

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 26, 2012 – 6:00 P. M.
Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
423 School Street - Kingstree, South Carolina

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

Others Present: Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, Dr. Bernice Davis-Cooper, Ms. S. Christine Green, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Mr. Del Brown, Mr. Duane Cooper, Mr. Mark Easterling, Ms. Bonnie King, Mrs. Berlinda Mack, Mrs. Hattie Pendergrass, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, Attorney Vernie Williams, Ms. Ernestine Young, Mr. LaKarr Cooper, and Mrs. Joann Fulton

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie, Board Chair.

Mr. Joseph Lee provided the Meditative Thought. All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Swearing-In of Newly Elected Board Members

Attorney Vernie Williams swore in newly elected Board Members, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Rev. Alfred Darby, and Mr. Joseph Lee.

Election of Board Officers

Attorney Williams was asked to conduct the election of Board Chair. He opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair.

Rev. Alfred Darby nominated Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to close the nominations on Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. The motion was carried unanimously, (7-0). Mrs. Barbara McKenzie was declared Board Chair.

Mrs. McKenzie opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Mr. Joseph Lee nominated Rev. W. C. Henryhand. A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to close the nominations on Rev. W. C. Henryhand. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote. Rev. W. C. Henryhand was declared Board Vice-Chair.

Mrs. McKenzie opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Joseph Lee nominated Rev. Alfred Darby. A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to close the nominations on Rev. Alfred Darby. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote. Rev. Alfred Darby was declared Secretary.

Public Comment There were none.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2012, Called Board Meeting, and the October 22, 2012, Regular Board Meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Action Items

A. Kingstree Senior High School's Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the Chair's recommendation to approve Action Items A-D, Field Trip Requests, collectively. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand to approve the following field trips:

- A. Kingstree Senior High School Senior Class to Orlando, FL, April 25-29, 2013, to attend Grad Nite;
- B. C. E. Murray High School Athletic Department to Myrtle Beach, SC, December 18-22, 2012, to compete in a Basketball Tournament;
- C. C. E. Murray High School Senior Class to Washington, DC/Virginia, April 24-28, 2013, to tour historical sites, museums, and college campuses;
- D. Hemingway High School Senior Class to Orlando, FL, April 25-28, 2013, to attend Grad Night/Disney Theme Park.

The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

E. WCSD Student's Request for Early Completion of High School

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to approve the WCSD Student's request for Early Completion of High School. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Information Items

A. District's Middle School Students Participate in S. C. Bar Regional Middle School Mock Trial Competition

Congratulations were extended to students, coaches, attorneys, and coordinators who participated in the S. C. Bar Regional Middle School Mock Trial Competition held in Conway, SC, on November 3rd. Participating schools were C. E. Murray Middle, Hemingway M. B. Lee Middle, and Kingstree Middle. The Board Chair presented Certificates of Recognition for each of the three schools, to students, coaches, principals, and attorneys at the meeting.

B. South Carolina School Boards Association's Presentation

Mr. Duane Cooper, Legislative and Advocacy Coordinator for the South Carolina School Boards Association, presented a summary of recent state legislative actions. He also addressed questions and concerns from the Board Members, regarding his presentation.

C. WCSD Administrator Receives Commendation from the US Department of Education

Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, Coordinator of English/Language Arts & Social Studies was congratulated by Board Members for having served as a 2011 U. S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellow.

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D. Instruction

Dr. Bernice Davis-Cooper, Mrs. Delaney Frierson, and Mr. Mark Easterling presented information on the district report card. Instructional staff members responded to Board questions and concerns. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes commended principals and school level employees for improving the report card from below average to average.

E. Finance

Ms. Christine Green presented the Revenues and Expenditures statements for the month of October 2012, which were \$1,708,646.92 and \$2,486,078.67, respectively. She addressed a Board Member's concerns regarding a stolen district-owned vehicle, class size reduction, consolidation of district-level positions, and issuance of payroll checks bi-monthly.

Mr. Del Brown, from McGregor and Company, presented the school district's audit report for school year 2011-2012. He indicated a fund balance of \$3,691,000 at the end of school year 2011-2012. Mr. Brown said that \$689,000, of the fund balance, had already been used in 2012-2013, leaving roughly \$3,000,000. With reference to twice-a-month pay, he explained that the district's yearly expenditures of \$50,000,000, divided by 10 active months, equaled \$5,000,000; which is needed each month to operate the school district. He said the district is not financially able to return to the twice-a-month pay. When asked how soon the district would reach \$5,000,000, Mr. Brown indicated, no time soon; and agreed that the current \$3,000,000 fund balance would be used to help balance the budget for school year 2013-2014.

Mr. Brown highlighted various items in the audit report. He noted in 2010 the district had 11 deficiencies; in 2011 there were three deficiencies; and in 2012 there were no deficiencies.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Rev. W. C. Henryhand and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee that the Board convene in Executive Session to discuss items listed on the agenda.

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

The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:54 p. m.

Open Session

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee that the Board convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Open Session at 8:10 p. m.

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie to accept the resignations of Ms. Tabitha Courtney and Ms. Robin Edens. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie to accept the superintendent's recommendation for the termination of employment of a continuing contract teacher, subject to the Board's duty to review the matter on the merits pursuant to state law should the individual request a hearing. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle to accept the administration's recommendation to employ the following personnel for the 2012-2013 school year: Ms. Kenyatta T. Bell, Mr. Omar Y. Hilton, and Ms. Luriell Royster. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (4-0). The Chair did not vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p. m.

Note: There is a difference in votes, because Rev. Norman Gamble and Rev. W. C. Henryhand left prior to Open Session.

Submitted by Joann M. Sutton Date 1/28/2013

Board Secretary Alfred Darby Date 1-28-2013

Board Reminders:

A. School Board Meetings and Conferences for 2012

1. Regular Board Meeting – January 28, 2013, Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
2. Legislative Advocacy Conference – November 30, – December 2, 2012 - Hilton Head
3. 2013 Annual Convention – February 21-24, 2013 – Myrtle Beach
4. 2013 NSBA Annual Convention – April 13-15, 2013 – San Diego, CA