

**St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom) Minutes**  
**May 4, 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 5:33 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. The motion passed 7-0.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Pat Cline moved, seconded by Dr. Karen Simmons, to approve the minutes from the April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup> meetings. The motion passed 7-0.

**IV. Visitors/Public Comments:**

No Public Comments submitted.

**V. District Updates:**

Board Liaison, Bill Briggman, provided the following updates:

- During a Special Called Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Consolidated Board approved a recommendation for a \$500 bonus for all permanent staff.
- Over 4,000 staff members have been vaccinated by the district.
- Certified staff contracts have to be issued by May 1. The district issued a little over 3700 certified staff contracts.

The board asked questions about the district's teacher recruitment efforts.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – Monday, May 10, 2021
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Monday, May 24, 2021

**VI. Constituent Board Report:**

Ms. Smith asked the board to think about what they would like to include the Annual Report presentation. The report should be based on the responsibilities of the Constituent Boards (student transfers, attendance zones and discipline). A date has not been determined yet, but the reports will be scheduled sometime between June and August.

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

A. School Updates – Report attached.

B. Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights – Tamy Lockhart shared brief highlights from the April 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting.

**VIII. Old Business:**

No Old Business discussed.

**IX. New Business:**

The board requested a report of the appeal decisions made by the County Board during their May 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Called meeting. Ms. Champaigne will send the appeal report to boards later this week.

**X. Announcements:**

Ms. Cline shared that the recording of the Charleston Area Justice Ministries Restorative practice presentation may be available for board members to watch, if interested. The board asked that the presentation is shared with them to view.

**XI. Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

## District 9 School Updates

May 4, 2021

### Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

- Testing begins May 3rd.
- Testing schedules are located in Wednesday Folder, Class Dojo, and on the Frierson website - frierson@ccsdschools.com
- No School Improvement Council meeting is scheduled as of yet.
- PTA meeting is April 27th @ 6:30 pm

### Mt. Zion Elementary – Tamy Lockhart

#### Mt. Zion SIC Meeting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 5:00 pm

An updated school report for the parents was discussed and updated with plans for a Town Hall. It will also mention the STEM challenge started in April. The school also received another grant to buy some more musical instruments. This also goes out in Spanish. The District will be coming to do some filming of Mt Zion. More investigation is going on about features of a STEM school and building. They discussed getting the community involved and ensuring communications are clear about the school so we do not start rumors by mistake.

April Family STEM challenge had good participation. The kids created some really interesting items using their Maker Space. They are working on a May and possibly a June challenge. They are gearing up for all the testing which will mostly occur in May, although Fastbridge has started. State testing will be done before Memorial Day.

There is a leadership meeting next week to discuss a 5th grade promotion ceremony, most likely an outdoor event. They are working on a virtual award ceremony. There is a new social emotional survey going out to students 3 -5 that replaces an older one that is more comprehensive. They also have one for the younger kids. This will be done twice a year. The staff also does one to ensure the staff is being supported. They have ordered a sunshade for an outdoor classroom and cost was covered by the Kiawah Island fund, a grant and a private donor. They also have some funds from churches to buy furniture. The sunshade will be installed before the end of the term. There have been some hiccups with new materials for Project Lead the Way, and they are still working out getting other teachers trained. Kiawah Cares is aiding in ensuring the Grant gets used up buying materials. They want to be sure they are coordinating with the State curriculum.

They are still working on using the reporters and video equipment for the Town Hall. They do have a video they can start with and then go to slides or other video clips. The existing video is on the Mt Zion Facebook page. Ashley Burke will put together a slide show. They still want to use the idea of the morning news crew, it may have to wait until the fall. They are considering mid-May early evening, 6 or 6:30. They will make sure Ms. Torres is available for translation.

Mr Borowy indicated they need to do a site evaluation on proposed John's Island site and then community meetings to discuss a new school. We will want to be sure to have lots of support for the new school at the meetings. Kiawah Cares is helping Angel Oak make up for the loss of Title One money.

They are also helping Frierson with their garden.

### Angel Oak Elementary – Renea Bligen

**-We have received notice that we will no longer qualify as a Title I school next year and will no longer receive Title I funding.** We will be discussing this in more detail at our next SIC meeting.

**-Our hallways have transformed into an art gallery! We are so excited to be working with the Besharat Arts Foundation Museum and Gallery in Atlanta to showcase "The Faces of Innocence" exhibit featuring reproductions of the photography of S. McCurry.** These beautiful images of children from around the world will be explored by our students using Artful Thinking strategies to promote global awareness, empathy, cultural connection, and so much more!

