

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 29, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Public Service Administration Building – Council Chambers – 1st Floor
201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

Members Present: Dr. Marva B. Cannon, Dr. Jerry L. Dicks, Rev. Alfred Darby, Ms. Tawan Alston, Mr. Mack Burgess, Jr., Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mrs. Carletta S. Isreal, Mr. Gary McKenzie, and Dr. Janice Gamble

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Angela Jacobs, Ava Bradley, Johni McElveen, Brent Street, Lerlisa McCollough, Lee D’Andrea, Sean Berry, Angela Fred, Attorney Vernie Williams, Marie Murphy, Dr. Lateasha Harris, Terrijuna Graham, J. Edwards, Lou Angela Pressley, Jonathan Chandler, Ayesha Hannibal, Kimberly Mack, Donna Palmer-Lewis, Virginia McBride, Jennifer Murray, Nicole Dixon, Woodrow Nesbit, Jr., Debbie Donnelly, Berlinda Mack, Dr. Latetia Staggers, Teresa Womble, Dr. Ernestine Young, Torrance Wilson, Genia Smith, Tyrone Frasier, Debra Sabb Keels, Keyanna Hampton, Allana Processor, Cynthia Kennedy, Deborah Tisdale, Janie McCrea, Myron Frieson, James Price, Ashley Fleming, Tracy Washington, Emily Washington, Dr. Myron Davis, Travoy McCullough, Ernest Young and Delphia Barr

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Marva B. Cannon, board chair, at 6:00 pm. The secretary confirmed the Establishment of Quorum and the chair confirmed the Notification of Media.

Welcome

The board chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Moment of Silence

Dr. 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 by Dr. J. Gamble to approve the consent agenda for January 29, 2026, and seconded by Mr. M. Burgess, Jr.. Madam Chair asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, the motion carried.

Action Items

A motion was made by Dr. J. Gamble and seconded by Dr. J. Dicks, to approve the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees Minutes from the November 17, 2025, (Regular Board Meeting), December 1, 4, and 16, 2025 (Special Called Board Meetings), and the January 7, 12, and 22, 2026 (Special Called Board Meeting) Motion carried.

Thought for Today

Mrs. C. Isreal shared the Thought for Today.

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Public Participation

Ms. Janie McCrea, Representative from **The Iota Mu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.**, Kingstree-Lake City Chapter, presented a donation of school supplies to C. E. Murray Middle School, Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts, and Hemingway M.B. Lee Middle School. Principals from each participating schools were recognized and received the donated items. The Board expressed appreciation for the organization's continued support of district students.

Ms. Anita James, a community member addressed the Board regarding assistance with relocating a building. The Board acknowledged the comments.

Election of Officers

The Board Attorney, Vernie Williams, presided over the election process and called for nominations for the position of Board Chair. Rev. A. Darby nominated Mrs. C. Isreal for Board Chair. Hearing no further nominations, the motion was seconded by Mr. M. Burgess. The motion carried.

Board Chair C. Isreal then assumed responsibility for the remainder of the election process and called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Rev. A. Darby nominated Dr. J. Dicks for Vice-Chair. Hearing no additional nominations, the motion was seconded by Dr. M. Cannon. The motion carried.

Chair Isreal then called for nominations for the position of Secretary. Rev. A. Darby nominated G. McKenzie to serve as Board Secretary. Hearing no further nominations, the motion was seconded by Dr. K. Burgess. The motion carried.

Chair Isreal subsequently called for nominations for Parliamentarian. Rev. A. Darby nominated Dr. J. Gamble. Hearing no additional nominations, the motion was seconded by Mr. M. Burgess. The motion carried.

The newly elected Board Officers are as follows:

- **Chair:** Mrs. Carletta Scott Israel
- **Vice Chair:** Dr. Jerry Dicks
- **Secretary:** Mr. Gary McKenzie
- **Parliamentarian:** Dr. Janice Gamble

School Board Appreciation Month and Signing of the Ethical Principles Flyer

January was recognized as **School Board Appreciation Month**. Board members reviewed and affirmed the **South Carolina School Board Member Ethical Principles**, emphasizing integrity, transparency, and service to students and the community. Newly elected Board Chair, C. Isreal asked each board member to sign before going into Executive Session.

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Remarks and Presentation

Interim Superintendent **Dr. Angela Jacobs** recognized Board members for their service and leadership. Principals participated in a formal presentation to each board member and a group photo was taken in honor of the South Carolina School Boards Association Board Appreciation Month.

FY 2025 Audit Report

Mr. Brent Streett, Chief Financial Officer introduced Mr. Marc Woods from **Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP**, and he also thanked the Finance Staff for their support and dedication to Williamsburg County School District and asked them to stand.

Mr. Marc Woods, of Sheheen, Hancock and Godwin, LLP, presented the FY 2025 Audit Report.

- The Audit Report was turned in to the State Department of Education on time.
- The District received an **unmodified opinion**, the highest level of assurance.
- No audit findings were reported.
- General Fund balance as of June 30, 2025: approximately **\$12 million**.
- Food Service Fund results were also reviewed.

The Board thanked Mr. Streett and Finance Department staff for their hard work and thanked Mr. Woods for his report.

Continuous Improvement – School Designations

The Board received a presentation on 2025–2026 School Designations and the Greeleyville STEAM Academy Turnaround Plan from Mrs. Johni McElveen, Director of Testing & Accountability and Ms. Jennifer Murray, GSA Principal.

The presentation included:

- An overview of state accountability identification criteria and exit requirements for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Underperforming Schools.
- A review of district schools currently identified or exited, including:
 - Kenneth Gardner Elementary School Exited ATSI (Students with Disabilities).
 - Hemingway M.B. Lee Middle School exited CSI, but identified for ATSI (Students with Disabilities).
 - Kingstree High School Exited CSI, but identified for TSI (Students with Disabilities).
 - Greeleyville STEAM Academy identified as an Underperforming School.

The Board also received an update on the Greeleyville STEAM Academy Turnaround Plan, which included:

- Review of Spring 2025 SC READY data.
- Progress toward reading and math proficiency goals for Grades 3–5, with several benchmarks reported as on track and some areas identified as at-risk.

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- Instructional strategies implemented, including small-group instruction using the RIT Band model, tiered interventions, aligned instructional scheduling, increased staffing support during intervention blocks, and bi-weekly progress monitoring.

After hearing both presentations, Dr. M. Cannon made a motion to approve the Continuous Improvement/School Designations Turnaround Plan for Greeleyville STEAM Academy. Dr. J. Gamble seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At this time Dr. Marva Cannon asked the Chair to make an announcement. She announced that the students of Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts, Velvet Roar would be participating in the **South Carolina School Boards Association Annual Convention** in February. She also stated that she would be participating on a panel, at the Annual Convention.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Dr. J. Dicks to go into Executive Session for Superintendent Search and Personnel Matter at 6:49 p.m. It was seconded by Dr. J. Gamble. Motion carried.

A motion was made to return to open session by M. Burgess at 7:19 p.m. Seconded by Dr. J. Dicks. Motion carried. Madam Chair stated that there was no voting in Executive Session.

Adjournment

Dr. J. Gamble made a motion to adjourn the January 29, 2026 board meeting, seconded by Rev. A. Darby. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____
 Gary McKenzie, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____
 Carletta S. Isreal, Board Chair

Date: _____