

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025 – 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, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mr. Gary McKenzie and Mrs. Carletta Scott Isreal

Members Absent: Dr. Janice Gamble

Others Present: Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Shelby Cumbie, Amanda Dorris, Jessie Scott, Shayla Wilson, Terrijuana Graham, Lateasha Harris, Brent Streett, Charity Redfern, Patricia Sabb, Felicia Patrick, Diamond Patrick, Betty Matthews, Sreekumar, Hime Ben, Melissa White, Teneica Barnaby, Lerlisa McCollough, Marie Murphy, Ciscliceloya, Rataed Coby, Thelvane'sa Greene, Rhonda Holmes, Tykia Thompson, Stacey Monneyham, Sykvua Beaufort, Salifu Mack, Berlinda N. Mack, Jennifer Holliday, Kimilee Moore, Myrtle Fulton, Jennifer Murray, Claire Pejero, Lauren Gary, Loris Dukes, Jennifer Sabb, Genia Smith,, Madhulke Tripathia, Muma Pechu, Karis Pechu, Myesha Grant, Za'Marley Yori, Zaniya York, Zataria York, Travin York, Jasmine Curus, Darice Wilson, Debbie Donnelly, Myron Davis, Donna Palmer, Michelline Cooper Williams, Jesalyn Williams, Eric T. Williams, Vernie Williams, Dawes Bonnick, Latonya West, , April McClary, Antonia McClary, Linkston McClary, and Cheyanna McClary, 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 Rev. A. Darby to approve the consent agenda for the May 19, 2025, there was a question by Dr. K. Burgess as to why was Policy-BEDB placed on the agenda. Madam chair explained that it was there to be used as a reference as to where it could be found in the policy manual, motion was seconded by Dr. Burgess. Motion carried.

Action Items

A motion was made by A. Darby to approve the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees Minutes from Monday, April 28, 2025, seconded by Dr. K. Burgess. Motion carried.

Thought for Today

Ms. T. Alston shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Legislative Update

Per M. Burgess, on the Education front, law makers pushed forward a bill that would give K-12 students money to attend public or private schools. You must apply for it yearly and it is based on the number of people in your home and income.

Alternative Pathways Presentation

Ms. Thelwane'sa Greene, Executive Director of Special Services, presented a power point on the Alternative Pathways program that she is recommending implementing for the 2025-2026 school year. This program would create new course offerings to support scholars to graduate within 4 years. It will create a new pathway for matriculating through high school to earn a high school diploma while targeting and incorporating career exploration and preparedness. This program is not on for special education students, but for general education students as well. After much discussion, Rev. A. Darby made a motion to implement the Alternative Pathways program in Williamsburg County School District. Dr. J. Dicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recognition of Scholars

Mrs. Jennifer Holliday, Director of Fine Arts, Gifted and Talented, and Grants, and Mrs. Amanda Dorris, Director of Testing and Accountability, presented several scholars with a certificate. These scholars have been identified as an Academic Gifted and Talented student during the 2024-2025 school year. From Greeleyville STEAM Academy: Nyema Sabb, ZaMarley York, Nathalia Celaya, Cassius Gibson, and Karis Pechu. W.M. Anderson Primary School: McKenzie Fulton, Linkston McClary, Josie Thompson, and Jesalyn Williams. Hemingway Elementary: Damauri Barr.

Recognition of Newly Certified Teachers

Mrs. Angela McClary Rush Fred, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, presented to the Board teachers who passed the Praxis in different areas of studies. Mrs. Fred asked Chairwoman for a moment of silence to recognize Ms. Sandra Heather Lally. After the moment of silence, Mrs. Fred informed the board that Ms. Lally was an educator who devoted over 35 years as a teacher. She taught at C.E. Murray High School for over 15 years. In her honor, her family will present a scholarship each year to a scholar. Rev. A. Darby and C. Isreal made comments regarding Ms. Lally and what a great educator she was and how she impacted Williamsburg County School District as a whole. Mrs. Fred then presented each teacher a certificate, they are: W.M. Anderson Primary School (not recognized last board meeting): Ben Hima, Rhonda Beaufort Holmes. Hemingway M.B. Lee Middle School: Tianna Timmons. Hemingway High School: Jasmine Cyrus, Dawn Dawes, and Claire Tejero. Kingstree High School: Laura Gary, Lori Dukes, Joshua Bennett, Jahylin Baxter, Natasha Wilson, Brittany Matthews, Darice Wilson, Salifu Mack, Melissa White, Kristi Pressley, and Teneica Barnaby. Kingstree Middle Magnet School: Jason Rouse, Diamond Patrick, and Sreekumar Sukumaran. C. E. Murray Middle School: John Joe, and Madhulika Tripathi. Flex Academy: Jessie Scott

2025-2026 Budget Overview

Mr. Brent W. Streett, Chief Financial Officer presented the Williamsburg County School District 2025-2026 Budget Overview. After much discussion, Dr. J. Dicks made a motion to approve the Financial Officer to begin the advertising process for the 2025-2026 SY Budget. C. Isreal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Emergency Management Discussion

Chairwoman Cannon presented the overview of the Williamsburg County School District Emergency Management Report. She informed the public that we are in receipt of the final copy of the Emergency Management Report which outlines the benchmarks and timelines for full transition of governance back to the locally elected school board. She states that the Board acknowledge and thank Representative Roger

Kirby for putting Proviso 1.121 on the house floor with the full support of Senator Ronnie Sabb and Representative Lucas Atkinson. It was this proviso that mandated a written report. Chairwoman Cannon also announced that as a result of effective governance by the board, consistency and stability in leadership, the increase of appropriately certified and qualified staff, compliance with federal programs, excellent financial audit findings, and all schools in the district have state report card ratings of average and above. She also states that it was with great pleasure to announce that it looks like, full governance will be restored by December, 2026. She also announced that Williamsburg County School District is invited to the AASA National Conference of Education to present our success story.

Executive Session

Rev. A. Darby made a motion to go into executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Dr. J. Dicks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. Dicks made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:44 p.m. C. Isreal seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dr. Cannon, stated that there was no action taken in executive session.

Adjournment

Rev. Darby made a motion to adjourn the May 19, 2025 board meeting, seconded by M. Burgess. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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