

St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Line) Minutes
February 2, 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 5:31 p.m. by the Board Chair, Monica Smith.

II. Adoption of Agenda:

Tamy Lockhart moved, with a second by Renea Bligen, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Karen Simmons moved, seconded by Renea Bligen, to approve the minutes from the January 19th meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

IV. Visitors/Public Comments:

There were no comments submitted.

A motion was made by Renea Bligen, seconded by Pat Cline, to move into Executive Session. The motion was approved 7-0.

V. Executive Session

- A. Expulsion Re-admittance
- B. Hardship Transfer Request
- C. Adult Education Application

VI. Open Session Reconvened:

A motion was made by Pat Cline, seconded by Monica Smith, to return to Open Session. The motion was approved 7-0.

VII. Vote on Executive Session Items

A. Expulsion Re-admittance Meeting

A motion was made by Tamy Lockhart, seconded by Renea Bligen to allow student 5.4.19 re-admittance into Haut Gap Middle School and Charleston County School District. The motion was approved 6-0-1 (Rev. Gertie Ford abstained).

B. Hardship Transfer Request

A motion was made by Tamy Lockhart, seconded by Leon Green, to approve the hardship transfer for student V-B into Mt. Zion Elementary School. The motion was approved 7-0.

C. A motion was made by Pat Cline, seconded by Monica Smith, to approve the Adult Education Application for student V-C. The motion was approved 7-0.

VIII. Constituent Board Report:

There was no report.

IX. District Updates:

Ms. Francine Mitchell shared current vacancies in District 9. Upcoming meetings include Committee of the Whole, Monday, February 8th and Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is scheduled for February 22nd.

X. Constituent Board School Liaison Report:

A. School Updates – Reports attached.

B. Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights – Ms. Lockhart shared highlights from the December and January Committee of the Whole and Board of Trustees’ meetings.

XI. Old Business:

Board members asked for an update on the status of the Request to Attend for the County Board Chair, Rev. Eric Mack. Ms. Champaigne shared that the request is in progress.

XII. New Business:

On behalf of the board, Pat Cline, thanked the Department of Alternative Programs’ team and Toshiba Champaigne for the Discipline Training.

XIII. Announcements:

Committee of the Whole – February 8, 2021

Haut Gap SIC – February 18th, 5:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – February 22, 2021

XIV. Adjournment:

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Approved 2.16.21

District 9 School Updates

February 2, 2021

St. John's High – Dr. Karen Simmons

- 2nd semester started.
- St. Johns is starting a new program to promote student achievement called "Project Upgrade."
- The program is targeting students with a GPA below 2.4.
- Students will have time to complete homework in a supervised environment and engage in meaningful extracurricular activities.
- The school will sponsor a Car Wash on Saturday for funding for the athletic program.

Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

- Frierson's SIC/PTA was held on January 28th.
- **"Awesome meeting! Lots going on at Frierson!"**
- Dr. Davis-Cummins and members are doing a great job.
- Dr. Cummings recognized Pat Cline for her dedication and being there with Reading Partners and also for her commitment to the District 9 board.
- Frierson's School Choice Fair was held on January 30th.
- 77 people applied for next year for the Lower El grades.
- The application opened January 26th and closes February 26th.
- Shared a lot of what they're doing at the school with garden, well, Kiawah Cares and Angel Oka,
- Dr. Cummings reported that there are no issues with mask wearing and and social distancing.
- Looking back at Frierson's 5 year plan, the school's goal was to have 141 student. The school has exceeded that plan with 146 students currently enrolled.
- The next SIC/PTA will be on February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. and PTA is scheduled for April 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
- Election process and training on is scheduled for April 26th
- Frierson is looking forward to collaborating with St. Johns High.
- Dr. Cummins did a voice over for a video to present Edith L. Frierson to the community to have a better understanding of what Montessori school offers.
- Currently there are 91 in person students and and 54 learning remotely.

Haut Gap Middle – Leon Green

- 52 more students are returning on February 8th
- Enrollment will be 491. Current enrollment is 505.
- MAP scores indicate that students are doing better in math than in English.
- Construction started on the new wing and the media center is being renovated.
- School administration is working towards bridging the gap between middle and high school students.
- Upcoming SIC meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Angel Oak Elementary – Renea Bligen

Angel Oak Elementary School Accomplishments: 2020-21 (as of 1/20/2021)

- AOE was outfitted with plexiglass table partitions, hand sanitizing stations, a new air filtration, water bottle filling stations and more as a part of our SafeSchool guidelines for reentry during the COVID pandemic
- Teachers were successfully trained in new online platforms including Canvas and Zearn to support temporary remote learning at home
- Implemented a week long "Meet and Greet" event for over 640+ parents and students to acclimate students back to school while still maintaining health and safety protocol established by CCSD and MUSC
- Began school on Sept. 8 with both in-person and temporary remote classes. Successfully brought students back in "waves" every 10 days to reach over 70% in person capacity by Oct. 5
- Ms. Anderson's third grade class created a "Free Little Library" for students placed at the school's entrance to give and receive books in an effort to further promote our reading initiatives.
- Hosted a Q&A session specifically for our Spanish-speaking families in September to continue our efforts to enhance communication with all stakeholders

