

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 6:00 PM
The Alex Chatman Auditorium
147 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

Members Present: Marva B. Cannon, Dr. Jerry L. Dicks, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Janice Gamble, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Gary McKenzie, Tawan Alston, Mack Burgess, and Carletta Scott Isreal

Others Present: Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Natasha Bryant, Seth Taylor, Amber Harrington, Layla McLaughlin, Naydia Shaw, Mark Pickard, Ethan Carraway, Dontrell Epps, Kennedy Mack, Amanda Dorris, Kimily C. Brown, Daisy R. Scott, Amya Isreal, Vernie Williams, L. Gamble, Myron Davis, Wendy R. Fulton, Brent Streett, Randy McFadden, Alfreda Carolina, Brian Smith, Dr. Latonya Harmon, Lee Roy Campbell, Catina Dukes, Tyleek Dukes, Yvette Cantey, Latonya West, Jacques Blake, Ernestine Young, Mike Dukes, Berlinda Mack, Janie McCrea, J. Omar Montgomery, Natalie Grant, Nydia W., Deborah Fulton, Melissa McFadden, Veronica Cooper, Chiquan Giles, Darren McKnight, Kerry Singleton, Turquoise Rouse, Ashton Rush, Dawnovin Keels, Donna Palmer, Brittani Epps, Bri’Niya Epps, Bryson Epps, Brenton Epps, M. McFadden, Sherrin McLaughlin, Charnell Wilson, Pedro Carraway, Genia Smith and Angela Fred

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Marva B. Cannon at 6:00 pm. The secretary confirmed the Establishment of Quorum and the chair confirmed the Notification of Media.

Welcome

The chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Moment of Silence

Dr. Dicks asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of Board Members

Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent swore in newly elected board members: Mrs. Carletta Scott-Isreal, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Jerry L. Dicks and Ms. Tawan B. Alston.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda for tonight’s meeting by Dr. J. Gamble, seconded by Dr. J. Dicks.

Action Items

A motion was made by Dr. J. Gamble to approve the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees Minutes from Monday, November 18, 2024, seconded by Dr. J. Dicks. The motion was carried. However, Rev. Darby made a comment of unreadiness, that “Board Member Input” was not added on the agenda. Chair Cannon acknowledged his unreadiness and stated that it was duly noted.

Thought for Today

Gary McKenzie shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

Mr. Billy Jenkinson, (*Attorney*), Miss Kayla McLaughlin, (*KHS Senior Class President*), Mr. Marcus Keels, (*KHS Junior Class President*), Miss Naydia Shaw, (*KHS Sophomore Class President*), Amber Harrington, (*KHS Parent*), Chiquan Kindell, (*KHS Parent*), and Kerry Singleton, Jr., (*former student*), all spoke concerning Coach Brian Smith being reinstated as the football coach at Kingstree High School. They all presented accolades as to why Coach Brian Smith should be reinstated. They also wanted to know what expectations did Coach Smith not meet.

Coach Smith spoke on his behalf. He stated that he wants to return as head football coach, but only under the right circumstances. He would like to report only to the Board of Trustees and the State Department of Education. He thanked everyone for their support.

Chair Cannon thanked the students, parents and community for coming to the board meeting and informed them that they look forward to working with them and providing answers for them.

(Please visit our district's website at www.wcsd.k12.sc.us to view public comments in its entirety)

School Board Appreciation Month

Signing of the Ethical Principles Flyer

Board Secretary Carletta Isreal read the School Board Ethical Principles and Chair Cannon asked each board member to sign the Ethical Principles Flyer, which was provided by the South Carolina School Boards Association.

Proclamation from the Governor of SC

Board Chair Cannon, stated that each year the governor presents a proclamation for School Board Recognition Month and that the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees recognizes this proclamation.

Legislative Update

M. Burgess provided the Legislative update regarding the bill to allow debit cards to be used for purchasing lottery tickets (s.169). He stated that the Senate Education Committee is considering the bill. In another Senate hearing, a Senate Judiciary subcommittee reviewing election related bills gave a favorable report on a proposal (s.38) to restrict bond referendums and other special elections to specific dates. These elections would only be permitted on the following dates:

- the fourth Tuesday in January;
- the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April;
- the second Tuesday in June (only in even-numbered years and only for primaries for special elections);
- the fourth Tuesday in August; or
- the November general election date.

The bill now advances to the full Senate Judiciary Committee.

Rev. A. Darby asked a question of the board chair. He wanted to know when will the delegation meet with the board. He stated that he has been asking for them to meet with the board for some time. Chairman Cannon asked Mr. Mack Burgess, the legislative liaison, if he would invite the delegation to one of the monthly board meetings and get back with her on which meeting they will be available to attend.

Presentation from the Kingstree - Lake City Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Janie McCrea, Basileus, and members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. presented Kingstree Middle Magnetic School of the Arts, Hemingway M.B. Lee Middle School, and CE Murray Middle School with school supplies.

Audit Presentation

Mr. Marc Wood, of Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, presented the Executive Audit Summary for June 30, 2024 to the Board of Trustees Mr. Wood explained and reviewed the outline of the Audit Report of the school district and information included in each section of the report. and stated that Williamsburg County School District received an “unmodified audit”. He stated that there were no findings and that Mrs. Wendy Fulton and her staff does an awesome job. Mr. Wood then asked the board members did they have any questions: Rev. A. Darby asked if the 10 million dollars used to add on to the Greeleyville STEAM Academy was state monies. Mr. Wood stated that he was pretty sure that it was state monies. Rev. Darby also asked about the bonuses were given. Mr. Wood stated that the State Department of Education and the Board were aware of this and that it was taken from the fund balance. Dr. Burgess asked how losing 100 students per year would affect the budget? Mr. Wood stated that the district had a healthy fund balance at this time. Board Chair Cannion said that beginning January, the board will work with administration and the fiancé department to develop a budget for the upcoming school year. She then appointed Dr. Janice Gamble, to chair the Budget Committee, along with Mrs. Carletta Isreal and Dr. Kenneth Burgess.

Policy J-Students (1st Reading)

- **McKinney-Vento (Homelessness)**
- **English Learner (EL) and Migrant Students**

Board Chair Cannion read and presented both policies for 1st reading. She stated that the Policy Committee met and reviewed the policies before presenting them to the board for 1st reading.

Executive Session

Rev. A. Darby made a motion at 7:10 p.m. to move into executive session for the item outlined. Dr. J. Dicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 7:29 p.m., Dr. J. Dicks made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Dr. J. Gamble. Motion carried. Chair Cannion stated that no formal action was taken. However, the question of employment advice has been referred to the district’s attorney, Vernie Williams.

Adjournment

Dr J. Dicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rev. A. Darby. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____ Date: _____
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____
Marva B. Cannion, Board Chair