

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School

8900 U. S. Highway 17 North

McClellanville, South Carolina

Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson
Ms. Diane Geathers, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Jamond Blake
Ms. Chayann Simpson
Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine

Members Absent: Ms. Addie Campbell
Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton

Visitors: Mr. Lewis Porcher, Lead Community Representative for the Lincoln Repurposing Project

Others Present: Mr. Edward Kelley, Consolidated Board Member representing District 2
Mr. Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood, Constituent District 1 Liaison
Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
Ms. Rudell Burch, Assistant Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
Ms. Kimberly Parrish, Project Specialist, Constituent District 1 Assistant

I. Meeting call to order

Mr. Thomas Colleton, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

II. Welcome, Moment of Silence/Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Thomas Colleton opened the meeting with a moment of silence and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine made the motion and Ms. Diane Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Visitors

The meeting was attended by several members of the community.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Presentation & Recognitions

Presentation to Ms. Dee Andria Brown for her service as a board member and commitment to the community.

VII. Introduction Consolidated Board Member - Mr. Ed Kelley

Mr. Ed Kelley gave a brief personal introduction and stated he intended to forward all questions and concerns to the Consolidated Board.

Mr. Colleton would like to take Mr. Kelley on an introductory tour of the community including a drive of the bus route to and from Wando High School. He also relayed concern about being gaslighted over several occasions with past Consolidated Board members. Mr. Colleton is hopeful that Mr. Kelley will be transparent and truthful. When questioned, Mr. Kelley stated that District 1 tax dollars go to Charleston County School District.

VIII. Lincoln Project Updates - Mr. Jeffrey Borowy and Blue Ribbon Commission Members

Mr. Borowy gave a recap and history of the closing of Lincoln High School

- 500 student enrollment is needed to justify the allocation of a school
- Anticipating the need for a school building, the site of the Kaiser tract was chosen, and the agreement was finalized in December 2021. The land is being kept in optimal condition
- As of February 2022 projections for the next five years have not met the criteria of the 500-student enrollment figure
- Other options for attendance are being explored (magnet with attractive programs)
- The formation of a blue ribbon committee has been completed
- Work to identify if parents are interested in the educational model (may include athletics) and a plan with a timeline is to be presented to the Consolidated Board in June
- Oceanside opened with 200 students and then rose to 600 students within 2 years

Mr. Colleton insists that the blue ribbon committee setup was different from what he asked for as there is no representation of D1 constituents. Mr. Colleton does not want this to be like the Clemson Study where a study was completed but no action was taken on the recommendations presented.

Mr. Colleton challenged Mr. Borowy to the effect of a statement made that “if the enrollment criteria is not met, the land purchase does not guarantee a school will be built in District 1”.

A constituent has gained the commitment from Charleston Co. Public Library to build a new library on the Kaiser tract. Mr. Borowy would like to hear more details about this pledge.

Mr. Colleton would like Mr. Porcher to come to the next meeting to provide an update.

A heated discussion ensued regarding past treatment from previous boards. The main concern, reiterated by Mr. Colleton, is that our students are still required to get up early and return home late just to make the bus trip to a school in District 2 which requires forty-five (45) minutes one way transit time every day.

IX. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colleton requested a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Facine made the motion and Ms. Geathers seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Constituent District 1 Liaison Reports

A. Early Childhood Program Updates - Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood, Constituent District 1 Liaison

1. Enrollment: 24 in Early Head Start and 15 in Head Start
2. Curriculum: Paper and exercise
3. Vacancies: None!
4. After-school program: Funding for FY24 is being explored

B. Charleston County School District News/Updates

Ms. Foxworth gave a brief recap of the Monday night Consolidated Board meeting and reminded the members that highlights were provided to them in an email.

C. St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School Updates

Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine and Ms. Addie Campbell presented the following highlights:

Brief report regarding trespasser and behavior issues with female students and cell phones; PE and Art instructors are assisting academic classes when possible; visited the music room and the new music teacher.

D. Wando High School Updates

Ms. Chayann Simpson and Mr. Jamond Blake gave the following updates concerning Wando High School

Wednesday with Wilson consisted of a tour of the school; concerned with the overwhelming size and number of students.

XI. Chairperson's Report

None

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. New Business

None

XIV. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Geathers made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Facine. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved April 25, 2023