

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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. John McAlpine, Mr. Chester Moore, and Mr. Rayvell Smith.

Members absent: none.

The invocation was given by Mr. Charleston.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to amend the agenda and add item 8, Personnel Matter, was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Moore. It carried unanimously.

Second Approval of Previous Meetings

The motion for second approval of the March 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes and the April 9, 2024, Called Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. McAlpine and seconded by Mr. Moore. It carried unanimously.

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

Business Matters

- **Richard Johnson – Financial Update**
Mr. Richard Johnson, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of February 29, 2024, was \$4,349,812.54. The receipts were \$813,122.22 while the expenditures were \$1,571,332.34. This left a March 31, 2024, cash balance of \$3,591,602.42.
- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, spoke to the Board about the Virtual Reality equipment. He brought several headsets to the meeting for the Board members to try. The simulation through the headsets showed the Board members what the students will be looking at. There are so many different programs that the students can use. This is a great opportunity for our system. Mr. Norton also mentioned that 100% of our students took the ACAP. This was the first time that he can remember that all students took the test.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave an update to the Board members. On May 17th, the ACAP Summative Reading Subset Scores will be released. iReady testing will begin Monday, April 29, 2024, and the Class and Star Testing will begin Monday, May 6, 2024. An update on the Summer Learning Program shows 35 students at A. L. Johnson High School, 62 students at Marengo High School, and 38 students at Sweet Water High School have signed up. On July 17, 2024, all K – 5 Math teachers will go through a Math Course of Study training. Ms. Evans attended the mental health coordinators' conference on April 18th – 19th in Birmingham. A Career Day was held on April 24th for seniors from all three school systems in the county. Mrs. Amy Ward set up 14 different representatives from businesses / industries to be present to recruit students for employment. Mrs. Ward also mentioned that the Marengo County School System had 10 students that had already received a certificate or associate's degree from a local community college. Five other students have military commitments.
- **Legislative Update**
The Superintendent gave the Board members a legislative update. The session is nearing an end. The budget for FY 2025 is almost complete. It remains to come out of the Senate and should be done on Tuesday, April 30th. It appears the new Health and Science School is going to be in the budget for funding. The school will be located in Demopolis. Also included in the proposed budget is a 2% educator pay raise and a movement of \$135 million from the ETF Supplemental to school safety and technology devices.
- **Revenue Abstract**
The Superintendent discussed the monthly Revenue Abstract on the comparative tax collections for the month. The total change so far from FY 2023 to FY 2024 is down 1.42% or about \$109 million. The comparison of Sales Tax Revenue from March, 2023, to March, 2024, saw a slight increase of 0.17% or about \$445,000.
- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement balance for March 29, 2024, was \$77,214.90 in the checking account and \$90,908.14 in a CD. The utilities report for March, 2024, was \$23,685.46 as compared to \$25,169.75 in March, 2023.
- The 2023 Statement of Economics Interest Forms are due by April 30, 2024.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for March, 2024, 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 March, 2024, be approved.
3. That proposed revised FILE: DIDC (Bids and Quotations) be reviewed.
4. That proposed revised FILE: IGE (Graduation Requirements) be reviewed.
5. That the Board approve the solicitation of bids for literacy and math kits (learning mats) and professional development. This will be paid from the Alabama Summer and Afterschool Program (ASAP) Grant.
6. That the Board revoke the bid bond requirement for the Virtual Reality Bid (Bid No. 024-518) that was previously rejected for bidders not meeting this requirement. The Marengo County Board attorney noted that this is not a capital project and a bid bond is not required. The State Department of Education was also in agreement. Therefore, Victory XR will be awarded the bid in the amount of \$431,222.96.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve items 1 through 6. A second came from Mr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Matters

7. That the Board approve Terry Norton to serve as Interim Superintendent beginning May 1, 2024, and ending when the new Superintendent's contract begins.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve item 7. A second came from Mr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Mr. Mark Boardman spoke to the Board about the process used to search for a new Superintendent. He was very complimentary of the school system and this spoke volumes to the quantity and quality of the applicants. After he finished his comments, Mr. Boardman recommended to the Board Chairman that Dr. Kalvin Eaton be the next Superintendent of the Marengo County School System.

Mr. Charleston asked for a motion. Mr. Smith made the motion to approve Dr. Eaton as item 8. A second came from Mr. Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- AHSAA Sports Calendar / Calendar of Events / Five-Year Calendar
- Books for the Black Belt – The University of Alabama
- FY 2024 Original Budget Approved
- ATC Healthcare Services
- Graduation Dates:

Sweet Water High School	Thursday, May 16 th at 7:00 p.m.
Marengo High School	Friday, May 17 th at 6:00 p.m.
A. L. Johnson High School	Monday, May 20 th at 6:00 p.m.
- Tax Renewal Meeting

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 Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. was made by Mr. McAlpine and seconded by Mr. Moore. It carried unanimously.