

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.
Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
423 School Street - Kingstree, South Carolina

Members Present: Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Mr. James Dukes, Jr., Rev. William C. Henryhand, Sr., Mr. Joseph Lee, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, Ms. Barbara McKenzie, and Dr. Kerry Singleton

Others Present: Ms. Carrie C. Brock, Mrs. Roberta Cumbee, Mr. Michael Barrineau, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Ms. Cynthia Brown, Dr. Myron Davis, Dr. Gerard Edwards, Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Dr. Gwendolyn Harris, Mr. Ray James, Mr. Allen Keels, Ms. Bonnie King, Mrs. Berlinda Mack, Mrs. Shaunta P. Mack, Mrs. Priscilla McClary, Ms. Vermelle McCrea, Dr. Brian McKnight, Mr. Javonne O. Montgomery, Ms. Tamekia Morant, Dr. Deonia Simmons, Attorney Vernie Williams, Mr. Marc Woods, and Mrs. Bonnie Grimsley

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Rev. Alfred Darby.

Moment of Silence

Rev. Darby acknowledged school district employees, and the families of school district employees, who died during the months of December 2017 and January 2018. He expressed sympathy, on behalf of the school district, to all bereaved families. He then asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2017, Regular Board Meeting, and the December 12, 2017, Called Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

School Board Recognition Month

The month of January is designated School Board Recognition Month. Ms. Carrie C. Brock, Superintendent, spoke on behalf of the Williamsburg County School District Family, expressing sincere appreciation to the School Board of Trustees for their untiring commitment and dedication to educating the students of Williamsburg County. In addition, she called attention to the South Carolina School Boards Association's Ethical Principal, a copy of which will be hung in the Boardroom.

South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) Recognizes Board Member

The South Carolina School Boards Association extended congratulations to Rev. William C. Henryhand, Sr. for twenty (20) years of service as a school board member. SCSBA provided a lapel pin and a certificate in recognition of this accomplishment. In addition, Rev. Henryhand's name and years of service will appear in SCSBA's Annual Convention Program booklet of February 15-18, 2018, in Hilton Head, SC. Board Members congratulated Rev. Henryhand, and the Board Chair presented the pin and certificate to him.

South Carolina Department of Education Awards 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

The Williamsburg County School District's school and charter school listed below were awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grants from the South Carolina Department of Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Brock stated that the administration is very proud of the schools that received grants. Ms. Cynthia Brown, Principal of W. M. Anderson Primary School, agreed with Ms. Brock's comments, and thanked her for supporting the schools. The Board extended congratulations to school principals and the district's Grants Writer and Grants Writing Teams.

- W. M. Anderson Primary School (\$78,583)
- D. P. Cooper Charter School (\$100,000)

South Carolina Department of Education Awards Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grants

The Williamsburg County School District's schools and charter school listed below were awarded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants from the South Carolina Department of Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Brock shared that the administration is very appreciative of the vegetables to help children to have a healthy snack. Mrs. Berlinda Mack, Principal of Greeleyville Elementary School, stated that the program gives children an opportunity to have an extra snack throughout the day, and schools are very thankful for the program. The Board extended congratulations to school principals and the district's Grants Writer and Grants Writing Teams.

- W. M. Anderson Primary School (\$20,317.31)
- Greeleyville Elementary School (\$9,567.31)
- Hemingway Elementary School (\$19,017.31)
- Kenneth Gardner Elementary School (\$17,167.31)
- D. P. Cooper Charter School (\$23,717.31)

Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Roberta Cumbee, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, asked for questions relevant to the Board Agenda attachment from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. She addressed a question regarding Benchmark Testing, assuring the Board that results from Benchmark testing are being used by teachers throughout the year as a key to improve student achievement.

Student Services

Dr. Brian McKnight, Director of Student Services and Transportation, addressed Board Member concerns as follows:

- The number of students on the disciplinary report included hearings held during the months of December and January.
- Intervention is being provided to students, especially repeaters. Behavior intervention plans are implemented by teachers to stop problem behaviors at school and increase classroom productivity.
- Ms. Brock stated that the administration is working providing professional development for teachers on ways to keep students actively engaged in learning, and not being disruptive. She stated that when students are sent to the principal, it's the last resort. She also indicated that there has been a decline in disciplinary infractions from the prior year.

Finance and Administrative Services

Audit Report

Mr. Marc Woods, Auditor, with Sheheen, Hancock and Godwin presented the Executive Summary of the 2016-2017 Audit to Board Members, and allowed for their questions and concerns. He commended staff members of the Finance Department for receiving an "Unqualified Audit" which is a complete audit that analyzes both the internal system of control, as well as all of the details in the finance department's books. Mr. Woods noted that the fund balance will cover over one month's expense; however, the State Department of Education recommends a fund balance that covers 3-6 month's expenses.

Expenditures and Revenues Statements

Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Assistant Finance Director, asked for questions pertaining to the expenditures and revenues statements.

Ms. Brock updated Board Members of the following projects:

- The C. E. Murray High School roofing project is proceeding according to its projected schedule for completion in March 2018.
- With reference to the property donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars the property has been surveyed and the administration is waiting for the preparation of the deed.

ACTION ITEMS

Board's Budget Committee Meeting

The Budget Chairperson, Dr. Linwood Cooper, made a recommendation that the Board accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to adopt the Schedule of 2018-2019 Budget Formulation and Adoption. A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to accept the recommendation to adopt the Schedule of 2018-2019 Budget Formulation and Adoption. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

WCSD Proposed Calendar for the 2018-2019 School Year

The administration was asked to revise the 2018-2019 calendar to reflect Election Day in November 2018, and resubmit the calendar for approval at the next Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to convene in Executive Session to discuss items listed on the agenda.

- A. Discussion of Employment Matters, including: Hiring, Discipline, Transfer, Termination, Retirement, Reorganization and/or Resignation of Staff.**
- B. Receipt of legal advice regarding litigation, potential litigation, employment matters, and facilities updates.**

The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0). The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:37 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Barbara McKenzie to convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0). The Board convened in Open Session at 7:37 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the retirement of the following certified personnel: Ms. Mary F. Hannah, Ms. Cynthia McKenzie, Ms. Caretha Sabb, and Ms. Loretta Turner. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to release the following certified personnel for the 2017-2018 school year: Mr. Abraham Fleming, Mrs. Kimberly Griffith, and Ms. Laura Ann Sanders. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the administration's recommendation to terminate the 2017-2018 contract of following certified personnel: Employee M. S. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0).

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Rev. William C. Henryhand, Sr. to deny the employee's request for an appeal hearing before the Board. Five members voted in favor of the motion to deny: Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Rev. William C. Henryhand, Sr., Mr. Joseph Lee, and Ms. Barbara McKenzie. Four members abstained from voting: Rev. Alfred Darby, Mr. James Dukes, Jr., Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, and Dr. Kerry Singleton. The motion to deny an appeal hearing was carried, (5-0-4).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (9-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by: Bonnie Grimsley Date: 2/26/18

Board Secretary: Gladys Dorsey Date: 2/26/18