

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

MRS. CHERYL HARRIS, CHAIRWOMAN

MR. JAMIE DEVINE, VICE CHAIRMAN

MRS. LILA ANNA SAULS, SECRETARY-TREASURER

MR. DWAYNE SMILING, PARLIAMENTARIAN

MR. AARON BISHOP

MR. DARRELL BLACK

MRS. BEATRICE KING

REPORTED BY
BARBARA D.B. CHEESEBORO
1103 PINECROFT DRIVE
WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. 29170

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MAY 8, 2018

MINUTES

A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL

1 FALCON DRIVE

COLUMBIA, SC 29204

HELD TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

7:00 P.M.

MATTER OF

RECORD:

AS MANDATED BY THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PASSED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE RECORDS WILL SHOW THAT THE LOCAL NEWS MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED OF THIS MEETING. THE RECORD WILL ALSO SHOW THAT THE CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS CALLED FOR A MOTION TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ISSUES: (1) BOARD EXPENDITURES; (2) LEGAL STATUS; (3) PERSONNEL/HR UPDATES; (4-6) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS; (7) LEAVE OF ABSENCE; (8) HIRING

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OF PERSONNEL; (9) MINUTES; (10) BOARD REPORT; (11) BOARD EXPENDITURES; (12) SCSBA REGIONAL OFFICE NOMINATIONS; (13) FIRST READING APPROVAL OF FY 2018-2019 BUDGET; (14) SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT; (15) CONTRACT: BIG DAY FOR PRE-K THEMATIC AND INTEGRATED CURRICULUM; (16) CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF APPLE IPADS; (17) CONTRACT: PURCHASE LAPTOP COMPUTERS; (18) CONTRACT: APPLE IPADS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; (19) CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES; (20) APPROVAL OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

CALL TO ORDER:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET AT A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 8, 2018.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS, COMMISSIONERS JAMIE DEVINE, LILA ANNA SAULS, DWAYNE SMILING, AARON BISHOP, DARRELL BLACK, BEATRICE KING.

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PERFORMANCE:

STAR SPANGLE BANNER PERFORMED BY
A.C. FLORA VOICE MALES CHOIR.

INVOCATION:

REVEREND DR. CHRISTOPHER LEEVY JOHNSON,
BROOKLYN BAPTIST NORTHEAST CAMPUS
CHURCH, GAVE THE INVOCATION.

AGENDA ADOPTION:

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND
WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVINE.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

SCHOOL PRESENTATION:

COMMISSIONER KING GAVE THE HISTORY FOR
A.C. FLORA HIGH SCHOOL.

SUSAN CHILDS, PRINCIPAL, HIGHLIGHTED A.C.
FLORA'S MISSIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS; SHE
RECOGNIZED THE FACULTY, STAFF AND PARENTS.
STUDENT PERFORMANCES: PIANIST, ORCHESTRA.

SCHOOL BOARD

COMMISSIONER BLACK GAVE THE SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT:

BOARD SPOTLIGHT FOR THE MAY 8, 2018 SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING.

(SEE ATTACHMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

KANCHETA JONES (PARENT: COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL) STATED SHE REACHED OUT TO THE SCHOOL TO ANNOUNCE HER DAUGHTER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ACADEMIC AND TRACK SCHOLARSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AND HAS HAD NO RESPONSE; SHE STATED THE COMMUNITY WAS NOT INFORMED OF THE NEW COACH'S NAME. SHE SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE RISK OF LOSING THE CURRENT JV COACH AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR THE HEAD COACHES POSITION. SHE ASKED THAT THE BOARD LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON AT COLUMBIA HIGH. SHE STATED THERE ARE GOOD THINGS THERE THAT'S NOT BEING RECOGNIZED. SHE STATED LEADERSHIP IN THE BUILDING IS NOT WHERE SHE NEEDS TO BE.

