

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via Zoom)

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 (5:30 p.m.)

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

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

Visitors: Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Darby, Board of Trustees Vice Chair
Ms. Joyce Green, Board of Trustees
Mr. Jeffrey Borowy, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Erica Taylor, Chief of Staff
Dr. Joseph Williams, Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools
Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood
Ms. Buffy Roberts, Executive Director of Assessment and Evaluation
Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate
Mr. Lewis Porcher

Others Present: Ms. Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent
Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School
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. Milligan opened the meeting with prayer and Mr. Colleton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Visitors:

Mr. Colleton greeted visitors which included the Superintendent of Schools, Charleston County School District Board of Trustees Members, and Administrators.

IV. Adoption of Agenda:

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

V. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to approve the September 22, 2020, meeting minutes. Ms. Dee Andria Brown made the motion and Ms. Collenton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Convene into Executive Session:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to convene into Executive Session. Rev. Milligan made the motion and Ms. Diane Geathers seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion surrounding the listed topics ensued.

A. Contractual Matters

1. Discussion- Past District 1 Land Purchase Contracts; what actions are being taken to move forward with the construction of a new school in District 1?
2. Proposed Sale CTE Building at Lincoln Middle-High School.
3. McClellanville Middle School Projects.
4. Repurposing Lincoln Middle-High School Buildings.

B. Personnel Matters

1. Transfer of Students to Laing Middle School District 2.
2. Early Childhood Development Program Goals and Directives.

VII. Reconvene into Open Session:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to reconvene into Open Session. Ms. Collenton made the motion and Rev. Milligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood introduced herself and opened the dialogue for Early Head Start discussions. She indicated she would provide a summary of the five-year plan during a future meeting.

Mr. Colleton mentioned he noticed during his tour of the school some cosmetic items still need to be addressed and he would like a timeline showing when the items would be completed.

VIII. Update from Charleston County School District:

A. Improving Communications between staff, County Board and District 1 Constituent Board Members:

No discussion.

B. COVID-19 Safety and Student Protection Measures:

Ms. Foxworth reported on the measures taking place within the Early Childhood program. The measures included reduced class sizes, plexiglass installed, sanitizing and constant hand washing, and students remain in pods. Ms. Brown-McMillian was happy to announce that Seacoast Church of McClellanville donated two large boxes of face masks for staff and students as well as a \$2,000 check to be used as necessary.

C. The Educational Sales and Use Tax on the ballot and its impact on future land purchase and building projects in District 1:

Mr. Colleton shared the district's constituents are divided. He would like to know where District 1 is prioritized on the list of projects. He will follow up with an email to Mr. Borowy.

IX. Chairperson's Report:

Ms. Middleton and Ms. Harrell are both dealing with health challenges but are doing well and will continue to work for the children of District 1. Mr. Colleton mentioned he will be undergoing a procedure in the near future.

Ms. Champaign will share an update on how the new Board members will be sworn in. She also recommended recognition as a thank you be given to Ms. Middleton and Ms. Harrell.

X. Superintendent's Report:

None

XI. Old Business:

None

XII. New Business:

Rev. Milligan announced her marriage with great enthusiasm.

Rev. Milligan stated it is encouraging to know progress is underway to address the Early Childhood concerns that were brought forward by Mr. Colleton.

Visitor Mr. Louis Porcher asked if the Lincoln High School project had been discussed during Executive Session. Mr. Colleton informed Mr. Porcher that Mr. Borowy has no guidance on repurposing Lincoln High School. He also stated Charleston County School District County Board of Trustees has not moved on the proposal because either it was not read or they did not want to take any action forward. Mr. Colleton clarified that if an offer is made on the property then Mr. Borowy could take it to the board for approval. He also shared Mr. Borowy was expecting Mr. Porcher to reach out to him in December regarding necessary funding. Mr. Colleton then stated the purchase of building 55 had not been finalized

Mr. Porcher informed everyone funding was not an issue and the Lincoln Project is part of a larger initiative, the numbers for the maintenance for the facility are in the budget, and the only reason there has not been movement is due to the COVID-19 situation. He added that Ms. Barnett did not keep her word in calling them ahead of time to let them know CCSD was putting the building on the market. Mr. Porcher went on to say Mr. Borowy informed him that it was listed in the newspaper for thirty days prior to receiving a contract. Mr. Porcher reiterated that there was an agreement in place with Ms. Barnett for her to contact them to let them know and they would have moved on it at that time. He then stated that they are moving forward and intend to meet with the Board at the allotted time. Mr. Porcher stated they are disappointed in the District's communication and he hopes to have everything resolved by December.

Mr. Colleton stated his understanding of the genesis of the project was that they were working towards getting custody of the building for "x" number of years and then after that they would try to purchase the building for a couple of years with the agreement of CCSD still paying to keep the building from mildewing, and etc. Mr. Colleton said they have made steps to join forces with the Sewee to Santee Community Development Corporation needed a 501(c)(3) to help manage until

Mr. Porcher's organization was able to obtain a 501(c)(3). Mr. Colleton stated things in his notes were no longer pertinent and he stands by his saying of watch what they do instead of what they say.

Mr. Porcher said with the Sewee to Santee Community Development Corporation involvement things are more positive than what he is allowed to share at this time and everyone will be very pleased very soon and is planning a formal meeting to take place in the very near future.

Rev. Milligan mentioned the last proposal the County Board has was from 2017 and they were expecting more detail. Mr. Porcher responded with saying he will provide more information to Mr. Colleton for him to share with District 1 Board as well as mentioning the YouTube documentary. He also explained the Board agreed to his proposal which included a 5-year moratorium to allow for testing and evaluating and this is year 4.

XIII. 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. Colleton. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Approved: November 17, 2020