

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2017 – 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, Mr. James Dukes, Jr., Mr. Joseph Lee, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, Ms. Barbara McKenzie, and Dr. Kerry Singleton

Member Absent: Rev. William C. Henryhand, Sr.

Others Present: Ms. Carrie C. Brock, Mrs. Robert Cumbee, Mr. Michael Barrineau, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Ms. Janie T. Barr, Ms. Cynthia Brown, Dr. Myron Davis, Ms. Nicole Dixon, Mr. Mark Easterling, Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Ms. Bonnie King, Ms. Lysandra Lawrence, Mrs. Priscilla McClary, Representative Cezar McKnight, Ms. Vermelle McCrea, Dr. Brian McKnight, Mr. J. Omar Montgomery, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Senator Ronnie Sabb, Attorney Vernie Williams, Ms. Ernestine Young, and Mrs. Bonnie Grimsley

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Rev. Alfred Darby.

Moment of Silence

Rev. Darby acknowledged school district employees, and the families of school district employees, who died during the month of September 2017. He expressed sympathy on behalf of the school district, and asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0).

Public Comment

Ms. Janie T. Barr, a Williamsburg County School District parent, expressed concerns on behalf of other parents at Hemingway Middle School regarding students that were recently removed from the Virtual School English 1 and Algebra 1 classes. She stated that students should be allowed to remain in those classes. Ms. Barr also shared concerns about the resignation of an English teacher at the school, and that the teacher was replaced by a substitute teacher. Rev. Darby informed her that the Superintendent would respond to her concerns.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2017, Policy Committee and Regular Board Meetings. The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0).

South Carolina Department of Education Awards Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grants

Ms. Carrie Brock, Superintendent, stated it is indeed a pleasure that the district's elementary students have been given the opportunity to participate in the South Carolina Department of Education Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), for the 2017-2018 school year. When asked by Ms. Brock, Ms. Cynthia Brown, Principal of W. M. Anderson Primary, shared that students are healthier, and that they receive an extra

serving of fresh fruits and vegetables from three to five days per week. She stated that the students enjoy the program, and it was her hope that the FFVP continues. Participating schools are W. M. Anderson Primary (\$3,282.69), Greeleyville Elementary (\$3,282.69), Hemingway Elementary (\$3,282.69), Kenneth Gardner Elementary (\$3,282.69), and D. P. Cooper Charter (\$3,282.69). Board Members extended congratulations to school principals and the district's Grants Writer and Grants Writing Team.

Williamsburg County School District's 2017-2018 Curriculum

Mrs. Roberta Cumbee, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, asked for questions relevant to the Board Agenda attachment. When asked, Mrs. Cumbee stated that textbooks were being transferred from one high school to another to ensure each child had a textbook. There was also a suggestion of establishing a resource room to house materials on grammar.

Student Services

Dr. Brian McKnight, Director of Student Services and Transportation, informed Board Members of the following:

- Bus accident in Hemingway area – Two students were transported, by their parents to the hospital.
- New Buses – The district received 4 new buses, and expects 4 additional buses, to replace the flat face buses in the district.
- Bus Drivers – The district has a shortage of 7-10 bus drivers, however, students were being transported to school on time.

Finance and Administrative Services

Mr. Michael Barrineau, Chief Financial Officer, asked, for questions presented the expenditures and revenues statements. Mr. Barrineau shared that the facilities are in good shape, thanks to Mr. J. Omar Montgomery, Maintenance Supervisor, and his staff. He also provided an update on the status of the C. E. Murray High Schools roof project, which is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2018.

Human Resources Department

The Office of Human Resources has been awarded funding to: (1) develop and implement incentives to assist the district in its initiatives to reduce teacher turnover of classroom teachers, (2) provide a critical needs salary stipend to teachers of Special Education (\$94,500), (3) Social Studies (\$2,000), Science (\$44,625), Math (\$42,000), Foreign Language (\$7,875), English Language Arts (\$42,000), Career and Technology Education (\$68,250), Art (\$23,625), recruitment and retention of critical needs teachers in hard to fill areas (\$937,200), and mentoring teachers (\$153,125), totaling \$1,360,700. Funds are allocated under FY18 Proviso 1A.59 and approved by CERRA (Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement) for allocation as rural recruitment incentives for eligible school districts.

Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Chief Human Resources Officer, stated that WCSD is one of 21 school districts eligible to apply for funds from CEERA. He said that the district received only \$350,000, last year, but this year the district has received \$1,360,700. Dr. Burgess said the Human Resources staff worked very hard to secure the funds, and that the office is in the process of applying for additional funds for consultant services.

Superintendent Brock commended Dr. Burgess and his staff for their effort to retain quality teachers.

State Board of Education Approves Abbeville Capital Improvement Funds

Ms. Brock informed Board Members that Abbeville Capital Improvement funds had been received by the district to implement Priority One, which is technology; and she is hoped that funding for Priority Two (fire alarms and security upgrades) and Priority Three (HVAC upgrades in four schools) would be received soon.

ACTION ITEMS

Board's Policy Workshop

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to accept the administration's recommendation to approve a second reading on amendments to the school district's Procurement Procedures policy. The motion was carried, unanimously, (8-0).

Election of Delegates for the South Carolina School Boards Association's 2017 Delegate Assembly

Board Members, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush and Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, will be the delegate and alternate delegate, respectively, to the South Carolina School Boards Association's Annual Business meeting that will take place on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 2 p.m., during the 2017 Delegate Assembly in Charleston, SC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Dr. Linwood Cooper and seconded by Ms. Barbara McKenzie to convene in Executive Session to discuss items listed on the agenda.

A. Discussion of Election, Transfer, Termination, Reorganization, Retirement and/or Resignation of Staff

B. Receipt of Legal Advice

1. Facilities Requests

2. Contractual Matter

The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0). The Board convened in Executive Session at 6:54 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Linwood Cooper to convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0). The Board convened in Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to accept the administration's recommendation not to release the following certified personnel for the 2017-2018 contract: Employee GC. The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Gladys Dorsey and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby to accept the administration's recommendation not to release the following certified personnel for the 2017-2018 contract: Employee FP. Four member voted in favor of the motion not to release: Rev. Alfred Darby, Mrs. Gladys Dorsey, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Ms. Barbara McKenzie. Four member opposed the motion not to release: Dr. Linwood Cooper, Mr. James Dukes, Ms. Angela McClary-Rush, and Dr. Kerry Singleton. The motion failed (4-4).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Barbara McKenzie and seconded by Dr. Kerry Singleton to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, (8-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Bonnie Brimsley Date: 10-23-17

Board Secretary: Gladys Dorsey Date: 10/23/17