- Ms. Parry's first grade class was featured on the Zearn Math Twitter feed noting successful implementation of NumberBonds to problem solve and for connecting hands-on and digital learning.
- Began Cultural Competency training with teachers and staff during staff meetings each month
- Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month through class projects, daily announcements, book readings, art- integrated projects.
- Held Family Data conferences in all grades (both in person and virtually) in October with high rates of attendance
- Maria Hernandez, 5th grade, who was surprised today as a winner in the Palmetto Pride 2019-2020 art contest! The theme was "Litter Trashes Everyone".
- Sheila Garth, our new K-2 school counselor, received an award for Writer of the Year for Cobb County Schools District School Counseling Program during the 2019/2020 School Year. Her publications include a counselor workbook resources called Arts Integration in School Counseling and is published through Youthlight Inc. She has also written online articles for Education Closet, ASCA (American School Counselor Association) and GSCA (Georgia School Counselor Association).
- Grammy award winning musician, Charlton Singleton, gave our 3rd & 4th-grade students a history lesson on Lowcountry music in October. He explained how our city has played a major role in the beginnings of Jazz. He discussed our area's Gullah Culture and how it influenced his award-winning band Ranky Tanky. The students were engaged by his interactive storytelling and musical experiences.
- Wesley United Methodist Church and Camp Hi Hopes contributed funds to help support our students with supplies for learning and STEAM enrichment activities during the 2020-21 school year.
- Berkeley Electric Cooperative announced nearly \$10,000 in classroom grants to local teachers as part of its Bright Ideas program. The program supports innovative and effective classroom education curriculum that cannot be covered by traditional school financing. Individual teachers can apply for grants up to \$1,000 while teams of teachers are eligible for grants up to \$1,500. This year's winners included: Sara Hastings, Angel Oak Elementary – Arts Integration in Math & Science
- Continued into 2nd quarter supporting both in person and temporary remote class models. We had 80%+ in person capacity by Nov. 11.
- AOE received special recognition as a "Hero of COVID" (part of Auburn University's Annual Quality of Life Awards that recognize significant and lasting contributions to individual, family and community well/being). Mrs. Condon and our school team were recognized for "selflessly working to enhance the quality of life for those around them during the COVID-19 pandemic". We were celebrated with other nominees in a virtual ceremony in December.
- Ms. Mande's class was featured on the SecondStep twitter feed for integrating arts and social emotional learning in lessons.
- As part of the Year 3 SmART Literacy grant, teachers continue to receive professional learning and training with ArtsNow consultants online through Zoom. Arts Integration Teacher Leaders have been identified and were sent arts integration kits to distribute to students. The students then experienced virtual Artists in Residency demonstrations. More Artists in Residency and training opportunities are planned for the remainder of the school year!
- Added a "Testing Resources for Parents" folder to our online Parent/Family Resource folder
- Hosted our first ever Fall "Virtual" Book Fair for students and families allowing for profits to purchase more books for our school library
- Our PTA hosted a Virtual Holiday Shop to raise money for special projects throughout the year
- The Kiawah Island Club invested in an Outdoor Enhancement project at Angel Oak Elementary during the last week in November. They sent out volunteers who created a new outdoor learning space, rebuilt our greenhouse, improved our garden areas and covered play area, added a mobile sound/music discovery wall and built benches and picnic tables.

Mt. Zion Elementary – Tamy Lockhart

Mt. Zion SIC - January 20, 2021 5 PM

Mt Zion had the highest growth in the district in Math which was in the 99th percentile. They now want to do this with the reading. The Bridges (Math) program was easier to teach during the Covid era because it is for large groups and with Covid it is hard to do small group activities due to space. The in-person program has increased slightly, about 10. We have one of the highest percentages of in person schooling because Mt Zion is small. Space is limited for in person but most grades can accommodate this. The families still decide. The school has testing for the teachers and staff. Children can only be tested with in person parental consent. They would like to offer it to the parents as an incentive to come to the school to sign the consent form. It was also discussed that one issue with Covid-19 is that it spreads in families and sometimes a 10 day quarantine becomes a month and in this case the kids need work that can be done from home.

There was a discussion of holding a Spring Town Hall. Jean Howard described a virtual town hall that she attended. It is filmed and saved for others. They collect questions ahead of time and also collect questions from chat. The town hall is

much like what we discuss in SIC, school performance, tests, and curriculum. It gives the parents a chance to get direct feedback to the SIC group. We discussed a format of introducing the classes, or maker space, or songs and dancing so families can see inside the school. We can also address questions submitted, but everyone agreed it should be kept very positive and “warm and fuzzy”. It would be conducted via Zoom. We discussed having Spanish translation and also asking the teachers what they think about putting this together. We will agree on more detail at the next SIC.