

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via Zoom)

Conference Line: 843-577-1373

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 (5:30 p.m.)

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson
Ms. Dee Andria Brown
Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton
Rev. E.J. German
Ms. Diane Geathers

Members Absent: Ms. Erma Harrell, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Juanita Middleton

Visitors: None

Others Present: Ms. Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent
LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
Ms. Toshiba Champaigne, Constituent Board Liaison
Ms. Kimberly Parrish, Constituent District 1 Assistant

- I. Meeting called to order: Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.
- II. Welcome, Moment of Silence/Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance: Rev. E. J. German gave the Invocation and Mr. Colleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Adoption of Agenda: Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Collenton made the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comments
 - a. Review of online Public Comments submitted to Kimberly_parrish@charleston.k12.sc.us:
None
- V. Presentations & Recognitions: None
- VI. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Colleton tabled the approval of the February 25, 2020, minutes due to lack of quorum.
- VII. Chairperson's Report: Mr. Colleton provided health updates for himself, Ms. Harrell, and Ms. Middleton. Mr. Colleton shared that he was invited by Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan to meet the new staff virtually and to review the safety protocol in place for the staff and students.
- VIII. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Terri Nichols briefed the board on the following:
 - a. A review of the programs taking place next week during LEAP days
 - b. St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School has no certified vacancies; a parent advocate will be hired within the next few weeks; a permanent substitute will be assigned to the

- school; no official assignment has been given for SRO.
- c. CCSD has a great and dedicated teaching staff - only 52 teachers have requested temporary remote work and 9 teachers have filed for FFCRA.
 - d. The Face Covering Policy was passed last night by the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees; questions can be directed to Nursing Services.
 - e. Safe Restart: Until metrics indicate we can bring back more students, no more than 25% of the student population will attend face-to-face instruction; the school nurse will notify the Director of Nursing if there is a positive case and the Director of Nursing will work with DHEC and MUSC
 - f. The difference between Virtual Academy and Remote Learning: Virtual Academy is designed as a stand-alone program and requires the student's commitment for nine weeks; an increase in enrollment has necessitated a move to home base school. Remote Learning is a temporary measure and when it is safe to return all students to face-to-face instruction, Remote Learning will end.

Discussion took place regarding a local social media post. The post was identified by Mr. Colleton as the McClellanville-Awendaw Chat Page, outlining a bus route offering middle school students in District One to attend Laing Middle School without requesting a transfer. Mr. Colleton said that during the community meeting for the proposed new school, he asked Dr. Postlewait about the concern and was told that nothing was decided on that issue at the time. He went on to say that the District One Board was not formally informed of the decision once it was made, and had to find out by a social media chat post. He viewed that as a total disregard of the Board and emphasized how St. James-Santee Elementary Middle School was the last stop of the route added insult to injury. Ms. Terri Nichols and Ms. Toshiba Champaigne will further research this matter.

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business:

- a. Approval of 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule: Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule. Rev. German made the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Proposed School Property Update (Kaiser Tract): Mr. Colleton asked Ms. Nichols if she had any updated information concerning the zoning process for the property in Awendaw. Ms. Nichols reiterated what she shared in the past and reminded the board of the update sent by Ms. Champaigne on August 6th and stated that he may have more recent information since he was following the process with Charleston County Council and the Town of Awendaw.

Mr. Colleton confirmed that he did have some updated information and that he was also scheduled to meet with the Town of Awendaw the next day. He stated that Charleston County Council disapproved of the zoning request for the Kaiser Tract. He reported that a majority of the council members stated that the Charleston County School District (CCSD) has neglected the community in regards to education with examples of discrepancies related to information from CCSD vs. the property owner. County Council added that CCSD needed to go back to the Town and the property owner to work out a deal on the previous Doar Road Tract. Further stating that it would take another 5 years or more to obtain permits for the new tract in comparison with the permitting process for the Doar Road tract which has already been completed. Mr. Colleton informed the board that this argument is also shared by the Town, which still maintains that CCSD is dragging out the process in order not to build a school for the students in District One.

Lastly, Mr. Colleton stated there are claims that a board member, representing East of the Cooper Schools, said a school will never be built in District One. An adamant discussion

ensued with several passionate declarations.

- XI.** Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Collenton. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Notice of Meeting: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, the Charleston County Public Relations Office was notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting, and the agenda was posted on the Charleston County School District web page and in the front office of St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School.