

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Public Service Administrative Building – Council Chambers 1st Floor
201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

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

Member Absent: Dr. Janice M. Gamble and Heyward Baker

Others Present: Joseph T. McCollough, Jr., Ernest Young, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Michael White, Eddie Castle, Joe Castle, Amanda Dorris, Dr. Myron Davis, Vernie Williams, Eunice Alston, and Donna Palmer

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

Rev. Dicks 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 Rev. Dicks and seconded by Dr. Burgess. The motioned was carried.

Action Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the board minutes from August 28, 2023 by Rev. Dicks seconded by Dr. Burgess. The motion was carried.

Thought of Today

C. Scott Isreal shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

Mr. Joe Castle, President of NAACP, provided an update of a meeting between Brenda Murphy, NAACP State President and Superintendent Ellen Weaver. Ms. Murphy was encouraged by the meeting with Superintendent Weaver and the superintendent had positive comments about Williamsburg County School District.

Legislative Update

The chair provided the following legislative updates on behalf of H. Baker: Administration of Lifesaving Medication; Omnibus Tobacco Enforcement Act of 2023; and Gavin's Law: Sexual Extortion. The South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) recommended that district adopts the model to incorporate changes to the laws. As it related to Gavin's Law, the district should be aware of the notice and plan to collaborate with identified partners on information to be shared with families and school personnel regarding the crime of sexual extortion. The First Steps Enactment and Reform requires local board to identify and appoint an employee to serve on the local First Steps Partnership Board. Finally, the chair stated that board policies will be updated to include a daily free period on all teachers' schedules.

Academics Presentation from the Office of Teaching, Learning and Leadership Support

Mrs. Dorris, Director of Testing and Accountability, shared a PowerPoint presentation of Williamsburg County School District SC READY & ECOCEP Data results for all school. Each board member received a copy of the presentation in their board meeting packet. After the presentation, board members had questions that were addressed by Mr. White along with written request to document the expectations between the district and Department of Education on student academic performance on state assessment.

Dr. Wymbs thanked board for their continued support, acknowledged the hard work of his staff and teachers, share that staff had started plans for new school year as it relates to supporting our scholars, and his confidence level in our scholars with their ability to perform. The superintendent expressed his concerns about gun violence across the United State, shared a statement, and encouraged an Ad Hoc Committee to address gun violence.

Board Items

Mike Floyd will provide Thought of Today at next board meeting.

Rev. Dicks expressed concerns about the pavement of Crib Street by Hemingway High School.

The chair directed board members to their packet in response to Rev. Darby's question from August 28, 2023, board meeting.

Rev. Darby expressed concerns about the condition of DP Cooper School's property to include the buildings and grounds.

Mack Burgess asked for an update from the Calendar Committee for 2024-25 school year at the next meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rev. Darby and seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____

Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____

Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: _____