uniform millage rate for all districts. Mr. Sullivan stated the Education Finance Act (EFA) was formed in 1977, the Education Improvement Act (EIA) was established in 1984, and it has now been 26 years since any type of reform has been made for funding education. He stated we need reform soon because schools will not be able to operate. Mr. Sullivan asked the Board to review the information and call him if they had any questions prior to the presentation that will be made at the upcoming SCSBA Annual Convention in February. Mr. Sullivan stated this education restructuring initiative was a good thing because the people who are involved have a background in school finance and are involved in it everyday. A copy of this presentation on the S. C. Education Finance Restructuring Act is on file in the Superintendent's office.

Mr. Sullivan updated the Board on the **Booster Club - Weight Room Commitment**. The Booster had agreed to pay for half the weight room equipment and the District would pay the other half. Payments are currently up-to-date from the Booster Club.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews and seconded by Mr. David Poston to accept the resignation of **Ms. Sara McSwain** for the position she was offered in regards to her previous reduction-in-force loss of employment. Ms. McSwain declined to accept an Early Childhood position and did not sign a contract. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resignation is on file in the Superintendent's office. The district has fulfilled its obligation to Mrs. McSwain according to the Reduction-in-Force Policy.

A motion was made by Mr. David Poston and seconded by Mrs. Mona Lisa M. Andrews to fully release **Mrs. Bernethio Livingston** from her contract with Florence County School District Two. Mrs. Livingston's resignation was accepted by the Board on November 22, 2010, contingent upon a suitable replacement for her position. This Special Education position is still currently available. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resignation is on file in the Superintendent's office. *(See 11/22/10 Board Minutes)*

At 8:04 p.m., Mr. David Poston made the motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Johnny R. Jenkins seconded the motion.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. David Poston made the motion to come out of Executive Session, Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., seconded the motion.

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In Open Session, Mr. Thadis D. Calcutt, Jr., made the motion to extend, in writing, Mr. Sullivan's contract. Mrs. Poston will present Mr. Sullivan with a formal written evaluation within the next week. Mr. David Poston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The following documents were mailed to the Board on **December 16, 2010**, as information.

1. **Board Minutes - December 6, 2010 [Please Review]**
2. **News Article: Nearly 500 South Carolina Teachers Achieve the Prestigious National Board Certification**
3. **Hannah-Pamplico High School ACT/SAT Performance Improvement Award (ASPI) Program**
4. **2010 SAT Scores**
5. **2010 ACT Scores**

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

Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Robert L. Carter 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 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Elleveen T. Poston
Board Chairman

Mr. Robert L. Carter
Secretary