

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2024

4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Freddie Charleston, President.

Establishment of a quorum.

Members present: Mr. Freddie Charleston, Mrs. Lynda Joiner, Mr. John McAlpine, Mr. Chester Moore, and Mr. Rayvell Smith.

Members absent: none.

The invocation was given by Mr. Charleston.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mrs. Joiner and seconded by Mr. Smith. It carried unanimously.

Second Approval of Previous Meetings

The motion for second approval of the December 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes and the January 17, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. McAlpine. It carried unanimously.

I, Luke Hallmark, Superintendent of Education of Marengo County Schools, do hereby make the following recommendations:

Business Matters

- **Richard Johnson – Financial Update**  
Mr. Richard Johnson, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of November 30, 2023, was \$1,973,681.23. The receipts were \$1,324,369.69 while the expenditures were \$1,735,853.54. This left a December 31, 2023, cash balance of \$1,562,197.38. The first quarter of FY 2024 is over. Mr. Johnson will have a report at the next board meeting to compare our actual numbers to our budgeted numbers.
- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**  
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Director, gave a report to the Board members. The ACAP Practice Test was delayed and will be rescheduled to start on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Work on the Access Control Lock System is complete at all schools. Capability to unlock the doors remotely is being added. All cameras on the buses are currently working but we are looking to upgrade when funds are available. Handheld metal detectors have been given to all schools and the Alternative School. An RFP has been created for bid for upgrading our network cabling at each school. E-Rate Category 2 funds in the amount of \$86,000 must be spent / obligated this year. E-Rate will pay 85% of the cabling bill up to \$86,000. We will do one campus this year. The YASS grant has awarded the district five (5) virtual reality headsets in addition to those already purchased. They should be available in March. A district ACT Boot Camp for our juniors will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We are awaiting the specs on the exterior doors so we can solicit bids for this project.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**  
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave dates for the Mid-Year Reviews at all schools. A. L. Johnson High School and Sweet Water High School finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively at the recent Robotics Competition at UWA. Professional development opportunities were held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> for all K – 5 teachers in the district and a Unified Insights Training for the Instructional Leader and the three Reading Coaches was held in Tuscaloosa on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The MTSS district meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Central Office. The FAFSA portal is open and Mrs. Ward is working with the seniors and their parents to get it completed. Adulting Day has been set for Sweet Water High School and Marengo High School on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Career Project presentations will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 mentors throughout our schools. Each mentor received a stipend from the ALSDE for their time. PreK math kits have arrived. These kits will be used for small group instruction. PreK registration has begun at each school. A. L. Johnson High School has five (5), Marengo High School has six (6), and Sweet Water High School has 28 registered so far. Kindergarten registration will begin on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Mental Health Coordinator, Ms. Kenyetta Evans, will become an instructor for Youth Mental Health First Aid. She has been named a mentor for our region. She has also completed a proposal to present at MEGA again this year on Self-Care for Teachers. The 2024 ALSDE Spring Safe Training schedule is set for January, February, and March. A meeting with the Reading Coaches will be held on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for summer school. Once the new Math Coach is in place at A. L. Johnson High School, the math team will begin developing the instructional plan. Data will be looked at to identify students that are at-risk in Reading (K – 3) and / or Math (K – 5).
- **Legislative Update**  
The Superintendent gave the Board members a review of the upcoming legislative sessions. Bills to be made aware of are: School Choice, using Chaplains, limiting cell phones, legalizing gambling, adding assistant principals, lowering divisors in grades 4 -8, fully funding transportation, addressing school safety concerns, fully funding instructional coaches along with reading and math coaches, and funding summer instructional camps.

Concerns the Superintendent wanted the Board members to know about is the education revenues are slightly down. Without additional revenue, some programs will not be adequately funded.

- The Superintendent reported on several issues that might be brought up in the next legislative session. Bills such as school choice and gambling could have effects on all school systems throughout the state. The ACHE has a \$2.12 billion budget which is a 6.84% increase from last year. This is for two and four-year institutions. The ETF should have plenty of carryover money for the next fiscal year.
- The Superintendent reminded the Board members that the Fair Campaign Finance Report is due January 31, 2024.
- Utilities / Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium  
The utilities report for December, 2023, was \$26,617.05 as compared to \$31,436.16 in December, 2022. The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement balance for December 31, 2023, was \$56,806.63 in the checking account and \$90,908.14 in a CD.

#### Executive Session

Mr. McAlpine motioned that the Board enter Executive Session at 5:22 p.m. A second came from Mr. Smith. It carried unanimously.

Mr. Moore made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. and it was seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.

#### New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for December, 2023, be accepted.
2. That the General, Federal, Capital Projects, Accounts Payable, and Payroll account bank statements as reconciled by Chief Financial Officer and reviewed by the Superintendent for December, 2023, be accepted.
3. That the board approve a resolution for transition between Luke Hallmark and the new Superintendent.
4. That the Board approve paying Luke Hallmark any remaining vacation days for his 2023-2024 contract.

Personnel Recommendations

5. That the Board approve the Superintendent’s personnel recommendations as follows:

Employment of Certified Employees

Shanda Early-Brown (effective February 8, 2024)	A. L. Johnson High School	Building-Based Math Coach
Marc Tracy (effective date TBD)	Sweet Water High School	Principal

Resignations

Alexis Bryant (effective January 31, 2024)	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher
Ruby McKinley (effective February 7, 2024)	Sweet Water High School	Teacher

Transfers

Gwen Green (transfer to Assistant Manager effective January 29, 2024)	Marengo High School	CNP Manager
Teresa Lewis (transfer to Manager effective January 29, 2024)	Marengo High School	CNP Assistant Manager

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve items 1, 2, and 5. A second came from Mrs. Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve items 3 and 4. A second came from Mrs. Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

6. That the Board select a group to handle the search for a new Superintendent.

Items 6 was added to select a group to handle the process of finding a new Superintendent. A motion from Mr. McAlpine was made to use Boardman and Carr. A second came from Mr. Smith. It carried unanimously.

#### Superintendent's Report

- Severe Weather / E-Learning
- Water Issues – Marengo High School
- AASB Advocacy Day – April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- AASB Summer Conference in Gulf Shores – June 28<sup>th</sup>
- SSA District 2 Meeting in Marion – January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- AHSAA District 3 Meeting in Selma – March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Marengo County Board of Education FY 2023 Audit
- Marengo County Spring Sports

#### Date and Time of Next Regular Meeting of the Board

The date and time of the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

#### Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Moore. It carried unanimously.