CYNTHIA CARN (PARENT AND ALUMNI: COLUMBIA HIGH) STATED HER CONCERNS ABOUT LEADERSHIP AT COLUMBIA HIGH; SHE STATED THERE IS NOT A MATH TEACHER TO TALK TO. THE

MATH TEACHER SHARES SCHOOLS WITH COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL. SHE HAD REQUESTED TO SEE THE MATH TEACHER AND HAS NOT YET SEEN HER. SHE STATED SHE TRIED TO CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL, BUT HAS HAD NO CONTACT. SHE STATED COLUMBIA HIGH HAS A GREAT COACH, MR. CLARK AND HE HAS BEEN LOOKED OVER FOR THE HEAD COACHING JOB. SHE STATED HE TAKES PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE STUDENTS. TO BRING SOMEONE THAT'S NOT AFFILIATED WITH COLUMBIA HIGH, DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT. LOOK WITHIN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SCHOOL TO PROMOTE FIRST. SHE STATED SHE DOESN'T THINK THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTS THE SCHOOL AND HAS THE SCHOOL'S BEST INTEREST IN THE STUDENTS. SHE ALSO STATED THE SCHOOL HAS TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS. NO ONE HAS RETURNED HER PHONE CALLS.

RICO DORSEY AND BASKETBALL TEAMMATES SPOKE ON BEHALF OF COACH CLARK AND HOW HE

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GIVES KIDS OPPORTUNITIES, CARES FOR THEM AND KEEPS THEM OUT THE STREET. IF IT WASN'T FOR COACH CLARK A LOT OF THE STUDENTS WOULD BE LOSS. HE IS A GREAT MENTOR.

STANLEY RICHARDSON STATED HE WAS RECENTLY TERMINATED; ASKED BOARD TO RECONSIDER HIS CASE. HE LISTED SOME OF HIS PASSIONS AND CARES FOR WHAT HE DID AS A BUS DRIVER AND AS A COMMUNITY MEMBER. HE SUBMITTED LETTERS (GIVEN TO MR. FRALEY).

SATORA DANSLEY (PARENT: COLUMBIA HIGH) SPOKE ON BEHALF OF JV COACH CLARK AND THAT HE WAS NOT CONSIDERED FOR THE VARSITY COACH POSITION; SHE ASKED THAT THE SELECTION BY THE PRINCIPAL BE NEGATED AND THAT THE CURRENT JV COACH BE PROMOTED TO THE VARSITY COACH'S POSITION.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVINE.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OFFICE OF

BOARD REPORT

BOARD:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS STATED THE BOARD IS CONTINUOUSLY BUSY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT ATTENDING VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND WITH THE PERSONAL EVENTS: CHAT WITH THE CHAIR IN OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS THE READING INITIATIVES IN OUR SCHOOLS.

COMMISSIONER BLACK SPOKE REGARDING THE SOAR PROGRAM AT GIBBES MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SEEING THE LEADERS AND PARTNERS COME OUT AND PARTICIPATE, WAS OUTSTANDING.

HE REFERENCED THE GOOGLE CONFERENCE, WHICH IMPACTED THE STUDENTS AND THAT IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR STATE.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP REFERENCED THE GOOGLE CONFERENCE AND DR. WITHERSPOON'S ATTENDANCE TO HELP MENTOR THE KIDS AT THE TABLE TALK.

HE NOTED THE OPPORTUNITY HE HAD AT ST. ANDREWS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAT WITH THE CHAIR AND LISTENING TO THE ENGAGEMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH THE IDEA OF GOING TO COLUMBIA HIGH. MR. BISHOP NOTED THAT HE IS READY TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE STUDENTS AT ST. ANDREWS ARE BEING HEARD; HE APPRECIATED GOING TO THE AREA OF ST. ANDREWS, COLUMBIA HIGH, PINE GROVE TO HEAR WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GREAT THINGS, AS WELL AS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

MR. BISHOP NOTED THAT HE WAS THE KEY NOTE SPEAKER AT THE CITY YEAR TESTING KICK-OFF AT JOHN P. THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIS WEEK.

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COMMISSIONER KING REQUESTED TO PUT AGAIN ON THE TABLE A CONVERSATION OF GOOGLE IN THE CLASSROOM TO DO MORE COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH THE STUDENTS. SHE STATED THE CITY OF COLUMBIA IS EMBRACING ALL FREE TOOLS GOGGLE IS GIVING.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS NOTED A CONVERSATION THAT WAS HAD WITH GOOGLE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND BEING APPRECIATIVE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT DISTRICT ONE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO ATTEND THAT EVENT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE RECOGNIZED

MR. ERNEST STROMAN FOR BEING “PERSON OF THE YEAR” FOR C.A. JOHNSON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT. HE STATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN C.A. JOHNSON’S SCHOOL HISTORY, THE SOFTBALL TEAM WENT TO REGIONAL PLAYOFF AND ALSO THE REST OF THE TEAMS.

