

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 28, 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, 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:** Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Dr. Myron Davis, Travoy McCullough, Ernest Young, Yolanda McCray, Berlinda Mack, Vernie Williams, Nelson Hilton, Keyanna Hampton, Michael White, Jennifer Murray Brown, Jonathan Chandler, LeAndrea Montgomery, Myron Frieson, Ayesha Hannibal, Mark C. Frasier I, Donna Palmer-Lewis, Debbie Donnelly, Cathy Williams and Rev. Keith Hunter.

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

**Thought of Today**

Rev. Dicks shared the Thought for Today. Carletta Scott Isreal will provide the Thought of Today at the September 25, 2023 board meeting.

**Public Participation**

There was no public comment.

**Legislative Update**

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, informed the board of a new law providing state-wide publicly funded school vouchers. The Education Scholarship Trust Fund Program will provide scholarships for eligible students to attend to a private or public school outside of their resident school district or an approved educational service provider for home schooling. The South Carolina Department of Education will serve as the administrator of

this program to start in 2024-2025 school year with an annual cap on the number of students participating in the school voucher program.

### **Action Items**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made to approve the board minutes from June 26, 2023 by Dr. Gamble seconded by H. Baker. The motion was carried.

### **Presentation from Black River United Way**

Ms. Yolanda McCray, President and CEO of Black River United Way, shared information about the collaborative partnership with Williamsburg County School District to enhance the current work of the district. This partnership brought the community into the school to implement “Let’s Read Williamsburg County”. Ms. McCray provided a summary of the program and the need for volunteers to serve in the schools to help students of Williamsburg County.

### **Update from the Principals**

Jennifer Murray Brown, Greeleyville Primary School, shared the school’s mission, vision, key instructional approaches, and community goals. She announced the return of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to the school, identified Gifted and Talented students in ELA and Math, and no teacher vacancies.

Debbie Donnelly, W.M. Anderson Primary School, shared the school’s focus, goals, addressed school attendance, discipline with the support of intervention specialist, character education, and social emotional goals. Ms. Donnelly informed the board of conversations with parents on students’ academic performance to build partnership between school and home, establish a parent community through various activities at the school, and her plan to address staff self-care.

Berlinda Mack, Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy, shared the school’s theme, academic goals, parent and community goals, professional/shared learning goals, curriculum expectations, social and emotional goals, and members of I Lead Leadership Cohort with the Maxwell Foundation.

LeAndrea Montgomery, Hemingway Elementary School, shared school’s theme, thanked staff, students and community for welcoming him as the new principal, school-wide goals, incentive for students and staff, small group intervention for staff, mandatory professional learning community, common assessments for each grade level, implemented PBIS and PBIS store for students to use Tiger Bucks earned, school-wide behavior plan, challenge staff to be in classrooms daily, and mandatory observations for coaches and administration.

Myron Frieson, Hemingway High School, shared vision, mission, academic goals for core subjects (ELA, Mathematics, Science and US History), on track graduation for freshmen, increase graduation rate, implementation of professional development, staff self-care, monthly clergy walkthrough with staff and faculty, and staff exercise room. The enrollment was 112 students at MB Lee Middle School and 178 at Hemingway High School.

Ayesha Hannibal, Williamsburg County Magnet School of the Arts, shared school’s theme, academic goals, school’s climate and culture, professional development for teachers, self-care for students and staff, students discipline to include the implementation to PBIS, increase communication with parents, community goals, 367 students enrolled, and no staff vacancies.

Johnathan Chandler, C. E. Murray Elementary and Middle School, shared school's theme, academic goals, parent goals, and announcements. Seventy-eight elementary students and 152 middle school students enrolled, decrease disciplinary infractions, community and parents' goals. Mr. Chandler announced positive events in the school to include a collaborative Back to School Community Event at the Greeleyville Pavilion, added a school marching band, replaced all old windows and doors, and visitors parking lot to be completed within the next week.

Mark C. Frasier I, Kingstree High School, provided the school's motto, "We Walk in Excellent". He shared as the new principal, he engaged in conversations with district administrators, and reviewed school's assessments to determine classes students would be place for success. Mr. Frasier informed the board of his focus on school climate and culture, reviewed systems and structures, highlighted students, and expectations of teachers. He shared that each administrator was responsible for working with teachers to address core subject areas. Seven hundred and fifteen students enrolled, grade level orientations were completed, provided parents with expectations, and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for teachers.

### **Board Items**

The board chair shared that Ms. Lacey Nesmith, Beautician and graduate of Kingstree High School, desired to give back by providing two free hair styles for students at each school in the district. The district will determine how students are selected.

The board chair acknowledged and recognized board members for achieving various levels in South Carolina School Board Association(SCSBA). All board members received a certificate, Level 2 received a Silver Pin and Level 3 received a Gold Pin. The following board members were recognized:

Mack Burgess – Level 1  
Heyward Baker – Level 2  
Rev. Jerry L. Dicks – Level 2  
Carletta Scott Isreal – Level 2  
Marva B. Cannon – Level 3

The board chair updated the board members on the status of the joint letter between South Carolina Department of Education and Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees. She provided board members will a copy of the letter to review. In addition, to scheduling a follow up meeting from a meeting held in June 2023. She asked board members to provide a list of items they want to see, level of involvement, review board policies, teachers time, disciplinary hearings, and asked Mr. Baker to schedule a meeting with the local Legislative Delegation to secure funds for teachers.

Rev. Darby asked, "How many consultants we had for Williamsburg County School District from 2018? The difference between test scores from last year and the test scores from this year."

H. Baker asked, "Do we have property that's disposable? The chair stated that these items will be added to next meeting's agenda.

Dr. Wymbbs thanked principals and staff for the work they are doing for the scholars of Williamsburg County School District. He also addressed teachers who are not certified and their efforts in working with Mrs. Angela Fred to successful pass the Praxis Exam. In addition to compensation for teachers and thanked board for

their support. Rev. Darby thanked Dr. Wymbbs for the rehangng of Dr. James Franklin, Sr. portrait at Kingstree High School Practice Field.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rev. Darby and seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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

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

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