

**St. John's Constituent District 9 Board**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

**St. John's High School – Room A-118, 1518 Main Road, Johns Island, SC**

**Board Members Present:** Board Chair – Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford, Pat Cline, Dr. Karen Simmons-Palmer, Bill Antonucci, JeRai Green, Esq.

**Board Member Absent:** Monica Smith

**Proceedings:**

**I. Call to Order, Moment of Silence, & Pledge of Allegiance:**

The board meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m. by Gertie Smalls-Ford.

**II. Adoption of Agenda:**

Pat Cline moved, with a second by Karen Simmons-Palmer, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 5-0.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

A. October 15, 2024 – Regular Meeting

B. October 29, 2024 – Special Called Meeting

Karen Simmons-Palmer moved, with a second by Pat Cline, to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

**IV. Public Comments:**

The Board welcomed new board member William (Bill) Antonucci.

**V. Executive Session:**

Karen Simmons-Palmer moved, with a second by JeRai Green, to move into Executive Session. The motion passed 5-0.

A. Discipline Hearings

9.6.25 – (580) Drug Possession 2

9.8.25 – (789) Weapon, (784) Knife Blade >2inches

B. Readmit

R9.7.25

**VI. Open Session Reconvened**

Karen Simmons-Palmer moved, with a second by Pat Cline, to move into Open Session. The motion passed 5-0.

**VII. Vote on Executive Session Items (Action)**

A. Discipline Hearings

9.6.25 – Pat Cline moved, with a second by JeRai Green, to place the student at TPA for 30 days on probation. The student is also assigned to the district drug and alcohol program, ADAPT. The motion passed 5-0.

9.8.25 – Gertie Smalls-Ford moved, with a second by Pat Cline, to return the student to school on probation. The motion failed 2-3; Bill Antonucci, JeRai Green, and Karen Simmons-Palmer opposed.

Gertie Smalls-Ford moved, with a second by Karen Simmons-Palmer, to place the student at TPA for 30 days on probation. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Readmit

R9.7.25 – JeRai Green moved, with a second by Karen Simmons-Palmer, to readmit student for the second semester of the year.

**VIII. Constituent Board Report:**

A. Updates from Rev. Gertie Smalls-Ford, District 9 Constituent Board Chair – Welcome new board member Mr. Antonucci. The vacant board position closes on 11.22.24. Once interviews are held and a new person is selected, then the election of officers will be held. The swearing-in was today for elected member Bill Antonucci, and incumbent members Pat Cline and Gertie Smalls-Ford at the District office. There is a mascot survey for John’s Island Elem on the website, please vote before 11.22.24. Rev. Smalls-Ford participated on the naming committee for Edith L. Frierson School which passed unanimously through the BOT. Frierson also received EXCELLENT on their state report card. The Superintendent is hosting the D9 Community Meeting at St. John’s on 12.3.24 at 5:30; please attend.

**IX. Constituent Board School Liaison Report**

**Angel Oak** – And Haut Gap steel drums performed at The State of Schools. Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration was fantastic and very well attended. There was a band, dancing, a fashion show, arts, and crafts activities. Book Character Day was a success. PTA worked with Mt. Zion’s PTA to host “Movie Night on the Lawn” for families who brought candy donations for St. Jude’s. The PTA had the first fundraiser of the year through Charleston Wrap and exceeded its goals. SIC selected areas of focus this year as increasing student attendance and assisting families in preparation and understanding of the school merger. AOE was named the 2024 SC School of Excellence in Arts Education.

**St. Johns** – Curriculum night was 11.12.24. Hispanic Movie night with the police department was 11.16.24. Seniors are going to Georgia.

**Mt. Zion** – On 10.16.24 SIC had discussions about transitioning to AEO. The Character Parade and coffee with the principal to review SC school report card data was 10.25.24. Goals: to collaborate with AOE SIC for transition and develop a plan to honor MT Zion Elementary and its history. HR will meet with teachers to discuss options for the transition to AOE. New sidewalk and lights are being installed at the entrance to Mt Zion. Several students won Art awards for entries at the Coastal Carolina Fair.

**Frierson Elem** – Thanks to Beyond Our Gates Foundation, 173 children will receive custom bikes, helmets, locks, and bike pumps in the upcoming giveaway on 11.22.24.

**X. District Updates:**

Superintendent Designee, April Butler gave district updates. Fall Break: schools closed 11.25-11.29, offices closed 11.27-11.29. Committee of the Whole 12.9.24. HR is meeting with staff at Mt. Zion, conducting one-on-one interviews regarding the school split.

**XI. Old Business:**

Bell schedule – getting input from the community.

**XII. New Business:**

The vacant board position closes on 11.22.24. Once interviews are held and a new person is selected, then the election of officers will be held.

**XIII. Announcements:**

**XIV. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.