

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 22, 2011 – 6:00 P. M.
Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
423 School Street - Kingtree, South Carolina

Members Present: Mrs. Barbara McKenzie, Ms. Norma Bartelle, Mr. Charles Garner, Mr. James Darby, Rev. Norman Gamble, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, and Mr. Joseph Lee

Others Present: Dr. Yvonne Jefferson-Barnes, Mr. Glen Kennedy, Ms. Christine Green, Mrs. Claire Murdoch, Mr. Del Brown, Mrs. Wendy Fulton, Mr. Willie Graham, Ms. Bonnie King, Mrs. Priscilla McClary, Mrs. Jessie Rogers, Mr. Matt McColl, and Mrs. Joann Fulton

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mrs. Barbara McKenzie.

Rev. W. C. Henryhand led the group in prayer. The group was then asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle to amend the agenda to change the Update on Battery Park Alumni Request for Property from an Information Item to Action Item D. The motion to amend the agenda was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Public Comment

Mr. Willie Graham, a concerned parent from the D. P. Cooper attendance area, addressed the Board with concerns about the number of children riding school buses. He warned drivers not to overload their buses and jeopardize their CDL. Mr. Graham stated that he had spoken with Mr. Eddie Woods, and that things had improved a little. He asked that something be done about the overcrowded buses, and the length of time students are on the buses.

The Chair informed Mr. Graham that he would receive a response within ten days, from the administration.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. James Darby and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2011, Budget Committee and Regular Board Meetings, and the July 11, 2011, July 19, 2011, and August 3, 2011, Called Board Meetings. The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Action Items

A. A motion was made by Mr. Charles Garner and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to approve the University of Phoenix Student's Request to Conduct a Dissertation Study in the Williamsburg County School District. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

B. A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to approve the St. Mark Elementary Community Men's Group Request for the use of the St. Mark Elementary School cafeteria and the front grounds for community events. The group indicated that they would cover the costs associated with the use of the school's cafeteria, and would keep the grounds. The motion was carried unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

C. A motion was made by Rev. Norman Gamble and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lee to approve the administration's recommendation to conduct an Analysis of District Assets for the years 2008-2011.

Dr. Jefferson-Barnes stated that the entity conducting the study would be determined by the Board of Trustees; however, she would recommend the current district auditors. She further stated that the study would be used to determine the sources of funding, where they came from, the basis, and student population trends. She also stated that the administration wants to make sure that the district is moving forward, and will not have to make decisions similar to those having to be made during the past year. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes said, if the analysis is done by the auditors, it would cost between \$5,000.00 and \$10,000.

Chairperson McKenzie asked Dr. Jefferson-Barnes if the statement that she had would be the same as what Dr. Jefferson-Barnes was requesting; Dr. Jefferson-Barnes said it would. Rev. Gamble asked the superintendent to read the statement, which read as follows:

"I move that we request an immediate State of South Carolina investigation into the finances of the Williamsburg County School District, in total, for the past four years, and that this request be signed by the Chairman of the School Board and sent to Senator Yancey McGill for a thorough state investigation."

Dr. Jefferson-Barnes said that she saw the two requests as the same.

The Chair said that she would like a motion, and that it would not cost the school district anything. She stated that she had spoken with Senator McGill, and that many people had a problem with where money has been spent. Ms. Bartelle and Mr. Garner requested that Senator McGill be invited to address the entire Board.

The Chair called for a vote on the request for a district analysis: Three members opposed: Mr. James Darby, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, and Mr. Joseph Lee. Three members abstained: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Rev. Norman Gamble, and Mr. Charles Garner. The motion failed, (0-3). The Chair did not vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble to table the motion to request a State of South Carolina investigation into the finances of the Williamsburg County School District, for additional information. Three members voted in favor of tabling: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Mr. Charles Garner, and Rev. Norman Gamble. Four members opposed: Mr. James Darby, Rev. W. C. Henryhand, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. The motion failed (3-4).

A motion was made by Mr. James Darby and seconded by Rev. W. C. Henryhand to amend the agenda to include the request for a State of South Carolina investigation into the finances of the Williamsburg County School District as an agenda item. Four members voted in favor of the motion: Mr. James Darby, Rev. W.

C. Henryhand, Mr. Joseph Lee, and Mrs. Barbara McKenzie. Three members opposed: Ms. Norma Bartelle, Mr. Charles Garner, and Rev. Norman Gamble. The motion to include the item was carried, (4-3).

A motion was made by Rev. W. C. Henryhand and seconded by Mr. James Darby to request an immediate State of South Carolina investigation into the finances of the Williamsburg County School District, in total, for the past four years, and that this request be signed by the Chairman of the School Board and sent to Senator Yancey McGill for a thorough state investigation.

Rev. Gamble asked Dr. Jefferson-Barnes how the investigation would help, or hinder the district. She stated that she did not see a problem with the investigation, because the district had nothing to hide.

Four members voted in favor of the motion: Mr. James Darby, Rev. Norman Gamble, Rev. William Henryhand, and Mr. Joseph Lee. Two members abstained: Ms. Norma Bartelle and Mr. Charles Garner. The motion to request a financial investigation by the State of South Carolina was carried 4-0. The Chair did not vote.

