

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023

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 Mr. McAlpine and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.

Second Approval of December 19, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the December 19, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mr. McAlpine.

Board Member Recognition

Before the Superintendent started his report, he recognized the Board members during School Board Recognition Month. The Principals had gifts for them and the central office provided cake and refreshments. The Board members thanks everyone for their thoughtfulness.

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 November 30, 2022, was \$2,160,408.62. The receipts were \$2,087,766.24 while the expenditures were \$2,925,570.89. This left a December 31, 2022, cash balance of \$1,322,603.97. The revenues and expenditures remain good after the first quarter even though the utilities have been higher than expected.
- **Larry Perrin – Schneider Electric Update**
Mr. Larry Perrin with Schneider Electric gave an update to the Board about the Energy Efficiency and Capital Reinvestment Program. The upgrade of wiring needs to be corrected as soon as possible. All of the schools need attention to this matter, especially Sweet Water High School. Once the electrical issues are corrected, the upgrades to lighting, communications, alarms, alerts, and temperature monitors can begin. The current project value is estimated at almost \$4.1 million and a savings impact between \$1.7 and \$1.8 million. The final phase to this project is the one that everyone is looking forward to and that is addressing the HVAC units. Mr. Perrin is keeping everyone updated throughout the process.
- **Kenyetta Evans – Mental Health Update**
Ms. Kenyetta Evans, Mental Health Coordinator, spoke to the Board about the programs going on throughout the schools. She mentioned her daily work schedule along with the problems that she faces each day. She has completed the District Wellness Plan and was asked by the State Department of Education to present at MEGA Conference this summer in Mobile. The caseload is at 38 students that actively meet with her.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave the Board members several academic updates. The winter AimsWeb Data for grades K – 8 showed improved proficiency in Reading and Math while decreasing the number of Reading and Math at-risk students. The State Department of Education has sent out a general implementation timeline regarding items from the Numeracy Act. The Summer Learning Program plans are being made with the help of the Reading and Math Coaches. The program will run from June 5th to June 30th. The FAFSA results continue to get better. Sweet Water High School has 100% completion and ranks #1 in the state. The nSide Safety Audit was held for all Principals on January 9th to finalize their school safety plans. Registration for PreK has started at all schools. Asbestos Training was held on January 20th for all janitors. All Attendance Officers and Counselors are attending the Attendance PowerSchool Training at the end of the month. The Media Specialists are implementing the Computer Science Instruction for grades K – 6. The Ready to Work Curriculum is being taught this semester in all three schools. This provides a career pathway for trainees to acquire entry-level skills required for employment with most businesses and industries in Alabama.

- Terry Norton – Technology Update
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, gave a technology update. He mentioned that School Status is up and ready to be used at all schools. The Principals at the meeting were highly encouraged to get their staff acclimated in using this program. Mr. Norton showed some new parts to the program.

- Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for December 1, 2022, was \$90,821.07 in the checking account and \$90,410.93 in a CD. The utilities report for December, 2021, was \$25,396.11 while December, 2022, was \$31,452.60. The increase could be attributed to the cold weather and also the increase in rates.

- Legislative / Financial Update
The Superintendent mentioned to the Board members about the support from the Governor and many legislators for “school choice.” This would allow any student to attend any school within the county in which they reside and provide impoverished students with transportation. Senator Arthur Orr is filing a bill to increase pay for school Principals. He believes the Principals are the backbone of schools and essential to the education children receive. With the budget surplus, Alabama lawmakers are considering tax rebates depending on their eligibility. The Revenue Abstract throughout the month of December continues to show growth. It is almost at 10% for the fiscal year.

- Alabama Fair Campaign Report is due by January 31, 2023.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for December, 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 December, 2022, be approved.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Resignation of Certified Personnel

Jennifer Walker
(effective January 20, 2023)

Sweet Water High School

PreK Teacher

Employment of Certified Personnel

Tanya Williams (effective January 30, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	PreK Teacher
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Employment of Support Personnel

April Autery (effective January 30, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Child Nutrition Program
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Ryan Rowe (effective January 30, 2023)	Marengo High School	Bus Driver
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Medical Leave of Absence

Alisha McGallagher (effective January 31, 2023, with a return date of March 1, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	Bus Driver
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Mr. Charleston made the motion to approve items 1 through 3. A second came from Mr. McAlpine. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- AASB March Conference
- Assessment Testing Dates 2023-2024
- Revised Alabama High School Graduation Requirements
- TEAMS Update
- Teacher Shortage Article
- County Engineer Grant
- COVID Concerns
- Winterization Plan
- Tornado / Bad Weather
- National Heritage Area Act
- Legal Issues
- Alabama State Senators and Legislators
- *Greene County Democrat* – Black History Edition
- Marengo County Basketball / AHSAA
- Bus Accident in Jefferson County
- Health Science School
- PPP Loans

Executive Session

A motion to go into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mr. McAlpine. A motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mr. McAlpine.

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 23, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mr. McAlpine. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President