

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 27, 2023 – 6:00 PM**  
**Public Service Administrative Building – Council Chambers 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556**

**Members Present:** Marva B. Cannon, Rev. Jerry L. Dicks, Heyward Baker, Mack Burgess, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mike Floyd, and Carletta Scott Isreal

**Member Absent:** N/A

**Others Present:** Dr. Myron Davis, Vennie Williams, Ernest Young, Joseph T. McCollough, Rev. Alice P. Wright, Eddie Tisdale-Castle, Joe Castle, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Wendy Fulton, Michael White, James Price, Shaniqua Tisdale, Elayshia Edwards, Angie Owens, Ameisha Owens, and Michelle Purcell

**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**

Ms. Cannon asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Dr. Gamble and seconded by Rev. Darby. The motioned was carried.

**Action Items**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the January 23, 2023, board meeting minutes by Rev. Darby seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motion was carried.

**Thought of Today**

H. Baker shared the Thought for Today.

**Public Participation**

Joe Castle, President of the Local NAACP, expressed his support along with parents across the county for the local school board to regain control of school district after viewing January 2023, board meeting. He shared his disappointment of entering into another school year with no local board control and with an interim superintendent. Mr. Castle commended the local board for its transparency of keeping the public informed.

The chair shared that H. Baker, C. Isreal and Rev. Dicks spoke with Superintendent Ellen Weaver at the school board convention held this month. Ms. Weaver shared that she was in the process of scheduling a meeting to further discuss this matter.

### **Legislative Update**

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, shared that the House of Representative Ways and Means Committee approved the budget recommendations of the subcommittee to include the Public Education Subcommittee. The following will be adopted: provisos H4300; and Capital Reserves Fund Bill for the K-12. The K-12 proviso will increase minimum teacher's salary by \$2,500 for a starting salary of \$42,500, and \$120 million for capital funding of schools (school safety upgrades, additional School Resource Officers, increase bus drivers pay, increase expenses for full-day 4K, and increase teacher supply funding).

### **Update from the District**

Wendy Fulton, Chief Financial Officer, provided the board with an update on the 2021-2022 school district annual audit and provided copies of a few important pages from the audit. She stated that a full copy was available to board members at her office. She proceeded to walk the board members through the audit report. She concluded her presentation with no audit findings for 2021-2022, and the school district qualified as a low risk auditee. Ms. Fulton stated that the school district had no audit findings for the past four years that she has been in this position.

### **Recognition of the Girls' Basketball Team Coaches**

The board recognized the Girls' Basketball Team Coaches and presented each coach with a Certificate of Appreciate for their hard work and dedication this past season. The girls' team ended the season as Lower State Finalist.

Dr. Wymbs, Superintendent, shared that Hemingway High School was selected as the 2022 American College Application Campaign School of Excellence for the state of South Carolina (SC) by the SC Commission of Higher Education. The selection was based on timely submission of school data, 95% of senior participated in college application month, the school ranked 3 out of 245 participating high schools in the state, 156 college applications were completed, and an average of four applications per student were received at the event. The superintendent commended the school for their award and will be recognized at a later date.

The chair also shared that Williamsburg County School Board member was invited to participate on a panel at the SC School Boards Association Annual Convention.

### **Board Items**

Rev. Dicks announced that members of the local clergy will walkthrough Hemingway High School on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The purpose of the walkthrough is to help reduce the number of students' disciplinary infractions.

Rev. Darby asked about the mentoring program in the schools to address the number of fights at Kingstree High School (KSH). Dr. Wymbs shared that The Blueprint Mentoring Group was hired to work with students at KHS since December 2022, to address this matter. Dr. Wymbs stated that he will Mr. Park to update the board at the next meeting. Also, Dr. Wymbs highlighted Mr. Mack Burgess and CareMed visit to Hemingway Schools to help students with dental health.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rev. Darby and seconded by Dr. Gamble. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_