

**ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1**

*of Charleston County, South Carolina*

**Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees (via  
Zoom)**

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 (5:30 p.m.)

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**District Staff Present:**

Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools  
Rev. Dr. Eric Mack, Consolidated Board Chair  
Ms. Kate Darby, Consolidated Board Member  
Ms. Joyce Green, Consolidated Board Member  
Mr. Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate  
Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood, Constituent District 1 Liaison  
Ms. Toshiba Champagne, Constituent Board Liaison

- I. Meeting called to order:  
Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Welcome, Moment of Silence/Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance:  
Mr. Colleton opened the meeting with an invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Adoption of Agenda:  
Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Shirley Collenton moved, seconded by Chayann Simpson. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Updates from Charleston County School District:  
Jeff Borowy provided the purpose of the request to meet with the board. Mr. Borowy noted that he, along with Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate, met with the board in May to talk about where the district stood with the District 1 land and what the options were. Mr. Borowy commented that the board members asked really good questions during that meeting. During the County Council meeting, some of the feedback was negative. This meeting was requested to come back before the board to see what changed or what concerns were not answered related to the information that was presented to County Council.

Angela Barnette provided a brief overview on the 107 acres of property (Kaiser Farm Property) that the district is seeking and the next steps ahead.

Consolidated Board Member, Kate Darby, thanked District staff for the work that's been done on this project over the past few years. She noted that she attended the meetings and while some board members were in favor of the project, others were not. Some board members were in

support. She shared that she is concerned that if they continue to have people speaking against the zoning, it's going to fail. She stated that this is our opportunity to have a middle and high school in District 1. Ms. Darby asked board members what could be done to have the full support of the District 1 board and community during the upcoming meeting with County Council.

Mr. Colleton responded that the District 1 Board does not make decisions for the District 1 Constituents. He stated that District 1 Board would have to have a meeting with Constituents to ensure that they are totally informed on the process for the new school. He shared that transparent communication is imperative because there is already a huge lack of trust in the District 1 community for the District.

County Board Chair, Rev. Dr. Eric Mack, stated that he appreciates the passion on both sides. In the midst of this discussion, he doesn't want anyone to lose site of an opportunity moving forward. He emphasized that the district is not trying to do anything that the District 1 constituents do not want to happen. The consensus is that there is a need for a new school in the area and the first step to getting there is securing the property and then a decision can be made on how to move forward in constructing and building a school in the area. Rev. Mack noted that if a decision is not made, it will further delay the process.

After much dialogue between Mr. Colleton, district staff and board members, a decision was made to hold a Community Meeting on July 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to receive community input on the land purchase for the future District 1 middle and high school. Mr. Colleton will coordinate the location and work with the District 1 board and support staff to ensure that the details of the community meeting are communicated in a timely manner for the community's participation. Angela Barnette agreed to attend the Community Meeting, along with County Board Member, Ms. Joyce Green.

Mr. Colleton noted that he has been on the District 1 board for over 25 years. He would like some closure before he leaves the board. He will continue to advocate for the needs of District 1 constituents until the goals are accomplished.

Rev. Milligan assured Mr. Colleton that the District 1 board is behind him and that they, too, want to see SUCCESS in the community.

Mr. Colleton recognized Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Postlewait shared that after listening to the discussion, she is more optimistic than she's been regarding the possibilities of this project. She hopes that all goes well next week and will be glad to attend if the board would like her to. She stated that the Board of Trustees members are committed to everything discussed during this meeting. She thanked everyone for their participation.

- V. Rev. Ej Milligan moved, seconded by Ms. Chayann Simpson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. The motion passed 7-0.

**Recorded by Ms. Toshiba Champaigne, Constituent Board Liaison  
July 13, 2021**

*Approved: September 28, 2021*