

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via Zoom)

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (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
Ms. Chayann Simpson

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Mr. Bill Wallace, Administrator, Town of Awendaw
Mr. Lewis Porcher, Lead Community Representative for the Lincoln Repurposing Project

Others Present: Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Karolyn Belcher, Chief Academic Officer,
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. Anita Huggins, Executive Director, Secondary Learning Community
Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer, Principal, Wando High School
Ms. Pamela Jubar, Assistant 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:

Mr. Colleton opened the meeting with prayer and 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. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion for the approval of the November 17 and December 15 meeting minutes. Ms. Diane Geathers made the motion and Ms. Chayann Simpson seconded

the motion to approve the minutes with the editing of the change in the number of years of service for Ms. Geathers. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Update from Charleston County School District:

Ms. Pamela Jubar, Assistant Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary Middle School, presented information and data pertaining to the achievement of the students currently attending Wando High School. Highlights included the Wando High School (WHS) student achievement average scores as compared to the national and local average scores. Resources such as tutoring and Academic Saturday School are in place to help close the gap. Ms. Jubar said in the beginning, her main focus was on making a smooth transition for the group of students from Lincoln High School and now they are considered Wando students and all administrators are working with all of the students.

Mr. Colleton was impressed with the presentation and expressed his appreciation of the work involved with helping the students reach their highest achievement potential. He added that he was aware of the actual number of students attending Wando from District 1.

Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer, Principal, Wando High School recognized the work Ms. Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School has done and is doing to better prepare the students for Wando High School.

VI. Visitors:

Mr. Bill Wallace, Administrator; Town of Awendaw summarized his understanding of information regarding the acquisition of land for the building of a new school.

- Mr. Wallace stated he has not had contact with the school board in several months and Charleston County School District (CCSD) decided the first property of interest was not going to work.

- A contract was in place for a second site but a rezoning of the property was needed and the Town of Awendaw (Awendaw) wrote a letter of opposition which resulted in the denial of the rezoning request.

- Mr. Wallace and The Honorable Miriam C. Green, Mayor, Town of Awendaw, identified a third piece of property and confirmed that the owner was willing to talk to CCSD.

- To the knowledge of Awendaw, CCSD did not approach the owner of the third piece of land.

- Charleston County Council informed CCSD to go back to the community and talk to the community and to come together on the understanding the community needs regarding the use of the property; a school should be as schools were in the past-as part of the community and that the building and the grounds can be used for more than the students use for just a few hours a day.

- The recommended third piece of property is more conducive for community inclusion and would take less work to construct.

- Mr. Wallace stated Awendaw has made a concentrated effort that led nowhere; CCSD did not show up the Greenbelt meetings which resulted in bad press coverage and he did not like being hung out to dry by the school board. He went on to say Awendaw is ready to participate in any way they can because they want a school.

Mr. Colleton stated the communication between the Awendaw and CCSD is not optimal. He advocates to have collaboration similar to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools gave her appreciation on hearing Awendaw's perspective. Dr. Postlewait stated the property owner was approached by CCSD but the owner did not want to sell. She also said she has never heard anyone say that they were making a commitment publicly but privately saying no and the CCSD Board is committed to what they said they would do. In summary, Dr. Postlewait expressed wanting to be part of a district that is honorable and equitable and suggested that after talking with Mr. Jeffrey Borowy, Chief Operations Officer and the CCSD Board, the property search could be a future agenda item. Mr. Wallace was in agreement to have a meeting to include all of the stakeholders.

The floor was then given to Mr. Lewis Porcher, Lead Community Representative for the Lincoln Repurposing Project. Mr. Porcher brought the Constituent Board up to date on the status of this project.

- The idea of the project proposal began at the announcement of the closing of Lincoln High School and CCSD representatives worked alongside him during the process.
- Mr. Porcher held back on the 503C because he wanted to include board members from the community.
- Trident Tech is in favor of having a facility but it is too early in the process for them to commit.
- Mr. Porcher is working on having the Lincoln High School building placed on the National Register of Historic Places and he created a YouTube video explaining the historic value.

Mr. Colleton made it clear that an official proposal should be presented to the CCSD Board. He expressed concern that the sale of the outbuilding could also happen with the school's main building. Mr. Porcher was in agreement and added that there is a systemic issue with the CCSD Board being transparent and that media sources are available in order for the public to see who is accountable and what they are accountable for.

VII. Public Comments: None

VIII. Presentation & Recognitions:

Mr. Colleton informed the board that the recognition of service plaques have not been received yet by Ms. Harrell or Ms. Middleton but Toshiba is taking steps to ensure a timely delivery.

IX. Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Colleton will make arrangements to view the Lincoln High School trophies in storage to ensure they are appropriately secure.

X. Constituent District 1 Liaison Report:

A. Early Childhood Program Updates

This item was tabled until the February meeting.

B. Charleston County School District News/Updates

This item was tabled until the February meeting.

XI. Old Business:

None

XII. New Business:

None

XIII. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Rev. E. J. Milligan, Vice-Chairperson made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Geathers. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved: February 23, 2021