

**St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Line) Minutes**  
**March 2, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Monica Smith, Pat Cline, Tamy Lockhart, Dr. Karen Simmons, Renea Bligen, Leon Green, Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford

**Proceedings:**

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

The board meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by the Board Chair, Monica Smith.

**II. Adoption of Agenda:**

Pat Cline moved, with a second by Tamy Lockhart, to adopt the agenda with an amendment to exclude Item VII-B. The motion passed 7-0.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Karen Simmons moved, seconded by Pat Cline, to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

**IV. Visitors/Public Comments:**

**From Jean Howard and Kim LaBoard (Mt. Zion SIC)**

1. What time will school begin and what accommodations will be made for early care? Many parents leave for work early and have been able to take their children to school for early care.
2. Can the current Mt. Zion be early childhood, 0 through kindergarten, and family engagement center where before/after school care can be located? This option would help parents and traffic on John's Island.  
Ms. LaBoard is concerned about parents from the South John's Island traveling to North John's Island to potential new school.

**Jean Howard**

1. If a new school is built in D9, will it continue the name of Mt Zion? ( A lot of history and pride is associated with Mt Zion)
2. Will the new school continue to be a STEM school? (Mt Zion parents, SIC, and community have expressed that is the focus they want their school to have).
3. If school is in the North end of the island, can there be additional bus transportation for students that attend after-care?

**V. District Updates:**

Rev. Dr. Eric Mack, Consolidated Board Chairman, along with the following members of staff, responded to questions and concerns about the location of the new elementary school in District 9.

Mr. Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning & Real Estate

Ms. Michelle Simmons, Associate Superintendent, Elementary Learning Community

Mr. Bill Briggman, Chief of Human Resources/District 9 Constituent Board Liaison

**VI. Constituent Board Report:**

- A. Ms. Smith reminded board members to file their 2020 Ethics report which is due by March 30, 2021.
- B. In the interest of time, Mr. Briggman shared the following information with board members by email:

- Student Transfer Applications will be accepted through the Smart Choice link from March 1, 2021 until 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2021.
- Spring break takes place in early April this year: April 5-9th. All schools and offices will be closed.
- Upcoming Meetings/Events
  - Committee of the Whole meeting - March 8, 2021
  - Charleston County School District Board of Trustees meeting - March 22, 2021

Dr. Simmons shared a concern about the high school students not being able to use the middle school gymnasium for practice. Rev. Ford shared that St. John's gym was being used today for testing that was taking place. Mr. Briggman followed up with Mr. Larson who advised that because they were unable to use the auditorium due to cloth seats and other precautions toward COVID infections, they were using the gym to administer college assessments like the ACT and SAT. Students in PE will have class outdoors, or in the weight room for the day. This is in effect for tomorrow only. Dr. Simmons shared that the issue is with Haut Gap's gym. Mr. Briggman will follow up.

Mr. Green shared a letter received from a parent concerning issues with the dress code. Mr. Green was asked to refer the parent to the Office of Family and Community Engagement for a follow up on the concerns shared. Ms. Champaigne will share the information with the appropriate staff.

**VII. Constituent Board School Liaison Report:**

A. School Updates – Report attached.

~~B. Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights—Tamy Lockhart~~

Ms. Cline asked what would be the process for sending additional questions regarding the new school location. Ms. Smith instructed board members to send questions to Ms. Champaigne as soon as possible. She will work on sorting the questions to make sure that questions and concerns that were addressed this evening are excluded from the new list.

**VIII. Old Business:**

No Old Business discussed.

**IX. New Business:**

Ms. Smith reminded board members to send questions and concerns to Ms. Champaigne.

**X. Announcements:**

Committee of the Whole – March 8, 2021

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – March 22, 2021

**XI. Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

# District 9 School Updates

March 2, 2021

## Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

School Improvement Council Meeting was held 2/23/21. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM and adjourned at 6:30 pm. There were 12 people in attendance.

The meeting agenda included:

- a) Welcome, Sign-in, and Purpose
- b) Review of any adjustments made during Fall Budget Alignment and Amendment process: SIC Budget FY 2019-2021 was presented and reviewed.
  - Strategy in misting materials for Covid-19
  - Discussions: No Reading Partners this year because of Covid-19
  - Discussions: The challenges teachers face with dual platform teaching
- c) Review of Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Renewal Plan for items funded and those on the wish list.
- d) Budget Update: Extra Body (Assigned Sub) Next Year a .50 and a .25
- e) Garden Update: 3 primary beds; adding more; Large Garden 14 new raised bed thanks to Kiawah Cares; Well-Drilled by JP Anderson; Grant submitted to Green Hearts, a Non-Profit that work with schools for culinary; Native Plants. Phase 2 of the Greenhouse and Phase 3 of the Amphitheater. Kiawah Island Club will provide the manpower to install.
- f) Tennis Update: ELF have a tennis team now. Tennis Curriculum is provided. Practice on Thursdays 3:45-4:45 pm. There are NO games scheduled now. Hopes of a more diverse population on the team. The impediments are transportation and there will be the removal of fee for parents from the letter/application sent home to parents.
- g) Suggestions and feedback from parents: With the growth or new growth of the school next year, how will the seats be decided for incoming student selection?
  - The District lottery selects the students: Wadmalaw Residents first, then D9, and then the general population.
  - Discussions: Summer project of a new playground. 1UE by 2021-22 w/6 classrooms comprised of 3LE and 3Primary. Currently at 143 Students. By 2022-23, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Primary. UE & 3UE. Renovation for 2 adolescent classes. Hope to phase out the traditional grade levels to full Montessori by 2023-24.

