

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 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. Chester Moore, and Mr. Rayvell Smith.

Member absent: Mr. John McAlpine.

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. Charleston. It carried unanimously.

Second Approval of July 27, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the July 27, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.

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

Business Matters

- **AASB Achievements**
The Superintendent recognized several Board members for their accomplishments with AASB. Mr. McAlpine has reached Level 1 and Mrs. Joiner has reached Level 3. Mr. Charleston has reached Master Honor Roll and there are no further requirements for him in AASB’s Board Member Academy. Mr. Moore and Mr. Smith need 15 hours and must attend a core course to reach the master’s level.
- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, gave the Board members an update on the supplemental appropriations to the FY 2023 fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. Mr. Norton referenced the following appropriations and the amounts that the system was awarded:

Advancement and Technology Plus	\$575,502
College and Career Readiness	541,715
Prefund CIS Student Materials	27,281
School Safety Grants	48,911

Mr. Norton was extremely pleased with the results from applying for these funds and mentioned how they will be so beneficial to the schools. Before finishing his report, he showed a PowerPoint to everyone on how the CCR funds were being spent. Everyone was very appreciative of his work on this grant.

- **Charles Coates – A. L. Johnson High School Alumnus**
Mr. Charles Coates, an A. L. Johnson High School alumnus, came to the Board to request approval to place Child Safety Restraint Systems (CSRS) on school buses that would allow PreK students to attend A. L. Johnson High School’s PreK program. He mentioned several reasons such as: some A. L. Johnson High School parents are not able to drop their child off at the school; the cost to transport their child is a problem to some parents; a child attending another PreK program usually stays at that school; losing PreK students is a barrier to enrollment growth; and other systems transport PreK students on school buses with proper CSRS. Mr. Coates is concerned about losing the PreK program due to its small attendance and believes that providing CSRS would help its attendance. Handouts were provided that showed the guidelines for safe transportation of pre-school age children on school buses. Mr. Coates mentioned that there were systems close by that were using CSRS and Tuscaloosa had been using them for years. The Superintendent thanked Mr. Coates for his presentation and mentioned that he had sent a group text to all of the school systems in our area to ask if they were providing CSRS. All of the systems said they did not provide CSRS. The systems included: Greene County, Perry County, Choctaw County, Linden City, Wilcox County, Demopolis City, Clarke County, Tuscaloosa County, and Tuscaloosa City. Tuscaloosa City did provide CSRS at one time but no longer does.
- **Richard Johnson – Financial Update**
Mr. Richard Johnson, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update by PowerPoint. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of June 30, 2023, was \$782,270.07. The receipts were \$1,833,401.03 while the expenditures were \$810,419.60. This left a July 31, 2023, cash balance of \$1,805,251.50. This cash balance is good but there are other outstanding expenditures that will reduce this amount before the fiscal year ends.

- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Leader Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave her academic report to the Board members. She spoke about the Benchmark Assessments and how this information is used to drive instruction in the classroom and to create intervention groups. An ARI Literacy Act meeting was held on August 9th to discuss our strengths and weaknesses. Spring, 2024, will be the first year that students will be required to show a path to promotion. There are exemptions that will be considered for some students. If the Literacy Act had been used this year, we would have no students that would be retained in the 3rd grade. The Numeracy Act meetings are beginning to take place with the new Math Coaches. There is an initiative to provide critical resources / strategies to teachers holding an Emergency Certificate and actively working to meet eligibility requirements leading to a Professional Certificate. The Mental Health Coordinator continues to visit all schools to check to see where she is needed. She has a monthly newsletter and referral forms on the district website. The Career Coach is working with registering students for dual enrollment. Presently, it looks like we will have the greatest number of students than ever before. FAFSA will be delayed until January, 2024. The 9th graders will be attending WOW at Shelton State Community College in October. Recently, there has been professional development in Attendance Officer Training, Media Specialist Training, and Peer Help Training. A lot is going on.

