

**Minutes of Special Called Session
ANNISTON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Thursday, January 3, 2019

10:00 am

The Anniston City Board of Education met in a Special Called Session on Thursday January 3, 2019, in the Board Room of the Central Office, 4804 McClellan Boulevard. The members present included the following: Mr. Robert Houston, Dr. Mary Harrington, Mrs. Rebecca Brown, Mrs. Trudy Munford, and Mrs. Joan Frazier. President Houston called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Mr. Jimmie Thompson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

President Robert Houston recognized and welcomed all guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Houston recommended approval of the agenda as presented.

A motion made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mrs. Frazier to approve President Houston's recommendation.

Before the vote Dr. Harrington recommended the selection of a board secretary be added to the agenda as an addendum as the first action item since the past superintendent served as the board secretary.

The motion was approved 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation of Board Secretary

Mrs. Frazier stated that the floor be open for a nomination. Mrs. Frazier also stated that she would like to nominate Dr. Harrington to serve as secretary to the

board for this meeting since the board was without a superintendent of education.

A motion was made by Mr. Houston to accept Mrs. Frazier's nomination and second by Mrs. Brown.

The motion was approved 5-0.

B. Accepting Superintendent Darren Douthitt's resignation

President Houston recommended approval of accepting Superintendent Darren Douthitt's resignation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Munford to accept President Houston's recommendation and second by Mrs. Frazier.

The motion was approved 5-0.

C. Recommendation for Interim Superintendent

President Houston recommended approval for an Interim Superintendent for Anniston City Schools.

A motion was made by Brown to accept President Houston's recommendation and seconded by Mrs. Frazier.

Before the vote Dr. Harrington asked how long the interim last? Mr. Houston replied, "Six months or 180 days."

A roll call vote: Mrs. Brown "Yes"

Mrs. Munford "Yes"

Mr. Houston "Yes"

Mrs. Frazier "Yes"

Dr. Harrington "No"

Dr. Harrington stated that her reason for voting no was not personal; she disagreed with the process.

DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Scheduling a Work Session

A work session was scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 10:00 a.m. -12 noon.

Houston stated

I can look out and see mixed emotion; it's not about Dr. Jones, it's about the children we support. We must come together and give all our support to Dr. Jones. Furthermore, if something is wrong with Dr. Jones, we have had 18 years to say something about it. Just give him your support. It's time to move on. Congratulations.

Frazier stated

Congratulations Dr. Jones. Twelve years ago, I did not have a 5-0 vote from the Board. This Board is going to engage in a thorough and deliberate search for a Superintendent in the next six months. I think that we have a very detailed search plan and activities that I wholeheartedly support, and I think that we will make the decision in six months that will best serve the children in this community. We have several things that we need to get accomplished in the next six months. Dr. Jones, I hope you are looking forward to spending a lot of days here and not at home.

Brown asked

What is the effective date of the 180 days?

Frazier & Houston answered

Today, we approved it today. So, June 30th will be the end of the six months.

Dr. Jones stated

Thank you very much I do not take this appointment lightly. A lot of work needs to be done over these six months which Mrs. Frazier has alluded to. We are fortunate and thankful that in my department, we have produced quality.

Anything I'm involved in, I try to do the best I can. I've been in this position 10 years and we've been monitored three times. I'm proud to say we have a huge packet when we are monitored, and we received 0 citations the last time we were reviewed 5 years ago. Federal programs is a huge piece in Anniston City schools. There are a lot of different areas. Our desire is to produce quality in everything we do. I'm committed to this school system, to the students, parents and to the Board members. We must produce a school system that we are proud of. My kids have gone to Anniston City Schools all the way through. My oldest son is in the 11th grade and my youngest is in the 9th grade. Now, I know what needs to be done and I'm ready to hit the road running. We have to ensure that all of us are accountable. Accountability starts with me and the leaders of our schools. Our teachers have to be held accountable, and I told my teachers when I was a principal, if we teach these children as if they were our own, we can be sure we are giving them the best. That's the benchmark I would like to set. I don't usually make promises, but I will continue to work hard to make sure we are here for them. We will create a school system we are proud to send our babies to.

Board Speaks

Dr. Harrington

- Hopes we continue to make progress and support our interim Superintendent
- Put everything aside and support our system
- Wants everyone to find some type of Stress management so they can do a good job

Mrs. Frazier

- Wishes everyone a Happy 2019
- Thanked everyone who had a hand in the improvement on the state report card
- Congratulated Dr. Jones and wished him well
- Stated she hopes we will be supportive to him

Mrs. Brown

- Shared a quote from Teddy Roosevelt, ‘The Man in the Arena’
- Stated she is going to be in the Arena with Dr. Jones to help focus on the many things our children need. They will strive together.

Mrs. Munford

- Congratulated Dr. Jones
- Stated she is going to continue to be transparent
- Going to work with everybody to take care of our students, parents, teachers and central office staff as well as community members

Mr. Houston

- Wished everyone a Happy 2019
- Stated we are all on this Board for a purpose
- Stated He is who he is, was and is ever going to be and so is Anniston City Schools because we all have a defined destiny
- Stated we need people to get off the sideline and stop waiting on life to happen to them and get in the game; we are bit players in this big stage of life

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made by Mrs. Frazier and seconded by Dr. Harrington, the Board adjourned. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 10:30 am

