

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

STEVENSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

MRS. CHERYL HARRIS, CHAIRWOMAN

MR. JAMIE DEVINE, PARLIAMENTARIAN

MR. DWAYNE SMILING

MR. AARON BISHOP

MRS. BEATRICE KING

MR. DARRELL BLACK

MRS. LILA ANNA SAULS

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

MINUTES

STEVENSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1616 RICHLAND STREET

COLUMBIA, SC 29201

HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

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) PARENT APPEARANCE; (2) LEGAL STATUS UPDATE; (3) PERSONNEL/HR UPDATES; (4) ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT; (5) HIRING OF PERSONNEL; (6-13) LEAVE OF ABSENCES (14) OCTOBER 2017 ABBREVIATED MONTHLY FINANCIALS; (15) MINUTES 11/14/17; (16) BOARD REPORT; (17) SECOND READING APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY

KDB, PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION; (18) SECOND READING APPROVAL OF POLICY GBK, STAFF GRIEVANCES; (19) SECOND READING APPROVAL OF POLICY ACG, RESOLUTION OF DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANTS; (20) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION; (21) SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT; (22) HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS 2016-2017.

CALL TO ORDER:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET AT STEVENSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017.

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

PRESENT:

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

INVOCATION:

COMMISSIONER DARRELL BLACK GAVE THE INVOCATION.

AGENDA ADOPTION:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS STATED UNDER OFFICE OF THE BOARD, DELETE ITEM 8.06, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. THIS ITEM WAS ON THE AGENDA TWICE.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BISHOP MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAULS.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

SPOTLIGHT: COMMISSIONER SAULS GAVE THE SCHOOL BOARD
SPOTLIGHT FOR THE NOVEMBER 28, 2017 SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING.

(SEE ATTACHMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: OCTOBER 27 ABBREVIATED MONTHLY FINANCIALS
MINUTES: 11/14/17

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SMILING MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED COMMISSIONER DEVINE.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OFFICE OF BOARD REPORT

BOARD: **CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS** STATED BOARD MEMBERS
SPENDS A GREAT DEAL OF TIME VISITING ALL 50
SCHOOLS; VARIOUS PROGRAMS: READING
ENGAGEMENT, LUNCH BUDDIES, CHAT-WITH-THE-
CHAIR INITIATIVES IN BOTH MIDDLE AND HIGH
SCHOOL.

COMMISSIONER KING CONGRATULATED
BROCKMAN FOR A WINNING NATIONAL BLUE

RIBBON AWARD. SHE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND DR. WITHERSPOON AND CRAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR ALLOWING HER SON TO PRESENT A SMALL DEDICATION OF HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT; SHE STATED TWO TEACHERS GAVE THEIR TESTIMONY ON HOW SUCCESSFUL THAT ENVIRONMENT IS ON ENGAGEMENT AND LOWERED INCIDENCES OF BEHAVIORS.

PARENT APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BOARD

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR A FUTURE MEETING AND WAS BY COMMISSIONER BLACK.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

ATTORNEY WILLIAMS STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS SECOND READING APPROVAL FOR THE FOLLOWING BOARD POLICIES:

SECOND READING APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY

KDB, PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW/FREEDOM

OF INFORMATION

SECOND READING APPROVAL OF POLICY GBK,

STAFF GRIEVANCES

SECOND READING APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY
ACG, RESOLUTION OF DISCRIMINATION

COMPLAINTS

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER BISHOP MOVED FOR APPROVAL
AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVINE

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OFFICE OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT:

DR. WITHERSPOON STATED LOWER RICHLAND
MADE IT TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE STATE HIGH
SCHOOL PLAYOFFS. VERY GOOD JOB BY THE
COACH AND THE STUDENTS. THAT WAS THEIR
FIRST PLAYOFF SINCE 1991.

DR. WITHERSPOON REPORTED THAT THE DISTRICT
IS HOLDING A SERIES OF INFORMATION SESSIONS
FOR PARENTS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE
ABOUT OUR ELEMENTARY MONTESSORI
PROGRAMS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR. THE
DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF THE
INFORMATION SESSIONS, AS WELL AS THE
REGISTRATION LINK, ARE PLACED ON OUR
WEBSITE, WWW.RICHLANDONE.ORG. FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MONTESORRI

PROGRAMS, CONTACT CANDICE WILSON AT 738-3548.

