

James Island Constituent District 3 Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

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

Proceedings:

I. Call to Order & Moment of Silence:

The board meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by the Board Chair, Katy Calloway, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Adoption of Agenda:

Dr. George Tempel moved, with a second by Susannah Sheldon, to approve the agenda with a request to amend with the following statement from Chair Calloway:

Ms. Calloway acknowledged the visitors that were listed to provide comments. The comments do not reflect the organizations of which they are members. They are appearing as concerned parents from the respective schools and not as representatives of SIC, PTA or PTO.

The motion was approved 3-0.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. George Tempel moved, seconded by Katy Calloway, to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2021, meeting with a request to amend to reflect comments from Principal Meredith Wallace in an email dated March 9th. The motion passed 3-0.

IV. Visitors/Public Comment:

Jamie Meissner introduced the visitors.

Mandy Myers, Stiles Point Elementary parent, presented three key points:

- Capacity – Growing numbers and how that looks for SPES.
- Equity vs. equality of resources
- Rezoning – We need to address this issue as an island problem.
- It would be nice to work together.

Carrie Glasscock, Harbor View Elementary and Camp Road Middle parent:

- Would like the James Island community to be involved in informed decisions about the forthcoming capacity at our four elementary schools and the bigger conversation about the potential need to rezone in the near future.
- Also concerned about the potential impacts of class size due to capacity and the safety of our students.

Spencer Wetmore, State House Representative and James Island Elementary parent:

- James Island Elementary is actually under capacity. This is an opportunity to think about how we approach our James Island schools as a whole and how the district is working to make sure that we are creating opportunities in each of our schools that will be attractive to the families that are here on the island.
- Can attest to the amazing work that Principal Gregory and teachers are doing. How is the district also working with James Island Elementary School to make sure that this an option that's just as exciting for all of our families?

- The district uses magnet programs, Montessori, foreign language, and special arts in other schools, we hope that James Island can also be given the consideration for many of these programs.
- Ms. Wetmore is committed to being an advocate for the issues on James Island and offered herself as a resource to serve on committees to brainstorm for ideas.

Jamie Meissner, James Island Elementary and Murray LaSaine Montessori parent:

- Murray LaSaine is the only school this year that is 95% capacity.
- Done a lot of things over the years at Murray LaSaine Montessori to try to bring all the schools on the island together with hopes that when decisions are made (rezoning, etc.) that we are a part of the conversation.
- Ms. Meissner is not sure what can be done to increase the space there but Principal Wallace shared that they have 140 students on the K-5 waitlist and about 80-90 3K/4K students on the waitlist. 230 extra families that would like to attend Murray LaSaine Elementary.
- Asking the board to think about the Early Childhood Center that's supposed to go on the old Camp Road site. Asking us to use imagination and really make sure that the spaces we have available for us we are really using them to the best of our whole island interest.
- Who's going to go into the Early Childhood Center? The decision will affect the four elementary schools on the island. These are really important conversations *before* votes go through. Community feedback is needed if they're going to use that program or if they would rather their kindergarten program stay at their home school.

Ms. Calloway thanked visitors for their feedback and let them know that she is communicating as much as she can with the Consolidated Board. Ms. Calloway agrees that there is a need to maximize the community buy-in.

V. District Updates:

A. Board Liaison, Michelle English-Watson shared the following updates:

- None of the schools are over building capacity this year and not projected to be over capacity next year.
- Boards will receive projections later this month.
- Senate passed legislation requiring all schools to return to in-person instruction 5 days a week April 12th. *This was not an issue for CCSD as this has already been implemented.* Starting in the fall, will not be able to do simultaneous in-person and online teaching unless it's an absolute emergency. Retired teachers will be allowed to return to the classroom without losing their retirement pay.

VI. Constituent Board Reports:

A. Chairperson's Report

- End of March, Ms. Calloway had an opportunity to talk to Stiles Point PTO. Was able to answer some of their questions regarding capacity and rezoning.
- Brings up process of rezoning.
- Consolidated Board Chair, Rev. Dr. Eric Mack met with all Constituent Board Chairs in a virtual meeting on March 31, 2021.
 - One of the common themes was rezoning. Almost everyone talked about rezoning.
Ms. Calloway would like to make a formal request to begin looking at rezoning for the 2022-2023 school year. She will make a point to involve the community in this process.
 - A second common theme among the board chairs was communication.

