

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 22, 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, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Rev. Alfred Darby, Mike Floyd, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Heyward Baker, Mack Burgess and Carletta Scott Isreal

Member Absent: N/A

Others Present: Vernie Williams, Dr. Relus Lucear, Colleen Kely, Dr. Tara Richardson, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Latonya West, Claire P. Murdoch, Cathy Williams, Bonnie King, Dr. Myron Davis, Ernest Young, Travoy McCullough, Michelline Cooper William, Latria Montgomery, Michael White, Kimily Brown, Acooyay Seward, Donna Palmer, and Betty F. Matthews

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

Rev. Dicks asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

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 to approve the April 24, 2023, board minutes by Dr. Gamble seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motion was carried.

Thought of Today

Dr. K. Burgess shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

There was no public comment.

Legislative Update

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, shared that H.3728, South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act referred to as the anti-Critical Race Theory legislation received a vote of 111-3 to non-concur with the Senate amendments to the bill and headed back to conference committee.

H. Baker also shared that the following acts were ratified and sent to the governor: (1) S. 284, expanded use of revenue from local accommodations taxes to develop workforce housing under certain conditions; (2) S.360, changed the election method for candidates to the Williamsburg County School Board from requiring signatures on a petition to filing with the county election commission; (3) S.764, reappointed the election districts for the Rock Hill Three School Board beginning with the 2024 elections; and (4) H.3726, Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act to create the Statewide Workforce Development Office and transfers the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, which includes K12 functions, to the office.

Flex Academy Update

Dr. Tara Richardson, Director, Flex Academy, provided an overview of the Flex Academy, grade levels served, targeted population, and the application process for acceptance into the Flex Academy. In addition to sharing information about Fast Forward Program that targeted average eighth grade students.

Dr. Relus Lucear, Director, Flex Academy Fast Forward Program, provided information about the timeline and application process for the second cohort of students.

Colleen Kelty, Elementary Education, P.O.W.E.R. U.P. Intervention Academy, shared that the academy is focused on students in grades K-5 with behavioral issues and exhausted all other interventions at the elementary level. She provided background information, need for the academy based on data, the outcomes for students, and the program will be located at W.M. Anderson Primary School.

Human Resources Update

Claire Murdoch, Director of Certified Staff, provided an overview and status of certified teacher recruitment and retention for Williamsburg County School District. Ms. Murdoch shared information about the Praxis Boot Camp lead by Mrs. Angela Fred to serve approximately 44 to 45 participants during the month of June with hopes to hire persons passing the exam.

Ms. Latonya West, Director of Classified Staff, provided information about recruitment, employees evaluation, updating department webpage with salary scale, updating job descriptions, partnership with Voorhees University Education Preparation Invocation (EPI) Program designed to assist persons on becoming certified teachers. In addition to partnering with USC for micro-credentials for recertification hours for school district administrative staff.

Board Items

Rev. Darby expressed concerns about not having an individual's portrait displayed in a building named after that person for public viewing. Dr. Wymbs shared that the portrait of Dr. James Franklin will be on display at Kingstree High School West Campus once the frame arrives to the school district.

M. Cannon expressed her concerns about the repetitive information provided in the monthly reports received from Kimberly Mack on the status of the school district. M. Cannon shared email responses and letters of support from the local delegation and community leaders in support of reinstating control to the local school

board. In addition to announcing the Grammy nomination of Dr. James L. Patterson, Band Director, Kingstree High School, for Music Education Award and her response to the question from a parent at the April 2023 board meeting.

Rev. Dicks requested an update on the status of modified school calendar.

Williamsburg County School District graduations will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rev. Dicks and seconded by Rev. Darby. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____

Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____

Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: _____