

Minutes

6 p.m., September 15, 2015, District Board Room

Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting

In Attendance

Board members present-

James Brooks, Janice Dabney (Secretary), Tyrom Faulkner, Margaret Gamble (Vice chair), Don McCorkle, Bobby Parker (Chair), and Bill Sumner

Board members absent-

None

District personnel-

Linda Blackwell (Elementary Education Director), Rick Chandler (Attorney), Gwendolyn Conner (Human Resources Director), Butch Dutton (Secondary Education Director), Scott Johnson (Information Technology Director), David Knight (Public Information Director), Gene Moore (Superintendent), Lydia Quinn (Planning & Accountability Executive Director), David Small (Facilities Director), Tony Walker (Chief Financial Officer)

Guest:

Jimmy Wilhide, Moseley Architects

Press-

Chris Sardelli (*The Lancaster News*), Kyle Connoll (WBTV)

Citizens-

94 people attended

Open Session

Call to order and invocation- BABA

At 6 p.m., the chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Dabney gave the INVOCATION.

Notice to media- BCBB

In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, Cable 2, the Fort Mill Times, The Herald, the Kershaw News-Era, The Lancaster News, WAGL, WBTV, WRHM and WSOC were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

Executive Session

Executive session- BCBK, GBC/D, GBO, CGD, GBN, FGB, DC, CEI

The chair announced the purpose for executive session was to receive resignations, retirements, certified employment recommendations, an administrative employment recommendation and non-certified employment recommendations, one personnel matter, one student matter, one contractual services matter, receipt of legal advice and superintendent's evaluation.

The MOTION to enter executive session was made and seconded. The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

Open Session

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance- BCB

At 7 p.m., the chair welcomed the public on behalf of the board and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

September 15, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Results of executive session- BCBK

The chair reported results of executive session.

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the resignations/retirements of
 - **Adult Education**– Joni Hegler, 29-hour tutor
 - **Andrew Jackson High**– Alexander Stormer, math teacher
 - **Andrew Jackson Middle**– Lorrie Sullivan, administrative assistant/bookkeeper
 - **Brooklyn Springs Elementary**– Dale Cole, cafeteria operator; Myra Little, psychologist
 - **Buford High**– Michele Ghent, school nurse; Tamisue Parham, cafeteria manager
 - **Clinton Elementary**– Veronica Shannon, special education teacher
 - **Erwin Elementary**– Derrelle Ballard, literacy intervention
 - **Heath Springs Elementary**– David Moore, physical education teacher
 - **Indian Land Elementary**– Deanna Gasque, instructional assistant; Jadrian Griffin, assistant principal
 - **Indian Land High**– Nannie Cureton, cafeteria operator
 - **Indian Land Middle**– Susan Ferrara, cafeteria operator
 - **Lancaster High**– Juanita Blackwell, cafeteria operator; Eric Cauthen, Spanish teacher; Brenda Steele, cafeteria operator; Kurt Weeks, math teacher
 - **South Middle**– Charles Snipes, instructional assistant
 - **Southside Early Childhood Center**– Jennifer Terry, 29-hour bus aide

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the superintendent's certified employment recommendations for the 2015-16 school year
 - **A.R. Rucker Middle**– Christen Sanders, business/computer technology
 - **Brooklyn Springs Elementary**– Teresa Robinson, special education
 - **Buford Elementary**– Scott Barberio, elementary
 - **Discovery School**– Charles Rivers, elementary
 - **Harrisburg Elementary**– Debra Ginocchio, elementary
 - **Indian Land Elementary**– Terri Nowinski, guidance; James Vlaardingerbroek, elementary
 - **Lancaster High**– Dominique Davis, mathematics
 - **McDonald Green Elementary**– Joni Hegler, elementary
 - **North Elementary**– Susan Shearer, elementary

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the superintendent's administrative employment recommendation for the 2015-16 school year

- **A.R. Rucker Middle**– Kathryn Richardson, interim principal
- **Indian Land Elementary**– Trevor Althof, assistant principal

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the superintendent's non-certified employment recommendations for the 2015-16 school year

