

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Public Service Administrative Building – Council Chambers 1st Floor
201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

Members Present: Marva B. Cannon, Rev. Jerry L. Dicks, Heyward Baker, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mike Floyd, and Carletta Scott Isreal

Member Absent: Mack Burgess

Others Present: Relus Lucear, Melissa Calvin, Carolyn F. Williams, Breana Alston, True'h Alston, Ayanna Calvin, Kayla Gamble, Kenya Gamble, Robert Gamble, Kia C. Bailey, Kinnard C. B. Irving, Merrilyn Bradley, Kim S. Hamilton, Deaundra Douglas, Jordan Douglas, LaQunandra K. Nesmith, Isaiah Charley, Keesha Pagal, Jennieth Pagal, Carlos Burgess, Torrance Wilson, Latrice Carraway, Myron Davis, James Carraway, Jaleasa Carraway, Dawn Dawes Bonnick, Ernest Young, Sarah Wilson, Amy Mack, Brian Smith, Vipin Das, A. Vipm, Dajera Cooper, Herbert Mongla, Latoya Smith, Anya Woods, Genene Blake, Taliyah Smith, Rev. Alice Wright, Eddie Carter, Sherry Fulton, Cashmaire Edwards, S. Edwards, Chris Edwards, Johnnie Blakley, Trevon Robinson, Micah Lewis, Samette Lewis, Michael White, Jennifer McKnight, Jaiden McKnight, Paul McKnight, Dylan McKnight, Paisley McKnight, Early Brown, Naraji Brown, Acooyay Seward, Meagan Williams, Jessie Mitchum, Christopher Mitchum, Nevae'h Cunningham, Secquette Ferguson, Kimily C. Brown, William Boggon, Imani Boggon, Yummela Boggon, Samantha Preeal, and Landon Hannah

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. Gamble 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 Rev. Dicks and seconded by Dr. Gamble. The motioned was carried.

Action Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the February 27, 2023 and March 13, 2023, board meetings minutes by Rev. Darby seconded by H. Baker. The motion was carried.

Thought of Today

Dr. Gamble shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

There was no public comment.

Legislative Update

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, provided the board with a summary of the following bills: H.4300 prohibited districts and schools from using state funds to “offer students any monetary incentive or inducement to receive a COVID-19 vaccination”; S. 285 created the Academic Choice in Education (ACE) Program to provide scholarships for eligible students to pay for tuition or expenses to attend private schools or homeschooling; S.418 amended the Read to Succeed program by reducing types of teachers requirement to have a reading endorsement on their teaching certificated; and S.397 will transfer the regulations of athletic trainers from the Department of Health and Environmental Control to the Board of Medical Examiners.

Update from Blue Print Leadership Academy

Ervin Parker, Founder and President, provided board members with a copy of Blue Print Leadership Academy’s Life Skills Workbook – Principles for Success. The program teaches students life skills based on ten principles of success and opportunities to make decisions about their education. He is currently working with the students at Kingstree High School.

Recognition of Middle and High School FBLA Students and Advisors

The board recognized Middle and High School FBLA Students and Advisors with a Superintendent Accommodations Certificate for C. E. Murray Middle School, Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts, Hemingway High School and Kingstree High School. The following students were recognized:

C. E. Murray Middle School

Career Exploration (MS)	3rd	Bobby Boykin
Career Research (MS)	2nd	Anya Woods
Digital Citizenship (MS)	2nd	Dariana Gallishaw-Brown
Exploring Technology (MS)	1st	Darlyn McCormick
Financial Literacy (MS)	2nd	Da'Cadja Gamble
Financial Literacy (MS)	3rd	Xavier Fulton
Financial Literacy (MS)	4th	Christopher Mitchum
Interpersonal Communication (MS)	3rd	Michelle White
Interpersonal Communication (MS)	5th	Madison Kelty
Leadership (MS)	3rd	Antonio Singletary
Learning Strategies	4th	Cashmere Edwards
Learning Strategies	5th	Mackenzie Mayes

Beatrice Jones, Advisor

Hemingway High School

Advertising	3rd	Robert Cooper 11th
Business Calculations	1st	Catherine Wilson
Business Calculations	4th	Leilani Pressley
Business Calculations	5th	Shazaiyh Rhodes

Evelyn Sumpter, Advisor

Business Law	4th	Honesty Wilson
Introduction to Information Technology	1st	Micah Lewis 10
Personal Finance	5th	Jahvon Williams 12
Political Science	2nd	Tylan Timmons 11

Kingstree High School

Sarah Wilson Advisor

Business Law	1st	Kennedy Mack
Business Law	2nd	Imani Boggon
Business Management	2nd	Jaleasa Carraway
Cyber Security	2nd	Rakeem Martin
Cyber Security	3rd	India Jackson
Economics	4th	Ayanna Calvin
Health Care Administration	2nd	Serrinity Pemberton
Introduction to Business Communication	2nd	Adriana Green
Introduction to Business Concepts	1st	Trevon Robinson
Introduction to FBLA	1st	Kailey McKnight
Introduction to FBLA	1st	Samantha Preeal
Introduction to FBLA	4th	Jasmine Edwards
Introduction to Information Technology	3rd	Morie Salters
Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure	2nd	Kayla Harvin
Journalism	5th	Marcus Keels
Organizational Leadership	4th	Anya Mack
Personal Finance	3rd	Malcolm Salters
Political Science	1st	Kayla Gamble

Kingstree Middle Magnet School

Kim S. Hamilton, Advisor

Business Etiquette	2 nd	Kennedy Burgess
Business Etiquette	3 rd	Nevaeh Cunningham
Career Exploration	1 st	A Vipin
Digital Citizenship	1 st	Kinnard Irving
Digital Citizenship	4 th	Jaiden McKnight
Exploring Computer Science	1 st	Landon Hanna
FBLA Concepts	1 st	Keesha Pagal
FBLA Concepts	Honorable Mention	Nyzariah Barr
Financial Literacy	Honorable Mention	Sanaria Washington
Financial Literacy	Honorable Mention	Kyra Fulton
Interpersonal Communication	2 nd	Aubrey McKnight
Interpersonal Communication	Honorable Mention	Morgan Fleming -
Leadership	4 th	Jordan Johnson Douglas
Leadership	Honorable Mention	Nylah Scott Barnes

Learning Strategies	1 st	Traeha Alston
Running an Effective Meeting	1 st	Zaerion Philpott
Critical Thinking	1 st	Early Brown III and Paul McKnight

STATE WINNERS:

Kingstree Middle Magnet

Business Etiquette:

- Nevaeh Cunningham 1st Place
- Kennedy Burgess 4th Place

Career Exploration

- A Vipin 1st Place

Digital Citizenship

- Jaiden McKnight 2nd Place
- Kinnard Irving Honorable Mention

FBLA Concepts

- Keesha Pagal 1st Place

Leadership

- Jordan Johnson Douglas 2nd Place

Learning Strategies

- Traeha Alston 2nd Place

Running an Effective Meeting

- Zaerion Philpott Honorable Mention

Critical Thinking

- Team: Early Brown III and Paul McKnight – 1st Place

CEM Middle

Anya Woods (1st Place Career Research)

Christopher Mitchum (3rd Place Financial Literacy)

Micah Lewis, a student from Hemingway High School, will receive a missing certificate at a later date. He did receive other certificates from categories in which he was awarded.

Year-round school

Michael White, Chief Academic Officer, provided board members with a copy of his PowerPoint presentation on Year-Round Modified Calendar Exploration. He shared the definition of a year-round modified calendar, implementing school districts, the rationale for consideration, and next steps.

Update from the State Department Meeting

Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair, shared a recap of the conference call held with Superintendent Ellen Weaver, along with her staff, a representative from South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) and school board officers held on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 2:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss removing the state of emergency placed on Williamsburg County School District since April 2018. Superintendent Weaver response was not to remove the state of emergency based on Mr. Ferguson's findings. These findings were low students' academic performance, graduation rate, and insignificant process for tracking graduation cohorts.

Board Items

Board members expressed their disappointment in Superintendent Ellen Weaver’s decision to not remove the state of emergency.

Acooyay Seward, parent, asked a few questions based on information presented. Her questions were as follows: (1) What would the local board do differently from what the state is doing to move our kids from 8 out of 10 not performing; and (2) What was the difference between 2018 and now?

The board chair briefly responded to Ms. Seward’s questions, but a letter will be sent in response to her questions.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rev. Dicks and seconded by Dr. Gamble. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: _____