

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2023

4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3:57 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 approve the agenda was made by Mrs. Joiner and seconded by Mr. Moore. It carried unanimously.

Second Approval of Previous Meetings

The motion for second approval of the November 16, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes and the December 6, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Smith 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

- **Financial Report – Richard Johnson**
Mr. Richard Johnson, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the general fund, the cash balance as of October 31, 2023, was \$1,994,838.36. The receipts were \$973,219.75 while the expenditures were \$994,376.88. This left a November 30, 2023, cash balance of \$1,973,681.23. The finances continue to look good.
- **Technology Report – Terry Norton**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Director, gave a report to the Board members about the state providing an ACAP Summative Practice Test and it could be set up beginning December 8th. We plan to give the test on January 8th. Work on an access control lock system has begun. Equipment and cable have been run at Marengo High School followed by Sweet Water High School and A. L. Johnson High School. We are still planning on upgrading our school bus cameras. Some are not working. We will be working to build the official specifications for exterior doors throughout the schools. This will help with our school safety plan.
- **Instructional Report – Wendy Joiner**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, was pleased to announce that each school had shown improvement on their report card. A. L. Johnson High school went from a 60 to a 70. This is a huge jump. The system-wide score was an 86. This was second throughout our district and was above the state average. This was very good news for all of our schools. Pre-ACT data for our 10th graders was presented. There is room for improvement at all three schools. It is good news that all of our seniors have passed the Civics Exam. The mid-year reviews have been scheduled for January 25th at A. L. Johnson High School, February 1st at Marengo High School, and January 23rd at Sweet Water High School. Librarian Tate Luker received a \$2,032 grant at Sweet Water High School for Inspiring the Future – Better Biographies. The regional safety coordinator inspected all three schools. Items on his report are being addressed. There are 90 students enrolled in dual enrollment. A. L. Johnson High School has 27, Marengo High School has 22, and Sweet Water High School has 41. This past academic year, 27 students earned 150 hours of college credit. Our mental health coordinator has been working daily in our schools teaching our social and emotional lessons to all students in grades K – 6th. January 3, 2024, will be a full day of professional development including Math Foundation Training, Varsity Tutors, ACT Data Review, and iReady Training. ACT Boot Camp for all 11th graders will be held in Linden on February 20th through 22nd.
- **Revenue Update (State-Wide)**
The Superintendent gave the Board members a review of the Revenue Abstract for November, 2023. The month of November showed some revenue growth in comparison to last year, but it appears to be slowing down. It is time to be cautious on how we spend our money today because tomorrow might show a reduction in revenue.
- **Legislative Update – School Choice Bill / ACHE / ETF / Gambling**
The Superintendent reported on several issues that might be brought up in the next legislative session. Bills such as school choice and gambling could have effects on all school systems throughout the state. The ACHE has a \$2.12 billion budget which is a 6.84% increase from last year. This is for 2-year and 4-year institutions. The ETF should have plenty of carryover money for the next fiscal year.

- Fair Campaign Finance Report
The Superintendent reminded the Board members of the Fair Campaign Finance Report that is due January 31, 2024.

- Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial sate balance for November 30, 2023, was \$56,803.63 in the checking account and \$90,908.14 in a CD. The utilities report for November, 2023, was \$19,919.83 as compared to \$28,169.48 in November, 2022.

New Business

1. That the Financial Reports for November, 2023, 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 November, 2023, be accepted.

3. That the Board approve the solicitation of bids for the following:
 - Virtual Reality Hardware, Instructional Content, and Licenses Device Management
 - New Exit Doors at All Schools

Personnel Recommendations

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

Maternity Leave

Maleah Crawford	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher
(beginning January 24, 2024, with a return date of April 3, 2024)		

Employment of Support Employees

Tangela Noid	Sweet Water High School	Bus Driver
(effective December 18, 2023)		

Samantha Lynam	Sweet Water High School	Janitor
(effective January 4, 2024)		

Employment of Certified Employee

Angela Ward (effective January 3, 2024)	A. L. Johnson High School	Counselor
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Resignation

Migeual Catlin (effective November 27, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher /Coach
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Mr. Smith made the motion to approve items 1 through 4. A second came from Mrs. Joiner. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- AASB District 2 Director – Camille Gibson
- Education Task Force Commission
- Lt. Governor's Grant
- Accountability Update
- 3rd Grade WebEx for Superintendents
- AHSAA – NIL / Re-Alignment / Basketball / A. L. Johnson High School Football
- Update on Rural Healthcare Center
- Sweet Water High School Gym Roof
- New Alabama Statehouse
- Tax Renewal
- Cyber Issue
- Dismissal – Tuesday, December 19th

Date and Time of Called Board Meeting

The date and time of a called Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

The Superintendent mentioned to the Board members of his intention to retire effective March 31, 2024. He thanked the Board for all of their support and would be willing to help in any way needed. The called meeting for January 3, 2024, would be held to accept the retirement letter.

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, January 25, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 4:58 p.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Joiner. It carried unanimously.