- **Andrew Jackson High**– Hettie Smith, bus driver; Amanda Williams, instructional assistant
- **Andrew Jackson Middle**– Charlene Mingo, food services; Irene Moon, food services; Tonya Rape, instructional assistant
- **Buford High**– Regina Childress, food services; Jessica Gleaton, instructional assistant

- **Indian Land High**– Kelley Ling, food services; Zaida Prado, food services
 - **Indian Land Middle**– Elizabeth Craven, 29-hour classroom helper; Sarah Strader, 29-hour classroom helper; Jennifer Tobia, food services
 - **Lancaster High**– Bobbie Callahan, bus driver
 - **LearnTV**– Juan Rios Ramirez, Technician I
 - **North Elementary**– Joni McNulty, food services
 - **South Middle**– Elizabeth Sanders, nurse
- The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).
- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the superintendent’s recommendation to extend a contract with Simplex Grinnell for alarm monitoring services for 2015-16, with option to renew 2016-17.
- The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).
- The chair reported the board completed its executive session business.

**Legislative update-
LB**

There was nothing to report this month.

**Trustees Awards-
KHA**

- On behalf of the board, the chair presented Trustees Awards to
- **2014-15 S.C. Junior Civinette Advisor of the Year**
 - Stacey Kirkley, McDonald Green Elementary
 - **2014-15 S.C. Junior Civinette**
 - **Campus Project of the Year**
 - **Community Project of the Year**
 - **Special Friends Project**
 - **FunFest Largest Donation**
 - **2014-15 International Junior Civinette Honor Club**
 - Lancaster High Junior Civinette chapter
 - **2015 Science P.L.U.S. Institute at Roper Mountain Science Center Participant**
 - Blanche Bruce, A.R. Rucker Middle
 - Shree Crawley, A.R. Rucker Middle
 - Lisa Huss, South Middle
 - Jennifer Jaillette, A.R. Rucker Middle
 - Billie Morrison, Discovery School
 - Judy Mountain, Indian Land Elementary
 - Tracy St. Hilaire, South Middle
 - Nancy Westmoreland, Buford Middle

**Public forum-
BCBI**

The chair outlined the procedures for addressing the board and invited any member of the audience to come forward.

- **Pam Mulvaney**, who described herself as a concerned and frustrated parent of two Indian Land High students, addressed the board. She stated that she loved living in Lancaster County and especially in Indian Land and was proud of Indian Land schools, but she said the schools were threatened by no planning for growth. She stated that Transportation Director Bryan Vaughn had told the board during its February planning meeting that permits for 17,000 new homes had been issued in Indian Land, which would mean 6,800 new students. She said she was nervous because of the statement in a letter written by a board member in 2010. The statement said that in a rare situation, students might have to be bused to Lancaster schools where there was room, but that the board would

make its best effort to avoid that situation and keep students in neighborhood schools. She accused the board of a lack of urgency to address growth, a lack of planning and a lack of commitment. She requested a town hall style meeting before Thanksgiving for the board to share plans. She also asked the board to share how our residents could help get facilities in place.

– **Joe Gummersbach**, an Indian Land parent of a five-year-old and two-year-old, addressed the board stating that he chose to live in Lancaster County after doing research on the schools and was excited about them going to school, but rumors about overcrowding have him worried. His realtor told him his children would go to Indian Land schools, but now he's concerned his children could be bused to other schools. He stated he loves where he lives but doesn't want his children bused 20 miles away. He says he sees Fort Mill building school after school, and wants to know what's the building plan for our schools.

– **Indian Land parent Brian Endres**, an Indian Land parent, addressed the board, asking for increased communication. He accused the board of not having plans for addressing growth, and he told the board members and the superintendent they were disrespectful for only having one board member attend the Indian Land Action Council meeting they were invited to. He stated the board needs to be aware of the facility challenges in Indian Land and that the board has a duty to make sure students have classrooms and that students deserve a classroom and mobiles are not classrooms. He stated he had heard the board was looking at a one-on-one computer initiative, but that wasn't needed. He pointed out that the people in the room had learned on a chalk board. He told the board it was behind on its plan to deal with growth because it doesn't have a plan. He said the board was trying to make it "us vs. them." He told the board that if it couldn't do this because it must give every school something, then the board should give Indian Land the opportunity to be its own school district.