-The College of Charleston Opera did a great performance of “The Three Little Pigs” for our kindergarten students! Their ability to do an exclusively outdoor performance made it safe for our students to enjoy! Thank you for your creativity and willingness to adapt...we ♥ our arts partners!

-Our parents asked for more parenting and family resources to help out at home and now they’ve got it! The AOES Family Library is setup & ready for you to “checkout”! Thank you to our Parent Advocate, Mr. Jordan, for creating this library!

Check out our inventory at this

link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S3Vb6JcTTX0UQLSdf9cek9Xo9bKggKsd6D3gU84D2TI/htmlview>

Reserve your books at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdx2psLh-r-g!QuAbV23-2s8KX55Z8nOEzTgEIXQ2mgU5-j6g/viewform>

-The final results of the tennis season are in! The Angel Oak Elementary Wise Owls are the champions of Orange Ball Division 12!

Congrats to Coach Gregory Taylor and the team:

Ja’Quoy – Captain, Antonio, Alfredo, Aidan, Simone, Bella, Eli, Jaylen, Jack

Thank you to: Ms. Hastings, Mr. Kevin Moore, Mr. Greg Moore, the incredibly supportive parents and the AOES faculty & Staff.

-Special thanks to the St. John’s HS “Storm the Citadel” team who came to share at AOE last week! These talented high school students built a trebuchet (a type of medieval catapult) from scratch, explained how their contraption worked (all the physics) and demonstrated how they can send objects flying. This was a great connection to our 5th grade Science standards addressing force, motion, and making predictions!

-We had a successful Read-a-Thon, Spring Book Fair and Square 1 Art sale to support our learners!

-We honored Ms. Becca Patsalos as our AOE “Rookie Teacher of the Year”! She has done an amazing job in her first year at our school teaching dance and arts integration strategies to our students! Her nomination was accepted to compete with other teachers for district level honors! Stay tuned! We love you, Ms. Becca!

-We are so excited to share our school-wide “Family Banner Project”! Our hallways and bulletin boards are now lined with hundreds of unique and beautiful banners created collaboratively by each of our families! Our students will soon complete a challenge involving these banners to help them explore and appreciate our diverse school community.

-We had a very successful “Wellness Week” in March with a family photo challenge!

-We have testing, our Kindergarten Round Up event and much more scheduled for May! More to come!

## Haut Gap Middle – Leon Green

Haut Gap Happenings:

- Problem Based Learning (PBL) is taking off this spring! PBL is instruction that actively engages youth using real world and personally meaningful projects.
- Thanks to grants totaling \$11,321 from Bosch, The Sea Island Natural History Group, Native Flower, The Women’s Business Association, DHEC Recycling Education, and Donors Choose, Haut Gap will be involved with many PBL projects. Topics covered within the projects are plants, animals, ecosystems, water systems, geometry, quadratic equations, and South Carolina History.
- 6 grade math will build a chicken coop and a compost bin.
- 7th and 8th grade math classes will establish garden boxes and paths using quadratic equations.
- 8th grade science will install a well and design a garden watering system
- 7th grade Science will build birdhouses
- 6th and 8th grade science classes will create a Carolina Fence Garden to include South Carolina wild flowers.
- The Haut Gap Garden will be the happening place during the months of April, May, and June!
- Haut Gap Guidance department has been busy conducting restorative justice sessions with students along with holding small group intervention sessions to help students become successful in and out of the classroom.

- Social Studies teachers have also been busy incorporating Social and Emotional Learning Lessons during Team Flex times. Students have opportunities to practice the lessons within our PBIS system by earning weekly points for positive behavior.
- The Positive behavior Intervention System (PBIS) at Haut Gap has looked a little different due to COVID-19 this year. Unable to have large crowd gatherings, like our fall festival and winter dance, grade level teachers have been incorporating other incentives to promote good behavior. Such activities include shopping at the school store using PRIDE coupons, surprise dress down days for students earning points, and quarterly class rewards. We look forward to the future when we can bring back our big celebrations.
- Summer Reading will be upon us soon. Each student will receive 3 free books to bring home to read over summer break. More information concerning the books and expected activities will be forthcoming.

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

- The last day of school for students is June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Graduation – June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on the Robert Biggerstaff field.
- Girl's Rock Week is next week. Intramurals for all female Islanders during first and second lunch.
- On Friday, May 21, 2021, during the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> block, the St. John's JROTC cadets will be competing against themselves to determine which class is the best in drill and ceremony.
- Mr. Harvey, band teacher, is prepping the STJ drum line for next year.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., Coach Charlie Brown, former NFL football player and St. John's High alumnus, will be presenting a check to Principal Larson on behalf of the NFL.

**Approved 5.18.21**