

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES  
Family Life Center Board Room  
June 21, 2019 – 10:30 A.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Hugh Bland, Board Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA**

Dr. Sharon Wall, Interim President, introduced Gerald Moore, consultant for Student-Centered Education, and Bob Coble, the JDLH legislative liaison. No media were present. Dr. Wall also introduced three people, new to the JDLH campus –Gary Coleman, a new board member, Tim Keown, the Director of the Education Center, and Ken Durham, the Director of Facilities and Campus Projects

**III. INVOCATION**

Ron Davis, a member of the Board, gave the invocation.

**IV. ROLL CALL**

Dr. Wall conducted the roll call. In attendance were Hugh Bland, Edgar Lamb, Tom Love, Ron Davis, Melissa Tilden, Craig Kesler and Gary Coleman. Owen Smith was present by phone. Mike Griffin was not present.

A quorum was declared.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Bland made the motion to approve the agenda. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

**VI. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 1, 2019, MINUTES**

Love made the motion that the minutes be approved with two changes that he requested – 1) that the school be named the School of Agriculture at John de la Howe, and 2) that the mission of the school be tweaked.

Love made the motion to approve the minutes with his changes. Davis seconded the motion. The Board gave unanimous approval to the vision/mission of the school and the name be the Governor’s School of Agriculture at John de la Howe.

**VII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Wall reported that:

- a) S.C. Sen. Shane Massey and S.C. House of Representative members Anne Parks and Bill Hixon visited the campus on June 20. She said that it was a productive

meeting and that the legislative members were pleased with the progress and promised future financial support for De La Howe.

- b) New staff had been hired for the school, including a high school principal, high school secretary, director of the education center and director of facilities and campus projects
- c) Meetings were ongoing with Piedmont Technical College to ensure that the proposed curriculum for the new school would be in accordance with that of the technical college. This is to make it possible for students to receive their high school diploma and an associate's degree from Piedmont Tech through dual credit at the time of their graduation from De La Howe.
- d) Representatives from Clemson University's College of Education and College of Agriculture would be on campus July 9 to discuss curriculum.

### **VIII. ENABLING LEGISLATION – Bob Coble**

Legislative liaison Bob Coble reported:

- a) JDLH has made good progress in turning around the negative perceptions that surrounded the school for many years. He said that this is reflected in the General Assembly's granting of the same monies for the school's budget for two years
- b) The enabling legislation for JDLH to become a Governor's School for Agriculture, introduced in the 2019 session, passed the first reading and will be discussed again at a subcommittee meeting of the S.C. General Assembly in the Fall of 2019. He said that the payment for teachers, as currently proposed in the enabling legislation, will have to be amended. Support for the Governor's School at JDLH has met with support in the Senate and House, but noted that it is a process that takes time. Dr. Wall said that the campus needs to be a Governor's School as soon as possible.
- c) USC School of Law professor S. Alan Medlin told the Senate Oversight Committee that a declaratory judgement is needed to ensure that the school's new mission is in accordance with the 1797 will of Dr. John de la Howe. However, the school's attorney Rob Tyson has said the declaratory judgement is not needed. Repeated attempts for discussion with Mr. Medlin have failed as he has not returned calls.

A declaratory judgement would come from the Circuit Court if the matter goes before a court. However, it is the position of the school's attorney that this action is not needed because Dr. de la Howe's will is still in effect and the proposed mission is a fit with the will's directives.

- d) The EIA money that went to McCormick County from De La Howe last year would return for a second year to the school district for the Star Academy. Coble

noted that Gov. Henry McMaster wanted those funds for De La Howe, but that legislators will return the monies to the McCormick County School District.

## **IX. STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION CONSULTING GROUP REPORT**

Gerald Moore from the Student-Centered Education Consulting Group said that De La Howe curriculum would match the standards required by the S.C. Department of Education and also be enhanced. The four types of education to be taught are general education, agricultural education, a supervised agricultural experience and life and leadership education.

Meetings are ongoing with Piedmont Technical College to ensure that that the classes required for a S.C. high school diploma will also include the necessary course work for students to earn a dual degree from the technical college. These courses are being looked at by Clemson University to ensure that they will transfer to the college level.

The three agricultural paths of study to be offered initially at De La Howe include horticulture, environmental and natural resource systems management and plant and animal systems.

All students at De La Howe will be required to take a basic course in agricultural mechanics.

## **X. UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

### **BUSINESS OPERATIONS – Mr. Sylvester Coleman**

Coleman presented detailed Financial Statements for JDLH through May 31, 2019. The current budget is in line and year-to-date total spending is 36 percent (\$1,338,826) less than the previous year. He discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 budget with the Board.

For Fiscal Year 2020, the proposed budget is \$5.9 million, effective July 1, 2019.

In closing out Fiscal Year 2019, effective on June 30, 2019, the agency submitted the Capital Projects Improvement Plan for the Agency.

Bland made a motion to approve the budget. Tilden seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the budget.

A motion was made by Love to retain the services of Coble and Tyson, who represent JDLH in legislative and legal matters. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **FARM OPERATIONS – Mr. Frank Dorn**

Dorn gave a report on the status of the school's livestock and the Greenhouse operations in the Spring of 2019.

He also asked that the school receive authority from the Board to clear up to 200 acres of forests that could be used for farm land. This will enhance the agricultural education of students.

A motion was made by Love to clear up to 200 acres of forests. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **FACILITIES – Mr. Ken Durham**

Durham gave a report on the renovations of the cottages, utilities, and other buildings needing repair, as well as the development of a five-year comprehensive plan.

He presented architectural renderings of a proposed entrance to the school that would include a guard shack and security needs.

Durham asked for the Board's approval to convert the area of the swimming pool and tennis courts into a planned parking lot for students and employees.

Lamb made the motion to use the area for a parking lot. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Bland appointed Love and Lamb to serve on an Ad Hoc Building Committee to work with Durham.

### **Future of Campus – Mr. Tim Keown**

Keown, named Director of the Education Center effective July 2, discussed the future of the campus, including a presence for the state's Future Farmers of America program.

He joins De La Howe from Clemson University.

### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss personnel and a contractual matter.

The Board received a report of three staff resignations and also discussed a contract/performance bond with the W.K. Brown Timber Co.

No action was taken in Executive Session. The motion to end the Executive Session was made by Lamb and seconded by Love.

When the Board ended the Executive Session, it returned to open session.

Lamb made the motion to pay the W.K. Brown Timber Co. the \$1,000 performance bond that was held until the end of the work. Lamb said that the company had done the work that

was asked of them and that no negligence was found to have occurred. Loved seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The motion to adjourn was made by Love and seconded by Kesler. The move to adjourn was unanimously approved by the Board.