

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022

4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Mr. Rayvell Smith, President.

Establishment of a quorum.

Members present: Mr. Freddie Charleston, Mrs. Lynda Joiner, and Mr. Rayvell Smith. Mr. Chester Moore was present through ZOOM.

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 October 27, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the October 27, 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

- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, gave an update on things going on in the area of technology. Marengo County has been awarded a Cyber Security Grant in the amount of \$65,000 to be used for implementing a data backup. Work has begun on upgrading radios and the base station. E-rate funding for the system comes in two categories. The first category of funds comes every year and it is used for Alabama Supercomputer Consortium, which manages the internet access. The second category of funds allows the system up to five years to spend. There is approximately \$86,000 remaining and has been designated to use for additional technicians, develop a priority list, determine a needs list, develop requests for proposals, and determine the need to upgrade the cable throughout the district.
- **Kathy Pritchett – Special Education Update**
Mrs. Kathy Pritchett, Special Education Director, spoke to the Board members about bullying and harassment. The presentation focused on the impact it has on learning, the definition, and federal guidance. She mentioned the Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Prevention Act that was passed in 2009. The act requires all school districts to establish policies and have schools develop programs to encourage students to report and address bullying, violence, or threats of violence. Mrs. Pritchett also mentioned Title IX, which protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave the Board members an academic update. A. L. Johnson High School will be participating in the UWA Grad Partnership for Student Success Pilot Program that helps students stay on track to graduate. The Reading Coaches had a professional development training at Marengo High School to help them work with teachers on “firming up” reading routines in Open Court. A district-wide Tier 2 / Small Group Instructional Training for Math and Reading teachers in grades 6 – 12 will be held on November 29th at Sweet Water High School. A Prevention and Support presentation from the ALSDE will also be provided.
Students in grades K – 12 will begin benchmark testing in Aimsweb/Star on December 5th. The results should show how much growth our students have made across our district. The Peer Helpers Program has been busy with tutoring, campaigning for substance abuse awareness, providing support for younger students, exemplifying positive leadership, being student ambassadors, and providing emotional support for their peers.
The State Board of Education voted to approve a College Career Readiness indicator as a new graduation requirement. Students 18 years old and older can complete an in-school apprenticeship. The Mental Health Coordinator is implementing the PATH (Peer Helpers) Curriculum for all K – 6 students. All schools are checking in with Rhithm each Monday. The Mental Health Coordinator is completing weekly check-ins with students at all schools. She is also participating in the Suicide Prevention Training. A referral process with West Alabama Mental Health is used for outside referrals. She has also attended local RTI meetings and participated in the Threat Assessment Training. The Career Coach reported that our system is 4th in the state with completed FAFSAs and the only district in the top five with multiple high schools.
The district/school report card will be released tomorrow. We feel that we will once again be one of the top districts in our area. There is still room for growth but progress is being made.
- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium Report / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for September 30, 2022, was \$84,017.47 in the checking account and \$90,410.93 in a CD. The utilities report was not available this month.

New Business

1. 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 December 20, 2022. This will be repaid from the December, 2022, Foundation Program revenues on or about December 31, 2022. However, if Foundation Program revenues are received by December 20, 2022, this loan will not be needed.
2. That the Board approve a contract with Lodestar of Demopolis, Alabama, for one year (December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023) to provide technology support at a cost of \$45.00 per hour for 15 to 30 hours per month.
3. That the Board approve a 2022-2023 (June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023) contract with The University of Alabama Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic for diagnostic evaluation, consultations, and in-service training per the following:

Psychological Assessment (with recommendations)	\$1,000.00
Psychological Assessment (without recommendations)	800.00
PhD. Psychologists (per hour)	125.00
Master’s Level Clinicians (per hour)	75.00
Behavior Therapists (per hour)	60.00
In-Service Trainings (per hour)	100.00

4. That the following individual be approved as a substitute bus driver upon completion of all requirements:

Joey Black

5. That the Board elect a member to serve as President and one to serve as Vice-President.

The Board members approved Mr. Smith as President and Mr. Charleston as Vice-President for the upcoming year.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Resignation of Support Personnel

Denise Robertson (effective November 18, 2022)	Sweet Water High School	Bus Driver
Shanika Teacher (effective November 18, 2022)	A. L. Johnson High School	CNP Worker

Retirement

Kimberly Luker
(effective May 26, 2023)

System-Wide

LEAD Nurse

Mrs. Joiner made the motion to approve items 1 – 6. A second came from Mr. Charleston. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- AASB Advocacy Event in Montgomery – November 9th and 10th
- Football Playoffs / Schedules
- State Examiners
- Gas Leak

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 Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 5:43 p.m. as made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President