

Williston School District 29 Board of Trustees
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
November 20, 2017
7:00 p.m.
District Board Room
12255 Main Street
Williston, South Carolina 29853

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Ferlecia A. Cuthbertson called the November 20, 2017, regular monthly board meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Ferlecia A. Cuthbertson, Vice-Chair Michael L. Hutto, Secretary Doris B. Young, and Member Russell J. Overton.

Members absent: None

Noting a quorum was present.

Media: Jonathan Vickery, *The People Sentinel*

Administration present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Everette Dean, Coordinator of Human Resources Stephanie Alford, Director of Transportation/Medicaid Clerk Chantane Tobin, District Technology Coordinator Amy Nix, Director of Finance Rose Anderson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability Debra McCord, Director of Student and Special Services Dr. Tasha Louis-Nance, Food Service Coordinator Eugenia Johnson, Principals Nakeisha Baxley, and Alison Brady, Recording Secretary Debbie McNeil, and ten guest.

2. Invocation/Pledge Allegiance to the American Flag

The invocation was given by Mrs. Young followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Cuthbertson asked that the agenda be approved as written.

MOTION: Mr. Overton SECOND: Mrs. Young

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Cuthbertson asked that the minutes of the October 17, 2017, regular monthly Board meeting be approved as written.

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mr. Hutto

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

5. Public Participation

No one presented at this time.

6. Achievements & Recognitions

Dr. Dean recognized Rhonda Overbey, publisher of *The Aiken Standard* and Eric Russell, sports director for the same newspaper. Ms. Overbey explained that during this year's football season *The Aiken Standard* had the privilege of broadcasting one of the district's football games. She told the Board that this year they shared the revenue with their advertisers and sponsors and part of their participation involved the newspaper to give a donation back to the school. High School Principal Alison Brady accepted the check on behalf of the athletic department.

Mrs. Brady recognized the following students for their recent achievements.

October Students of the Month:

- Catherine Arbogast
- Maleek Battle
- Alyssa Brown
- Ansley Sweat
- Maya Watkins

November Rotary Student of the Month:

- Coy Johnson

High School Positive Role Model and Demonstrating Outstanding Character:

- Elaysa Brown

7. Interim Superintendent's Update

Dr. Dean stated that he was asked to give a brief overview of some of the options the board had in ways the board could go about hiring a new superintendent. He presented the following ways this could be done.

- Promote from within
- Conduct your own search
- Employ a firm that specializes in superintendents' searches
- Employ the South Carolina School Boards Association to either do a full or partial search for school superintendents
- Employ a "Head Hunter" who the board would employ to go out and make contact with people they knew and encourage them to apply. They would also take care of the applications submitted and help the board select the ones they would want to interview for this position.

Dr. Dean said he had met with the Director of Instruction and the principals to talk about strengths, weakness, and areas of concerns in the school district.

Dr. Dean reported that he had spend a good deal of time looking at finance and operations to see how the district could be as efficient and effective as possible as well as economically. Dr. Dean went on to say this information would be useful at budget time, to discuss what options the district had and what the district could do to be more efficient in meeting the students' needs.

8. Continuing Business

8.1 2016-2017 Financial Audit Report

Mr. David Enzastiga, from Rish and Enzastiga Certified Public Accountants, presented the 2016-17 audit report for Williston School District 29. Mr. Enzastiga reported that the district budgeted \$7,629,672 in General Fund Revenue with actual revenue totaling \$7,451,966 for a difference of \$177,706. Actual expenditures, \$7,814,285, were below budgeted expenditures of \$7,840,164 for a positive variance of \$25,879. Mr. Enzastiga went on to explain that despite the decrease, the district has a fund balance of \$1,557,855, which is enough money to cover 2.4 months' worth of expenses. He encouraged the district to maintain this amount, or even higher. Mr. Hutto made a motion to accept the 2016-17 Financial Audit Report as information only until the final report is received.

SECOND: Mr. Overton ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

8.2 Finance Department

• Monthly Budget Report

Rose Anderson, Director of Finance, presented the October 2017 monthly budget report. Some questions were asked.

• Financial Update

Mrs. Anderson reported that all budgets for grants had been entered into the GAP system and had been approved by the state with several budgets pending. Tier 2, MSF funds had been approved for spending by the state. She also told the Board that the five year construction and improvement plan was in process with the project management team. The District received five RFQ's for the architectural bids with the top three being chosen by the district project manager. Interviews will be scheduled.

8.3 Policy JFABF: Students in Foster Care-2nd/Final Reading

Dr. Tasha Louis-Nance, Director of Student and Special Services, asked that the Board approve policy JFABF, Students in Foster Care as the 2nd and final reading. After some discussion a vote was called.

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mrs. Hutto

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

9. New Business

9.1 Overnight Field Trip Request

Mrs. Cuthbertson presented the overnight field trip request for the WEMS Jr. BETA Club to attend the state convention in Myrtle Beach, S.C., January 10-12, 2018.

MOTION: Mr. Hutto SECOND: Mrs. Young

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Executive Session: Discussion of Employment Matters

At 8:04 pm, Mrs. Young made a motion that the Board enter into executive session for the discussion of employment matters. Mr. Hutto seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

At 9:40 pm, Mrs. Young made a motion that the Board adjourn executive session. Mr. Hutto seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

OPEN SESSION

11. Action on matters discussed in Executive Session

- **Employment Matters**

Mr. Hutto` made the following motion.

"Madame Chair, I move that the Board conditionally accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that Employee A, a continuing contract educator, be immediately dismissed from employment for the reasons set forth in a letter dated November 14, 2017, and subject to the Board's duty to review the matter on the merits pursuant to South Carolina law should the individual request a hearing. I so move."

SECOND: Mr. Overton ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

12. Adjournment

At 9:42 pm, Mr. Overton made a motion for adjournment.

SECOND: Mrs. Young ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Ferlecia A. Cuthbertson, Board Chair

Debra W. McNeil, Recording Secretary