

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via Zoom)

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (5:30 p.m.)

MEETING MINUTES

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

Members Absent: None

Visitors: None

Others Present: Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Darby, Board of Trustees
Ms. Joyce Green, Board of Trustees
Mr. Jeffrey Borowy, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate
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:

Mr. Colleton opened the meeting, with an invocation and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Shirley Collenton made the motion and Ms. Diane Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Updates from Charleston County School District:

Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate, provided an update on the property under contract where the intent is to build an area Middle/High School. Charleston County School District (CCSD) has submitted the parcel to the Charleston County Government for purposes of rezoning and good feedback has been received. Two changes were requested and made - remove the dilapidated structures and increase the buffer along

Jenkins road. A public hearing will be held on June 8. Community support at the hearing is strongly encouraged.

Mr. Jeffrey Borowy, Chief Operating Officer responded to Rev. Milligan's question that it would take approximately 3 years to have the building completed.

Ms. Barnette confirmed Mr. Colleton's understanding that construction can start with the current zoning but the building would have to be completed within one year. She also confirmed that the only restriction to building on the land would be if the County did not approve the request to rezone.

Although there were no negative comments at any of the public meetings thus far according to Mr. Borowy, Mr. Colleton made it known that there were negative feelings due to a comment that was made stating the funding for the project was yet to be determined. Mr. Borowy clarified that the placement of the project in the priority pipeline was yet to be determined. This caused Mr. Colleton to question if this would impact the expected three-year completion timeline. Ms. Kate Darby, Board of Trustees addressed this concern by outlining the entire process - 1.) County Council must approve the zoning, 2.) Identify the attendance zone to encompass at least 500 students; 3.) The CCSD Board of Trustees will ensure the funding and determine the placement on the priority pipeline.

Ms. Barnette will provide the information regarding the meeting taking place on June 8 to the D1 Constituent Board and Ms. Darby. Ms. Darby will ensure that D2 Constituent Board receives the information.

After the zoning is approved, Ms. Barnette confirmed that the closing will need to be within 30 days and funding for this has been secured.

Mr. Borowy assured Mr. Colleton that he is not aware of any limiting factors with the property that would slow down the project and that there are no plans to build another middle school in D2. He also stated that the next steps are to decide as a District to develop the attendance zone that would encompass 500 students. All agreed that cooperation from D2 is imperative.

Ms. Darby responded to Rev. Milligan that a reason students may not want to attend a school in D1 is that they will be passing other schools on the way to get to the D1 school. She added this is why, in collaboration with the District, D1 Board, D2 Board, the community, and students, the school should be made attractive enough by offering programs that are not already offered by D2 schools. She emphasized both she and Ms. Joyce Green, Board of Trustees, are committed to remaining involved in this project even after rotating off the board in 2022.

Mr. Colleton then opened the floor up to Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Postlewait informed the D1 Board that the District would play a supporting role and not lead the effort in setting up a Blue Ribbon Commission. She suggested the D1 Board start by creating a small steering committee. Mr. Colleton stated he understood and he stressed that a voice from the district would be instrumental in keeping the D1 Board apprised of the building progress.

When asked by Mr. Colleton what her vision is for D1 Dr. Postlewait responded that her vision for D1 is the same as it is for the District as a whole - for the children to grow in academics and succeed in the next school and subsequently succeed in life.

Ms. Darby assured Mr. Colleton that the Board is doing all they can to provide resources for a positive student experience including minimizing the time the students spend on a bus.

The naming of the new school will be determined by following the process outlined in the Board policy. Ms. Erica Taylor, Chief of Staff, manages the process which includes the involvement of the community.

V. Visitors:

None

VI. Public Comments:

None

VII. Presentation & Recognition:

None

VIII. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion for the approval of the April 27th meeting minutes. Rev. E. J. Milligan, Vice-Chairperson made the motion and Ms. Chayann Simpson seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Approval of 2021-2022 Regular Board Meeting Dates:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion for the approval of the 2021-2022 Regular Board Meeting dates. Rev. Milligan made the motion and Ms. Geathers seconded the motion to approve the 2021-2022 Regular Board Meeting dates. By individual vote count, the motion passed unanimously.

X. Chairperson's Report:

Mr. Colleton gave the floor to Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School. Ms. Brown-McMillan let the board know that the school has offered assistance to the family of the early learner scholar who recently passed away. She gave Ms. Swinton, Parent Liaison kudos for going above and beyond to gain community support during teacher appreciation week. Over \$2,000 in gift cards and food items were donated due to her reaching out to vendors and businesses. Ms. Brown-McMillian also informed the board that the SC Ready testing was taking place. She was excited to announce that St. James-Santee was selected as a Summer Enrichment campsite this year with 50 students scheduled to attend.

Mr. Colleton then informed the board that the presentation with Mr. Porcher was postponed until the June 14th meeting with the CCSD Board.

School liaison assignments were appointed as follows.

Wando - Rev. E. J. Milligan and Ms. Chayann Simpson

St. James-Santee - Ms. Dee Andria Brown and Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine

Mr. Colleton noted there was concern about an Early Childhood Development staff member. He will address this concern with Ms. Brown-McMillan.

XI. Constituent District 1 Liaison Report:

Buffy Roberts provided the following Charleston County School District News/Updates:

- No reported Staff COVID-19 cases for the week of May 17; the student case count remains stable
- Over 5,000 mask waivers were issued
- Vaccinations continue for students 12 years and older and with appointments available after school hours
- Graduations have been set with social distancing measures in place
- The quarterly update and priorities will be covered at the next meeting in June
- The strategies for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergence Relief (ESSER) funds were presented during the board meeting
- The first reading of the FY22 budget has been approved

XII. Old Business:

None

XIII. New Business:

None

XIV. 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. Dee Andria Brown. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved: Jun 22, 2021