

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022

8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.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 Previous Meetings

The motion for second approval of the August 25, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes, the September 13, 2022, First Budget Hearing and Work Session, and the September 14, 2022, Second Budget Hearing and Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Business Matters

- Rita Wright – CNP Update
Mrs. Rita Wright, CNP Director, reported to the Board members that Borden Dairy is closing September 30th. Barber Milk is no longer available while Prairie Farms and LuVel are headquartered out of state. A bid opening has been set for September 28th in hopes that a milk company will provide milk to the schools. An option is shelf-stable milk. This milk is delivered in truck loads and can be kept in a certain climate for a year. It has a different flavor but does provide a variety of milks. A concern would be storage options but we could possibly use the milk boxes from Borden. We are hopeful that a vendor submits a bid on September 28th.
- Wendy Joiner – Instructional Leader Update
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave the Board members an academic update. She began her presentation with a review of the recent Multi-Tier System of Supports. The framework encompasses the academic, behavior, physical, mental health, and social emotional needs to support the whole child. A. L. Johnson High School has a new media team that will begin covering athletic games, school programs, photographing, and keeping the community informed of things going on at the school. Over 35 students attended the Peer Helper Training. The program gives students a sense of responsibility. The principals will soon begin using the Alabama Teacher Observation Tool. This will help them to identify strengths and growth. The new Envision Math professional development was held at all three schools to help the teachers with the new Math curriculum. Mrs. Amy Ward, Career Coach, will lead the Career Projects program beginning the first week in October. It will last throughout the year and help students to research, write, and present. The system's 9th graders will attend the World of Works at Shelton State on October 13th. The system has 85 students in dual enrollment. This is a good number for a small system. The FAFSA Campaign starts October 1st for all seniors. Adulting Days is about to begin its senior classes at all schools. This program will teach seniors some basic needs such as changing a tire, opening a checking account, how to wash a load of clothes, and how to invest in the stock market. The recently released ACAP scores showed how our schools compared to other schools in the state and Black Belt. There was improvement at all schools in ELA and Science but there is a need for better Math scores in some grades. The State Board of Education has announced their "Intent to Adopt" indicator. Beginning with the freshman class in 2023-2024, the rule proposes the student earn one or more of an assortment of college and career readiness indicators.
- Diana Luker – Financial Update
Mrs. Diana Luker, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of July 31, 2022, was \$427,027.95. The receipts were \$1,224,730.00 while the expenditures were \$1,149,709.77. This left an August 31, 2022, cash balance of \$502,048.18. It appears that the revenues are going to be better than budgeted while the expenditures could be less. There is a good possibility that the ending fund balance for FY 2022 will be a pleasant surprise.
- School Board Recognitions
The Superintendent congratulated the Board members for their recognition from AASB. All five members received certificates for meeting the required training hours of the School Board Governance Improvement Act. Mr. Charleston has reached the Master Level, Honor Roll and received a gold plate for his plaque. Mr. Moore received a gold plate for reaching Master Level, Fourth Year. Mr. Smith will receive a plaque for becoming a Master Level, First Year.

- Enrollment /Alabama Department of Revenue Update
Enrollment numbers have begun to level off and it appears that each school will be down a few students from last year. The Superintendent reported that the State’s Revenue continues to be strong. Individual income tax numbers are 24% higher than this time last year while sales taxes collected were up 7.42%.

- Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for August 31, 2022, was \$70,410.80 in the checking account and \$90,275.44 in a CD. The utilities report for August, 2021, was \$29,220.37 as compared to the 2022 totals of \$35,656.53.

Unfinished Business

1. That the Board approved proposed new FILE: BCBM (Hybrid Meetings Due to Illness) that was presented to the Board on August 25, 2022.

New Business

2. That the Financial Reports for August, 2022, be approved.

3. 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 August, 2022, be approved.

4. That the Superintendent be authorized to issue invitations and receive 2022-2023 bids for milk.

5. That the following be approved as substitute bus drivers upon completion of all requirements:

Roger Merriweather
Mikel Wiggins
Cordarrin Wilson

6. That the Board select a representative for the Marengo County Sick Leave Bank to serve from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent, will serve as a representative for the Marengo County Sick Leave Bank.

7. That the Board select a member for the 2022 Delegate Assembly.

Mr. Moore nominated Mr. Smith to serve as our AASB delegate and Mr. Charleston as the alternate. All Board members approved his recommendation.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Medical Leave of Absence

Melissa Davis Sweet Water High School Bus Driver
(effective September 21, 2022, with a return date of November 16, 2022)

Mr. McAlpine made the motion to approve items 1 through 8. A second came from Mr. Charleston. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- Marengo County Properties
- ACCS Dual Enrollment Scholarship
- ADECA Grant
- In-School Suspension Update
- Mold Inspection at Sweet Water High School
- KRONOS
- Weather Conditions
- Elections

Properties Update

The Superintendent gave an update on the properties owned by the school system. A question was asked about an update on the sale of the John Essex School. The Superintendent mentioned that he had spoken with a family member and they were still interested but concerned about the condition of the school. She stated that it needed some electrical and plumbing work that could be costly. She also wanted the trees in front of the school to be cut down and the drains to be cleaned out. She was told that the school was being sold as is and that is why the price was so reasonable. Mr. Charleston stated that the school should be sold as is and the price was reasonable considering it also included about 18 acres of land behind it. The Superintendent mentioned that a letter is being sent from the Essex family this week to all Board members.

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, October 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Security Cameras

Before adjourning, Mr. Moore asked that we look at updating our security cameras and looking at a way to make the entrance doors at Marengo High School more secure.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 9:33 a.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. McAlpine. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President