



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Family Life Center Board Room**

**September 6, 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 Ms. Hayley Belton, the Director of Public Relations and Marketing, and Mrs. Kinsley Miller, Executive Assistant to the President.

**III. INVOCATION**

Edgar Lamb, 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, Owen Smith and Gary Coleman.

A quorum was declared.

Dr. Michael Griffin resigned. A new board member is planned to be selected by January of 2020.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**VI. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2019, MINUTES**



Love made the motion to approve the minutes. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

## **VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Wall provided:

- a) The 2020 dates legal holidays for South Carolina state employees will be observed.
- b) A list of John de la Howe employees sorted by their residing county.
- c) A McCormick Chamber of Commerce Breakfast and Tour is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019. Approximately 41 guests are expected.
- d) Interest in John de la Howe School for Agriculture is continuously increasing. Speaking engagements and tours are being scheduled daily.

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

Legislative Liaison Mr. Coble reported an update on the 754S - Enabling Legislation that Mr. Gerald Moore put together. Senator Hembree introduced the bill in the last session. This bill has to get through in 2020, so that JDLH can move forward in every way. Mr. Coble reported that the bill is before the Senate Education Committee currently. He spoke with Senator Hembree to keep it moving (meaning to have a subcommittee hearing either later this year or early January, so the bill can get both the Senate and House approval). On Monday, September 9, 2019 Mr. Coble will meet with Donna Barton, who is the staff person responsible for putting the bill together. He will work with her to outline how to move forward. She has been very supportive, as has Senator Hembree. The Senate is reviewing two bills currently: the Education Reform Bill and the bill to reduce the University of South Carolina Board Members. Mr. Coble will be in attendance for a September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at JDLH to discuss Enabling Legislation. The goal of this meeting is to have every detail included in the Enabling Legislation. The bill can be amended during the subcommittee hearing. Mr. Coble hopes to have the bill through the Senate in February, then the House, with approval around May of 2020.

Mr. Coble also addressed the matter of the Declaratory Judgment Action on the John de la Howe Will. Professor Allen Medlin of USC Law School raised issues in an oversight committee meeting that changing the mission of JDLH should be a declaratory judgment action. Senator Young and Senator Massey agree that we should clear this matter up. The School's attorney, Rob Tyson is going to bring a declaratory action. The quickest way to proceed is through probate court. The other option is the circuit court. All are in agreement that we can proceed without waiting on court action.

A Senate Oversight meeting will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>.



Lastly, Mr. Coble mentioned that the budget process is beginning. He said he expects the same 4.8 million as last year, if not more. The McCormick School District Proviso will not be in the budget this year.

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

Gerald Moore from the Student-Centered Education Consulting Group reviewed the Personal Success Skills that were provided to the board prior to the meeting. He expressed the importance of two sets of skills: academic and personal skills. These skills will be incorporated into the curriculum and will enable JDLH to produce exceptionally skilled students who are equipped to be successful in the industry.

On September 20, 2019 a meeting will be held with Piedmont Technical College in order to ensure that the classes required for a South Carolina high school diploma will also include the necessary course work for students to earn an Associate's degree from the technical college. It was noted that standards have also been sent to Clemson University to ensure alignment. A deadline was set as October 1<sup>st</sup> for this.

Mr. Moore also informed the board about his research on the history of veterans from John de la Howe. He found numerous names of de la Howe alumni that served in the military. Mr. Moore is going to share his research with Ms. Belton. He would like to see tribute to these veterans on campus in order to share the military history with students and visitors. It was also mentioned that Ms. Tammy Hill is a good contact for a master list of students and their home counties.

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

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

Mr. Coleman presented detailed Financial Statements for JDLH through August 31, 2019. The current budget is in line and year-to-date total spending is 32 percent less than the previous year. Only two fiscal year reporting packages remain to be completed.

Agency departmental budget meetings were held in preparation for the agency's budget meeting that will take place mid-October. In addition, the Annual Accountability Report is being finalized and will be submitted to the Executive Budget office on September 13, 2019.

Mr. Coleman reported a busy financial start to this fiscal year. The Administration Building roof is ready to be bid out again, with the approval from the architect to use a



synthetic tile in order to be more cost efficient, but still maintain the aesthetic looks of the previous clay tile. This was approved by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Information Technology is working with A3 Communications to upgrade to keyless access to all campus buildings. This will help monitor traffic in buildings. IT has also been working diligently with AIS in order to scan approximately 98 file cabinets worth of records. The recommendation is to do this in phases due to the amount of records. The Shiflet Family Life Center roof was bid to Lloyd roofing. They will begin work this month and will complete it within 95 days. The contract with McCormick County Sheriff's Department was approved to establish a substation on the JDLH campus. This has given the campus additional security.

Lastly, Dr. Wall mentioned that she had been in touch with various businesses and departments regarding the lack of cellular service on the JDLH campus. This poses a security issue for anyone on campus who would not be able to dial out in the event of an emergency. Dr. Wall will continue to explore outlets to find a solution for this.

