

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 28, 2014 – 6:00 P. M.**  
**Board/Staff Development Meeting Room**  
**423 School Street - Kingstree, South Carolina**

**Members Present:** Mr. Joseph Lee, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Ms. Norma Bartelle, Rev. Norman Gamble, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr., and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie

**Others Present:** Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, Dr. Bernice D. Cooper, Mr. Glen Kennedy, Mr. Stanley Brunson, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Ms. Delicia Alston, Ms. Alexis Braden, Ms. McKenzie Braden, Mr. Robert Braden, Mr. Zack Braden, Ms. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Delmonte Burroughs, Mr. Basie Chisolm, Ms. Karen Coursey, Mrs. Gladys G. Dorsey, Dr. Janice Gamble, Dr. Jennifer Gardner, Mr. Willie Frazier, Mr. Ray James, Mr. Levi Keith, Dr. Brian McKnight, Ms. Angelica P. McBride, Ms. Royukita Scott, Mr. Micheal Scott, Ms. Jacqueline Simmons, Ms. Felicia Wagener, Mr. Clay West, Ms. Gracie West, Ms. Karen Williams, Mrs. La-Dine' Williams-Gamble, Attorney Vernie Williams, Mr. Torrance Wilson, Mrs. Martha Woods, Ms. Michael Dukes, Mr. Chris McKagen, and Mrs. Joann Fulton. **Students:** Bianca Braden, John Battiste, Keenan Brown, Andrew Burroughs, Ahmad Coursey, Zariyah Fulton, Rakayla Graham, Tyler Ricks, DeEric Scott, McKenzie Traylor, and Ny'Claysia West

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Joseph Lee.

**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 Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Delicia Alston, a Williamsburg County School District parent, expressed concerns with the handling of the Mr. and Miss W. M. Anderson Primary School Pageant. She stated that her daughter won the title, was crowned winner, and the next day told that the judges made a mistake. She said the teacher and principal took her daughter's title, and that she, the mother, was tricked into signing papers.

McKenzie Traylor, Andrew Burroughs, Keenan Brown, Bianca Bardoe, Zariyah Fulton, Rakayla Graham, and Tyler Ricks, D. P. Cooper Elementary School students, addressed the Board, requesting approval of the D. P. Cooper Charter School request.

Ms. Karen Coursey, a Williamsburg County School District parent, spoke on behalf of naming Dr. Kenneth Burgess principal of Kingstree Senior High School for the 2014-2015 school year.

John Battiste and DeEric Scott, Williamsburg County School District students, spoke in support of naming Dr. Kenneth Burgess principal of Kingstree Senior High School for the 2014-2015 school year.

Ny'Claysia West, a Williamsburg County School District student, and her mother, Mrs. Gracie West, told Board Members that the child had been mentally and physically abused by her teacher at Kenneth Gardner Elementary School, and asked the Board to investigate.

Ms. Felicia Wagener, a Williamsburg County School District parent, spoke on behalf of Dr. Kenneth Burgess becoming principal of Kingstree Senior High School for the 2014-2015 school year.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand to approve minutes from the March 24, 2014, Board Budget Committee and Regular Board Meetings. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

### **Williamsburg County Schools Received Palmetto Gold and Silver Recognitions**

Congratulations were extended to six Williamsburg County School District schools for receiving seven Palmetto Gold and three Silver awards from the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee. This was the largest number of School Performance and Achievement Recognitions received by this district since the beginning of this program. Board Members presented Certificates of Achievement to administrators of the following schools/programs:

- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| • C. E. Murray High School     | Gold/Gold   |
| • Hemingway Elementary School  | Gold/Silver |
| • Hemingway High School        | Gold/Gold   |
| • Hemingway Vocation Center    | Gold        |
| • Kenneth Gardner Elementary   | Gold/Silver |
| • Kingstree Senior High School | Silver      |

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Bernice Cooper provided information on dates of and strategies being used to assist students in preparation for statewide testing. Dr. Cooper addressed Board Member questions on the use of consultants, grammar concerns, integrated learning, technology institutes, pilot testing, automated contact of parents, and the ESEA waiver.

