

MARENGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting Minutes
February 28, 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 was present through ZOOM.

Members absent: none.

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 January 26, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

The motion for second approval of the January 26, 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

- **Larry Perrin – Schneider Electric**
Mr. Larry Perrin, Schneider Electric, spoke to the Board members again about the upcoming project goals to make sure everyone understood the needs that were being addressed. Efficiency upgrades are extremely important in this work. In order to get that done, electrical upgrades have to be done. All three schools have work to be done but Sweet Water High School appears to be in the most need for electrical work. Mr. Moore inquired about the distribution of the funding to each school and Mr. Perrin mentioned that Sweet Water High School would receive slightly more. The Superintendent mentioned that the distribution was based on a needs assessment, just like the projects done by the school system.
- **Diana Luker – Financial Update**
Mrs. Diana Luker, CSFO, gave the Board members a financial update. In the General Fund, the cash balance as of December 31, 2022, was \$1,322,603.97. The receipts were \$2,564,692.15 while the expenditures were \$1,236,105.66. This left a January 31, 2023, case balance of \$2,651,190.46. This cash balance is very good. Mrs. Luker also gave everyone a handout showing a comparison of last year's actual receipt of the one cent sales tax, the current year's budget, and the current year's actual receipts. The income is ahead of budget and should easily be ahead of the amount budgeted.
- **Terry Norton – Technology Update**
Mr. Terry Norton, Technology Coordinator, gave a technology update. He mentioned that ACCESS ELL Test had been completed along with the training for the ACAP Alternate. The ACAP Alternate will begin Monday, March 6th and last for 3 to 5 days. The ACT with Writing Training is scheduled for March 8th and the test itself will be given on March 21st. ACAP Summative begins April 5th. Chromebooks are being checked to make sure they are ready to be used for testing. New Chromebooks have already been ordered in anticipation that some will not be ready for use. Some of the IT staff will be presenting at board meetings in the future. Data backup equipment has been installed but some problems have arisen. School Status has gotten off to a great start. All three schools are using it for communicating with parents.
- **Wendy Joiner – Instructional Update**
Mrs. Wendy Joiner, Instructional Leader, mentioned the Professional Development opportunities that are happening soon. PowerSchool training began February 13th, Math Effectiveness on February 15th, and Differentiated Instruction will begin on March 15th. The Summer Learning program, "SPLASH," for this summer was reviewed. The program begins on June 5th and concludes on June 30th. The librarian and STEM teacher at Sweet Water High School have collaborated by using drones to fly obstacle courses. The assignment assesses both computer science and math. A Legacy Scholars Grant was received at Marengo High School which enabled 80 students and 6 chaperones to visit EJI's Legacy Museum. Average daily attendance at all three schools remains about 92%. The Mid-Year Reviews at all three schools showed their strengths and areas for growth. A lot of good is going on at the schools. A. L. Johnson High School has partnered with UWA to focus on instructional practices in K – 3 classrooms. Read Across America begins on Wednesday at all three schools. On February 21st, via ZOOM, Marengo County held Literacy Act Information Night. This event explained to parents the Literacy Act and the impact it would have on the students.

- Amy Ward, Career Coach
Mrs. Amy Ward, Career Coach, presented to the Board members an account of the FAFSA results. Marengo County is 100% completed. This puts the system in first place throughout the state. This is a major accomplishment considering the amount of time it takes to get needed information from students and parents.

- Legislative Update
The Superintendent reported to the Board about legislative items that might arise at the next session which starts on March 7th. School Choice will be a significant topic of discussion and likely to have several bills concerning it from both the house and senate. The broadband expansion is making strides to reach every household throughout the state. Hopefully, it will be a reality in the near future. The Revenue Abstract for January, 2023, showed only a slight increase in comparison to a year ago, but it still remains over 6% higher in comparison to the fiscal year from a year ago. A recent article showed the Alabama graduation rates have slid below 90% while the number of dropouts has increased. There appears to be a push for increasing support personnel salary with a livable raise. Presently, support employees receive very marginal salaries for their work. The Superintendent asked the Board members to take out their School System Snapshot from their folder. This is great information about our system and the state and does a great job of explaining the data.

- Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium / Utilities Report
The Black Warrior Telecommunications Consortium statement for January 31, 2023, was \$62,751.77 in the checking account and \$90,410.93 in a CD. The utilities report for January, 2022, was \$41,479.02 while January, 2023, was \$25,929.77.

New Business

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

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 24, 2023. This will be repaid from the March, 2023, Foundation Program revenues on or about March 31, 2023. However, if Foundation Program revenues are received by March 24, 2023, this loan will not be needed.

4. That the Board approve a Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings Contract (Amendment 1) with Schneider Electric to substantially reduce the energy and operational costs for the Marengo County School System that will greatly improve school facilities and infrastructure.

Personnel Recommendations

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

Resignation of Certified Personnel

Jackie Tripp (effective February 24, 2023)	Marengo High School	Teacher
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Employment of Certified Personnel

Tara Walker (effective March 6, 2023)	Sweet Water High School	Teacher
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Leave of Absence

Geraldine Tucker (effective April 10, 2023, with return date of April 24, 2023)	A. L. Johnson High School	Teacher Aide
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Tracy Stacy Mitchell (effective April 3, 2023, with return date of May 8, 2023)	Marengo High School	Teacher
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Mrs. Joiner made the motion to approve items 1 through 5. A second came from Mr. McAlpine. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent’s Report

- AASB Advocacy Day – April 4th
- AASB March Conference – March 10th and 11th
- AASB Summer Conference – June 16th through 18th (Housing Issues)
- SSA Legislative Conference – March 6th through 8th
- Marengo County Sports Hall of Fame – February 13th
- Principals and Staff Meeting – February 14th
- AHSAA Hall of Fame Banquet – March 13th
- AHSAA District 3 Meeting – March 15th
- A. L. Johnson High School and Marengo High School Girls’ Basketball
- Black History Month
- Read Across America
- 2023-2024 School Calendar Committee

- Teacher Apprenticeship
- CASE Conference – February 27th and 28th
- Asbestos Regulations
- Cafeteria Shortages
- SRO and Discipline Problems
- Roofing Bid at Sweet Water High School
- Catalytic Converter Stolen Off Employee’s Vehicle
- Wellness Screenings at Central Office – March 21st

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

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Charleston. It carried unanimously.

Luke Hallmark, Superintendent

Rayvell Smith, President