

**St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Line) Minutes**  
**March 16, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Monica Smith, Pat Cline, Tamy Lockhart, Dr. Karen Simmons, Renea Bligen, Leon Green, Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford

**Proceedings:**

**I. Call to Order & Moment of Silence:**

The board meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by the Board Chair, Monica Smith.

**II. Adoption of Agenda:**

Dr. Karen Simmons moved, with a second by Rev. Gertie Ford, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Pat Cline moved, seconded by Tamy Lockhart, to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021, meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

**IV. Visitors/Public Comments:**

**The following comments were submitted to Toshiba Champaigne via email:**

Ms. Sandrika Legare:

1. How much land is needed to build a new Elementary school with green space?
2. Can the land that has been recently acquired by CCSD be used for a recreational facility that includes green space and indoor activities? (Maybe to be operated under CCPR)
3. Does CCSD currently possess any land on the southern end of John's Island that can be used for the construction of a new elementary school?

Renea Bligen moved, seconded by Dr. Karen Simmons, to go into Executive Session. The motion passed 7-0.

**V. Executive Session:**

The hearings for student 5.1.20, 5.2.20 and 5.3.20 will be rescheduled.

**VI. Open Session Reconvened**

Rev. Gertie Ford moved, seconded by Renea Bligen, to return to Open Session.

**VII. Vote on Executive Session Items:**

There were no Executive Session items requiring action from the board.

**VIII. District Updates:**

Board Liaison, Natalie Ham, provided the following updates:

- Student Transfer Applications will be accepted through the Smart Choice link fthrough March 31, 2021.
- Spring Break takes place April 5-9th. All schools and offices will be closed during this time.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Monday, March 22, 2021
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – Monday, April 19, 2021
- Parliamentary Procedures Training – Wednesday, March 24, 2021
- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Monday, April 26, 2021

**IX. Constituent Board Report:**

Ms. Smith reminded board members to complete their Ethics Report. The filing deadline is March 30, 2021.

**X. Constituent Board School Liaison Report:**

A. School Updates – Report attached.

**XI. Old Business:**

A. Board review of Follow-up questions regarding the new District 9 school.

The board reviewed the additional questions submitted. Ms. Champaigne informed the board that the questions have been shared with leadership and will be added to the FAQ that is will be posted on the District 9 webpage. The questions received during Public Comments will also be added to the FAQ.

**XII. New Business:**

Pat Cline shared that all school graduations will be held on campus.

*\*Board members received notice outlining the in-person graduation schedule via email.*

**XIII. Announcements:**

District 9 SIC Chairs met with the Johns Island Association chairs. The two groups will try to meet once a month.

**XIV. Adjournment:**

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**Approved 4.20.21**

# District 9 School Updates

## March 16, 2021

### Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

- March 1-5 was a week filled with activities entitled, “Reading: Your Ticket to the World!” in celebration of Literacy. Students were encouraged to dress colorfully for the events.
- Friday, March 12, 2021, will be an “Early Release” day. Students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm and Teachers of 3 yr olds will message parents with their dismissal times.
- Monday, March 15, 2021, will be an E-Learning day, so students will work from home.
- CCSD Board of Trustees Meeting March 22, 2021 will give an update on the plight of the New Mt. Zion Elementary School.
- School Improvement Committee (SIC) will meet via Zoom April 22, 2021 @ 5:30 pm. and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) following SIC @ 6:30 pm.
- Frierson teachers received their COVID vaccine.
- E-learning days on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and half day on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Mt. Zion Elementary – Tamy Lockhart

Mt Zion SIC meeting March 10, 2021

- Good news, Mt Zion was able to vaccinate everyone who inside the building unless they were associated with another school where they will be vaccinated. Mt Zion also received some of their new STEM supplies. The computer lab teacher is working with YoArt curriculum which includes learning to ‘code’.
- They have started using some new media equipment that they received and are training their ‘reporters’. Because the Mt Zion replacement will focus on STEM, Ms. Mims has reached out to other schools who have architected their schools with STEM in mind. She received strong feedback that the Project Lead the Way was a very good for the Stem program. She also reached out to Sullivan's Island which has an ocean program, and James Island which is also launching a STEM program.
- Killiean STEAM leader magnet near Columbia is another source that she has spoken to them about their implementation. They encourage a strong math program as a basis. They have had trouble sustaining their STEM program because funding was cut. They depended on one teacher whose job was cut and this really impacted the program so Ms. Mims wants to avoid issues like that. Ms Mims is being coached by the County on designing new schools that are made for STEM and so she will be doing a lot of research. A meeting was held for all the SICs and they will be a strong platform to continue to encourage the Downtown board that a new elementary schools was strongly desired.
- The open house has moved to late April. We still hope to use the kid reporters.

### Angel Oak Elementary

- SIC Meeting, Monday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

### Haut Gap Middle – Leon Green

- HGMS's staff was vaccinated on March 9<sup>th</sup>
- HGMS students will take SCLead this spring.
- HGMS is no longer a Title 1 school as of the 2021-2022
- 99% of HGMS is returning next year

## St. John's High – Dr. Karen Simmons

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – The school hosted a Cookout for students who have earned nothing below a C. The event was attended by more than 100 students.
- One-on-one problem solving sessions continue with success. Students who are not doing well in their classes meet with a team of administrators and counselors to problem solve and develop an improvement plan. Students report feeling supported and encouraged by these meetings.
- The track team is off to a great start. We have nearly 50 athletes including Islanders and students from Haut Gap.
- Boys baseball and girls softball will be playing games next week.
- We will be starting Islander Cross Country Teams, Tennis and Golf in the fall of 2021.