

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

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

Members Absent: Gary McKenzie

Others Present: Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Amanda Dorris, Brenda Platt, Kayveon Platt, Kira McCullough, Loretta McCullough, Shayla Wilson, Brent Street, Casandra Greene, Gwendolyn Bradley, Kathy Wilborn, Aiden Wilborn, Barbara Wilborn, Berlinda Mack, Tawan Wilson, Genia Smith, Vernie Williams, Nikiha Barr, Nyzariah Barr, Angela Fred, Tory P. Gibson, Thelvanesa A. M. Greene, Stacey Mooneyham, Charity Redfern, Tiffany McDuffie, Patricia Sabb, Marie Murphy, Connie Dozier, Cesar Ludwig, Jessica Ludwig, Judy Barr, Terrijuana Graham, Dr. Lateasha Harris, Tiyanne Barr, Accoyay Seward, Early Brown, III, Naraji Brown, Dessie Pressley, Alayla Pressley, Latonya West, Zinai Weaver, Geneive Wilkerson, Kim Brown, Maggie Fulton, Ayesha Hannibal, C. Graham, Myron Frieson, Donna Palmer, Ponthetta Mitchum, Kiana Lundy-Allen, Rakhew Lundy, H. Harry Eaddy, Yahkenia McKnight, Dariana Gallishaw-Brown, and Letichia Gallishaw

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

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 the March 24, 2025 meeting, seconded by Dr. K. Burgess. Rev. A. Darby expressed unreadiness regarding not putting Board Member Input on the agenda. Rev. Darby asked when did the board decide to not put Board Member Input on the agenda. After discussion, Chair Cannon stated that she would research those dates for him. Motion was carried.

Action Items

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

Thought for Today

Dr. J. Gamble shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

Cassandra Green, Connie Dozier, and Gwendolyn Bradley, members of the St. Mark Alumni Association appeared before the Board to ask for the renewal on the lease at 6628 Thurgood Marshall Hwy, Kingstree, SC, the old St. Mark school property. After much discussion, Dr. J. Dicks made a motion to renew the lease to the St. Mark Alumni Association for a twenty-five (25) year lease under the same financial agreement. Seconded by C. Isreal. Motion carried. Chair Cannon commended the association for the work that they have done in the community.

Judy Barr and Maggie Fulton, members of the Cades School Alumni Association appeared before the Board asking to lease the remaining property located at the old Cades School, 3782 Green Rd., Cades, SC, which consists of about 12 acres of land to the Cades School Alumni Association. After much discussion, Dr. Dicks made a motion to lease this property under the same conditions as the lease for St. Mark Alumni Association, minus the harvest of the timber. Dr. K. Burgess seconded the motion. Rev. Darby asked the attorney if the Board was in the legal rights to do this, since it was not placed on the agenda. Chair Cannon expressed that this was submitted under public participation, as it is a part of the agenda. Attorney Williams said, he didn't think it would be a problem. Motion was carried.

(Please visit our district's website at www.wcsd.k12.sc.us to view public comments in its entirety)

Legislative Update

Mack Burgess, Legislative Liaison, provided a copy of the Legislative update. A big rule change regarding transfers is happening for teams in the South Carolina High School League. A free one-time sports transfer option for high school athletes in the Palmetto State was approved Wednesday by a group of state athletic directors (AD). Those ADs voted 29-4 Wednesday in favor of the new transfer rule on the final day of the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association spring convention at the Charleston Marriott. The new rule will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year.

Explaining the new SC transfer rule according to the original transfer proposal's wording: This rule is designed to discourage transfers for athletic reasons, multiple transfers, and transfers after a sports season has begun, by imposing short but predictable periods of ineligibility for those transfers while providing one penalty-free transfer under certain conditions.

Black River A+ Education Consultants

Mrs. Angela McClary -Rush Fred, Secondary Literacy Coordinator and Mrs. Thelwane'sa M. Greene, Executive Director of Special Services presented to the Board, teachers who passed the Praxis in Special Services as a result of being a part of the Black River A+ Education, "Grow Your Own" program. They are: Akaya McElveen, Tawan Wilson, Alicia Williams, Kim Brown, Edwon Giles, Detrel D. Rush, and Barbara Wilborn. Dr. Wymbs thanked Mrs. Fred and Mrs. Greene, along with her staff, for their dedication and hard work. Rev. Darby asked were there any shortages in the special education teacher position? Mrs. Greene stated that there are no teacher shortages in the Special Services department at this time.

