

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 27, 2015 – 6:00 P. M.**  
**Board/Staff Development Meeting Room**  
**423 School Street - Kingstree, South Carolina**

**Members Present:** Rev. Alfred Darby, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr., Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Mr. Joseph Lee, Mrs. Barbara McKenzie, and Dr. Kerry Singleton

**Others Present:** Mrs. Carrie C. Brock, Dr. Bernice D. Cooper, Mr. Glen Kennedy, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Dr. Janice Gamble, Mr. Alex Gordon, Mr. Ray James, Mr. Levi Keith, Mrs. Donna Lewis, Ms. Crystal Lottig, Dr. Brian McKnight, Mr. George H. Brown, Mr. Charlie Fulton, Mr. Terry Green, Mr. Billy S. Grissett, Mr. Doward Harvin, Esq., Mr. Ben McGill, Mr. James Scott, Ms. Jacqueline Simmons, Attorney Vernie Williams, Ms. Michaela Duke, Mr. Booker Pressley, and Mrs. Joann Fulton

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

**Moment of Silence**

All persons were asked to observe a Moment of Silence; and to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

**Public Comment:**

Mr. George Brown, Representative for the Concerned Parents and Citizens of Hemingway Community, spoke on behalf of the group. Mr. Brown asked Board Members for a meeting with parents in the Hemingway area. He also asked that the three Hemingway area principals be reinstated to their respective schools for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Ben McGill, a concerned citizen of Williamsburg County, had concerns and asked for information on the most recent audit, stating that some information was misleading; the amount saved since school closures began in 2007; the budget before and after closing the Magnet School; and a record of how Board Members' vote during Budget Meetings.

Mr. James Scott, a concerned parent of Williamsburg County, asked the Board to reconsider moving principals from Hemingway areas schools. He expressed concerns for his son, who attends school in Hemingway, and the negative affect the changes were having on his son.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Dr. Kerry Singleton and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2015, Regular Board Meeting, March 30, 2015, Budget Committee Meeting, and the April 2, 2015, Called Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Curriculum and Instruction**

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## **Spring Assessments**

Dr. Bernice Cooper provided a schedule of spring assessment dates to Board Members. She explained the difference between the old and new methods of testing, which is that assessments will now be timed, unlike the old method of assessments, which were untimed. Dr. Cooper stated that students have been practicing for the timed assessments.

## **Profile of the South Carolina Graduate**

### **Development of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate**

- Dr. Janice Gamble, Principal of C. E. Murray High School, listed some initiatives to ensure that students are future ready. Key programs include: Rigorous Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies; Classes to prepare juniors and seniors for the ACT and WorkKeys; Honors Program and Dual enrollment courses; Foreign Language and Career and Technology Education Programs; Online classes (APEX, SC Virtual School); and a requirement that all seniors complete FASFA forms and college applications.
- Mr. Alex Gordon, Principal of Kingtree Senior High School, stated that Kingtree Senior High School's faculty and staff are collaborating with its business partners, parents and policy makers to promote and provide transformative practices in the classroom. As the Principal Leader, he is providing: 1) professional development to all teachers; 2) creating partnerships for student internships and dual enrollment; 3) a relevant and rigorous curriculum for students; and 4) preparation for the ACT and ACT WorkKeys assessments.
- Mr. Levi Keith, Principal of Hemingway High School, said, "Hemingway High is doing basically the same as the other high schools in the district." He spoke of: 1) the positive changes made in the Education Oversight Committee's grading system; 2) Carnegie Units, 3) ACT preparation courses. 4) The guidance office requires all seniors to complete at least one college application. He reported that 5) ninety-two percent of CATE students passed their test; 6) a significant growth of the BETA Club; and 7) the improvement of the graduation rate of all students.

## **Student Services**

Dr. Brian McKnight stated that he and Mr. Glen Kennedy are helping to monitor students at Kingtree Senior High School during lunch breaks, and at the end of the school day, in addition to their other daily assignments. He also told Board Members that five new air conditioned buses were assigned to the school district by the State Department.

## **Administrative Services**

Mr. Glen Kennedy informed Board Members that the athletic departments are struggling financially in all district schools, due to low attendance. A Board Member inquired about Aquatics being offered in schools. Mr. Kennedy said aquatics is not offered by the district, but during the summer, classes are offered by the Williamsburg Recreation Department.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **C. E. Murray High School's Field Trip Request**

A motion was made by Dr. Kerry Singleton and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the C. E. Murray High School Athletic Department's field trip request to Columbia, SC, June 21-25, 2015. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0.)

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### **ACT 155 Diploma Petitions**

A motion was made by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and seconded by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to accept the administration's recommendation to approve ACT 155 Diploma Petitions presented to the district. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

### **CCEL's Request to Purchase Laptops and Tablets**

A motion was made by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the use of CCEL grant funds to purchase up to 3,100 new Dell laptops and tablets for the CCEL schools for the 2015-2016 school year. Five members voted in favor of the motion: Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and Dr. Kerry Singleton. Two members opposed: Mr. Joseph Lee and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. The motion was carried (5-2).

### **Williamsburg County Council's Request for Use of District School**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to approve Williamsburg County Recreation Department's request to use the WCSD Annex Cafeteria to prepare lunches for its Summer Food Program, June 9, 2015, through July 31, 2015. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

### **Williamsburg County School District Requests Permission to Apply for Title I Funds**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to approve Williamsburg County School District administration's request for permission to apply for Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title VI Funds for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

### **2015-2016 Textbook Adoption Recommendations**

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the Office of Instructional Services' Textbooks request for newly adopted materials for the 2015-2016 school year. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Kerry Singleton and seconded by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to convene in Executive Session to discuss items listed on the agenda.

#### **A. Discussion of Election, Transfer, Termination, Retirement and/or Resignation of Staff**

#### **B. Legal Advice**

1. Facilities Requests
2. Contractual Matter

The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0). The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

### **OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0). The Board convened in Open Session at 8:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the retirement of the following personnel at the end of the 2014-2015 school year: Ms. Debra Keels-Sabb and Ms. Cynthia McClorin. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the administration's recommendation to employ the following personnel for the 2015-2016 school year: Mr. Johnny Calloway, Ms. Virginia Graham, and Ms. Debbie Ipock. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0).

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p. m.

Submitted by: Joyana M. Fulton Date: May 26, 2015

Board Secretary: A. J. Cooper Date: 05/26/2015