### **Student Services**

The following items were discussed with reference to Student Services:

- Ministers' involvement in schools
- Metal detectors in schools
- Armed security persons
- The use of drug dogs in schools
- Information on Virtual Schools
- Bullying and gangs

### **Administrative Services**

The following items were discussed with reference to Administrative Services:

- Scheduling
- Follow-up report on Willoglen
- Star Academy – enrollment and testing

### **Finance**

Mr. Brunson presented the Expenditures and Revenues Reports. There were also discussions on the following:

- Closing books for 2013-2014 school year
- End of the year Budget Information

### **D. P. Cooper Elementary School's Charter School Request**

Attorney William Halligan made the following recommendation to Board Members, with reference to D. P. Cooper Elementary School's request for charter school status, to include grades 7 and 8:

"...Section 59-40-50(D) provides that "[t]he State is not responsible for student transportation to a charter school unless the charter school is designated by the local school district as the only school selected within the local school district's attendance area." The Board concludes and designates D. P. Cooper Charter School as the only school selected within the current attendance zone of D. P. Cooper Elementary School for grades pre-kindergarten through 6. However, the Board's designation does not include grades 7 and 8, and C. E. Murray Middle School is designated as the only school selected within the current attendance zone of D. P. Cooper Elementary School for the purpose of the State's responsibility for student transportation for grades 7 and 8."

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. to approve D. P. Cooper Elementary School's Charter School request without choice.

Rev. Gamble asked Dr. Jefferson-Barnes for her recommendation, which she stated was to accept the Attorneys' recommendation.

A substitute motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie to accept the recommendation of the school district's attorneys. Two members voted in favor of the substitute motion: Rev. Norman Gamble and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. Four members opposed: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Rev. Alfred Darby, and Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. The motion failed, (2-4). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. to approve D. P. Cooper Elementary School's Charter School request to accept the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades without choice. Four members voted in favor of the motion: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Rev. Alfred Darby, and Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. Two members opposed: Rev. Norman Gamble and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. The motion was carried, (4-2). The Chair did not vote.

The Chair asked for objections to a ten minutes recess. There were none. The Board recessed at 7:55 p. m.

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to end the Board's recess. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board reconvened at 8:05 p. m.

### **Field Trip Requests**

A recommendation was made by Rev. Alfred Darby to approve Items B-C, Field Trip Requests, collectively. The recommendation was approved unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

The following field trips were approved:

- C. E. Murray High School C. E. Murray High School's Athletic Department to Myrtle Beach, SC May 9-11, 2014.
- C. E. Murray High School C. E. Murray High School's Golf Team to Greenwood, SC May 3-6, 2014

### **Board's Budget Committee Meeting/Public Hearing**

A recommendation was made by Rev. Alfred Darby that the Board approve the first reading of the 2014-2015 Budget. The recommendation was approved unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

#### **Williamsburg County School District Requests Permission to Apply for Flex Spending**

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to approve the administration's request to apply for Flex Spending. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

#### **Williamsburg County School District Requests Permission to Apply for Title 1 Fund**

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to approve the administration's request for permission to apply for Title I, Title II, Title III and Title VI Funds for the 2014-2015 school year. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

#### **Textbook Adoption Recommendations for 2014-2015 School Year**

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to approve the Textbook Adoption recommendations for the 2014-2015 school year. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

#### **Selection of May 2014 Board Meeting Date**

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. to approve the administration's recommendation to hold the May Board of Trustees' Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. 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 Update**
- C. Contractual Matter**
- D. Facilities Request**
- E. Superintendent's Evaluation**

The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:10 p. m.

#### **OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Open Session at 8:42 p. m.

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to accept the administration's recommendation to transfer Mr. Alex Gordon from Assistant Principal to Principal of Kingstree Senior High School for the 2014-2015 school year. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to accept the administration's recommendation to employ the following personnel for the 2014-2015 school year: Ms. Princess Agha, Ms. Denisha Dukes, Mr. Caleb Friend, Mr. Chad Love, Ms. Shauntea Murphy, Mr. Randall State, Ms. Chelsea Thompson, Ms. Kadedra Williams, Ms. Stephanie Zalesak, and Mr. James Zaleski.

The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p. m.

**Note:** There is a difference in votes, because Rev. Norman Gamble and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie left during the Board Recess.

Submitted by: Joana M. Fulton

Date: 5/27/14

Board Secretary: [Signature]

Date: 5/27/14