DR. WITHERSPOON REPORTED THAT MONTESSORI EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE MANY CHOICES THAT WE OFFER OUR STUDENTS IN RICHLAND ONE. WE ALSO HAVE A LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS, A HEALTH SCIENCES MAGNET, OUR NEW VIRTUAL SCHOOL AND FOUR NEW MAGNET PROGRAMS THAT WILL LAUNCH NEXT YEAR. HE ADDED THAT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS KNOW ABOUT ALL THE MANY CHOICES WE OFFER, SO WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL HOLD OUR FIRST CHOICE FAIR IN JANUARY. HE ASKED THE AUDIENCE TO PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE CHOICE FAIR, WHICH WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 FROM 5:30-8:00 P.M. IN CRAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM. STUDENTS AND PARENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT VARIOUS BOOTHS AND TALK WITH SCHOOL AND DISTRICT STAFF REPRESENTING OUR CHOICE PROGRAMS. WE

WILL BE SHARING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHOICE FAIR IN THE COMING WEEKS.

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER KING STATED RICHLAND ONE USED TO HAVE AN OFFICE UNDER STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES THAT WAS CALLED ROCC, (RICHLAND ONE COMMUNITY COALITION), WHICH PURPOSE WAS TO KEEP FINGER ON THE PULSE OF VARIOUS DRUG AND ALCOHOL ISSUES WITH TEENS, AND THEN RESPOND TO THAT AND CREATE PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP COPE WITH THAT. SHE ASKED IF THERE IS A REPLACEMENT FOR THAT; IF NOT CAN IT BE REINSTATED?

DR. WITHERSPOON STATED WE CAN BRING THAT BACK. HE ADDED THAT SOME OF THOSE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO SOME OF THE OTHER PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS A GRANT THAT HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS STATED IF WE BRING THAT PROGRAM BACK, LET US ENSURE THAT IT IS INCLUSIVE OF THE ENTIRE DISTRICT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED FOR SOME INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL TAX CUTS THAT IS

BEING PROPOSED IN THE HOUSE OR IN THE SENATE AT THIS TIME.

MR. CARLON STATED AS FAR AS FEDERAL, TITLE ONE AND I.D.E.A. ARE NOT BEING AFFECTED. HE ADDED THAT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS WENT THROUGH SOME CUTS AND THAT THERE ARE SOME CHANGES IN MEDICAID THAT MAY AFFECT US.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE REQUESTED THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE A SUMMARY AT THE JANUARY MEETING OF PROPOSED CUTS TO OUR DISTRICT AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT US AS WE GO FORTH WITH THIS YEAR'S BUDGET AND PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET.

MR. CARLON SAID IT WILL BE AN ESTIMATE. WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE STATE GIVES US THE ALLOCATION IN LATE SPRING SOMETIME.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE NOTED PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE IS INCREASING, WHICH IS CALL HIM (HURRICANES HARVEY, IRMA AND MARIE.). JUST WANT US TO BE AWARE OF THAT GOING FORWARD.

LEGAL STATUS REPORT

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

OFFICE OF

PERSONNEL/HR UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES:

DR. LONG STATED INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

DR. LONG STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. KENNETH JENKINS TO THE POSITION OF ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT THE HEYWARD CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 29TH.

MOTION:

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

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

HIRING OF PERSONNEL

DR. LONG STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS THE HIRING OF THE 19 TEACHERS LISTED FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR AND THE 7 FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR.

MOTION:

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

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

LEAVE OF ABSENCES

DR. LONG STATED THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS THE APPROVAL OF THE NON PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCES (10.04-10.11) FOR THE IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS AND THE REASONS STATED.

MOTION:

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

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OFFICE OF

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS 2016-2017

ACADEMICS:

DR. COLEMAN PRESENTED A POWERPOINT HIGHLIGHTING THE FOLLOWING AREAS: STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS: WORKKEYS, STATE ACT, END OF COURSE EXAMINATION PROGRAM; (EMPHASIS NOTED ON THE GRADUATION RATE (INCREASE); FUTURE OF HIGH SCHOOL STATE ASSESSMENTS 2017-2018;

DR. BROSSARD PRESENTED STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT INCREASED ACHIEVEMENTS ON EOCS;

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER SAULS REFERENCED FORMS FOR TAKING ACT OR SAT. SHE STATED IT IS A GODD OPPORTUNITY THEY GET TO CHOOSE.