SIC and PTA meetings are on April 22nd at 5:30 and 6:30 respectively.

## Mt. Zion Elementary – Tamy Lockhart

Mt Zion SIC Meeting February 17 2021 via Zoom

- STEM committee at Mt. Zion will be meeting Monday to get things in gear. There has been little progress due to the adjustment to the pandemic.
- The students are working on a "Wax Museum" Event, where students pretend to be someone and tell others about this person. If they had in person school it would be like visiting a Wax museum with the figures repeating information about themselves.
- They had a program about fruits and vegetables, which they tasted and took home. They also heard which fruits and vegetables come from John's Island. Including in this program was how to roll a Cumquat. They videotaped this.
- There is a Town Hall planned tentatively at the end of March. Ashley Burke is organizing a group to help and Kim LaBoard suggested they use their media team, a brother and sister who can be close together, walk to each class and act as reporters finding out what is happening in each grade. This would make the first part of the Town Hall a recorded event and then they could have a Q & A with pre-submitted questions, and ones submitted during the Town Hall.
- The SIC committee requested directions on how to listen to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> District 9 Constituent Board meeting to hear what Mr. Mack has to say about a replacement school for Mt. Zion.

## Angel Oak Elementary – Renea Bligen

- Celebrated Black History Month in February and our theme of “Powerful Words” with daily trivia and arts-integrated class activities. See photos on our Facebook page!
- Shared multiple editions of our school newspaper “The Hootie News” created by our 3rd grade newspaper class. These students learn about journalism and informational writing for the “real world”. They apply this knowledge and skills to produce their own newspaper to share with the school and community. Here is a link to this year’s editions so far: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lqrdi2vFYcDL83\\_OSYh5uC5-1cYttiUn?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lqrdi2vFYcDL83_OSYh5uC5-1cYttiUn?usp=sharing)
- Devin Brown, 5th grader at AOE, placed as one the Top 18 finalists in the CCSD District-wide spelling Bee! He competed with both elementary AND middle school students from across the county! We are so proud of him!
- Second grade classes experienced an Artist in Residency from February 23-26. Marielena Martinez, visual artist, introduced students to the fantasy art of David Weisner and led them in creating illustrations through the development of their own fantasy stories. This arts-integrated lesson ties directly to ELA standards exploring different writing genres.
- March 1-5 is Read Across America Week and the theme is "Reading: Your Ticket to the World"! We will be doing special activities all this week related to this theme. Friday, March 5 is also the kickoff day for Angel Oak Elementary PTA Read-a-thon!
- Continuing to implement our “Family Banner Project” as a way to continue to build relationships with our school families and community during the global pandemic. Stay tuned for photos of this project as it develops over the coming months!
- Angel Oak SIC meeting scheduled for March 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

## Haut Gap Middle – Leon Green

Sixth grade Math and Science teacher, Nicholas Taylor, will represent HGMS as the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Taylor has been on staff for several years and previously taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade science. He is a member of the John’s Island community where he resides with his wife and young daughter. Congratulations, Mr. Taylor.

As HGMS begins a second semester, the sixth grade teachers ( Ms. Rubadou, Ms. Leary, Ms. Webb. And Ms. Cadle) have been busy nominating students as “GO To” ambassadors. These students exhibit organizational skills and character traits necessary to help new students. The GO TO Ambassadors help new students to get acclimated with the HGMS PRIDE system. They also provide school tours, and assist with teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade procedures.

The sixth grade team also runs a grade level PRIDE store. Students may use earned PRIDE coupons to purchase items twice a month. School supplies, water bottles, school shirts/sweatshirts are a few of the items the Pride store has in stock.

The Black History Poster Contest is in full swing. Students in all grades received information concerning the contest from the HGMS Guidance Department. Any student needing information pertaining to the contest should contact Ms. Washington.

The Haut Gap Reading Program’s end goal has always been to support students as they navigate through a variety of books to find their reading niche and become lifelong readers and learners. There is no doubt that this school year has presented its challenges from navigating through our new online reading app, Sora, to checking out books from a cart in classrooms and curbside pickup in the beginning of the year to our current status of learning how to self-checkout books in the library to limit contact. The biggest hurdle has been to build back our reading endurance, but many Bulldogs are jumping over that hurdle in a big way! Bulldogs read 648 books during the second quarter and many met their reading goals, which vary in each grade level. Forty-eight students in 6th and 47 students in 7th grade met their reading goals. In 8th grade 54 students met their goal. Although we strive for our students to read because it intrinsically motivates them, we also know some extrinsic motivation helps. All students who met their goal received a Reading Bag of Goodies. The most popular items in the bag were the Dress Down Pass and the three extra Bulldog VIP passes to the Media Center during FLEX period.

Haut Gap SIC meeting scheduled for March 18, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

## **St. John's High – Dr. Karen Simmons**

- Update on the Upgrade program. 30 students have joined. Mr. Larson reaches out to families when the students are meeting program expectations.
- 245 students currently attending in person.
- Total enrollment is 350.
- Seniors are doing well and on track.
- Graduation rate may be a little off as some students were lost due to various reasons
- Discipline is very low.
- Teachers are engaged in professional development on a weekly basis.