- Reminded the board of details shared from 1:1 with Rev. Mack where he mentioned the processes being implemented in the Communications Department. More information will be shared with the boards, real-time.
- Reinstated the Annual Report from the Constituent Boards. On a date to be determined between May and August, board chairs will be given 10 minutes to report on the work that they have done as it relates to the Constituent Board responsibilities.
- Rev. Mack provided a clear definition of the role of the board liaison and how information from the board meetings are vetted through the board liaison to the Superintendent and the Consolidated Board.
- Cultural Competency Grant info included in board packet.
- The Charleston Area Justice Ministry sent an invite to all Constituent Board members to Restorative Practice event on April 29th

Dr. Tempel noted that he is part of the CAJM and they've been working hard on restorative practice. CAJM is working to get more restorative practices in the district.

Dr. George Tempel – Murray LaSaine Montessori

- Preparing for MAP testing.
- Murray LaSaine's art teacher, paired with muralist, Quentin Chaplin, and the 7th and 8th graders to do a mural on the back wall annex that will include portraits of Murray, LaSaine, and Montessori.
- Received \$5,000 gift that's being used for instruments and benches.
- Dealing with construction of a fire lane behind the school that is nearing completion. Thrilled about completion of this project because it will allow them to get their green space back.

Susannah Sheldon – Camp Road Middle

- PTO online option starts Monday and runs for a week. Ms. Sheldon will share the link with board members.
- Camp Road Middle Music Festival. – April 22nd, 6-8 p.m.
- Getting ready for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7th

Sue McManus – Harbor View Elementary

Ms. McManus spoke with PTA president at Harbor View Elementary, who shared some of the things they've done using funds raised last year.

- Monthly lunch truck for teachers and Amazon gift cards.
- Gave money to nurses for cleaning supplies.
- Purchased headphones and winter coats for student that did not have them.
- Currently working on getting new soccer goals and outdoor tables for the art teachers.
- There was no Booster-thon this year due to COVID, but they have a Spring fundraising campaign going on. 14 business sponsors
- New t-shirts for the entire school.
- Offered incentives to the grade levels that raised the most money.
- The PTA raised over \$8,000 in one week. As an incentive, the principal will be sleeping on the roof.

Cynthia Smalls, James Island Elementary

- Ms. Smalls reiterated rezoning concerns that were shared by Ms. Meissner and Ms. Wetmore.
- Principal Gregory shared that her and the teachers are doing well.

- March 15th, Greater Bethel, Ms. Smalls' church donated loads of supplies to the school to let them know how much they appreciate what they are doing at the school.
- The church is in the process of donating to Clark Academy as well.

VII. Old Business:

No Old Business discussed.

VIII. New Business:

No New Business discussed.

A motion was made by Katy Calloway, seconded by Cynthia Smalls, to move into Executive Session. The motion was approved 5-0.

IX. Executive Session:

A. Student Transfer Applications

X. Open Session Reconvened:

A motion was made by Dr. George Tempel, seconded by Susannah Sheldon, to return to Open Session. The motion was approved 5-0.

XI. Vote of Executive Session Item (Action):

A. Student Transfer Applications

| School | Meets (Board Approved) | Does Not Meet (Board Denied) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Harbor View Elementary | 2, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33 #4 was tabled for additional information | 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18-20, 23, 24, 26, 29, 32 |
| James Island Elementary | | 1-3 |
| Stiles Point Elementary | 2, 4-7, 9-13 | 1, 3, 8 |
| Camp Road Middle | 8, 10 | 1-7, 10, 11-13 |

XII. Announcements:

Spring Break – April 5-9, 2021 – All schools and offices closed.
 Committee of the Whole Meeting – Monday, April 19, 2021
 Board of Trustees Meeting – Monday, April 26, 2021

XIII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Approved 5.11.21