

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2022

4:00 p.m.

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

Establishment of a quorum.

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

Mr. Chester Moore was present through ZOOM.

Members absent: none.

The invocation was given by Mr. Smith.

Approval of Agenda

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

Second Approval of November 17, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the November 17, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mrs. Joiner.

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

Business Matters

- **Diana Luker – Financial Update**
Mrs. Diana Luker, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of October 31, 2022, was \$654,233.52. The receipts were \$2,037,344.01 while the expenditures were \$531,168.91. This left a November 30, 2022, cash balance of \$2,160,408.62. The revenues and expenditures are looking good. Mrs. Luker also wanted to thank the Board members for their support while she was tending to her ill husband.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave the Board members an academic update. Ms. Kimora Moore-Jones, student at Marengo High School, was chosen by The University of Alabama to be Scientist-for-a-Day. She was one of only four students chosen throughout the state. The Report Card grades for 2021-2022 were released and the Marengo County School District finished with an 81 (B) score. Individual school scores were: A. L. Johnson High School – 60 (D), Marengo High School – 66 (D), and Sweet Water High School – 85 (B). School improvement meetings have already been scheduled. The first one is scheduled for January 23rd. The Mid-Year Benchmark testing is almost complete and so far, lots of growth has been shown districtwide. ACT Prep is available for all juniors to help with increasing their ACT score. Mr. Katrell Watters recently received a \$7,500 grant from Alabama Power Company to be used for creating a safe and healthy academic environment conducive to learning while increasing student achievement. Mr. Tate Luker received a \$2,000 grant from the Daniel Foundation to build a STEAM Makerspace in the library. nSide will audit our School Safety Plans for each school and make recommendations, if needed. AMSTI will be offering professional development in the area of math to help determine the specific areas that need support. The Literacy Family Informational Night will be held in January to update the 2nd grade parents on the Literacy Act. This will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions. Another meeting will be held for the 1st grade parents on another date. A Digital Learning Training was held on December 14th for our Media Specialists. FAFSA at all our schools is almost complete. Sweet Water High School has had 100% completion while A. L. Johnson is at 78% and Marengo High School is at 68%. All three of our schools will receive the Best Hustle Award for their early FAFSA improvement. In the third week of January, Adulting Days will take place. Representatives from the local banks will go to the schools and discuss the benefits a bank can provide to them. In February, Ms. Brenda Ghantt will teach the students through ZOOM how to follow recipes and the basics of learning to cook. February will have law enforcement speak to the students about communication with police and later in the month, an attorney will speak to them about when they might need legal advice. The Betabox has visited all three schools and provided the students with an opportunity to learn how to assemble and program app-controlled drones.
- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, gave an update on things going on in the area of technology. Presently, the school system is upgrading the technology support by using Lodestar. This group will be useful in helping to troubleshoot problems that might arise. Upgrading cameras is also being looked at. This would help in providing security for the schools.
- **Legislative Update / Revenue Abstract**
The Superintendent gave the Board members a legislative update. There is an unexpected excess in education funding from this past year. The excess totaled \$2.7 billion and the legislators will have the duty to budget it. There have been suggestions of giving taxpayer rebates, creating tax cuts, investing in more educational programs, and possibly looking at the way school systems are funded. The initial thought was revenue of \$7.7 billion, but it ended up at \$10.4 billion. There have been many questions about how the recent decline in the stock market will affect the retirement system. It certainly has an effect on the unfunded liability, but it will affect a person's retirement.

- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for October 31, 2022, was \$84,017.47 in the checking account and \$90,410.93 in a CD. The utilities report for October, 2021, was \$30,474.75 and November, 2021, was \$18,704.41 while October, 2022, was \$28,482.98 and November, 2022, was \$26,897.51.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for September, October, and November, 2022, be approved.
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 September, October, and November, 2022, be approved.

Personnel Recommendations

3. That the Board approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignation of Support Personnel

Ricky Tensley (effective November 30, 2022)	Sweet Water High School	Janitor
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Employment of Support Personnel

Sarah Allen (effective January 5, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	Janitor
Joey Black (effective December 5, 2022)	Sweet Water High School	Bus Driver
Betty Watkins (effective January 5, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	Instructional Aide
Mikel Wiggins (effective January 5, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Bus Driver

Mr. McAlpine made the motion to approve items 1 through 3. A second came from Mrs. Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- Teacher Shortage / Numeracy Act
- State Examiners
- Bus Inspections
- West Alabama Project
- ADM History / Charter School Enrollment
- TikTok Concerns
- Alabama Power Rates / Cold Weather
- Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium Disbursements
- Bills to Watch

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, January 26, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mr. McAlpine. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President