

St. Paul's Constituent District 23 Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Baptist Hill High Media Center
5117 Baptist Hill Road, Hollywood, SC
Thursday, November 7, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Josephine Matthews, Ms. Blanche Bowens, Ms. Francina Nelson, Tiffany Deas-Small, Ms. Brenda Bowman, Rev. Charles Glover and Rev. Richmond Truesdale.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mrs. Josephine Matthews.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Matthews moved, with a second by Ms. Nelson to adopt the agenda as written. Motion passed 7-0.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Matthews to approve minutes from the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

IV. Public Comments

--Mr. Marvin Bowens raised the following concerns:

--By-laws require a second reading.

--The agenda should be posted on the door and copies provided to the public

--Executive session should be moved to the end of the agenda

--He is filing a complaint with the "big board" regarding issues with expulsion hearings and superintendent liaisons should not control CB meetings.

--He is starting a new "community group" in the Baptist Hill community to address all issues in the district (including educational concerns from parents)

-- Other concerns voiced by the public:

--Failing Report Card

--Tutoring needed for students (Principal James shared that BHMHS would be providing tutoring and Saturday school for students in the next couple of weeks)

--All of the elementary schools should be consolidated into one building

--They would like to create a Baptist Hill Public Charter School

--A member of the public started to speak about a personal issue that she had with her grandson and a board member. The Board Members told her that she would need to share this in the Executive Session. Sherry Bell and Tanya Meetze shared that the student's name was not on the agenda for the Executive Session as a hearing; however, the board members voted to amend the agenda to add to the Executive Session to allow the public member to voice her concerns.

A motion was made by Mrs. Matthews, seconded by Ms. Nelson to go into Executive Session.

V. Executive Session

A. Public Member Concerns

A grandmother asked to share concerns regarding her grandson who had recently gotten into trouble with possession of guns. She shared that her grandson had previously been spending time at the home of one of the CB members with her children and that this board member has been harassing her family, calling DSS, and the police. The grandparent was reminded that she could not share the name of the board member. She and this board member have met with the school administration regarding the issues between the two families. The board members reminded the grandparents that no action could be taken by them, and they were simply just providing her with the opportunity to voice her concerns.

B. Discipline Hearings (2)

23.4.25 Infraction: 520 Simple Assault

23.5.25 Infraction: 520 Simple Assault

A motion was made by Rev. Truesdale, seconded by Ms. Nelson to return to Open Session.

VI. Open Session Reconvened

VII. Vote on Executive Session Items (Action)

A. Discipline Hearing

23.4.25 - The board voted to assign the student to Turning Point Academy for a minimum of 45 days. After returning to school, the student will be on board probation for the remainder of the school year. Motion passed 7-0.

23.5.25 - The board voted to assign the student to Turning Point Academy for a minimum of 45 days. After returning to school, the student will be placed on board probation for the remainder of the school year. Motion passed 6-1.

VIII. District Updates

Ms. Sherry Bell shared the following:

- -- Reminder of Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings
- -- Passing of Wando student
- -- HBCU College Fair- November 9, 2024 (9:30-12:00)
- -- November 19 @1:00 is the swearing-in ceremony for new board members.

IX. New Business

--BHMHS will be hosting a School Improvement and Planning Meeting on November 21, 2024 (6:00-7:15)

--The board asked for public input regarding the start time of the CB meetings. (Ms. Bell and Ms. Meetze shared that this was not on the agenda. Members of the board argued that they could vote to amend the agenda to include this item and did so.) Based on feedback entertained from the public they voted to change the start time of the D23 CB Meetings to 6:30.

-- Reverend Truesdale raised concerns regarding CB “perks” for football games and CB members should get in free and not have to pay for tailgating events.

-- Reverend Glover shared that all of the principals should be required to attend at least one CB meeting per month. He voiced concerns regarding the current administration at BHMHS.

-- Concerns were shared regarding mandating uniforms for students. They would like for BHMHS students to wear uniforms.

--Board members would like to know what the protocol is for volunteers from the community. If someone is cleared to volunteer at one school, shouldn't this provide them with approval to volunteer at all schools?

--Board members would like for the athletic budget to be shared at a board meeting.

--Concern shared about the air conditioning not working in all classrooms.

--Reverend Glover shared that he had met with Superintendent Huggins to voice his concerns.

X. Old Business

--Board members once again expressed concern about the potential delay in replacing the SRO.

--Reverend Truesdale again shared that he believes tonight's constituent district board meeting was illegal because it was not posted at the school front entrance door at least 24 hours before the meeting, although it is posted on the district's website and at the district office building. He expressed concern that the school site posting requirement has been overlooked over the past year. *(Ms. Denney emailed the CB on October 01, 2024 to share the applicable portion of the FOIA law. Per Section 30-4-80 "An agenda for regularly scheduled or special meetings must be posted on a bulletin board in a publicly accessible place at the office or meeting place of the public body and on a public website maintained by the body, if any, at least twenty-four hours prior to such meetings." Tanya Meetze and Sherry Bell reiterated that the agenda was posted at the office at 75 Calhoun street and was posted online.*

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.