

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025 – 6:00 PM**  
**Public Service Administration Building – Council Chambers – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556**

**Members Present:** Marva B. Cannon, Dr. Jerry L. Dicks, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Janice Gamble, Gary McKenzie, Tawan Alston, Mack Burgess, and Carletta Scott Isreal

**Members Absent:** Dr. Kenneth Burgess

**Others Present:** Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Amanda Dorris, Wendy R. Fulton, Berlinda Mack, Fredrick McFadden, Wendell Davis, Mary Grace McGee, Shelbie Riley, Angel Burgess, Grace Burgess, Genia Smith, Adriane Middleton, Vernett Murray, Latonya West, Myron Davis, Debbie Donnelly, Keyanna Hampton, Brittany Tisdale, Nicholas Tisdale, and Angela McClary Rush-Fred

**Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Marva B. Cannon at 6:00 pm. She welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. 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**

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 to approve the consent agenda for the February 24, 2025 meeting by Dr. J. Gamble, seconded by Dr. J. Dicks.

**Action Items**

A motion was made by Dr. J. Gamble to approve the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees Minutes from Monday, January 27, 2025, seconded by Dr. J. Dicks. The motion was carried.

**Thought for Today**

Rev. Alfred L. Darby shared the Thought for Today.

**Public Participation**

Ms. Nydia M. Wilson, a graduate of Williamsburg County School, a parent of the community, and business owner, spoke on behalf of how the Montessori Program at W. M. Anderson Primary School is not benefiting the students at the Primary School. She along with other parents thought that the Montessori program is not for our community at this time. She also feels like the program was not fully explained to the parents.

Madam Chair also stated that at this time the Board does not respond to public comments; however, she encourages public participation. Each participate will receive a response in writing.

Ms. Jennifer Prosser, teacher at W.M. Anderson Primary School, spoke on behalf of keeping the Montessori Program at W. M. Anderson. She stated that when the program was implemented, it was magical. She stated that having the Montessori Program presented a peaceful and caring environment. She stated that the teachers in the program have committed themselves to the 3 – 5-year program, and they were not given the time to see this process through. She along with some of her colleagues believe that this program should remain in place.

**(Please visit our district’s website at [www.wcsd.k12.sc.us](http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us) to view public comments in its entirety)**

### **Legislative Update**

M. Burgess, Legislative Liaison, provided a copy of the Legislative update. A new bill proposes a pilot program for non-certified teachers in South Carolina schools. He stated that the Lawmakers are considering a bill to allow non-certified teachers in schools to address the teacher shortage.

The South Carolina Department of Education would oversee training, giving recommendations for the district on onboarding practices and making sure the teachers meet the requirements. Proper training would be crucial for these participants.

The bill’s next step is a hearing before the full Senate Education Committee..

### **i-Ready Data Update**

Amanda Dorris, Director of Testing and Accountability, shared a PowerPoint presentation of Williamsburg County School District Fall/Winter Data results for all schools. Each board member received a copy of the presentation in their board meeting packet.

### **Personnel Update**

Latonya West presented the personnel update to the board members. She stated that the update was a part of their packets and asked if there were any questions? Rev. Darby asked how many teachers are not fully certified? Mrs. West stated that 45 teachers were working toward passing the PRAXIS, 15 teachers were working toward Pathway and 9 teachers are on Pathways. She also stated that Mrs. Angela McClary Rush-Fred is assisting with the cohorts to work on passing the PRAXIS and the PLT.

Mr. Mack Burgess asked if the district have any incentives to hire teachers. Ms. West stated yes, they are offered sign on bonuses for first year teachers and critical needs teacher. She stated that the Human Resources Office is in process of planning a career fair.

### **Local Board Waiver for Inclement Weather Days**

Genia Smith presented to the Board information requesting to have three weather related school days waived due to inclement weather. Rev. A. Darby made a motion to waive the three days, September 16, 27, 2024 and January 22, 2025. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Recommendation to transition W.M. Anderson Primary from a blended Montessori/traditional model to a fully traditional model for the 2025-2026 school year.**

Genia Smith presented information on the administrative recommendation to transition W. M. Anderson Primary School from a blended Montessori/traditional model to a fully traditional model for the 2025-2026 school year. After much discussion, a motion was made by Dr. J. Gamble to accept the recommendation of the administration to transition W.M. Anderson Primary School to a fully traditional model for the 2025-2026 school year. C. Isreal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Budget Calendar Approval**

Mrs. Wendy R. Fulton, Chief Finance Officer, presented the Budget Process Overview to the Board. Ms. Fulton reviewed the Budget Process Overview with the Board. Mrs. Fulton also reminded the Board that timing is very important during this time. Mrs. Fulton stated that it was a pleasure working with the district for the past 32 years. She thanked Dr. Wymbs, the Board and the citizens of Williamsburg County for the opportunity to serve. Rev. A. Darby made a motion to accept the Budget Process Overview as recommended by the administration.. C. Isreal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Policy J-Students (2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading)**

- **McKinney-Vento (Homelessness)**
- **English Learner (EL) and Migrant Students**

Board Chair Cannion read and presented both policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading. At this time Dr. J. Dicks asked that the Board vote on the policies separately. Rev. Darby made a motion to approve Policy J-Students – McKinney-Vento Homelessness as presented. Dr. J. Dicks seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rev. Darby made a motion to approve Policy J- Students – English Learner (EL) and Migrant Students as presented. Dr. J. Dicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Addendum to Policy BC-Board Member Conduct - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.**

Dr. J. Dicks stated that he, along with G. McKenzie and M. Burgess met on February 17, 2025 to discuss and review the addendum to Policy BC – Board Member Conduct. Chair Cannion, read the addendum to Policy BC – Board Member Conduct. At this time, Rev. A. Darby asked “How many districts have this addendum”. After much discussion, Board Chair asked the policy committee to make sure that this policy applies to everyone.

Board Chair, Marva Cannion asked Dr. Wymbs, the Superintendent if he had any remarks. Dr. Wymbs, thanked the board for making tough decisions and asked stakeholders and parents to come out and support the Lady Blazers, who will be playing against Lake City tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Rev. A. Darby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. J. Gamble. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Board Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marva B. Cannion, Board Chair