- **Indian Land parent Troy Yegge** addressed the board, saying he was disappointed that more board members did not attend the Indian Land Action Council meeting. He stated there was a rumor the superintendent had told board members not to attend and said the board should realize it was in charge of the superintendent, if the rumor was true. He said he had also heard a bond referendum could not pass because of the rest of the county, and that the board was five years too late. He demanded the board be more transparent and open a two-way dialogue.

- **Indian Land resident Wanda Rosa** addressed the board, saying she lived in Indian Land, which is part of Lancaster County. She said she was the person who invited the board to the Indian Land Action Council, and since then, she had heard so many things and the rumors keep growing. She invited the board back to a council meeting, and said she liked Pam Mulvaney's forum idea. She extended a special thanks to Mr. Brooks for attending the first council meeting.

- **Indian Land parent Dee Studebaker** addressed the board, saying when her family realized they were moving to the Charlotte area, they researched and were blown away by the Indian Land schools and their report cards and Indian Land felt like home. Her research didn't reveal the lack of communication from the board. She had looked at board planning meeting minutes and couldn't decipher what went on there. She asked how parents could find out the board's plan to address growth. She said she thinks the town hall meeting

is a good idea and she said the board listening during its meeting is good. She thanked the board for listening and for finding ways to communicate. She said she had polled sixth-grade teachers in Indian Land and they agreed that more space was needed and teacher resources. She talked with one teacher whose air conditioner was broken and hasn't been fixed. She also said teachers and students did not have enough access to computers while other counties have Chromebooks for all students in Grades 4-12. She stated before her family moved to Indian Land, they toured our schools and asked how many students would graduate with her son and was told 115, but this year, 175 students graduated. She then thanked the board for its service and asked that they address the facilities issues in Indian Land.

– **John Shaheen**, an Indian Land parent of four, stated that he moved from South Charlotte to Indian Land and has watched home values decrease. He stated that about eight months ago, for the first time since the 2008-09 recession, the supply of homes had dropped to a three- to four-month supply of homes, but now because of rumors about students having to go to Lancaster schools, the supply is back to a 8.3 month supply. He also stated that a home built in 2007 and sold in 2012 had been sold again this summer for less than it sold for in 2012. He stated that the uncertainty about school facilities was adversely affecting their home values. He urged the board to come up with a comprehensive plan to accommodate growth because growth will happen in the next five to eight years. He said the board has a total lack of transparency.

– **Melvin Stroble**, an Indian Land parent and president of the Indian Land High School Improvement Council, addressed the board. He said it was refreshing to hear voices from Indian Land. He stated he has four children who either attend or have attended the schools in Indian Land. He stated that the concerns shared tonight are similar to others he's heard and that all the concerns have been answered by the board to the school improvement council. This board has recognized the growth and has addressed it. He urged people to attend the board's bond referendum meeting Sept. 22. He also urged parents interested in information and academics to get involved in School Improvement Councils, which meet at the end of each month. The councils work to improve schools in South Carolina. He asked the board to consider having board meetings in a school each month and to look into programs that allow students to get college credit and associate degrees during high school.

**Approval of consent action items-
BCBD**

The chair called for approval of the consent action items below.

- Minutes of August 18 board hearing (BCBH)
- Early Head Start monthly financial report (DC)
- Head Start monthly financial report (DC)

A **MOTION** to approve the items was made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

**Recommendation to approve
regular financial report-
DCH, DID**

Dr. Moore referred board members to the appropriate agenda pages and recognized Mr. Walker, who reported revenues and expenditures were in line.

After the report, Dr. Moore asked Mr. Walker to review how ACT 388 affected our district revenues.

Mr. Walker reported that ACT 388 implemented in FY2008 removed residential property taxes from school operations and replaced the funding with a \$.01 sales tax.

