

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 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, Heyward Baker, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mike Floyd, and Carletta Scott Isreal

Member Absent: Mack J. Burgess

Others Present: Meredith Graham, Marsha Burroughs, Cassandra Williams Rush, Rev. Keith Hunter, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Jennifer Lamb, Ernest Young, Joseph McCollough, Jr., Relus Lucear, Vernie C. Williams, Michael White, Anita Gethers, Dr. Myron Davis, Jonathan Chandler, Priscilla Darby, Donna Palmer, Albert Fulton, Sheba Cunningham

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

Ms. Cannon asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence and acknowledge another school shooting.

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. Darby and seconded by H. Baker. The motioned was carried.

Action Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Rev. Darby seconded by Dr. Gamble to approve the November 28, 2022, board minutes. The motion was carried.

Thought of Today

Rev. Dicks shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

There was no public comment.

Board Elections

Attorney Vernie Williams, Halligan, Mahoney and Williams, presided over the board elections until a chair was elected. Once the chair was elected, the chair presided over the election of other officers.

Chair

The floor was opened for nominations for board chair. A motion was made by Rev. Dicks to nominate Marva Cannon as board chair. A motion was made by Dr. Gamble and seconded by H. Baker for nominations to come to a close. The motion was carried, unanimously by show of hands. M. Cannon was elected board chair, unanimously by show of hands.

Vice Chair

The floor was opened for nominations for vice chair. A motion was made by C. Isreal to nominate Rev. Jerry L. Dicks as vice chair. A motion was made by Dr. Gamble and seconded by H. Baker for nominations to come to a close. The motion was carried, unanimously by show of hands. Rev. Dicks was elected vice chair, unanimously by show of hands.

Secretary

The floor was opened for nominations for secretary. A motion was made by Rev. Dicks to nominate Carletta Scott Isreal as secretary. A motion was made by Dr. Gamble and seconded by H. Baker for nominations to come to a close. The motion was carried, unanimously by show of hands. Carletta Scott Isreal was elected secretary, unanimously by show of hands.

Parliamentarian

The floor was opened for nominations for parliamentarian. A motion was made by H. Baker to nominate Dr. Janice M. Gamble as Parliamentarian. A motion was made by H. Baker and seconded by Rev. Dicks for nominations to come to a close. The motion was carried, unanimously by a show of hands. Dr. Janice M. Gamble was elected board chair, unanimously by show of hands.

The chair re-appointed Heyward Baker as the Legislative Liaison.

School Board Appreciation Month and Signing of the Ethical Principles Flyer

The chair acknowledged School Board Appreciation Month and asked the secretary to read the Ethical Principles Flyer as a reminder to board members. The chair asked each board member to sign the flyer.

Presentations

Jannie McCrea, President of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and members presented the three middle schools (Marion B. Lee Middle School, C. E. Murray Middle School, and Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts) with backpacks and school supplies as a part of the sorority's Operations Big Backpack.

Cassandra Williams Rush, MPH of Williams Rush Museum of African American Arts and Culture and Dr. Inetta Cooper Fulton, provided information about the museum, midwives, Rosenwald Schools, three Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) presidents from the county, and upcoming events at the museum. Ms. Rush concluded the presentation with a request to preserve the remaining wings of Tomlinson School.

Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent, presented Marva Cannon, board chair, with a certificate and silver pin for achieving Level 2 with the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) Board Institute. Dr. Wymbs thanked members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. for their donations to the schools, and his support of

Ms. Williams in signing Tomlinson property over to Ms. Williams and Dr. Fulton. Finally, Dr. Wymbs asked Mr. Michael J. White, Chief Academic Officer, to recognize a teacher. Mr. White recognized Ms. Gethers and presented her with a token of appreciation for 100% of her students passing the End of Course (EOC) Exam. Ms. Gethers thanked the board and administration for the recognition and support which is greatly appreciated in her work with students. Board members thanked Ms. Gethers as well.

Legislative Update

Heyward Baker, Legislative Liaison, shared Senate Bill 0315 called the Open Enrollment Bill which permits parents to enroll child (ren) in a neighboring school district under certain conditions. The bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Update from the District

Jennifer Lamb, Health Coordinator, provided an update on COVID-19, the status of the school district, and the Up-to-Date Face-to-Face plan located on the school district website.

Board Items

M. Cannon, chair, shared that board officers met virtually with Superintendent Molly Spearman, Kimberly Mack, Cathy Hazelwood, Superintendent Elect Ellen Weaver, and Matthew Ferguson on Thursday, December 15, 2022. At this meeting, Superintendent Spearman shared that she will not lift the State of Emergency. M. Cannon quoted Superintendent Spearman from a July 22, 2022, article of The New where she stated, "All of the issues that were present when the state came in had been resolved." Superintendent Spearman sited the reason for not lifting the State of Emergency was the actions of a few board members who presented during the Public Comment of a board meeting. This reason did not have anything to do with the reason for the State of Emergency. M. Cannon shared that she is requesting a meeting with the new Superintendent regarding this matter. She encouraged board members to continue to serve, support the superintendent, our students, and remember your campaign promise.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Rev. Dicks and seconded by Dr. Gamble to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____

Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____

Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: _____