

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
May 1, 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. John McAlpine, and Mr. Rayvell Smith.

Mr. Chester Moore attended by ZOOM.

Members absent: none.

The invocation was given by Mr. Smith.

Approval of Agenda

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

Second Approval of March 23, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the March 23, 2023, 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

- **Sharon Hilbish Revenue Commissioner**
Mrs. Sharon Hilbish, Marengo County Revenue Commissioner, spoke to the Board members about the upcoming school tax renewal. A 3-mill tax for education and a 5-mill tax for education are expiring soon. Both are 30-year renewal taxes and not new taxes. Mrs. Hilbish thought it might be a good idea to have them both on the March 5, 2024, primary ballot. The 3-mill tax will expire after October, 2025, and the 5-mill tax will expire October, 2026. The Superintendent is going to look into a way to get these taxes put on the ballots and for more general information.
- **Diana Luker – Financial Update**
Mrs. Diana Luker, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of February 28, 2023, was \$2,261,418.32. The receipts were \$1,239,682.62 while the expenditures were \$1,572,918.48. This left a March 31, 2023, cash balance of \$1,928,182.46. This cash balance continues to remain good.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Leader**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, gave the Board members a handout about recent activities throughout the system. The ACAP testing is over and the Aims Web (K – 8) is still in progress. Splash into Summer is moving right along with its summer plans. The dates are June 5th through 30th for grades K – 5. The staff is almost in place along with the facilitators, reading stations, professional development schedules, community sponsors, and bus routes. Enrollment numbers are beginning to improve but there is room for more students at all schools. The ACT results for all 11th graders are in. The Marengo County students improved in all areas except one and were almost in line with the state averages. Two students from A. L. Johnson High School were inducted into Phi Theta Honor Society for Dean’s List at Wallace Community College. The Career Coach has been working with the 8th graders to create 4-year plans. Jobs have already been secured for six seniors. Benchmarks for CCRS students have been submitted. Sweet Water High School reached 100%. Dual enrollment for grades 10th through 12th continues to grow throughout the system. A. L. Johnson High School has 69% participation. Our Mental Health Director saw 52 students this past month. Ms. Kenyetta Evans was sent to the Perry County School System to help with the loss of a student. Ms. Evans will also be presenting at Mega Conference this summer. PreK is good at Sweet Water High School but could improve at the other two schools. A. L. Johnson High School has received \$50,000 for playground equipment.
- **Terry Norton – Technology / Testing Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology and Testing Coordinator, reported that all of our state tests have been completed for the 2022-2023 school year. Following the server crash, the system has begun migrating to a cloud server. All of the data should be completely on the cloud server in a couple of weeks. The camera project has been moved from Uniti to Lodestar. The system is still tracking the cost to replace / repair damage done by lightning. Summer projects are being looked at and they include trying to update all cameras, improve wireless access points, improve security doors at all three schools, and adjust our network settings for security. Technology inventory is being reviewed and non-usable technology will be disposed. There was a WASP Barcode Asset Cloud Training recently. The website trainings have been scheduled for May 10th and the three additional days at a later time.

- **Legislative Update**
The Superintendent presented a legislative update to the Board members. He mentioned the following bills that are being considered. The bills included extending the school year, providing additional start-up money for charter schools, and cutting sales tax on groceries. The Revenue Abstract Report shows the tax collection is up 6.36% as compared to last year. There is only 25% of the ETF that goes to education because the fund's money has been appropriated to building prisons, water parks, airports, economic development, and an electric vehicle workforce center. Overall, \$1.4 billion has been diverted from the ETF.

- **Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report**
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium financial statement for March 31, 2023, was \$76,357.68 in the checking account and \$90,410.93 in a CD. The utilities report for March, 2022, was \$19,596.47 while March, 2023, was \$24,936.30.

New Business

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

3. That the Board approve the Career and Technical Education State Board Approved Textbooks and Supplemental Materials (2022-2023) for the following clusters: Architecture and Construction, Information Technology, Transportation, and Distribution and Logistics.

4. That the Board approve the solicitation of bids for a new roof system for Sweet Water High School gymnasium.

Personnel Recommendations

5. That the Board approve the Superintendent's personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignation of Non-Certified Personnel

Jeremy Foster (effective May 12, 2023)	Maintenance	Maintenance Worker
Mikel Wiggins (effective March 24, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Bus Driver

Mrs. Joiner made the motion to approve items 1 through 5. A second came from Mr. Charleston. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The Superintendent asked the Board to go into executive session. A motion was made by Mr. Charleston and seconded by Mrs. Joiner to go into Executive Session at 5:32 p.m. It carried unanimously.

Mrs. Joiner made a motion to come out of Executive Session and a second came from Mr. McAlpine at 5:52 p.m. It carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

- Code of Student Conduct Handbook Meetings
- Principals' Meeting
- Principals' and Athletic Directors' Conference – April 4th and 5th
- SSA District 2 Meeting – April 6th
- Baseball and Softball Playoffs / Track Regionals
- Transportation Costs
- End of School Information
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
- AHSAA Board Meeting
- Marengo County Tax Sale – May 2nd
- Testing – ACAP
- Last Day for Students – May 25th
- Professional Development (all employees) – May 26th
- Graduation:
 - A. L. Johnson High School May 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
 - Marengo High School May 19th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Sweet Water High School May 17th at 7:00 p.m.

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 23, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Charleston. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President