

St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Line) Minutes
December 1, 2020

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:

Renea Bligen moved, with a second by Leon Green, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Pat Cline moved, seconded by Renea Bligen, to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020, meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

IV. Visitors/Public Comments:

There were no comments submitted.

V. Constituent Board Chair Report

A. Review of District 9 Constituent Board By Laws

Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford moved, seconded by Tamy Lockhart, to amend the District 9 By-Laws with the following recommended changes: Striking "chairman" and inserting "chairperson", and striking "his" and inserting "his/her." A second reading of the amended bylaws will be considered for action during the December 15, 2020 meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

VI. District Updates:

Mr. Briggman reminded the board that a combined Committee of the Whole and Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2020. Winter Break starts December 21, 2020 and ends January 1, 2021. All schools and offices will be closed during that time.

VII. Constituent Board School Liaison Report:

A. School Reports - Reports attached.

The board discussed ways to equalize the distribution of students across the 3 elementary schools in District 9.

A motion was made by Pat Cline, seconded by Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford, for Renea Bligen to draft a letter to the Consolidated Board of Trustees to address concerns and questions about the location of new elementary school in District 9.

B. Tamy Lockhart shared highlights from the October 12, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Pat Cline moved, seconded by Renea Bligen, for the vice chair, Tamy Lockhart, to present the District 9 board with a synopsis of the Committee of the Whole and Board of Trustees meetings. The board approved 7-0.

VIII. Old Business:

Pat Cline read public comments recorded from the October 26th board meeting regarding Mission Critical Actions. Ms. Cline noted that the board did not discuss the item during the November 16th meeting. She hopes it will be on the agenda for January.

IX. New Business:

Chairperson, Monica Smith, thanked Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford for the donation made on behalf of the District 9 Board to the family of the Frierson student that passed away.

Leon Green would like to see St. Johns High and Haut Gap Middle engage in a collaborative effort to have an orchestra at the high school. He will work with Haut Gap's administration, along with requested support from St. John's High through Dr. Simmons and Rev. Smalls-Ford.

The board discussed various resources that would in their efforts to get the schools interested in a strings program.

Monica Smith asked if District 9 administrators were still meeting as a group. She felt like these meetings were beneficial to District 9 and would like them to resume if they stopped. Board Liaison, Bill Briggman, will follow up with the Elementary and Secondary Associate Superintendents.

X. Announcements:

District 9 Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

XI. Adjournment:

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Approved 12.15.20

District 9 School Updates

December 1, 2020

Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

- Edith L. Frierson lost one of their students: Lil Miss Na'Vaeh Butler, 7 years old. Rev. Ford contacted the Principal, Dr. Davis-Cummings, via telephone and email to express sincere condolences and sympathies on behalf of herself and the D9 Constituent School Board. In addition, she personally purchased a tree via Dickerson's Mortuary in honor and remembrance of Na'Vaeh on behalf of herself, and her granddaughter, K'Leigh Moultrie, who was Na'Vaeh's classmate and friend, and on behalf of the D9 Constituent School Board.
- Frierson's SIC meeting is scheduled for December 12th at 6:00 p.m. There will not be a PTA meeting during the month of December.
- SIC meeting scheduled for January 28th at 5:30 p.m., followed by the PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Mt. Zion Elementary – Tamy Lockhart

Mt Zion Update - November 18, 2020 SIC Meeting

- There are just over 200 kids back at school. 40 to 45 remain virtual.
- There will be a new Fourth Grade Teacher coming from Georgia State University.
- They are starting a third Kindergarten in the New Year, and the teacher this class will be taught by a very experienced teacher from New York who is moving here.
- Most classes are small but the kindergarten is a bit large which is why they want to great a third class.
- Some of the virtual attendees were in the Virtual Academy, and some are not. So some of that population will not come back in person. Some of these students in the virtual academy are actually being taught by teachers from other schools.
- They have a new teaching assistant in child development and a new data administrator.
- The MAP Testing has been moved to December. Math scores are down but it is easier to catch up in Math than in reading.
- STEM Update - Project Lead the Way progress consists of three more teachers being trained as Lead Teachers so they can teach others. They picked out a few modules for the third grade and some for the computer lab to learn coding. These are aligned to the new South Carolina science standards, these are much closer to the national NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). They will also be starting new "maker space" activities which are the hands on projects. This requires extra space to accommodate Covid-19 protocols. This requires more materials and a strict schedule. They will also be issuing STEM challenges to the students.
- Michelle Faust has tried to contact other SIC chairs to see what we can share between SICs.
- She also commented that there is a lack of info going to new people moving into the area to help them find out about each school and what is going on at the schools.
- We discussed ways to advertise the strengths of Mt. Zion and communicate to the community what is special about Mt. Zion. There is a desire to reach out the Spanish speaking families that faithfully attend meetings, regardless of their English skills. We discussed having a Town Hall in the new year. Communication will be a standing item on the agenda.

Angel Oak Elementary – Renea Bligen

- Survey results revealed that 90% of parents were satisfied with the implementation of home learning.
- Angel Oak has added two additional first grade classes, one second grade, one third grade and third grade strings will be added next school year. They've also added an additional guidance counselor, a part time PE teacher and a full time STEAM teacher.
- MAP testing for upper grades and winter/fall Bridge testing for the grades K and 1 will take place throughout December.

St. John's High – Karen Simmons

- All is well at St. John's High.