

ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

of Charleston County, South Carolina

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School

8900 U. S. Highway 17 North

McClellanville, South Carolina

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson
Ms. Diane Geathers, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Jamond Blake
Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine
Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton

Members Absent: Ms. Addie Campbell
Ms. Chayann Simpson

Visitors: None

Others Present: Ms. Terri Nichols, Executive Associate Superintendent
Ms. Kimberly Parrish, Project Specialist, Constituent District 1 Assistant

I. Meeting call to order

Mr. Thomas Colleton, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

II. Welcome, Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Thomas Colleton opened the meeting with an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

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

IV. Visitors

Mr. Sterling Geathers grandparent

Audra Pinckney, Instructional Coach, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School reviewed the EL Curriculum with the following highlights: EL Curriculum is working at St. James-Santee ES/MS; it is a powerful program and serves as professional development for teachers as well; there are strong protocols ensuring that children have a voice and confirm what they are learning from high-interest stories with current, real-world topics; data indicates an increase in improvement for middle school; after school tutorial has begun for those identified as needing improvement; elementary is doing really well; phenomenal increase with kindergartners and first grade.

Board Members responded with several questions related to the EL Curriculum and student achievement, but due to the sensitivity of the questions with students being present, Ms. Pinckney politely reserved comments for another time.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Presentation & Recognitions

- A. St. James Santee Elementary/Middle School Student Council Members - Janet Taylor, M.Ed., GCDF, St. James-Santee Elementary Middle School Counselor
 - Introductions of 6th-grade students who serve as the Student Council Interim President, Secretary, and Historian.
- B. Mr. Louis Smith, North Charleston Community Resource Center - Ms. LaCarma Brown-McMillan, Principal, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School - This item was postponed.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colleton requested a motion to approve the February 28th and March 28th meeting minutes. Ms. Geathers made the motion and Ms. Facine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Constituent District 1 Liaison Reports

- A. Early Childhood Program Updates - Ms. Terri Nichols, Executive Associate Superintendent
 - 1. Enrollment: 23 in Early Head Start and 16 in Head Start
 - 2. Curriculum: Bags and Recycle, Reuse, and Reduce
 - 3. Vacancies: none
 - 4. End of the year celebration will take place on June 5th
- B. Charleston County School District News/Updates

Ms. Terri Nichols, Executive Associate Superintendent, gave a brief recap of the Monday night Committee of the Whole and Consolidated Board meeting.

- 1. Superintendent Search - Committee members presented an update on community input; applications are due May 1.
- 2. Early Head Start and Head Start - The Consolidated Board approved a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and quality improvement application for Early Head Start/Head Start staff members in the district. The After-school program funding is on a budget expansion request.

Ms. Nichols let the board know that they are permitted to nominate a member from the community to join the Blue Ribbon Commission. Ms. Shirley Collenton would like to know how the current members were chosen and why was District 1 not represented. The board unanimously chose Rev. EJ Milligan to be the nominated member to serve on the c commission.

- C. St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle School Updates

Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine presented the following highlights:

1. Gratitude was expressed for Mr. Louis Smith, North Charleston Community Resource Center for his part in managing the food drives throughout the year.
2. A financial workshop with childcare available will take place soon for the community.
3. The May Day celebration is the week before Memorial Day.
4. 25 students will be traveling to Washington DC - May 24-26; more info to come; sponsorship opportunities are available.

D. Wando High School Updates

Mr. Jamond Blake gave the following updates concerning Wando High School

1. Prom was held at the aquarium
2. Outdoor movie night will take place on April 28 at 7:30 p.m.
3. Graduation is scheduled for June 2nd
4. AP African American studies is being offered for grades 10-12.
5. Clubs for sign language and sailing clubs are available to students

IX. Chairperson's Report

Mr. Colleton's report highlights:

Blue Ribbon Commission traveled to Connecticut to look at a school with an agricultural focus. He stated that the board has resources and connections in the education field that could offer examples of successful rural schools.

Mr. Colleton is adamant that the achievement gap for the District still needs to be addressed. He asked the community to be vigilant regarding students who are not performing at grade level but are placed in the grade anyway.

X. Old Business

None

XI. New Business

None

XII. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Collenton made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Geathers. By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Approved: May 23, 2023