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HE STATED NEXT YEAR WILL BE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY FOR C.A. JOHNSON. WE WANT TO BE SURE IT'S CELEBRATED.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS TALKED ABOUT END OF THE COURSE (EOC) KICKOFF AT LOWER RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL AND NOTED THE OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF PASTORS THAT ATTENDED.

SHE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO DR. WITHERSPOON AND THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE WORK AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE STADIUMS.

SHE NOTED ATTENDING THE MAYOR'S CONFERENCE AND EXPRESSED CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYOR BENJAMIN FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT. SHE MENTIONED ALL THE MAYORS THAT ATTENDED NATIONALLY AND SOME THAT RECOGNIZED RICHLAND ONE. SHE STATED THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BUT RICHLAND ONE, AS WELL. SHE ALSO STATED SHE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO

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TO A CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY TO DO A RICHLAND ONE PRESENTATION. SHE NOTED A LOT OF RURAL AREAS DO NOT HAVE INTERNET; SO SOMETIMES SHE HAS TO TAKE THE EXTRA LEAP AND GO TO THE CHURCHES AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE DISTRICT AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

SHE ANNOUNCED THAT ST. MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH HAS DECIDED TO PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

BOARD EXPENDITURES

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVE ALL BOARD EXPENDITURES OVER \$100.00 FOR BOARD EXPENSES UNTIL A BOARD MEMBER EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION POLICY IS PASSED BY THE BOARD AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER BISHOP ASKED ABOUT THE TIME PERIOD OF THIS ACTION.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE RESPONDED MAYBE TWO MONTHS OR LESS.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS, MR. DEVINE, MRS. SAULS, MR. SMILING, MR. BISHOP, MRS. KING

IN OPPOSITION: COMMISSIONER BLACK (6-1)

SCSBA REGIONAL OFFICE NOMINATIONS

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER BISHOP MOVED TO NOMINATE JAMIE DEVINE FOR SCSBA SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAULS.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

FIRST READING APPROVAL OF THE

FY 2018-2019 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

MR. CARLON STATED THE ADMINISTRATION IS BRINGING THE FIRST READING FOR THE PROPOSED FY 2018-2019 GENERAL FUND BUDGET. SINCE THIS BUDGET WORK SESSION

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVINE.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OFFICE OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT:

LEGAL STATUS REPORT

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS STATED INFORMATION WAS PRESENTED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE STATUS OF LEGAL MATTERS IN THE DISTRICT. THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. WITHERSPOON EXPRESSED CONGRATULATIONS TO THE A.C. FLORA BOYS' SOCCER TEAM, THE A.C. FLORA BOYS' TENNIS TEAM AND THE DREHER GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM FOR MAKING THE STATE PLAYOFFS. FLORA'S BOYS' SOCCER TEAM REMAINS IN CONTENTION FOR A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. TONIGHT (MAY 8), THE TEAM IS PLAYING CHAPIN HIGH FOR THE LOWER STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

HE ADDED THAT ALL OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLS COMPETED IN THE STATE QUALIFYING TRACK MEET ON SATURDAY AND WE HAVE SEVERAL STATE QUALIFIERS. THE STATE TRACK MEET WILL

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BE HELD THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY (MAY 11-12)
AT SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

DR. WITHERSPOON ANNOUNCED THAT THE SCHOOL YEAR IS QUICKLY COMING TO AN END AND WE WANT TO REMIND PARENTS ABOUT THE 86 SUMMER CAMPS AND PROGRAMS THAT WE ARE OFFERING FOR STUDENTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS. WE ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN BY THIS FRIDAY (MAY 11). THE SUMMER SOAR BROCHURE, WHICH INCLUDES DETAILS ABOUT EACH PROGRAM, IS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE (RICHLANDONE.ORG). PARENTS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION CAN CALL OUR SUMMER SOAR HOTLINE AT 400-1692.

