

GREENWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 50
Greenwood, South Carolina

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 17, 2009

Board Chair Debrah Miller called the regular meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the Genesis Education Center and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members present were Tony Bowers, LeVerne Fuller, Roy Hemphill, Sheila Riddle, James Williams, and Claude Wright. Board members Tom Pritchard and Dan Richardson were absent.

The following were notified of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting: *The Index-Journal*, *Ninety Six Star and Beacon*, *Greenwood Today*, Sunny 103.5, News Channel 7, *The Greenville News*, WLOS TV Channel 13, and Channel 4 News. Ms. Felicia Kitzmiller with *The Index-Journal* and Mr. Johnathan Graves with *Greenwood Today* attended the meeting.

There were no participants *Public Forum*.

The *Minutes* of the July 20, and August 10, 2009, Board meetings were approved as presented without objection.

The *Agenda* was adopted as presented without objection.

Dr. Johnson began the *Superintendent's Report*. Under *Administrators' Retreat*, Dr. Johnson reported that the *Administrators' Retreat* was held on Tuesday, August 11, and that all the District administrators participated in the meeting. Next, Dr. Johnson reported that approximately 1200 District employees attended the *Opening-of-School Activities* at Emerald High School on Friday, August 14. The final item addressed by Dr. Johnson was the *SC Board of Education Absolute Rating*. He shared information from South Carolina Department of Education commending District 50's academic performance in that all of the District's schools achieved an *absolute* rating above "At-Risk" on the November 2008 report card. He also noted that only forty percent (40%) of the school districts in South Carolina have accomplished this goal.

Under the second Information Item, *Professional Learning Communities/Response to Intervention*, Ms. Pat Ross, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, recognized Ms. Jean Powell, *Response to Intervention Coordinator*, who shared a power point presentation. Some of the topics presented by Ms. Powell included the need for change in delivering remediation services to children, the importance of adopting a *Response to Intervention* (RTI) model and the ways this model will help the students. Ms. Powell emphasized that the focus of RTI is prevention - providing support before a student fails, and results – using frequent assessments to measure student learning. Regarding Professional Learning Communities (PLC), Ms. Powell noted that the commitment of PLC is to work

collaboratively using collective knowledge and skills to achieve better results for the students they serve. In addition, she noted that PLC will focus on critical questions of learning and she concluded by sharing the benefits of collaboration. Ms. Powell, along with Ms. Ross, responded to questions and comments.

Under the third Information Item, *21st Century Learning Summer Program*, Ms. Ross recognized Ms. Amy Hildenbrand, Instructional Specialist at Oakland Elementary School, who reviewed a power point presentation regarding the summer program “Soaring Beyond Expectations.” According to Ms. Hildenbrand, approximately 95 students from five different schools, 18 certified teachers, and seven YMCA staff participated in the program held at Woodfields Elementary School which included academics and the arts, bookmobile visits, field experiences, character-building sports, a guest speaker, and parent showcases.

Under the fourth Information Item, *Choice Programs*, Ms. Cathy Chalmers, Magnet School Program Coordinator, was recognized. Ms. Chalmers commented that approximately 300 students will be served in the Magnet Program this year. She also commented on summer professional development activities for teachers and teambuilding activities held with the students. Next, Ms. Pearly Milton, Director of Elementary Education, was recognized and reviewed a power point presentation regarding the Montessori Program. Information presented by Ms. Milton highlighting the program included points of emphasis, characteristics of a Montessori classroom, and goals and roles of the teacher. In concluding the presentation, Ms. Milton noted that in the Montessori Program students are taught on their level, there is no cap on learning level, multi-aging offers alternatives to grade retention, creativity and curiosity are fostered, and the emphasis is on independence. Ms. Milton responded to questions and comments concerning the program. Next, Ms. Milton shared a power point presentation on Single Gender Classes – “Maximizing Learning for Students.” Information presented by Ms. Milton included the philosophy that boys and girls learn differently and, therefore, should be taught differently. She also commented concerning the differences between girls and boys in seeing, hearing, and working environments. In concluding the presentation on single gender classes, Ms. Milton commented that Woodfields Elementary School has single gender classes in grades 2 – 4. Ms. Milton, along with Ms. Ross, responded to questions and comments.

Under the fifth Information Item, *H1N1 Immunization Program*, Dr. Gary Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Business, recognized Ms. Nancy Moore, Lead Nurse, who shared information on educating students and teachers on preventative measures. She commented that dialogue continues with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regarding the availability of flu vaccine. She also noted that trends in attendance will be studied.

Under the sixth Information Item, *Transportation Update*, Mr. Gerald Witt, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, recognized Mr. Robert Riley, Director of Transportation, who provided an overview of the transportation program in preparation

for the opening of school. He noted that, due to the location of the new Mathews Elementary School, an additional 120 students will be transported from the Mathews Community and that all parents in this particular node have been notified. Mr. Riley responded to a question.

The next Information Item, *Financial Update*, was presented by Assistant Superintendent Johnson who informed the Board that that this is the second consecutive year that the State has provided no new buses. He also informed the Board that in July there was a two percent (2%) lowering of the revenue estimate and that districts have been advised that there will be additional cuts in August.

Under the next Information Item, *Facilities Update*, Assistant Superintendent Johnson commented concerning the ongoing work to have the facilities ready for the opening of school. He then recognized Mr. Forrest King with Southern Management Group who provided an update on ongoing projects along with a budget update for each project.

The final Information Item, *Board Worksession*, was addressed by Board Chair Miller. She reviewed the Board Priorities and Administrative Goals for the 2009-2010 School Year. She also noted that the next step in the process will be for the Administration to determine strategies for each goal and this information may be presented at the regular September meeting for Board approval. The Administration was commended for working to recruit and hire minority classroom teachers during the past year.

The first Action Item, *Surplus Portable Classrooms*, was addressed by Assistant Superintendent Johnson who presented the Administration's recommendation that nine portable classroom units be declared surplus property and that any of the units which are in a condition that would warrant be offered to other Greenwood County governmental agencies or sold through a sealed bid process. After Dr. Johnson responded to a question, Mr. Bowers, Building Committee Chairman, moved and Mr. Williams seconded a motion that nine portable classroom units be declared surplus property and that any of the units which are in a condition that would warrant be offered to other Greenwood County governmental agencies or sold through a sealed bid process. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The final Action Item, *Personnel Recommendations and Vacancies*, was presented by Mr. Vaughn. Mr. Bowers moved and Ms. Fuller seconded a motion to approve personnel recommendations as listed on the gray sheet and as presented by the Administration. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Board Chair Miller stated that there was no need for an Executive Session.

After comments by Superintendent Johnson regarding the high caliber of District 50's personnel, the meeting adjourned without objection at 8:48 p.m.

Debrah Miller

LeVerne Fuller

Debrah Miller, Chair

LeVerne Fuller, Secretary

September 21, 2009

Date Approved

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