

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, September 22, 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: Ms. Marie Fracine
Ms. Chayann Simpson

Others Present: Ms. Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent
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: Mr. Colleton opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting until a quorum was in attendance. Rev. German made the motion and Ms. Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Having obtained a quorum, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to reconvene the meeting. Rev. German made the motion and Ms. Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. Adoption of Agenda: Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Brown made the motion and Ms. Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Public Comments
 - a. Review of online Public Comments submitted to Kimberly_parrish@charleston.k12.sc.us: None
- VII. Presentations & Recognitions: None
- VIII. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 and August 25, 2020, minutes. Ms. Brown made the motion and Rev. German seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IX. Mr. Colleton opened floor to LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School. Highlights included a recap of a Safe Restart, and noted were 40% of

the students are receiving in-building instruction, most students are progressing well and a new music teacher started this year.

- X. Chairperson's Report: Mr. Colleton reported that Ms. Harrell is doing well; Ms. Middleton is progressing in her recuperation and looks forward to working with children again.

Mr. Colleton gave a recap of a meeting that took place with Mayor Green and Ms. Wallace, the town administrator regarding the Awendaw land purchase. He expressed a concern with a discretion in dates contained in a communication from Ms. Angela Barnett. Other noted comments were: If buyer does not complete the purchase it will become available to CCSD again; attorney Rice owns additional lots that may be viable; there was a window of opportunity for CCSD to have acted; discrepancy if Attorney Rice (seller) contacted CCSD or vice versa; the district did not reach out to the seller in order to finalize the purchase.

Highlights from the ensuing conversation were the following.

Mr. Colleton agrees with the other Constituent Board members that a constituent consultant (attorney) is needed.

Ms. German feels the board is ignoring the community and picking and choosing who to support due to their color and financial means

Mr. Colleton questioned several items: why questions on the chat window were not answered during a County Board Meeting, why should the D1 community support the 1% sales tax on the ballot if it does not reflect building a school in District 1, was the D1 school building included in the last referendum, and where is D1 on the priority list.

Ms. Brown expressed frustration in feeling she is failing the constituents, that she has been lied to as she feels everything else is upgraded but D1 is always overlooked and the board does not care for D1 and she wishes to set aflame at Calhoun. She stated they will not stop this fight to get what the community deserves. Mr. Colleton was in agreement with Ms. Brown and asked her not to be discouraged as the upcoming board elections allow for strategizing and planning for the future. Rev. German suggested they make noise and start a revolution because she feels something must be done as they have paid taxes. She then used an explicative to explain her feelings. The rest of the board was in agreement and gave praise with an Amen.

Ms. German gave praiseworthy recognition to Ms. Brown-McMillan dedication and hard work for a successful school restart.

Ms. Geathers suggested starting at the top, Dr. Postlewait. She stated she is sick and tired and needs to see action taken. She feels the district is taking things away piece by piece and that things are not mishaps. She then used an explicative about how she views Dr. Postlewait's care for D1 as well as saying she was disgusted.

Mr. Colleton responded with saying they will circle the wagons and 2020 will be the year they turn CCSD upside down. He made it clear that the frustration level is at a boiling point and he doesn't care if it costs him his life. He claimed he will hold Dr. Postlewait accountable for not answering a question from him during a public forum and that he will not let her treat him like that. Ms. Terri interrupted to say she appreciated the frustrations and that she reports the hurt, angst and frustration to District leadership. She also stated it is hard to know who is telling the truth and the land needs to be purchased as it has been a long time. Mr. Colleton stated he would turn the heat up on the request for Dr. Postlewait to attend a meeting.

Visitor, Ms. Chayann Simpson, interjected that she is ready to fight and that there is going to be a fight.

Ms. German suggested that the chain of command be followed by requesting a meeting with the D1 County Board Representative. Mr. Colleton stated he would put in a request. By using a choice expression, Ms. Geathers added how long it had been since they had seen Ms. Green and feels Ms. Green has been bought by 75 Calhoun. She was tearful as she described an emotional meeting she experienced with Ms. Green before she was elected to the County Board.

- XI. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Terri Nichols gave a brief overview of the schools safe restart and a review of mask exemption requests. She congratulated the District on a successful return of thousands of students while maintaining safety and the smoothness in which St. James-Santee was able to safely restart.
- XII. Old Business: None
- XIII. New Business: None
- XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Brown made the motion and it was seconded by Rev. German. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Approved: October 27, 2020