DR. WITHERSPOON ALSO ENCOURAGED PARENTS TO REGISTER BY THIS FRIDAY (MAY 11) FOR OUR FIRST SOAR INTO SUMMER SUCCESS EVENT, WHICH WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 2 FROM 10 A.M. – 1 PM. IN THE GOODMAN BUILDING AT THE SOUTH

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CAROLINA STATE FAIRGROUNDS. WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF TIPS AND OTHER INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON HOW TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LEARNING DURING THE SUMMER. THERE ALSO WILL BE GAMES, PRIZES, FOOD AND MORE. THE EVENT IS FREE, BUT PARENTS MUST REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE.COM; CLICK ON THE SOAR INTO SUMMER SUCCESS TAB. AS WE WIND DOWN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A RICHLAND ONE AND WHO WILL BE RETURNING TO A RICHLAND ONE SCHOOL IN 2018-2019 TO COMPLETE THE RETURNING STUDENT ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FORM. THIS INCLUDES STUDENTS WHO ARE MOVING FROM ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE OR MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL AND STUDENTS WHO ARE TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT. THE FORM CAN BE ACCESSED

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THROUGH A LINK IN THE POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE (RICHLANDONE.ORG).

DR. WITHERSPOON REPORTED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL EDUCATION-RELATED OBSERVANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THREE THAT ARE TAKING PLACE THIS WEEK: MAY 7-11 IS NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK AND TODAY (MAY 8) IS NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF OUR OUTSTANDING TEACHERS IN RICHLAND ONE FOR ALL THAT THEY DO TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL AND DREAMS. I ALSO WANT TO CONGRATULATE ROBERT HARRIS, OUR 2017-2018 TEACHER OF THE YEAR, FOR BEING HONORED LAST WEEK AS ONE OF THE FIVE FINALISTS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR. MR. HARRIS

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HAS REPRESENTED RICHLAND ONE WITH PRIDE AND DISTINCTION THIS YEAR.

MAY 6-12 IS NATIONAL NURSES WEEK AND TOMORROW (MAY 9) IS NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE APPRECIATION DAY. OUR SCHOOL NURSE PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND ADVOCATING FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR STUDENTS.

MAY 7-11 IS NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION EMPLOYEE WEEK. OUR STUDENT NUTRITION STAFF MEMBERS MAKE SURE THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SERVED HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS MEALS EVERY DAY TO GIVE THEM THE FUEL THEY NEED TO DO WELL IN SCHOOL.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING OUR TEACHERS, OUR SCHOOL NURSES AND OUR STUDENT NUTRITION STAFF A ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

ON MAY 30, SPECTRUM CABLE IS GOING 100 PERCENT DIGITAL. THAT MEANS SUBSCRIBERS WILL HAVE TO HAVE A DIGITAL RECEIVER FOR

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EVERY TV IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD TO VIEW CABLE PROGRAMMING. ALSO, AS PART OF THE CHANGES THAT SPECTRUM IS MAKING, LOCAL CABLE TV CHANNELS – INCLUDING RICHLAND ONE TV – WILL BE MOVING. INSTEAD OF BEING BROADCAST ON CHANNEL 12 AS IT HAS BEEN FOR MANY, MANY YEARS, RICHLAND ONE TV WILL BE BROADCAST ONLY ON CHANNEL 1303.

DR. WITHERSPOON ALSO REMINDED EVERYONE THAT WHETHER YOU HAVE A CABLE TV OR NOT, SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND OTHER RICHLAND ONE TV PROGRAMMING CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT ANY TIME; JUST CLICK ON THE LINK ON OUR WEBSITE (RICHLANDONE.ORG).

RICHLAND ONE TV PROGRAMS ALSO CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE DISTRICT'S FREE MOBILE APP. DOWNLOAD THE APP FROM THE APPLE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY; SEARCH FOR RICHLAND ONE.

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DR. COLEMAN PRESENTED A RESPONSE TO DATA PRESENTED AT THE APRIL 24, 2018 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AT THE OLYMPIA PRESENTED BY ONE OF THE SPEAKERS AS A PART OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT.

- **THE APRIL 24TH SPEAKER STATED THAT 110 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WERE SUPSENDED OUT OF SCHOOL IN RICHLAND ONE DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS IS INACCURATE AND MISLEADING. DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, THREE PRESCHOOL STUDENTS WERE GIVEN AN OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION. 28 STUDENTS WERE GIVEN AN IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION.**
- **THE APRIL 24TH SPEAKER STATED THAT STUDENTS OF COLOR MAKE UP 74% OF RICHLAND ONE’S POPULATION YET 90% OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS WERE STUDENTS OF COLOR.**

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THE CORRECT DATA IS THAT 81% OF RICHLAND ONE'S STUDENT POPULATION ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR (REFERRING TO NON-WHITE STUDENTS). DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, OVER 90% OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS WERE STUDENTS OF COLOR.

