

Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024 – 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, Rev. Alfred Darby, Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Heyward Baker, Mike Floyd, Dr. Kenneth Burgess, Mack Burgess, and Carletta Scott Isreal

Member Absent: N/A

Others Present: Ernest Young, Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Michael White, Dr. Myron Davis, Vernie Williams, Delia Harris, Samuel Wilson, Dawn Dawes Bonnick, LeAndrea Montgomery, W. B. Wilson, April Salters, Earline Maywood, Jarmon Salters, Naelia Pressley, Michelle Pressley, Mauretta Wilson, Myron Frierson, Turquoise Rouse, Adrielle Cooper, Donna Palmer, Mary McClam, Veronica Cooper, Deitra Johnson, Shirel Pressley, Pansy Staggers, Macie Davis, Alvin Green, Priscilla Darby, Meridith T. Graham. Vincent C. Staggers, Sharon Staggers, Valencia Staggers, Charlie Fulton, Doward Harvin, Angela McClary, Josiah Wilson, Van Wilson, Brianna Wilson, Stacey Wilson Brown, Amanda Davis, Vipin Dan D Sheele, Akshith Vipin, Mary C. Wilson, Catherine Wilson, Ray Wilson, Sr. Ry'Eil Wilson, and Ray Wilson, Jr.

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

Rev. 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 to approve the January 22, 2024 consent agenda by Dr. Gamble and seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motioned was carried.

Action Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the board minutes from November 27, 2023 and the called board minutes from December 11, 2023, by Rev. Darby seconded by Dr. Gamble. The motion was carried.

Thought of Today

Rev. Darby shared the Thought for Today.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Legislative Update

H. Baker, Legislative Liaison, provided a copy of the bill presented by Senator Sabb and signed by the Governor to remove the petition requirement for candidates seeking election to Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees. An interested candidate is required to submit a statement of candidacy to the Williamsburg County Voter Registration and Election Board.

Board Elections

A motion to reelect all the officers by acclamation was made by Rev. Darby. Attorney Williams explained to the board in order to take a motion made by acclamation, it must be unanimous by all members. He stated the current board members for clarification were as follows: M. Cannon, Chair; Rev. Dicks, Vice Chair; Carletta Scott Isreal, Secretary; and Dr. Janice M. Gamble, Parliamentarian. The motion was unanimously carried. Board officers were sworn in by repeating the Oath of Office read by Attorney Williams.

Signing of the Ethical Principles Flyer

M. Cannon, chair, read the SC School Board Member Ethical Principles in its entirety and the information will be posted in the district.

MOY – i.Ready Data

Amanda Dorris, Director of Testing & Accountability, provided an overview of Student Growth Summary Data from Fall to Winter 2020-2021 and from Fall to Winter 2023-2024 for grades kindergarten through eighth grades, and Placement Results from Fall to Winter 2023. She concluded her report by acknowledging schools for excelling on meeting and exceeding assessment goals.

Presentation from the Kingtree - Lake City Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Janie McCrea, Basileus, and members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. presented Kingtree Middle Magnetic School of the Arts, Hemingway M.B. Lee Middle School, and CE Murray Middle School with school supplies. Also, the organization provided art supplies to the middle school art teachers.

Acknowledgement of Academic Achievement

Dr. Davis, Executive Director of Public Relations, recognized eleven scholars for their exemplary academic success. First, Dr. Davis recognized Ms. Catherine Wilson, Hemingway High School, and Malcolm Salters, Kingtree High School, with a video presentation. The video presentation included interviews of the honorees, principals and teachers. Each student was presented with a certificate along with their parents. Secondly, he recognized the following students who made a perfect score on the End of Course (EOC) Exam for Algebra I and/or English I: Audrey Burgess, Teri Owens, Akshith Vipin, Valencia Staggers, Cheyanna McClary, Andrew Hiott and Mikayla Gonzalez-Rivera. All students were presented with a certificate along with their parent(s). Finally, recognized the following students for a perfect score on the EOC for US History: Nadia Pressley and Josiah Wilson.

Second Reading of Policy “Gavin’s Law”

M. Cannon, chair, read Gavin’s Law (S.C. Code Ann. Section 16-15-430) in its entirety. The law adopted by the board to be submitted to the State Department of Education for approval and placed on the school district website.

Board Items

M. Cannon shared First Steps Act 81 and accepted the recommendation of Dr. Wymbs to appoint Ruby Faison to Williamsburg County First Steps Board. A motion was made to accept the recommendation for the First Steps Board by Dr. Gamble seconded by Rev. Dicks. The motion was carried.

M. Cannon updated the board on a meeting she attended along with H. Baker that was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, in Columbia with members of Williamsburg County Legislative Delegation to include Senator Sabb, Rep. Kirby and Rep. Atkinson. She stated that the delegation is in full support of the board regaining local control of the school district. Also, M. Cannon informed the board of an upcoming meeting with Superintendent Weaver to be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. This meeting was arranged by Melvin Stroble, President, SC School Board Association Black Caucus and confirmed by the Superintendent’s Office. She stated the following persons were asked to attend by the superintendent’s office regarding the status of the takeover: board chair, H. Baker, Senator Sabb, and Melvin Stroble. A report of the meeting will be shared with the board.

Members of the board expressed concerns about needed improvements at Hemingway High School to include paving of parking lot, gym floor, and stage curtains. It was stated for all board members to have the opportunity to shake the hands of all students being recognized at future board meetings. Also, board members thanked Dr. Wymbs and district staff for the progress made in the school district, encouraged students to continue to excel, thanked parents for their attendance and support of their students, acknowledge classmates of students who were recognized at the board meeting, thanked members from Lake City Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. for their donations, thanked Kingstree High School Choir under the direction of Ms. English for an outstanding performance at the NAACP Laying of the Wreath Program, acknowledged Miracle Cooper and Diamond Swinton for the leadership with the NAACP and thanked Dr. Wymbs for the pavement of Hemingway High School parking lot.

Dr. Wymbs continued to thank his staff for their dedication and commitment to serving our scholars and recognized students for their continued growth and achievements.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the January 22, 2024 meeting by Dr. Gamble and seconded by Dr. Darby. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: _____
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: _____

Board Chair: _____
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: _____