D. A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle to change the ten years to twenty years on the lease agreement for the Battery Park School Alumni's. The motion was carried, unanimously, (6-0). The Chair did not vote.

Information Items

A. South Carolina School Boards Association Recognizes Board Members

Since board members and leadership team training is a priority for the South Carolina School Boards Association, the Association is honoring those individuals who, during the 2010-2011 school year, have reached one of the six levels in the Boardmanship Institute. Ms. Norma D. Bartelle reached Level 3, and was honored by the South Carolina School Boards Association, with a certificate and a gold pin, which were presented by Board Chair McKenzie.

B. Update on School Openings

Dr. Jefferson-Barnes stated that the district schools had a good opening, with minimal problems. She also stated that that was the first time she had heard of the bus incident spoken of during Public Comment.

Dr. Jefferson-Barnes stated that the Willowglen situation has been resolved. Mr. Glen Kennedy and Mr. Hilton McGill have worked diligently to secure a facility for the students. Students will attend classes at the Greeleyville Willoglen site.

D. Financial Update

Mr. Del Brown from McGregor & Associates auditing firm updated Board Members on the district's finances. He indicated that the 2009-2010 audit had been completed. Mr. Brown stated that there were 15 findings in the 2009-2010 audit, and that some of them had already been addressed. He said that the 2010-2011 audit had been started, and there should not be any reason to not meet deadlines. Mr. Brown said the audit is due into the State Department by December 1st, and that it should be completed by mid November. He said that the Finance Department was doing a good job.

Board Members commended Dr. Jefferson-Barnes and her staff on the results of the audit.

E. Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Jefferson-Barnes reminded Board Members that the district is scheduled for AdvancEd review in November. She stated that she was asked to look at September 23rd or 31st as possible dates for Dr. Krohne to come in to speak with the Board about the process, and that neither dates worked. She asked for two alternate dates, and was given September 13th in the morning, and 20th in the evening.

Board Member Input

- Mr. Darby questioned the length of time it took for him to be sworn in, and said the law states that it should have been done the Monday after the election.
- Mrs. McKenzie noted that the football schedule was included in the agenda packet.
- Mr. Henryhand said that he'd had quite a few parents with concerns about 41 students being in a class. He also said a parent (who was present at the meeting) had concerns about the "STAR" program, and her child being punished for not attending the program. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes explained that the STAR program was not designed as the parent had perceived it, that her doors are always opened, and asked that the parent come to see her. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes further explained to the parent that proper procedures to receive immediate resolution to concerns would be to address problems at the level of impact. If it's a problem with the teacher, address it with the teacher first. If the resolution could not be found there, then the school principal, then the superintendent, and then the Board. She indicated that this was the first time she had heard either of the two concerns, and they were both concerns that could have been immediately addressed prior to a Board Session.
- Ms. Bartelle and Mr. Garner commended staff members for the smooth transition of schools.
- Mr. Lee asked for the student teacher ratio. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes stated that the numbers were still fluctuating, and that the first two weeks of school are periods of evaluation to determine the number of staff needed based on enrollment; and that schools would have staffing patterns adjusted according to the enrollment numbers. The adjustments are usually made following the Labor Day Holiday, when the majority of students are generally in place. The numbers would be provided at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- Mr. Henryhand asked about teachers in subject areas. Dr. Jefferson-Barnes said there were still a few vacancies, but that teachers were on the way, and that certified retired teachers were being used in some classes.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Ms. Norma Bartelle and seconded by Rev. Norman Gamble that the Board convene in Executive Session to discuss items listed on the agenda.

- A. Discussion of Election, Transfer, Termination, Retirement and/or Resignation of Staff**
- B. Business Issue – Audit**
- C. Contractual Agreement(s)**

The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:30 p. m.

Open Session

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle that the Board convene in Open Session to vote on any matters per Executive Session discussion. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The Chair did not vote. The Board convened in Open Session at 8:13 p. m.

Resignations and Election of Personnel

A motion was made by Mr. Charles Garner and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle to accept the resignations of Mrs. Marva Cannon and Mrs. Pamela McGill, and to accept the administration's recommendation to employ the following personnel for the 2011-2012 school year: Ms. Deborah Appleby, Miss Nichole Chestnut, Miss Cressia Ellison, Ms. Marisa Lewis, Mr. Thomas Lindquist, Mr. Davis Rogers, and Mr. Willie C. White. Four members voted in favor of the motion: Mrs. Norma Bartelle, Mr. James Darby, Rev. Norman Gamble, and Mr. Charles Garner. One member opposed the motion: Mr. Joseph Lee. The motion was carried (4-1). The Chair did not vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Lee and seconded by Ms. Norma Bartelle that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was carried unanimously, (5-0). The Chair did not vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p. m.

There is a difference in votes, because Rev. W. C. Henryhand left prior to Executive Session.

Submitted by Jouane M. Fulton Date 9/26/11

Board Secretary Charles T. Garner Date 9/26/11

Board Reminders:

A. School Board Conferences for 2011

1. Regular Board Meeting – September 26, 2011 – Board/Staff Development Meeting Room
2. School Law Conference – August 27-28, 2011