

**WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CALLED BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 – 1:00 P. M.
Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
423 School Street – Kingstree, SC**

Members Present: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Mr. James Darby, Rev. Norman Gamble, and Mr. Charles Garner

Members Absent: Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie

Others Present: Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, Dr. Bernice Davis-Cooper, Mr. Glen Kennedy, Ms. Christine Green, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Administrative Staff Members, Dr. Cheryl Allread, Ms. Janet Athen, Dr. Gwendolyn Bright, Mr. Paul Hickman, Mr. Greg Watchinski, Ms. Tamara Walker, Dr. Patricia Woodruff, Mr. Matt McColl, Ms. Micheale Dukes, and Mrs. Joann Fulton.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Norma Bartelle, Acting-Chair.

Rev. Norman Gamble led the group in prayer. All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Garner and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (3-0). The Chair did not vote.

It was noted that the Board Chair could not be released from work, and the Vice Chair had a funeral; therefore, neither would be attending the meeting.

Information Item Session

A. Recommendation from the SACS/AdvancED Visiting Team

Dr. Patricia Woodruff, from Naples, FL, who was the Chairperson for the SACS/AdvancED visiting Team, introduced herself, and then asked the other members to introduce themselves. They were: Ms. Janet Abrams, Batesville, MS, Dr. Cheryl Allread, Mullins, SC, Dr. Gwendolyn Bright, St. George, SC, Mr. Paul Hickman, Conway, SC, Mr. Greg Watchinski, Lexington, SC, and Ms. Tamara Walker, Greencastle, IN.

Each Team member expressed gratitude for the manner in which they were received, and for the wonderful sharing of information by the administration and staff, parents, students, and community leaders.

Special commendations were given to Dr. Jefferson-Barnes for the leadership she is providing the school district; and to Dr. Cooper for effectively leading the AdvancED process.

Dr. Woodruff explained that the team looked at the district to identify evidences of the system approach, via policies, procedures, systems and sustainability. She revisited Standard 7, focusing on evidence (provided by the district) of a research based and best practices process for continuous improvement, and quality assurance; making sure the district was doing what it said it was doing.

Dr. Woodruff said she would provide a general report, to include strengths and opportunities; and the superintendent would receive a detailed report within a few weeks. She also noted that the report was a consensus of the team.

The team visited 8 schools, 94 classrooms, and interviewed 5 board members and 277 stakeholders. Commendations and recommendations were discussed. Emphasis was placed on the fact that required actions must be addressed by the district, and a progress report provided to SACS/AdvancED within the next two years.

Commendations

- Multiple evidences were seen of the superintendent's leadership,
- Multiple evidences were seen in the area of communication, i.e. TAC, Parent, and Assistant Principals' Forums, open meetings, SIC, the Lamp, the media, and the school district's website.
- Board and superintendent provided leadership to look at the district's vision, mission and beliefs.

Required Action

- From the systemic aspect, the district must put in place an *across the board* plan.
- Determine how to best align resources.
- Develop a plan to review, analyze, and use data, daily, to drive instruction based on the data.
- Develop systematic intervention programs for struggling learners. Many things were seen happening, but they need to happen across the system.
- Develop a process for validating schools to meet AdvancED standards.

Dr. Woodruff stated that on the Standards Rubric, the team recommended the following: 1. a rating of "Operational" for each standard; 2. that the district be "Fully Accredited"; and 3. that the recommendation would be forwarded to the State Committee.

She closed by sharing that some tough decisions must be made, but the district has the capacity to make them. She once again thanked everyone for their openness, honesty, and transparency; and Dr. Cooper and her staff for exceptional organization of the process.

Acting Chair Bartelle expressed that she was elated with the findings, and thanked the team for their hard work and dedication. She also thanked Dr. Jefferson-Barnes and Dr. Cooper, along with the administration, staff and all other stakeholders.

Board Member Garner said he was very pleased with the findings, and thanked the Team for coming.

Board Member Gamble thanked Dr. Jefferson-Barnes and staff for a job well done.

Board Member Darby thanked the Team for coming, and wished them a safe trip back.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. James Darby that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried unanimously, (3-0). The Acting-Chair did not vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p. m.

Submitted by: Joann M. Fulton Date: 1-23-2012

Board Secretary: [Signature] Date: 1-23-2012