

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 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. Chester Moore, and Mr. Rayvell Smith.

Member absent: Mr. John McAlpine.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Charleston.

Approval of Agenda

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

Second Approval of January 25, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the January 25, 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

- **Financial Update – Richard Johnson**
Mr. Richard Johnson, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of December 31, 2023, was \$1,562,197.38. The receipts were \$2,922,460.52 while the expenditures were \$1,225,732.22. This left a January 31, 2024, cash balance of \$3,258,925.68. This appears to be great but there are expenditures that have not been processed that will cause the cash balance to change significantly.

- **Instructional Update – Wendy Joiner**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave an update to the Board members. All 11th graders participated in the ACT Boot Camp in Linden. The Mid-Year Reviews are all completed. The school teams will receive their feedback from the Mid-Year Review and will make needed adjustments. The practice ACAP test was given to students in grades 2 – 8 and the data was analyzed. Students can be re-tested on parts of the test based on needs. There are 12 teachers in the Prep Program. The Financial Literacy Examination requirement must be administered to students in grade 9 beginning in 2024-2025 even though a passing score is not required for graduation. The MTSS District Meeting was recently held and a presentation on RTI and problem-solving was given. A look at next year's master schedule was also included. Preparation for the Literacy Act has been going on and materials are being purchased to help our students be ready. The planning for the Summer Learning Program has begun with the Reading Coaches and Math Coaches. The program runs from June 3rd – 28th. It will be for students that show a deficiency in grades K – 3 in Reading and grades K – 5 in Math. We received a \$49,345 grant for enrichment activities for our summer learning. Literacy and Math will be incorporated. Coming soon is professional learning in the Science of Reading for teachers in grades 4 and above. The Super Citizen Kickoff has been held. It is sponsored by the Liberty Learning Foundation. It improves the culture and climate of schools by engaging students in lessons and activities that emphasize good character and citizenship. PreK enrollment numbers for 2024-2025 have an increase at A. L. Johnson High School while the numbers at Marengo High School and Sweet Water High School remain about the same.

- **School System Snapshot 2024**
The Superintendent gave the Board members a copy of the Marengo County School System Snapshot 2024 Edition. The information provides data about the school system drawn from Fiscal Year 2022. The information is very informative and is provided by the use of numbers.

- **Charles Coates – A. L. Johnson High School Alumnus**
Mr. Charles Coates, an A. L. Johnson High School alumnus, had some questions for the Board members. He wanted to know the following:
 - Why does the Linden School System send buses into the county to get students?
 - Can a new gymnasium be constructed at A. L. Johnson High School?
 - Can a spending report for the \$9,000,000 in COVID Relief Funds be shared along with a copy of the bus replacement plan?
 - Can the tin over the elementary school crosswalk be replaced?
 - When and where are the state required public meetings held?The Superintendent answered these questions and would look further into the maintenance work at the school.

- **Legislative Update**
The Superintendent reported to the Board members about updates in the legislative session. He spoke about School Choice, the Absentee Bill, Gambling, AISA / AHSAA crossover, teacher pay raise, and the monthly report on the Education Trust Fund. The legislative session is just getting started and there will be changes as the session moves on. It is important to be aware of bills that might affect the school systems throughout the state.

- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement balance for January 31, 2024, was \$63,608.90 in the checking account and \$90,908.14 in a CD. The utilities report for January, 2024, was \$38,081.01 as compared to \$27,845.40, in January, 2023.

- The 2023 Statement of Economics Interest Forms are due by April 30, 2024.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for January, 2024, 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 January, 2024, be accepted.

3. That the Superintendent be authorized to borrow \$500,000 from the bank within Marengo County that offers the lowest interest rate for 30-day loan for the purpose of paying Marengo County employees on March 22, 2024. This will be repaid from the March, 2024, Foundation Program revenues on or about March 31, 2024. However, if Foundation Program revenues are received by March 22, 2024, this loan will not be needed.

4. That the Board review proposed new FILE: IEBC (Library Policy).

5. That the Board review the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar.

6. That the Board approve the solicitation of bids for new school bus cameras.

7. That the Board approve McKee and Associates as architect to draw up plans and solicit bids to repair and re-roof Sweet Water High School K – 2 Building. ESSER III funds will be used for this project.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Employment of Certified Employee

Cameron Turberville (effective April 1, 2024)	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher
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Family and Medical Leave

Dorothy Baldwin (effective February 9, 2024, with return date of March 12, 2024.	Marengo High School	Bus Driver
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Nakireyah Brothers (effective April 1, 2024, with return date of May 13, 2024)	Sweet Water High School	Teacher
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Pam Lewis (effective December 7, 2023, with return date of August 1, 2024)	Sweet Water High School	Aide
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Judith McGallagher (effective February 7, 2024, with unknown return date)	Sweet Water High School	Bus Driver
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Sarah Meeks (effective March 11, 2024, with return date of April 15, 2024)	Sweet Water High School	Teacher
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Supplement

Pat Thompson	Sweet Water High School	Acting Principal
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(From the beginning of October, 2023, to the end of January, 2024, Coach Thompson served as the acting principal at Sweet Water High School after the resignation of Dr. Gary Gibson. For his services during this time, a one-time supplement of \$2,000 shall be added to his salary.)

Mrs. Joiner made the motion to approve items 1 through 8. A second came from Mr. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- H & M Project at Marengo High School / Roof Leak at Sweet Water High School
- Read Across America
- Ad Valorem School Tax Renewal
- Black History Month – Newspapers
- Spring Sports
- SSA Legislative Dates
- Drug Dogs
- Career Tech Handout
- Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday – February 23rd through 25th
- Alabama School of Healthcare Science
- Voucher Article
- Ola Ford Update
- Moon Landing Today (first since 1972)

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, March 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.