

**James Island Constituent District 3 Board of Trustees**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 12, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Cynthia Smalls, George Tempel, Katy Calloway, Sue McManus

**Proceedings:**

**I. Call to Order & Moment of Silence:**

The board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the Board Chair, Katy Calloway, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Adoption of Agenda:**

George Tempel moved, with a second by Katy Calloway, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 3-0.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

George Tempel moved, seconded by Cynthia Smalls, to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020, meeting with the necessary corrections. The motion passed 3-0.

*Sue McManus arrived shortly after the approval of the minutes.*

**IV. Public Comment:**

No public comments.

**V. District Updates:**

Ms. English-Watson shared updates and information from the CCSD Board Workshop and Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 11, 2021.

District Leaders will be meeting with School-based Leaders will meet with principals to look at how we update the notification system while continuing to adhere to confidentiality law. Leadership also shared a plan and proposed scheduled for offering vaccinations to our frontline CCSD staff.

Ms. English-Watson's department is heading the "Learning Pod" initiative. The focus of the pods is currently in the North Charleston area. The intent is to be able to help students whose parents may not be ready to send them into schools but are comfortable sending them into smaller settings of 4-5 students in a room where they are able to receive virtual instruction with CCSD staff on hand to provide support with assignments and communication with their teacher(s). The Department of Alternative programs is working with the schools to identify families that are in need of support.

Winter sports remain suspended through January 17<sup>th</sup>. The decision will be revisited again if the extension needs to continue.

The attendance rate is starting to level off.

Governor McMaster proposed \$48M to expand access to full day kindergarten to low income 4 year olds.

Ms. Calloway shared that the Superintendent is working on updating the COVID notification process so that when there is a positive case in a classroom parents are notified. This process will start with the Elementary Schools.

## **VI. Constituent Board Report:**

### **A. Board Chair Updates**

Ms. Calloway spent some time prior to the holiday meeting with District 3 administrators. She reviewed COVID numbers for the first few days of students and staff returning to school and commented on the influx in the number of cases between the first and second day of return. She shared that the principals she spoke with did not feel that spread in school was the issue. They seemed to think that their staff felt pretty comfortable with the protocol. Their concerns were more around community spread that was happening outside of the school. Ms. Calloway commented that the district has done a good job at keeping the schools clean and safe.

#### **a. Annual Goals**

Ms. Calloway talked to principals about how the board can help. Received a few recommendation. The following were highlighted:

- 1) Mental health issues among students and staff.
- 2) How can the board help facilitate quarterly meeting for D3 principals to get together and share updates with one another. Dr. Tempel shared that the board used to invite principals to their monthly meetings to give the board an update on how things were going academically. School needs would then be forwarded to the Consolidated Board.

Ms. Calloway shared that she reminded the administrators that they are welcome to join the monthly meeting to give and receive updates. Administrators will be invited to the upcoming meeting.

Ms. Champaigne read the attached public comments that were submitted for Public Comment. *It was noted that the requester attempted to send the email prior to the deadline, but was unable to.*

Following the reading of the comments, Ms. Champaigne let the board members and guests know that the comments would be shared with the appropriate staff for a follow up as needed.

#### **b. Meeting Schedules**

The board discussed the possible need to make adjustments to their meeting time. Ms. Champaigne let them know that their established meeting time was 6:00 p.m. but they have been meeting earlier based on the availability of a quorum of board members. The board members will keep their regular time and continue to meet earlier for their virtual meetings as long as a quorum of the board is available.

### **B. Board Member Updates**

#### **School Assignments**

Camp Road Middle – Susannah Sheldon  
James Island Elementary – Cynthia Smalls  
Murray LaSaine Elementary – George Tempel  
Harbor View Elementary – Sue McManus  
Stiles Point Elementary – Katy Calloway

## **VII. Old Business:**

No old business discussed.

## **VIII. New Business:**

### **A. Review of District 3 Bylaws**

The board agreed to hold a Special Called Meeting on January 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m. for the purposing of reviewing the current bylaws and recommending changes. The Word

version of the existing bylaws will be formatted as a Google document for the board members to include proposed changes and comments.

**IX. Announcements:**

Board of Trustees Meeting – Monday, January 25, 2021

District 3 Special Called Meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Constituent Board Discipline Training coming soon!

**X. Adjournment:**

Katy Calloway moved, seconded by Sue McManus, to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. The motion passed 4-0.

**Approved 2.9.21**

DISTRICT 3 PUBLIC COMMENT – JANUARY 12, 2021

Rachel Horne and Lindsey Barr

Good Evening,

First, thank you for your continued commitment to CCSD and the James Island schools. We each have two elementary students that attend Harbor View Elementary and both of us volunteer in school and as members of the PTA board.

After expressing our concerns over the weekend regarding the fact that the entire class is not notified in the event of a positive COVID-19 case, we are relieved to hear the announcement last night that they are working towards improving this policy. However, it was not clear if the same notification process applies in the event a teacher is positive. Can you help to clarify?

The concern now is that because of the lack of transparency regarding positive cases in the classrooms, CCSD has created an environment where parents no longer trust the data and all information coming from the school and teachers. The general consensus on social media and in general conversation is that there have been more positive cases than are being reported on the CCSD dashboard. Furthermore, there seems to be a hesitancy from teachers to discuss teacher absences let alone their even own positive results. Many parents suspect (or in our experience have been told) that teachers are being asked by administration not to disclose why they are absent or if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19. This goes against the PTA's mission to create a strong and honest bond between parents and teachers. How can we move forward in a healthier way and regain the trust lost between parents and schools?

Thank you in advance for your time and feedback.