- Original estimates called for a \$.02 sales tax to replace the property taxes.
- Tax dollars were made whole in the initial year of this change.
- Increases to the initial base amount have been limited annually to the CPI inflation factor plus a statewide growth factor.
- These limited increases have resulted in a loss for our district each year after the initial year totaling over time to an estimated \$41,526,305 assuming millage would have remained the same during this period.
- The estimated loss for FY2016 is \$9,325,000. The effects of ACT 388 have been negative for districts like Lancaster with high residential growth.
- Our district has limited fiscal autonomy, which authorizes the school board to level taxes annually up to 5 mills for school operations.
- ACT 388 placed further limitations on this millage to the lessor of 5 mills or the CPI inflation factor plus a local growth factor.
- Fee In Lieu of tax deals for manufacturing property basically take property taxed at 10.5% and reduce the tax over a designated period to 6% tax rate as incentives to relocate to the area.
 - FY2015 School Operating FIL revenues are estimated at \$2.1 million and for Debt Service at \$550,000, with taxes discounted \$1.6 million and \$412,500 respectively.
- State funding under the EFA is calculated by using a BSC factor, which was last fully funded in FY2008 at a BSC of \$2,476.
 - When the economy went south, the state BSC dropped as well for three straight years going to \$2,184 for FY2009, \$1,756 for FY2010, and \$1,615 for FY2011.
 - These drops amounted to as much as an estimated \$10,000,000 for some years.
 - The BSC has grown since then back to a BSC of \$2,220 for FY2016 but is well below the recommended level of \$2,742.
 - What this decrease means is we are short in state funding of school operations for FY2016 by an estimated \$6,596,000.
- The impact of a new school on the operating budget is costly.
 - We estimated additional annual cost of operations for Harrisburg to be around \$1,000,000.
 - Estimated annual cost for a new school would be between \$1.0 and \$2.0 million depending on the school built.

Dr. Moore then asked Mr. Walker to review options for funding facilities needs.

Mr. Walker reported that the district has only two options we have for capital construction– issue 8% GO Bonds or issue voter-approved-by-referendum GO Bonds.

- The board is authorized to issue and have outstanding 8% GO Bond Debt up to 8% of the county assessed value or an estimated \$24,889,199.
- There is no limit on the dollar amount of Referendum GO Bonds but voter approval is required.
- Both methods are repaid with local tax dollars from assessed Debt Service Millage annually to meet the required debt payments.
- In 1996, 8% GO Bonds \$8,750,000 issued to build IL Elementary.
- In 1999, Referendum GO Bonds \$36,500,000 issued to build Buford Elementary and AR Rucker – the last Referendum bonds issued.
- In 2004, LEAP Installment Debt Bonds \$70,150,000 issued for IL High, IL Middle renovations, and to refund existing debt.

September 15, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

- In 2012, 8% GO Bonds \$21,720,000 issued to build Harrisburg Elementary.
 - Upcoming 2015 issuance of 8% GO Bonds \$15,545,000 to cover \$7,400,000 for additions at IL Middle, other capital plan needs and LEAP Debt payment.
 - Our Debt Service Millage is 53 mills, a 10-mill increase over last year.
- Dr. Moore recommended the board approve the report.
A **MOTION** to approve the report was made and seconded.
The **MOTION** passed unanimously (7-0).

**Delegates to the SCSBA
Delegate Assembly-
LD, DF**

The chair called for board members to serve as delegates to the SCSBA Delegate Assembly. The board did not name delegates and will decide at its October meeting.

**Consent information items-
BCBD**

The board agreed to receive without discussion the reports below as consent information items. The reports were emailed to board members before the meeting.

- FY 2014-15 external audit update (DID)
- FY 2014-15 School Athletic Activities Financial report (DK)
- 2015-16 15-day Average Daily Membership Report (JB)
- Summer programs (IDCA)
 - Enrollment in summer programs
 - EAA middle school summer programs
 - High school summer school
- Teacher Attendance Incentive Program update (GBRI, GBRIB)
- National School Lunch Week Oct. 13-17 (EE)
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly federal progress summary (IDDH)
- Early Head Start/Head Start enrollment and attendance (IDDH)
- Chamber's State of Education breakfast (LB)
- SCSBA information (MGB, BBBC)

**Facilities update-
EB**

Dr. Moore recognized Jimmy Wilhide, Moseley Architects, who gave an Indian Land Middle renovations update including

- the timeline for the project and
- an overview of the plans for additions and renovations.

**Adjournment-
BCBF**

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Janice C. Dabney, Secretary

Robert W. Parker, Chair