### **FACILITIES - Mr. Ken Durham**

Mr. Durham gave an updated report on the current status of various projects on the JDLH campus. A list of 2020 Deliverables was provided to the Board Members, listing the projects that must be completed by opening in August 2020. He touched on a few of the most important projects. A change in the school location was determined by the JDLH leadership team, with the new proposition for the school to be in the Shiflet Family Life Center. The plans for this have been approved by the State Department of Engineering. The facilities and maintenance crew and the farm crew will be housed at the Children's Home, while the President, Executive Assistant, Director of Education Center, Student Outreach Coordinator, Human Resources and Public Relations & Marketing will be moved to the President's House.

The board unanimously approved to name the security gate at the entrance of JDLH "The Welcome Center".

A temporary student parking lot will be constructed while renovations for making the swimming pool and tennis court a permanent parking lot will begin in 2021.

Mr. Durham is exploring potential grants to help with security lighting throughout campus. Dominion has offered to help with drawings and plans for security lighting, in the event that we provide them with a CAD drawing of campus.

Once the Administration Building has its new roof, crews will tear out and seal any wet areas in order to preserve the building until renovations can be done. The estimate for this renovation is approximately \$3,750,000. Dr. Wall has been in touch with FHA, who is coming to tour campus and potentially provide help with funding for renovations.

Roofing began on the Dairy Barn last week and is going well.



The subject of campus roads was brought up by Mr. Love. It was determined that road repairs would be addressed after the construction of the Welcome Center.

Mr. Durham secured a partnership with Edgefield Federal Prison to have them paint all of the furniture for cottages.

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

Mr. Dorn gave updates on the status of JDLH farm operations. Most recently, a corral was constructed based on a teaching corral system. The corral will be used for a McCormick County Livestock meeting on September 10, 2019. Mr. Dorn expects 30-40 attendees, with four beef producers from around the state presenting on their bull selection methods. JDLH's Durango Bonnie will be the first registered polled Hereford from our herd to be sold at auction. JDLH staff will have the opportunity to promote the school at this sale. The sale will be on September 28, 2019.

Mr. Dorn requested \$20,000 from the timber fund to purchase more cattle for the herd. Ms. Tilden made the motion to approve, Mr. Davis seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the use of \$20,000 to purchase more cattle for the JDLH herd.

Plans are underway to renovate the hog barn located across the road from campus and have it house the hog operations. The farm operations crew will use the saw mill to cut the timber and handle all renovations on that barn.

Mr. Dorn mentioned the interest in starting a meat goat herd. Mr. Gary Coleman elaborated on the benefits and demand for meat goats.

A tour with the South Carolina Saddle Club resulted in a partnership to cut and mark riding trails throughout campus.

Mr. Davis inquired about the status of the ropes course. Mr. Dorn said the course will have to be re-certified before it can be used again.

Fuel chipping was finished last month. The result left the campus looking more open and clean. Farm and maintenance crews will continue to maintain the areas that were chipped by using chemical sprays and prescribed burning techniques.

Mr. Dorn introduced a potential partnership with Enviva Forestry Products. Enviva will provide a 5 and 10 year forestry plan for JDLH at no cost. This will help recertify JDLH has a certified forest. Mr. Love made the motion to approve. Mr. Davis seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the partnership with Enviva.

A permit was signed with South Carolina DNR to allow for the hunting of wild hogs on campus. The wild hog problem has expanded and grown out of control, damaging many parts of campus land.



Five barns have all gotten a new roof. Currently, Mr. Dorn is seeking bids for pressure washing, painting and repairing the two barns at the entrance.

On October 4-6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 a group of landscape architect students from the University of Georgia will be on campus to provide a landscape plan for JDLH.

Hay baling is underway, as well as the start of fall fertilizing. Grounds crews are keeping up with grass maintenance and helping with forestry operations. The state arborist will be on campus in the near future to advise on tree removal.

On October 10, 2019 a visitor will be on campus to share information on drone use in agriculture and drone certification for future students.

The power grid condition and use was mentioned. Mr. Durham advised that if we do our part to keep it clean and in decent shape, the power company has agreed to take it over in the future.

Mr. Smith asked about use of the water tower. Mr. Dorn advised it would be too expensive to use and that obtaining a modern pump was more ethical. Mr. Kesler inquired if it would be torn down. Mr. Durham agreed it would be best to tear it down. Mr. Dorn replied that it isn't a hazard and would not be considered a priority at this time.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING - Ms. Hayley Belton**

Ms. Belton introduced the board to the new John de la Howe Style Guide. She expressed the importance of the guide to provide a consistent brand for the School of Agriculture. The board agreed unanimously to approve the use of the school colors in the style guide, but agreed that the blue should be labeled as "indigo" blue to keep in line with the school's history.