Student Recognition

Mrs. Amanda Dorris, Director of Testing and Accountability, presented scholars who made 100 on the EOCEP test. They are: Jeirhond Blue, Antonio McCray, both scholars of Kingstree High School, earned a 100 on their Fall/Winter US History and Constitution EOCEP.

Nyzariah Barr, Dariana Gallishaw-Brown, Da'Cadjra Gamble, Cesar Ramirez Ludwig, Early Brown, Jadyr Ferrell, Charleigh Pevey, and Keethan Pagal, scholars of Kingstree High School, earned a 100 on their Fall/Winter English II EOCEP.

Adrianna Klakouski, Zinai Weaver, Kayveon Platt, and Kenyan Durant, scholars of Hemingway High School, earned a 100 on their Fall/Winter English 2 EOCEP.

Alayla Pressley of Hemingway High School, earned a 100 on their Fall/Winter Algebra I EOCEP.

Andrew Hiott, Olivia McKnight, and Kira McCullough, of Kingstree High School, earned a 100 on their Fall/Winter Biology I EOCEP.

She also presented one student, Rakhee Lundy of Kingstree Middle Magnet School, received the honor of being a South Carolina Junior Scholar.

2025-2026 New Math Textbook Adoption

Mrs. Genia Smith, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership Support, presented to the Board the new books for the math curriculum, which is aligned with the South Carolina standards. She stated that the teachers were involved in this process, as well as voted for the books that were selected. After discussion, Rev. A. Darby made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 New Math Textbooks. Dr. K. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Personnel Update

Latonya West, Director of Human Resources, presented the personnel update to the board members. She stated that the update was a part of their packets. She also stated that we have 19 teachers who have passed the Praxis, 5 who have met their initial requirements. Rev. Darby asked how many teachers do we have that are not certified. Ms. West stated there are 28 teachers who are not currently certified, but are on the pathway. Upon reviewing the update, Rev. A. Darby made a motion to approve the recommendations made by the Human Resources Department. Mr. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance Update

Mr. Brent Streett, Chief Finance Officer, introduced the new Food Service Director, Ms. Tori Gibson, to the board and public. He presented the budget overview, which was a part of the Board packet. He also gave an update on his meeting with the Budget Committee. After much discussion, the financial update was received as information.

Policy Committee Policy Updates

Board Policy Chair, Dr. J. Dicks, presented the following policies for 2nd and final reading. Dr. Dicks stated that the policy committee consists of M. Burgess, G. McKenzie and himself. He also stated that he would like for the board to vote on each policy separately. They are as follows:

Policy AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

The recommendations for this policy are to direct all inquiries, questions, and grievances regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy to the Superintendent and update the revision date to reflect March 2025. After discussion, Rev. A. Darby made a motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the policy committee to make changes to policy AC to direct all inquiries, questions, and grievances

to the Office of the Superintendent and to update the revision date to reflect March 2025. Dr. K. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Policy GBEBA- Staff Dress Code.

The recommendations for this policy are to remain the same, change only the revised date to reflect March 2025. Rev. A. Darby made a motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the policy committee to make no changes to policy GBEBA, but to update the revision date to reflect March 2025. Mr. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Policy KM Visitors to Schools

The recommendations for this policy are to remain the same, change only the revised date to reflect March 2025. Rev. A. Darby made a motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the policy committee to make no changes to policy KM, but to update the revision date to reflect March 2025. Mr. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Policy GBEC Drug and Alcohol-Free Schools

The recommendations for this policy are to add vaping and change the revised date to reflect March 2025. Rev. A. Darby made a motion to accept and approve the recommendations of the policy committee to make changes to policy GBEC to add vaping and to update the revision date to reflect March 2025. Mr. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Addendum to Policy BC-Board Member Conduct - 2nd and final Reading.

Chair Cannon reviewed the policy for 2nd and final reading. Dr. J. Gamble made a motion to accept Policy BC (ADDENDUM) for 2nd and final reading. M. Burgess seconded the motion. Dr. K. Burgess along with Rev. A. Darby had unreadiness (questions). After much discussion, Chair Cannon, put the motion to a hand vote. 5 yays (Cannon, Dicks, Alston, Gamble and M. Burgess) and 3 nays. (Darby, Isreal, and K. Burgess) Motion carried.

Adjournment

M. Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. K. Burgess. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____ Date: _____
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Board Chair: _____ Date: _____
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair