

**WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 26, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Board/Staff Development Meeting Room**  
**423 School Street – Kingstree, South Carolina**

**Members Present:** Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Dr. Kerry Singleton

**Members Absent:** Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie

**Others Present:** Ms. Carrie C. Brock, Ms. Roberta Cumbee, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mr. Harry Lash, Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Mrs. La-Dine' W. Gamble, Mrs. Nicole Giles, Mr. Ray James, Ms. Bonnie King, Dr. Brian McKnight, Mr. Omar Montgomery, Ms. Tamekia Morant, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Ms. Lorraine Wilson, Ms. Melissa Calvin, Rev. Roosevelt Fulton, Attorney Vernie Williams, Ms. Diann Owens, and Mrs. Joann Fulton

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

**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 Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

**Public Comment:** There were none.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Curriculum and Instruction**

Ms. Roberta Cumbee gave an update on curriculum writing and benchmark testing for first and second grades.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2015, Board's Property Committee and Regular Board Meetings, and the October 21, 2015, Called Board Meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

**Student Services**

Dr. Brian McKnight, Director of Student Services and Transportation, reported that schools are getting back to normal from the October flooding. He stated that buses were arriving to school on time, however, there were still 5 bridges out of service. Dr. McKnight noted that Ms. Carrie Brock was helpful in securing items for district students.

Dr. McKnight also informed the Board that the district had recently completed the training of four new bus drivers. When asked about the status of bus drivers' salary, Dr. McKnight referred the Board to the administration, Human Resources, and Finance Departments. Ms. Brock said the administration is currently looking for funds to provide salary increases for bus drivers and school food services employees.

## **Finance**

Mr. Harry Lash noted that the Expenditures and Revenues Statements for September 2015 were included in the Board Agenda Packet. He provided the following updates:

- Hemingway High School's gymnasium floor is being repaired, and will be finished before the 2015-2016 basketball season.
- The school district's budget is sound, and staff members are staying within their budgets.

## **National School Lunch Equipment Assistance Grant**

Mrs. Nicole Giles, Director of Food Services, thanked her staff and Mrs. La-Dine' Gamble, Grants Writer and Afterschool Programs Officer, for a 2014-2015 National School Lunch Equipment Assistance Grant, in the amount of \$10,000.00. She said the grant is as part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's allocation to the SC Department of Education; and that the funds would be used to purchase a combination oven (combi oven) for W. M. Anderson Primary School.

Mrs. Giles said the Food Service Department is currently working on a grant for \$25,000, which will be used to provide each district school with a combi oven. She also stated that a combi oven would allow staff to roast, steam and bake at a faster rate, which saves time and labor while increasing productivity.

Mrs. La-Dine' Gamble stated that the Grant Writing Department, in collaboration with School Food Services, has completed and submitted the Rural Child grant application in the amount of \$100,000.

When asked about the current status of the Race-to-the-Top grant, Mrs. Gamble stated that Ms. Tamekia Morant was the newly hired director.

Ms. Brock indicated that Ms. Morant and the Carolina Consortium Enterprise Learning Director were scheduled to provide an update to the Board and the people on November 10, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

## **Williamsburg County School District's Employee Health and Fitness Room**

Mrs. Jennifer Lamb, Nursing Supervisor, said the fitness room will be open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all employee. She said there is a detailed agreement that must be completed, and signed by all employees who wish to use the facility.

Mrs. Lamb informed Board Members that she is working with Fred's Pharmacy in an effort to have them administer flu shots to all WCSD employees who wish to participate, free of charge, and at the district's facility.

## **Funding for Students of Flooding Established**

The South Carolina School Boards Association and South Carolina Future Minds announced recently that a special statewide monetary fund has been established to receive donations to assist students in school districts affected by the historic flooding in South Carolina. Funds collected will be distributed to school districts in counties designated for federal Assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which includes Williamsburg County School District.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **ACT 155 Diploma Petition**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the ACT 155 Diploma Petitions. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

### **Hemingway Career and Technology Education's Field Trip Request**

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to approve Hemingway Career and Technology Education's field trip request to Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, SC, November 6-8, 2015, to participate in the SkillsUSA State Officers Leadership workshop. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

- A. Discussion of Employment Matters, Including: Hiring, Discipline, Transfer, Termination, Retirement, Reorganization and/or Resignation of Staff.
- B. Receipt of legal advice regarding litigation, potential litigation, employment matters, and facilities updates.

The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 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, (5-0). The Board convened in Open Session at 7:06 p.m.

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. Vipin Das Dasan Sheela, Ms. Priscilla Indupalli, Ms. Rejee Keizia Arul Jose, Mr. Praveen Kumar Kothakonda, Mr. Jagadeesan Lakshmanan, Mr. Clement Parathugari, and Mr. Pulickuniyil Sajesh. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dr. Kerry Singleton and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Submitted by: 

Date: 11-16-2015

Board Secretary: 

Date: 11-16-2015