



## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Board Room**

**February 16, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Daniel Shonka, Chair  
Dr. Mike Griffin, Vice Chair (via teleconference)  
Barbara Devinney, Secretary  
Tom Love  
Melissa Tilden

**Board Members Arriving Late:** None

**Board Members Absent:** Patricia Silva (excused)

**Public Speakers:** None

**Media Present:** Ariel Gilreath, Education Reporter for the Greenwood Index-Journal; Bob Stockton, Reporter for the McCormick Messenger

**Staff Attending:**

Dr. James A. Franklin, Interim Superintendent; Sylvester Coleman, Director of Finance and Business Operations; Ms. Karen Petit, Coordinator of Advancement and Development; and Teleathia Brown, Program Assistant.

*In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Law, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, the media received notification of the time, date, place, and were given an agenda of this meeting.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Shonka called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Dr. Franklin conducted a roll call of members and declared a quorum.

**INVOCATION**

Dr. James Franklin offered the invocation.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 31, 2018, Special Called Meeting Minutes. Upon motion by Mr. Love, seconded by Ms. Tilden, the minutes of January 31, 2018, were approved as corrected.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Business & Finance- Director of Finance and Business Operations, Sylvester Coleman presented a financial summary update:

- January 17 House Ways and Means Subcommittee received a presentation for the agency's 2018-18 fiscal year.
- January 30 the feasibility team gave a follow-up presentation to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee.
- February 21 the agency will present 2018-19 fiscal year budget information to the Senate Subcommittee.
- The current year's budget in line and spending 6% less than this time last year.

Operational items update and discussion on essential spending:

- Mr. Shonka explained that essential spending is anything operational during the regular year. The expenses that repeat from year to year are acceptable, and maintaining buildings and fields are acceptable. The greenhouse operations, which have been operating for some time now, are also acceptable. Livestock should not be purchased at this phase, but calving and maintaining the livestock are considered essential.
- The timber cut is in the process of thinning the trees. This is in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Forestry and the contract with the agency.
- The electrical transformers are outdated and in a state of disrepair. The agency should look into trying to turn over the electricals to an electrical company.

Upon motion by Ms. Devinney and second by Mr. Love, it was approved to authorize the Interim Superintendent to explore all possibilities as they relate to turning the electrical operating system over to an electrical company and come back to the board with a report and recommendations.

- The agency has received approval for the roof of the administration building and the water tower from SC Department of Admin. Capital Budget. The agency is now in the first phase.

In consideration of needs for facility repairs and preparation for the new Magnet School for Agriculture, it was moved by Mr. Shonka, seconded by Ms. Devinney, and approved

to petition the General Assembly budget subcommittees to allow carryover to next fiscal year all remaining funds in this year's budget to help with renovations and upgrades.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. James Franklin presented the board with a packet of information pertaining to the February 8 meeting with the House Legislative Oversight Committee. The LOC has asked the board to submit specific recommendations for the future direction of the agency for consideration at the next LOC in late March.

Dr. Franklin presented documents of follow-up activities to be used by staff to enhance tracking of L.S. Brice current and former students. This will help meet the interests of legislators in more statistical information on the students served by special schools. Mr. Shonka mentioned that once the school changes over to a high school it will be much easier to follow up with the future students the school serves versus the current population that does not stay a full school year.

On February 20 the Department of Special Education will be visiting the L.S. Brice School. On February 21 the agency will be in Columbia for a meeting with the Senate Finance Committee. Documents pertaining to the organization, statutory authority, agency operations, major issues, and contracts are due to the Senate Education Oversight Committee by March 2.

Advancement & Development- Coordinator of Public Relations Karen Petit offered handouts of a draft marketing plan that she and Mr. Zeb Gantt produced. She stated that once the agency decides on the branding and identity, the marketing process will be enhanced. She suggested referring to "the historic John de la Howe School," which would set it apart from other schools and also elevate the agency.

She presented the board with car window decals for "The historic John de la Howe School" and a JDLH draft bookmark with "brag points" for future advertising. The board was enthusiastic about these approaches and offered a few wording changes to the presented documents.

Ms. Petit reviewed draft revisions to a facility rental pamphlet and provided information about the dairy barn, suggesting that minor repairs could enhance its potential as a wedding and special-event venue. The board was impressed with these suggestions, which could be addressed once planning and implementation of the new Magnate School for Agriculture are under way.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Love, seconded by Dr. Griffin, and approved to move into Executive Session to consider personnel and contractual matters at 12:40 p.m.

### **RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 3:12 p.m. The Chair reported that no action was taken during executive session.

It was moved by Mr. Love, seconded by Ms. Tilden, and approved to authorize the chairman to author a letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee with recommendations for the future of the agency.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Upon motion by Mr. Love and second by Ms. Tilden, it was approved to convene a board work session on April 2 at 2 p.m.

The next regular board meeting is set for Friday, June 22, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.

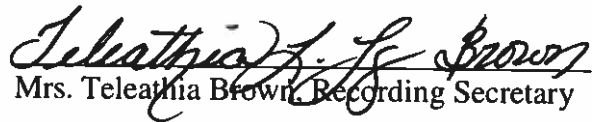
**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Shonka, seconded by Ms. Devinney, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

June 22, 2018  
Date Approved by Board of Trustees

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Mrs. Melissa A. Tilden, Secretary

  
Mrs. Teleathia Brown, Recording Secretary