

St. John's Constituent District 9 Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Line) Minutes
December 15, 2020

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 Tamy Lockhart, to adopt the agenda. The motion passed 7-0.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Pat Cline moved, seconded by Dr. Karen Simmons, to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020, meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

IV. Visitors/Public Comments:

There were no comments submitted.

V. Constituent Board Chair Report

There was no report.

VI. District Updates:

Mr. Briggman shared that St. John's Teacher of the Year, Lakevia Mills, was recognized during the December 14th Board of Trustees meeting. He reminded the board that Winter Break starts December 21, 2020 and ends January 1, 2021. All schools and offices will be closed during that time. January's Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for the 11th and the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is scheduled for the 25th.

Board members shared concerns about District 9 student progress. Mr. Briggman will follow up on plans to support students that are not doing well.

VII. Constituent Board School Liaison Report:

A. School Reports - Reports attached.

The board also discussed the need for more diverse educators in District 9.

Dr. Simmons is working along with Charlie Brown, St. John's Alumni and former NFL wide receiver, will be distributing 8 bicycles to underprivileged children in District 9 elementary schools.

All John's Island Schools received a check for \$500 to use as needed from the Johns Island Council's Education Committee. Schools are to report how the funds will be used.

B. Review of Discipline Procedures for Students Learning Remotely

The board reviewed the content of the email received in response to their request for information. It is noted that the Student Code of Conduct handbook has been updated to include discipline procedures for virtual students.

VIII. Old Business:

A motion was made by Monica Smith, seconded by Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford, to accept the District 9 Constituent Board Bylaws with the requested changes. The motion was approved 7-0.

IX. New Business:

A. Correspondence to the Consolidated Board – First Draft

The board reviewed content to be included in the letter to the County Board addressing concerns about the location of the new elementary school in District 9. Board members established a deadline for submission of the letter.

X. Executive Session:

A. Hardship Student Transfer

Leon Green moved, seconded by Monica Smith, to return to Open Session. The board approved 7-0.

XI. Open Session Reconvened:

Leon Green moved, seconded by Monica Smith to approve the request to remain at Mt. Zion Elementary School. The board approved 7-0.

XII. Announcements

Reminder – Frierson Elementary’s SIC Meeting, January 28th, 5:30 p.m. PTA Meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. Check the school’s websites for meetings listed through April.

XIII. Adjournment:

Board Chair, Monica Smith, adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Approved 01.19.21

District 9 School Updates

December 15, 2020

Frierson Elementary – Rev. Gertie Ford

Frierson Desire - Multipurpose “Gymtorium” - Dr. Cummings shared that this is an effort that the SIC (School Improvement Council) and FOF (Friends of Frierson) are working on. She is asking for support when the request comes before the District 9 Board.

- School’s current enrollment is now at 153.

Mt. Zion Elementary – Pat Cline, Tamy Lockhart

Pat Cline’s notes from Mt. Zion SIC, December 9, 2020

- The link to the SIC meetings at Mt Zion held on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm is available on the SIC page of the Mt Zion digital newsletter.
- The minutes of the meeting are also available to the D9 board through the liaison Tamy Lockhart.
- Principal Mims gave an overview of the Map and Fast Bridge Test data and goals for Fall 2019, Winter 2020 and Fall 2020.
- Mt Zion’s test results are similar to those of other CCSD schools.
- There was a drop in reading and a more significant drop in math.
- The process of 3rd party ordering has been cleared with CCSD and Mt Zion will be ordering Maker Space materials with Kiawah Cares STEM grant funding. Other Project Lead the Way expenses will focus on teacher training and STEM classroom modules.
- A D9 SIC meeting with all 5 schools will be scheduled for January 2021 through Johns Island Community Association Education committee chair Michelle Faust.
- I shared with the SIC members that the D9 board is drafting a letter to the Board of Trustees requesting information about plans for a new elementary school to be built on Johns Island.

Tamy Lockhart shared Mt. Zion’s Weekly Newsletter, “Wildcat Weekly.” The newsletter will be shared with board members via email.

St. John’s High – Dr. Karen Simmons, Leon Green

Dr. Simmons provided an update on student progress shared by Mr. Larson. St. Johns is collaborating with Haut Gap on a number of initiatives through the end of the school year. See attached list of activities.

Mr. Green met with Mr. Larson to discuss collaboration among the schools. Mr. Larson shared the following:

- The band will increase starting next school year.
- Students will have access to vocational classes next year through the West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies. Participating students will be bussed to WAHS.
- Additional AP classes will be available to St. John’s students by way of satellite through Wando High School.
- Students aren’t taking advantage of dual credit classes because they aren’t free anymore.
- Students are participating in a program where they are teaching elementary school students track and field.
- St. Johns received a 2.5 million dollar grant to renovate or rebuild the stadium.
- Principal Larson would like to see the board and other well-meaning community members spread the word about St. Johns and build up the image of the school.

Haut Gap Middle – Leon Green

Mr. Green met with Principal Benintendo, who shared the following:

- The school’s library is being renovated to accommodate more students. Renovations should be completed in January.
- The school is expanding its’ music department to include chorus and guitar. Strings will be added next year.
- The school’s curriculum is divided in to CP (College prep), Honors, and Magnet.
- 70% of students are attending in person.
- The school is at 90% with a total of 490 students attending. The school is equipped for 500.
- Mr. Benintendo shared that he is willing to do all he can to keep students in Johns Island schools.