- **Enrollment / Opening of School**
The Superintendent gave an enrollment report. As of August 16th, A. L. Johnson High School had 142 students, Marengo High School had 233 students, and Sweet Water High School had 535 students. All three schools had an increase from last year. The opening of school has gone well. It is always good to start off the year with no teaching vacancies.

- **S & P 500 Bond Meeting**
The Superintendent, along with Mr. Richard Johnson and Mr. Bob Young, had a call with two representatives of Standard and Poors to get rates for the bonds that will be used for the Schneider Electric project and Sweet High School roofing project. The meeting went well and the system should be hearing back from them soon.

- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for July 31, 2023, was \$63,610.56 in the checking account and \$90,908.14 in a CD. The utilities report for July, 2022, was \$26,567.48 while July, 2023, was \$32,720.82.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for July, 2023, 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 July, 2023, be approved.

3. That the Board approve the renewal application for ATBE (Alabama Trust for Boards of Education) for automobile insurance for 2023-2024.

4. That the Board approve the renewal application for ATBE (Alabama Trust for Boards of Education) for general liability / errors and omissions for 2023-2024.
5. That the Board approve the resignation of Iesha McCarty as Parent and Family Liaison / Attendance at Marengo High School for the 2023-2024 school year.
6. That the Board enter a 2023-2024 Parent and Family Liaison / Attendance Contract (August 15, 2023, to May 23, 2024), with Dondrea Brown to provide parent and family liaison / attendance services at Marengo High School. She will be paid an hourly rate of \$25.00 per hour for a total of fifteen (15) hours per week.
7. That the Board approve a 2023-2024 contract with Two Roads Autism Center to conduct assessment and intervention sessions that will include the following: direct observations of students in the school and/or home setting; assessment interviews with school staff and/or guardians; data collection and analysis; report writing; staff training; and indirect consultations. Charges will be as follows:

Board Certified Behavior Analyst	\$150.00 per hour
Behavior Therapist with Master’s Degree	75.00 per hour
Behavior Therapist with Bachelor’s Degree	65.00 per hour
Travel over 60 miles or one-hour duration billed per above hourly rate depending on degree	
Mileage at standard rate	
8. That the Board contract with Mark Collier to perform maintenance services at \$25.00 per hour not to exceed 25 hours per week plus travel reimbursement at \$0.50 per mile.
9. That the Board contract with Diana Luker as a consultant to the new CSFO, Richard Johnson. Her pay will be based on the 2023-2024 salary matrix for daily rate of pay converted to an hourly rate.
10. That the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Plan (covers five years).
11. That the Board approve a continuation of Bid No. 022-511 with Suburban Propane to cover July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The Board only purchased approximately 22,000 gallons of the 47,000 gallons that was stipulated in the bid. Suburban Propane has offered a fixed price arrangement for these remaining gallons at \$1.70 per gallon.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Employment of Certified Employee

Nakireyah Brothers (effective August 18, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	Teacher
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Employment of Support Personnel

Iesha McCarty (effective August 18, 2023)	Marengo High School	Instructional Aide
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Leave of Absence

Krystal McKinney (beginning August 14, 2023, with return date of September 11, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher Aide
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Mrs. Joiner made the motion to approve items 1 through 12. A second came from Mr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- Pre-Construction Conference Checklist – August 15th
- Revenue Abstract
- Budget Hearings – September 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. and September 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
- Marengo County Schools – Athletic Schedules / AHSAA Updates
- AASB Fall Meeting at G. C. Wallace Community Center in Selma – September 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- AASB Annual Convention at the Sheraton in Birmingham – November 30th through December 2nd (Registration begins August 24th)
- AASB Events Calendar
- Whole Board Training – September 25th at 4:00 p.m.
- Teams Credentials / Allotment
- NBCT Appropriation
- Teacher Attendance Report
- Early Release
- CLAS and Affiliate Events
- Special Education Numbers
- AEA Donation to Board Members
- Labor Day – September 4th
- Lottery
- State Takeover – Sumter County / Failing Schools List
- State Examiners – Exit Conference

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, September 28, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Charleston. It carried unanimously.