

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 23, 2023 – 6:00 PM**  
**Public Service Administrative Building – Council Chambers 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556**

**Members Present:** Marva B. Cannon, Rev. Jerry L. Dicks, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mack Burgess, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Heyward Baker, and Carletta Scott Isreal

**Member Absent:** Mike Floyd

**Others Present:** Joseph T. McCollough, Jr., Ernest Young, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Michael White, Amanda Dorris, Dr. Myron Davis, Vernie Williams, Eunice Alston, Donna Palmer, Torrance Wilson, Relus Lucear, LeAndrea Montgomery, Berlinda N. Mack, Ayesha Hannibal, Neilson Hilton, Macie Davis, Kimily Cannon-Brown, and Myron Frieson

**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. Dicks and seconded by H. Baker. The motioned was carried.

**Action Items**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the board minutes from September 25, 2023, by H. Baker seconded by Dr. Gamble. The motion was carried.

**Thought of Today**

M. Cannon shared the Thought for Today in the absence of M. Floyd.

**Public Participation**

Anita James McNellage, expressed her concerns about not receiving a teaching position and a response from the school district. M. Cannon, chair, stated that she will receive a written response from the board in ten business day.

## **Legislative Update**

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, provided an update on the ability to lobby US Congress on concerns of school boards, attendance at the Consortium of State School Board Associations in Washington, DC, and the proposed cuts for Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriation Bills. The bill included the following: (1) 80% cut to Title I funded schools serving large numbers of low-income students; (2) elimination of Title II-A grants for teacher support and improvement; and (3) no change in funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which was only funded at 40% of the requested amount in the law.

Rev. Darby questioned the meeting date with the local delegation. M. Cannon stated that the meeting is in the planning stages and the delegation requested an agenda from the board.

## **New State Department Designations**

Mr. Michael White, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Support, and Amanda Dorris provided a PowerPoint presentation of the School Report Cards Designations for Elementary and High School 2021-2022 and 2022 - 2023 academic school years. They addressed questions from the board at the conclusion of the presentation.

## **Remarks on Excellent Report Card Rating at KMMSA**

Dr. Relus Lucear, HOPE Academy, shared effective strategies implemented at Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts (KMMSA) for students' successful performance on state assessments for the 2022-2023 academic school year. KMMSA was the only school in Williamsburg County School District to receive an Excellent rating on school district's report card.

## **Apprenticeship Program at Hemingway Career and Technology Center**

Mr. Torrance Wilson, Principal, provided board members with an overview of the Apprenticeship Program at Hemingway Career and Technology Center as outlined in his PowerPoint Presentation. He announced the upcoming District Career Fair planned of November 16, 2023, at Kingstree Senior High School from 8:00 am to 1:00 PM.

## **S.C. Governor's School**

Mr. Neilson Hilton, Director of Special Program and School Counseling, provided the board with information about Williamsburg County School District Accelerate Virtual (Dual-Enrollment) Engineering Program. Mrs. Kimily Cannon- Brown shared additional highlights of program implementation in the schools.

## **Board Items**

Rev. Darby asked if we have enough bus drivers?

M. Cannon asked Dr. Wymbs to assist the board by identifying an employee to serve on Williamsburg County First Steps Board.

Dr. Wymbs thanked staff for their continued work and support of our scholars in the school district.

The chair asked board members to review board policies included in the board meeting packet.

Dr. Gamble shared that the Kingstree American Legion will sponsor one student from Kingstree High School to attend the Palmetto Boy State Camp. The legion will pay all expensive for the student to attend the camp. The contact person is Retired Colonel John Spearman.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Gamble and seconded by H. Baker. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_