- **THE APRIL 24TH SPEAKER STATED THAT 55% OF C.A. JOHNSON'S STUDENT BODY WAS SUSPENDED AT LEAST ONE TIME THIS PERCENT IS SLIGHTLY INFLATED SINCE IT INCLUDES BOTH IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION. THE CONCERN IS THAT THE SPEAKER FAILED TO ADDRESS THE ENTIRE PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE C.A. JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL (CAJ) COMMUNITY. DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, CAJ HAS INCREASED THEIR GRADUATION RATE BY ALMOST 20% WITH**

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72% OF THE STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 4 YEARS, A NUMBER THAT THE DISTRICT EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO SEE INCREASE. CAJ WAS ALSO THE ONLY HIGH SCHOOL IN RICHLAND ONE TO SEE AN INCREASE IN ALL 4 OF THE END OF COURSE EXAMINATIONS LAST YEAR WITH DOUBLE DIGIT PERCENT INCREASES IN ALL 4 ASSESSMENTS.

DISCUSSION:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO DR. COLEMAN FOR THE CLARIFICATION. SHE NOTED THE APPRECIATION FOR THE DEDICATION IN RICHLAND ONE

COMMISSIONER SAULS STATED SHE WOULD CHALLENGE THE BOARD TO WORK FROM THE FACTS AS WE REPRESENT RICHLAND ONE. SHE ASKED HOW CAN WE REPORT THE FACTS, IF THE DATA OUT THERE IS INACCURATE AND MAKE SURE DATA IS TRUE.

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED THE DATA IS OUT THERE, IT IS HOW IT IS BEING INTERPRETED.

HE STATED THAT (ISS) IN-SCHOOL SUSPENTION IS COMBINED WITH (OSS) OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENTION AND IT CAN BE MOVED IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION. YOU ALSO HAVE WHERE THEY CAN BE DUPLICATING NUMBERS IN THERE, AS WELL. WE CAN CERTAINLY PROVIDE. THE CONCERN IS HOW THE DATA IS BEING INTERPRETED AND TURNED AROUND AND PORTRAYED IN A DIFFERENT MANNER.

COMMISSIONER BLACK ASKED CAN WE PUT THE NUMBERS UP ON THE WEBSITE AND EXPLAIN AND GIVE CLARIFICATION OF THE DATA AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS. HE ADDED THAT IN THAT WAY WE CAN HAVE A UNIVERSAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE DATA AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS FOR OUR DISTRICT.

DR. WITHERSPOON STATED WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS. IT'S BEING MISINTERPRETED.

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COMMISSIONER BISHOP WE NEED TO TELL OUR STORY.

HE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE 74 PERCENT AND 81 PERCENT.

DR. COLEMAN STATED ONE OF THE STATEMENT THAT WAS MADE PUBLICLY WAS THAT STUDENT OF COLOR MAKE UP 74 PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION, THAT 90 PERCENT OF OUR OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION; WHEN ACTUALLY 81 PERCENT OF OUR STUDENTS ARE NONWHITE STUDENTS.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP STATED THERE IS A DISCREPANCY IN THE NUMBERS THAT WAS PRESENTED. HE ASKED HOW ARE WE ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM, STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT?

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED WE HAD SOME PROCESS CONCERNS THAT WE DID ADDRESS THAT SPOKE TO SOME IMPROVEMENTS; ANOTHER PIECE WE ARE WORKING ON, GIVEN OUR STUDENT POPULATION NEEDS AND WHAT WE KNOW AROUND

TRAUMA, SOME ADVERSITY, REGARDLESS OF ZIP CODE AND STATUS, SOCIAL ECONOMICS, NOW ANY STUDENT CAN BE AT RISK. POVERTY IS ANYTHING THAT IS LACKING. WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOLKS. WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION THAT WE WILL BE SHARING WITH ALL RICHLAND ONE EMPLOYEES ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS CAN SOMETIMES FACE, GIVE UNDERSTANDING AND HOW WE ADDRESS SOME OF THOSE THINGS. THAT'S A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, AS WELL AS A LEARNING ORGANIZATION AS BEST WE CAN TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS AND ISSUES THAT MAY COME UP.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP ASKED HAVE WE CONSIDERED DOING FACEBOOK LIVE FOR OUR MEETINGS?

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS RESPONDED WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS.

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COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INFRACTIONS CHILDREN ARE BEING DETAINED FOR?