COMMISSIONER KING STATED THE DISTRICT DOES A GREAT JOB IN COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS.

COMMISSIONER BLACK ACKNOWLEDGED WHAT IT TAKES FOR GRADUATION RATE TO INCREASE 2.2 PERCENT IN A SEVEN YEAR PERIOD, GROOMING 24-26,000 STUDENTS AND GROOMING THEM OVER A 12 YEAR PERIOD. HE COMMENDED TEACHERS, PARENTS, STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATION, AND THE BOARD. HE STATED THIS ALSO TELLS US THE KIND OF WORK WE NEED TO DO GOING FORWARD. HE NOTED THE LARGEST ROOM IN THE WORLD IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE ADDED THAT WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR GRADUATION RATE.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP STATED HE WENT TO THE STARBUCKS PLANT IN DIXIANNA. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR SOME OF OUR BEST AND BRIGHTEST TO GO INTO THE CAREER WORKFORCE. THEY WILL PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION GOING FORWARD. HE ADDED THAT HE SPOKE WITH THE STARBUCKS

PLANT HR MANAGER ABOUT WORKKEYS AND THEY RESPONDED THAT THEY DON'T ACCEPT WORKKEYS. HE ASKED HOW WIDESPREAD IS THIS WORKKEYS PROGRAM?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT OPENING IT UP TO CAREER READINESS ASSESSMENT. THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS NOT BEEN RECEPTIVE TO SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT THE TESTING COMPANY MAKES, WHICH IS PART OF THE REASON, LEGISLATION, THE NAME WAS TAKEN OUT TO OPEN UP THE FIELD FOR THAT. THE WAY THEY SCORE THE ASSESSMENT, THEY CERTIFY THAT'S THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF WORK A STUDENT CAN DO WHEN THEY ENTER THE BUSINESS FORCE.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED WHAT MAKES UP THE GRADUATION RATE?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA WE CALL IT THE FEDERAL GRADUATION RATE: THE MINUTE A STUDENT IS PUT IN OUR DATA BASE AS A NINTH GRADER, WE HAVE FOUR AND A HALF YEARS TO GRADUATE THEM.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED HOW DO YOU HAVE SCHOOLS WITH DIFFERENT GRADUATION RATES?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED THERE ARE MULTIPLE FACTORS. ONE IS MOBILITY RATE. ONE IS POVERTY RATE. ONE IS THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL. ANOTHER THING WE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND, BEING IN THE CAPITAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ANY TIME YOU HAVE A METROPOLITAN CITY, YOU ARE ALSO GOING TO HAVE SPECIAL SERVICES. WE HAVE LOTS OF SPECIAL SERVICES WITHIN COLUMBIA THAT SERVES CHILDREN FROM ALL OVER THIS STATE. WE PROUDLY SERVE THOSE CHILDREN AND SERVE THEM WELL. BUT WHEN THOSE CHILDREN COME FROM OTHER COUNTIES TO ONE OF OUR COLUMBIA FACILITIES, WE IGNORE THOSE GRADUATION RATES. SO YOU WILL SEE THAT FLUCTUATION AMONG OUR SCHOOLS FOR A MULTITUDE OF REASONS.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED IF A STUDENT IS TAKEN OUT OF ONE SCHOOL AND GO TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, AND THEN GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL HE

FIRST LEFT, WHICH SCHOOL IS THAT STUDENT COUNTED AS A GRADUATE?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED WHERE EVER THE LAST PLACE YOU ENROLLED IN. IS THE LAST PLACE THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A STUDENT IS THE LAST PLACE THEY WERE ENROLLED. THEY SEND THE REQUEST FOR RECORDS TO THE SCHOOL THE STUDENT LEFT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED HOW DOES VIRTUAL SCHOOL COME INTO THIS?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED IF THEY GO TO SC VIRTUAL, WE CAN LOOK IN THE SUN'S DATA BASE AND FIND THEM. THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. OUR VIRTUAL SCHOOL IS A PROGRAM, IT'S NOT A SCHOOL. THEIR GRADUATION RATE IS STILL AT THEIR HOME SCHOOL.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS STATED WE HAVE TO APPLAUD OUR SUCCESS. IT'S A GOOD DISCUSSION TO TALK ABOUT DATA, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE LOOK FOR GROWTH. WE CAN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE FACILITIES THAT WE ABSORB. THERE ARE CLOSE TO A THOUSAND CHILDREN A YEAR THAT WE NEVER TEACH, HAVING ALL THESE INSTITUTIONS. SHE

ADDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE FOR US TO ENTERTAIN THE THOUGHT OF ENTERTAINING A “GO TO” SCHOOL THAT THOSE STUDENTS CAN BE PLACED IN. IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE GET TO SEE WHAT’S HAPPENING IN RICHLAND ONE. THE PRISON FACILITY, WHEN THEY LEAVE, IT BECOMES OUR DROPOUT. WE HAVE THE LARGEST SPECIAL EDUCATION PERCENTAGE WISE IN THE STATE. WE INHERIT A LOT. WE HAVE A LOT OF BARRIERS. WE NEED TO GET A REAL PICTURE. LET’S TAKE THOSE FACILITIES THAT WE INHERIT, BECAUSE WE ARE IN THE CAPITAL, COUNT FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE GRAND TOTAL, BUT HAVE A PICTURE OF THOSE 24,000 CHILDREN THAT WALK OUT OF OUR SCHOOLS, THIS IS WHAT WE ARE DOING. WE NEED TO LET IT BE KNOWN OF THESE BARRIERS. THIS REPORT DOES NOT SHOW THE TRUE PICTURE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS DISTRICT. WE ARE MOVING KIDS, BUT THIS DOESN’T SHOW IT. SHE ADDED THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DATA TO SHOW THESE ARE THE KIDS THAT COME TO OUR SCHOOLS AND THIS IS WHERE WE ARE.

COMMISSIONER KING ASKED IF WE HAVE THE DATA THAT CAN BE SEGREGATED?

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED WE CAN PULL OUT THE FACILITIES THAT WE SERVE.

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED WE WILL MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS ASKED TO PULL THE DATA OUT FROM OUR GRADUATION RATE.

DR. COLEMAN RESPONDED JUST DOING THE GRADUATION RATE WE CAN GET THAT QUICKLY.

COMMISSIONER SMILING STATED ONCE WE PULL IT OUT, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT. I WOULD SUGGEST WE PUBLICIZE THE NUMBERS.

WE NEED TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SHOW THE 12 HOURS OUR STUDENTS ARE WITH US BEFORE THEY GET BACK HOME.

COMMISSIONER BISHOP STATED THAT HE SUPPORTS THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION. HE ADDED THAT IF WE SEGREGATE THE DATA WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT STUDENTS WE NEED TO MOVE FURTHER. IT'S NOT CHASING THE MOVING TARGET, IT'S ABOUT CHASING WHAT'S NOT MOVING, ALL OF OUR GROUPS

DR. COLEMAN STATED THIS IS A FIXABLE ISSUE. IT CAN BE FIXED BY OUR LEGISLATORS.

DR. WITHERSPOON SAID WE WILL GET A REAL PICTURE AND INVESTIGATE WHETHER WE CAN LOOK AT SOME ENTITY THAT WE CAN LINK THOSE STUDENTS TO. WE WILL COME BACK AND REPORT THAT.

COMMISSIONER DEVINE ASKED TO BE PROVIDED SOME WRITTEN COMMUNICATION.

DR. WITHERSPOON RESPONDED YES.

MOTION:

COMMISSIONER DEVINE MOVED TO GO BACK INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO COMPLETE A DISCUSSION REGARDING A LEGAL MATTER AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KING.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

MOTION:

MR. DEVINE MOVED TO RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER AND IT WAS SECONDED BY MRS. KING.

VOTE: IN FAVOR: UNANIMOUS (7-0)

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED AT 8:55 P.M.

LEGAL MATTER

MRS. WILLIAMS STATED THAT A LEGAL MATTER
WAS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS
INFORMATION.

ADJOURNMENT:

CHAIRWOMAN HARRIS ADJOURNED THE MEETING
8:55 P.M.

STENOGRAPHER

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SCHOOL
COMMISSIONERS

SECRETARY/TREASURER, BOARD OF
SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS