

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 17, 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, Jr., Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mrs. Carletta S. Isreal, Mr. Gary McKenzie, and Dr. Janice Gamble

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dr. Angela Jacobs, Johni McElveen, Torrance Wilson, Dr. Latetia Staggers, Debbie Donnelly, Sean Berry, Genia Smith, Mary C. Wilson, Maxine Fulmore, Eunice Alston, Angela Fred, Stephanie E., Woodrow Nesbit, Tara Lambert, Kylie Tanner, Ernestine Young, Vernie Williams, Tyrone Frasier, Kimily C. Brown, Jonathan Chandler, Berlinda Mack, Sharvis Graham, Brittani Burroughs, Donna Palmer, Ayesha Hannibal, Rachel Cooper, James Price, Ameisha Owens, Myron Frieson, Teresa Brown, Dr. Myron Davis, Travoy McCullough, Ernest Young 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 Mrs. C. Isreal to approve the consent agenda for November 17, 2025, and seconded by Ms. T. Alston. Madam Chair asked if there was any discussion. Rev. A. Darby asked the Chair, why was the election of officers not on the agenda. After discussion, Chair Cannon stated that she will check into when the elections were to take place. The motion carried.

Action Items

A motion was made by Mr. M. Burgess, Jr., to approve the Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees Minutes from the October 27, 2025 board meeting minutes, 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.

2025 Report Card Data

Mrs. McElveen presented the 2025 SC Report Card Data. **Ms. McElveen** presented a detailed review of grade-level data to determine which grade(s) contributed to the below-average school rating and report findings to the Board.

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Mrs. McElveen presented a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the 2025 School Report Card data. Most schools received ratings of average or above; one school received a below-average rating by one point.

- Academic growth trends in reading and math were discussed, including gains across multiple grade levels and identified areas for improvement.
- Improvements in graduation rates were celebrated, including the positive impact of the Flex Academy.

Mrs. McElveen also stated that: Report card results showed one school rated “good,” one school rated below average by one point, and all remaining schools rated average.

At the elementary and middle school levels, primary point sources included academic achievement and student progress. At the high school level, point sources included academic achievement, graduation rate, and college/career readiness.

Student progress measures included Median Average Target (MAT), Above Typical Growth (ABT), and Value-Added Model (VAM). Due to new math standards, MAT and ABT were applied to ELA only for this year.

Reading and math data indicated decreases in the percentage of students not meeting expectations and increases in those meeting or exceeding expectations, with some grade-level variation.

Graduation rates improved districtwide. Hemingway High School increased from 55.7% to 84.6%, attributed in part to the Flex Academy. One school exceeded the state graduation rate

School Highlights

Anderson Primary School: Academic Interventions & Community Engagement Highlights were presented by Debbie Donnelly, School Principal

- The leadership team consists of the principal, assistant principal, instructional coach, and reading coach.
- Academic supports include Heggerty, ELA resources, Lexia, and targeted literacy instructors for the lowest-performing 20% of students and the next performance tier.
- Fall data showed 17% of students at or above grade level, 68% one grade below, and 15% two grades below. The red zone decreased from 22% to 15%.
- Literacy goals include increasing the i-Ready lesson pass rate from 82% to 87%, typical growth from 21% to 26%, and stretch growth from 6% to 11%.

Math data showed 6% of students on grade level, 75% one grade below, and 18% two grades below, with a goal to increase the pass rate from 89% to 92%.

Hemingway Elementary School: Progress, Staff Development, and Enrichment Highlights were presented by Mr. Myron Frieson, School Principal

- Third-grade “does not meet expectations” rates decreased by 33%, while “meets/exceeds” increased by 19%.
- Math proficiency gains were reported: third grade increased by 8.3%, fourth grade by 19.5%, and fifth grade by 6.8%.

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- The school implemented consistent staff development, peer observations, and weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
- Daily Tier 2 interventions and instructional walkthroughs were conducted, with targeted support for struggling readers.
- Enrichment opportunities included art club, music, after-school programs, and community partnerships.
- Enrollment is 264 students, serving grades 4K–5.

C. Murray Middle School: Community Partnerships, Instructional Support, and School Culture Highlights were presented by Dr. Jonathan Chandler

- C. Murray Middle School serves approximately 120 students in grades 6–8.
- Community engagement activities included a grandparents’ breakfast with over 50 attendees, a community giveaway with Gene’s Angel serving over 300 attendees, and multicultural and Veterans Day events.
- Instructional improvements included leadership-led model lessons, Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions, and participation in the 21st Century program offering academic and enrichment activities.
- Academic incentives included the i-Ready program (45 minutes, 2–3 lessons per week) with ongoing progress monitoring.
- School culture initiatives included Teacher of the Week recognition, a staff wellness corner, gym renovations, and student incentives for achievement, attendance, and behavior.
- The school’s rating improved from “potentially underperforming” to average, with a score of 49.

Remarks

Our Interim Superintendent, Dr. Angela Jacobs gave remarks, she expressed her appreciation to the Board, principals, faculty, staff, district office personnel, and community partners. Ongoing progress and teamwork across Williamsburg County School District were acknowledged. Commitment to supporting students and educators holistically was reaffirmed. She encouraged Board members to continue fostering pride, collaboration, and growth throughout the district. She also recognized, and thanked Mrs. McElveen’s son for attending.

Adjournment

Dr. J. Gamble made a motion to adjourn the November 17, 2025 board meeting, seconded by Dr. J. Dicks. The motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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