

WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 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, Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and Dr. Kerry Singleton

Members Absent: Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Sr. and Mr. Joseph Lee

Others Present: Ms. Carrie C. Brock, Ms. Roberta Cumbee, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mr. Harry Lash, Mr. Lee Roy Campbell, Mr. Mark Easterling, Ms. Margaret Gourdine, Mrs. Delaney Frierson, Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Mrs. Hester Gadsden, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, Dr. Brian McKnight, Mr. Omar Montgomery, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Ms. Ernestine Young, Attorney Vernie Williams, 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 Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

Public Comment: Ms. Margaret Gourdine, former member of the Waccamaw Regional Board, stated that she was appointed by the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees some years back. She said that she'd recently learned that a new person had been appointed to the Board, and felt that she should have been notified by the WCSD Board of Trustees that she was being replaced.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Roberta Cumbee stated that Curriculum Design process began on November 3 and 4th and that a schedule was included in Board Agenda packets of the additional meeting dates. She also provided an update on the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) school improvement group's special opportunity. Mrs. Cumbee explained that the group is not an accreditation group, but a group that would be used for professional development of the school district.

Student Services

Dr. Brian McKnight, Director of Student Services and Transportation, stated that the department's report was included in the agenda. He informed Board Members that a meeting had been scheduled for Mr. Harry Lash and him to meet with school security officers on November 17, 2015.

Ms. Brock stated that one additional Security Officer would be provided to Kingstree Senior High School. She also shared that the administration would look into funding to provide cameras for Greeleyville Elementary School.

Finance

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

- Repairs to Hemingway High School's gymnasium floor were completed on November 6, 2015.
- The administration is still looking for possible property to purchase near Kingstree Middle Magnet School.
- The district's finances are still in the black.
- The audit went well, and a report will be provided by the auditors in January

Ms. Brock informed Board Members that increases in Bus Drivers and Food Services employees' salaries would be considered when the 2016-2017 Budget process begins in January 2016.

ACTION ITEMS

ACT 155 Diploma Petition

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the ACT 155 Diploma Petitions. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

Hemingway M. B. Lee Middle School's Field Trip Request

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the following field trips: Hemingway M. B. Lee Middle School's Academic Challenge/Gifted and Talented students to New York, NY, June 6-10, 2016; C. E. Murray Middle and Hemingway M. B. Lee Middle Schools' Junior Beta Clubs to Myrtle Beach, SC, January 14-15, 2016. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

Rev. Darby read Board reminders and added that a School Board Awards Meeting would be held on December 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Kingstree Senior High School Gymnasium.

Board Members applauded C. E. Murray High School's varsity football team for being named Region 1A Conference Champions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton 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 6:23 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mrs. Barbara McKenzie 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 7:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton that the Board authorize legal counsel appointed on the District's behalf to settle the lawsuit between the District and former Superintendent, Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, for the amount of \$63,750, and that the terms of the agreement be placed in a written settlement agreement between Dr. Barnes and the District. The amount of this settlement is consistent with the terms of Dr. Jefferson-Barnes' employment contract with the Board.

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the administration's report Employee A to the South Carolina Department of Education for breach of contract by abandoning his teacher position. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to accept the administration's report Employee B to the South Carolina Department of Education for breach of contract by abandoning her teacher position. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Ms. Barbara McKenzie to employ Ms. Jimmisha Ann Mickens as the Preschool Coordinator/Curriculum Specialist. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0).

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to employ the following personnel for the 2015-2016 school year: Ms. Nancy A. Priscilla, Ms. Lauren Tate-Rivera, and Ms. Philo X. Vattaparambil. 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: Janna M. Fulton Date: 1/25/16

Board Secretary: Gladys A. Dorsey Date: 1/25/16