Ms. Belton updated the board on the new official pages for John de la Howe School for Agriculture on Facebook and Twitter. Mr. Love mentioned removing the pages not affiliated with JDLH. Ms. Belton is working diligently to have those pages removed, or renamed. Mr. Davis expressed the need to link the Alumni's pages with the new JDLH ones. There is an option to "verify" official pages. Ms. Belton is working on the approval for that. Ms. Tilden also expressed the necessity for the official pages to have one administrator, to avoid misinformation.

Ms. Belton plans to have the new website published by the end of September. It will be updated in phases as we add new information and materials.

A copy of the new brochure was provided to board members. Those will be professionally printed once all edits are made.

## **SCHOOL UPDATE - Mr. Greg Thompson**



Mr. Thompson provided documents regarding the school's enrollment process to the board members. JDLH will accept 80 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2020-2021 school year. Potential students will be required to submit an essay, recommendation letters, and discipline and attendance records, have at least a 2.8 grade point average and will have to complete an interview with a panel of JDLH staff to be considered for acceptance. To adhere to Dr. de la Howe's will, 12 boys and 12 girls from surrounding counties will be accepted. The target date for applications to go live on the website is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The school will run on a block schedule, with "A" days and "B" days. The block schedule allows for less movement and more class/lab time. The schedule adheres to state standards. Fridays will be for professional learning, planning, conferences and remediation when necessary. Students will choose from four agriculture pathways. In order to measure the success of the school, staff will monitor End of Course test grades, graduation rates, college acceptance rates, and the percentage of students who enter the industry upon graduation. Internships will be offered to students who would like to stay during the summer and work for farm operations.

**EDUCATION CENTER & STUDENT SERVICES - Mr. Tim Keown**

Mr. Keown briefed the board on the meetings and contacts that the school has made since the beginning of July. Schools visited already are: Woodmont, Crescent, Mid-Carolina, Chapin, Orangeburg, Landrum and Saluda. Upcoming engagements include: Bamberg, Colleton, Barnwell, Florence, Saluda Tractor Club, Ridge Spring Young Farmers, Saluda Young Farmers, Woodmont Young Farmers, Crescent Young Farmers, Palmetto Agribusiness Council, Agvocates for Ag, Sunbelt Ag Expo, SC Young Farmers State Conference (January), National Young Farmers Conference, Ag Expo in Florence, and American Legions across the state. John de la Howe School for Agriculture is also the featured school for the Ag Expo in Florence.

Mr. Keown is pursuing a meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Sunny Perdue. He is also planning a Legislative Breakfast at JDLH in December, in honor of legislators who have already shown support for JDLH. Another upcoming commitment is for JDLH to host the 4-H state WHEP contest.

Mr. Keown announced the addition of a Student Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Cadie Giba, who will start on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Love expressed the need for volunteer firefighters in the town of Willington (the closest station to JDLH). All interested JDLH residents over the age of 18 can contact him for more information.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Love made the motion at 1:55 p.m. to enter into executive session. Mr. Davis seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter into executive session.



At 2:30 p.m. Mr. Lamb made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Love seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to exit.

**XII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION - Mr. Hugh Bland (Chair)**

A motion was made by Mr. Davis to give the President the authority to negotiate the contract for 180 days for 2019-2020 with the Student Centered Education Consulting Group. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and the board approved unanimously.

Another motion was made by Mr. Davis to give authority to the President to negotiate the contract of Bob Coble, Lobbyist. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously.

Mr. Love made the motion to have the President draft an advertisement for a President for John de la Howe for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, to be advertised and hired by January 1, 2020. Mr. Lamb seconded this motion and the board approval was unanimous.

Mr. Love asked the President to look at the current governance as the enabling legislation is drafted. The motion to accept was made by Mr. Love and the motion was seconded by Mr. Lamb. The approval was unanimous.

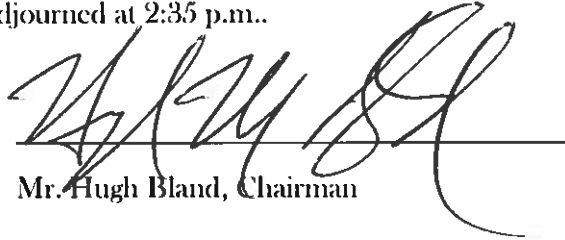
**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

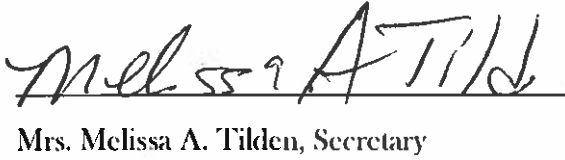
**XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING - Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Love made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Lamb seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m..

12/6/19  
Date Approved by Board of Trustees

  
Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

  
Mrs. Melissa A. Tilden, Secretary

  
Kinsley Miller, Recording Secretary