DR. SMALLS RESPONDED MOST STUDENTS ARE SUSPENDED FOR LEVEL 2 AND THREE INFRACTIONS; LEVEL ONE IS MINOR: TARDINESS, MINOR DISRUPTIONS; PERSISTENT AND ONGOING IS LEVEL 2. THOSE KINDS OF THINGS CAN LEAD TO A SUSPENSION. WE HAVE BEEN CLEARED THIS YEAR THROUGH MUNIS, THE CODE, THAT WE WANT TO USE THAT PROCESS. IT'S NOT A ONE SIZE FIT ALL. YOU TREAT EACH INDIVIDUAL CHILD IN EACH SITUATION DIFFERENTLY. POVERTY IS A LACK OF WHATEVER THEY ARE LACKING. WE GOT TO FIT THOSE THINGS. SO IT CAN BE PARENTS, FUNDS, AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. RICHLAND ONE FILLS IN ALL OF THOSE GAPS. SUSPENSION, THEY HAVE GONE UP. BUT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT OUR HEARING NUMBERS ARE DOWN ABOUT 50 PERCENT OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. WE ARE

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STILL WORKING EVERYDAY TO REDUCE THOSE NUMBERS. HEARINGS ARE DOWN; NEXT WE ARE ON SUSPENSIONS, OSS. THE NEXT THING WILL BE ISS.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED ARE WE TRAINING OUR STAFF, OUR TEACHERS, OUR NURSES, PSYCHOLOGIST AND OTHER SCHOOL STAFF ON HOW TO DEAL WITH STUDENTS ONCE THEY RETURN TO THE SCHOOL?

DR. SMALLS RESPONDED THAT'S THE PROCESS. WE WANT TO START WITH THE MOST SERIOUS, BEING PUT OUT OF SCHOOL. NOW WE ARE LOOKING AT ALL STAFF, OUR SUPPORT STAFF. WE STARTED OUT DOING SOMETHING WITH OUR MENTAL HEALTH FOLKS. WE TRAINED SOME SCHOOLS ON TRAUMA. IT WAS VERY INDEPTH AND VERY DETAILED. IT'S BEEN A SUCCESS. NEXT YEAR WE ARE TRAINING ALL SCHOOLS. WE ARE GOING TO BRING IN THE SOCIAL WORKERS, NURSES. AGAIN, IT'S NOT A ONE SIZE FIT ALL DEAL. IT'S A PROCESS AND WE ARE GOING THROUGH THAT PROCESS.

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COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED HOW OFTEN DOES STAFF ATTEND OR GO THROUGH TRAINING?

DR. SMALLS RESPONDED IT IS OUR PLAN FOR THIS TO BE ONGOING. IT HAS TO BE IN THE FABRIC OF OUR SCHOOL, AS IN OUR DISTRICT. IT'S GOT TO BE A PART OF OUR EVERYDAY CONVERSATION.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE STATED WE TALKED ABOUT AT RISK. ALL OF OUR STUDENTS ARE AT RISK. THAT RISK COULD BE A TEACHER, THE NEXT POLICE OFFICER, AND DOCTOR. WE LOOK AT AT-RISK IN THE NEGATIVE. WE GOT TO FIRST MAKE IT POSITIVE. WE WANT TO LOOK AT BEING AT-RISK AS BEING THE BEST CITIZEN THEY CAN BE.

COMMISSIONER BLACK ASKED ARE THOSE GROUPS SET UP THROUGH THE STATE?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED THEY CAME STRAIGHT FROM POWER SCHOOL, YES, SIR.

COMMISSIONER KING ASKED CAN USE THIS TOOL FOR ALL OUR SCHOOLS INCLUDING HIGH SCHOOLS.

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED WE ARE EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES AND WHAT WE CAN DO WITH THAT GIVEN HOW IT'S FUNDED. THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON EXPANSION. IT'S ON OUR RADAR. WE ARE LOOKING AT HOW IN THE FUTURE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPAND. HOW WE GET THERE FROM HERE, WE GOT TO WORK OUT SOME THINGS.

COMMISSIONER KING ASKED IS IT A MATTER OF BUDGET?

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED TRAINING, PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENT; TO TAKE DISTRICT WIDE AND MOVE FUNDING OVER, YES, WILL BE A HIGH HURDLE. WE ARE LOOKING AT WHAT CAN BE DONE AND WHAT WE ARE DOING RIGHT NOW.

COMMISSIONER KING ASKED COULD IT BE STRESSED TO THE TEACHERS TO GIVE THE BASIC SKILLS TO THE STUDENTS?

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED WE ARE HAVING THOSE CONVERSATIONS ON HOW TO SPREAD THOSE STRATEGIES.

COMMISSIONER KING STATED UNDER THE OLD ITS DEPARTMENT THEY USED TO HAVE VISUAL LITERACY FESTIVAL COMPETITION. DREHER AND FLORA HAD AN ART GALLERY. EXPO AT RICHLAND MALL. THERE WERE PRIZES BY SPONSORS. SHE STATED SHE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THAT COME BACK. SOME TEACHERS HAS EXPRESSED SERVING ON COMMITTEES.

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED WE WILL LOOK AT THAT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED HAVE WE TALKED ABOUT HAVING DISCIPLINE REPORT CARDS?

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED THE STATE MAY BE LOOKING AT SOMETHING DIFFERENT; THEY DO SHARE THIS INFORMATION SCHOOL BY SCHOOL. IT WAS SAID A PARTICULAR DISTRICT HAD

IMPLEMENTED SOMETHING AND WE FOUND THAT THEY DID NOT.

DR. COLEMAN STATED FOR THREE YEARS IN SOUTH CAROLINA WE HAVE HAD A HIATUS OF SCHOOL REPORT CARDS BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN OUR ASSESSMENTS. STARTING THIS YEAR, THE STATE WILL BE PRODUCING A NEW ESA REPORT CARD. WILL BE A SECTION FOR EACH SCHOOL AND DISTRICT ON THE WEBSITE. WE CAN PROBABLY SPEND OUR TIME AND EFFORT WORKING MORE FOR OUR STUDENTS THAN CREATING A DOCUMENT. THIS WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED WILL THIS BE DONE BY AUGUST OF THIS YEAR?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR, I WOULD ANTICIPATE AFTER SCHOOL STARTS.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED DOES THE TOP FIVE SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST SUSPENSIONS,

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT WE HAVE A COACH FOR THOSE SCHOOLS?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED NO, SIR. I WOULD NOT MAKE THAT RECOMMENDATION. WE DO EXAMINE INDIVIDUAL SITES, INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS AND INDIVIDUAL DATA. WE MAKE DECISIONS ON THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR STUDENTS.

OFFICE OF

HUMAN RESOURCES:

PERSONNEL/HR UPDATES

DR. COUSAR STATED TWO ITEMS WAS UNDER THIS ITEM: ONE WAS AN INFORMATION ITEM ON CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL CONCERNS; OTHER IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ON LEAVE.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

DR. COUSAR STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. JEFFREY LONG TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER IN THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES. HE IS CURRENTLY THE DIRECTOR OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE SERVICES.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER BISHOP MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVINE.

**VOTE: IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS HARRIS, MR.
DEVINE, MRS. SAULS, MR. SMILING, AND MR.
BISHOP, MR. BLACK**

IN OPPOSITION: MRS. KING (6-1)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

DR. COUSAR STATED THE ADMINISTRATION
RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. LINDA
PRATT FOR THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL AT
CARVER LYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACK.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

DR. COUSAR STATED THE ADMINISTRATION
RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF MR.
RAYNARD JEFFERSON TO THE POSITION OF
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT BURNSIDE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMILING.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

DR. COUSAR STATED THE ADMINISTRATION
RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE NON PAID
MEDICAL LEAVE AS PRESENTED IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER KING MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND
WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SMILING

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

HIRING OF PERSONNEL

DR. COUSAR STATED THE ADMINISTRATION
RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE 25
TEACHERS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SAULS MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (6-0)

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ABSTENTION.

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS:

CONTRACT: BIG DAY FOR PRE-K THEMATIC

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AND INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF APPLE IPADS

CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF LAPTOP

COMPUTERS

CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF APPLE IPADS FOR

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CONTRACT: PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES

MR. HARDISON STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE LISTED CONTRACTS.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER SMILING MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACK.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

APPROVAL OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION

MRS. MATHEWS-HAZEL STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED FOR APPROVAL AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISHOP.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

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ADJOURNMENT:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS ADJOURNED THE MEETING

9:32 P.M.

STENOGRAPHER

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SCHOOL
COMMISSIONERS

SECRETARY/TREASURER, BOARD OF
SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

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