

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via Zoom)

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 (5:30 p.m.)

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson
Rev. E. J. Milligan, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Dee Andria Brown
Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton
Ms. Diane Geathers
Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine

Members Absent: Ms. Chayann Simpson

Visitors: Ms. Erma Harrell
Ms. Juanita Middleton

Others Present: Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood, Constituent District 1 Liaison
Ms. Buffy Roberts, Executive Director of Assessment and Evaluation, Constituent District 1 Back-up Liaison
Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
Ms. Kimberly Parrish, Project Specialist, 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. Milligan opened the meeting with prayer and Mr. Colleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Dee Andria Brown made the motion and Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Visitors:

Ms. Erma Harrell and Ms. Juanita Middleton

V. Public Comments: None

VI. Presentation & Recognitions:

Mr. Colleton recognized the distinguished service and dedication of Ms. Erma Harrell and Ms. Juanita Middleton serving a combined total of over 20 years on the District 1 Constituent Board and many more years as advocates for children in the community. He and those in attendance expressed being humbled and honored to have known and/or worked with Ms. Middleton and Ms. Harrell.

Mr. Colleton mentioned he was impressed with Ms. Felicia Manigault, Service Solutions Associate, going above and beyond in regards to COVID-19 safety protocols at St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School.

VII. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Colleton asked for the approval of the November 17 meeting minutes be postponed until the next meeting to allow board members time to properly review the minutes.

VIII. Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Colleton stated he is still unable to learn how the recently sold Lincoln property will be used even though he has observed questions being answered right on the spot in District 2. He insists he will not be deterred.

Mr. Colleton has extended invitations for Awendaw's Mayor and Town Administrator to attend the next meeting in January so they may share their visions of the new school in the community. He informed the Board that Dr. Postlewait will also be in attendance. He stated that Mr. Lewis Porcher, community's project representative for the repurposing of Lincoln High School, will return in order to share what is being done to move the project forward since the proposal was not put in front of the Charleston County School Board of Trustees.

Mr. Colleton informed the board that the lights on the football field do not belong to Charleston County School District because the lights were provided by the alumni of Lincoln High School when it was learned the District would not provide lights. He assured the board the lights belong to the community and will not be sold with the property. Mr. Colleton went on to say they have to fight for everything they have; just like when Ms. Middleton fought for a better early childhood building over the subpar building the District proposed. He stated he has been diplomatic in the past but the time has come to pass the torch over and to be bold as they continue to fight for the children in District 1.

IX. Constituent District 1 Liaison Report:

A. Early Childhood Program Updates

Ms. Kimberly Foxworth reviewed items of interest - Head Start enrollment is 9 and Early Childhood is 15 and they are actively recruiting for the current year; two vacancies (1 Early Childhood Lead and 1 Assistant); the students are finishing the tree study and will be starting the sign study.

Ms. Foxworth also shared that books are sent home and returned weekly under the Raise a Reader program and a bag of books for each student to keep will be sent home before winter break. During her visit on December 2, she observed positive child/teacher interactions. In identifying a need, she will ensure there are enough materials available for each student

moving forward.

B. Charleston County School District News/Updates

Updates from the District given jointly by Ms. Foxworth and Ms. Buffy Roberts were as follows.

During the December 14 board meeting a guest Physician gave an overview of COVID-19 with his recommendation being the best place for children was for them to return to the classroom with safety protocols and to suspend athletics for a few weeks. Also during the meeting, the County Board approved a 2-hour early release on Friday, December 18 for students and staff. It was announced that the recent financial audit of the whole district presented no findings as compared to years past having multiple findings.

Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillian took a moment to share that Ms. Rosetta Swinton is the new Parent Advocate. She has spared no time in partnering with a local pantries, area businesses and restaurants, and AME Ministers to provide food distributions and donations.

X. Old Business:

None

XI. New Business:

None

XII. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Rev. Milligan made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Brown. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved January 26, 2021