



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

December 8, 2023– 10:30 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA

Mr. Bland, Board Chair, introduced guests.

III. INVOCATION

Edgar Lamb, a member of the Board, gave the invocation.

IV. ROLL CALL

Dr. Keown conducted the roll call. In attendance were Hugh Bland, Edgar Lamb, Craig Kesler, Ron Davis, Gary Coleman, Bert Bagley, Yvonne Knight-Carter, Owen Smith, and Dr. Anne Hancock.

A quorum was declared.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Kesler made the motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

VI. APPROVAL OF 9.22.23 and 10.20.23 MINUTES

Mr. Lamb made a motion to approve the 9.22.23 and 10.20.23 minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

VII. APPROVAL OF 2024 BOARD DATES

Dr. Hancock made a motion to approve the 2024 Board Dates. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the 2024 Board dates.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Keown provided an update to the Board of Trustees.



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Dr. Keown began the session by extending a warm welcome to Thomas Kaminer from the South Carolina Department of Administration, who was invited to address the board regarding our budgetary matters.

Dr. Keown then took a moment to recognize and celebrate Mr. Thompson and the school for achieving an outstanding score of 98 out of 100 on the school report card. He expressed pride in this achievement, highlighting that it is the highest report card score in the entire state of South Carolina. Dr. Keown noted that while The Governor's School for Science and Math received a score of 98, there were some areas within these subjects that did not achieve an "excellent" rating.

Dr. Keown provided an update on the achievements and initiatives of our students and school. In October, 32 students attended the national FFA convention, with Lyle Fulmer earning a prestigious top-16 placement out of 550,000 FFA members nationwide. Additionally, our natural resources team secured a bronze medal, and forestry a silver. Requests have been made to establish pathways in culinary arts and tourism.

Looking ahead to budget considerations, Dr. Keown outlined the upcoming budget hearings scheduled for the end of January or beginning of February, with Senate budget hearings anticipated for February or March, and funding expected by September. Plans are underway to acquire resources including a full-time mental health counselor, a 52-passenger school bus, and a new tractor, silo, and baler.

Discussions with the Department of Agriculture regarding the use of allocated funds for meat labs have indicated limitations, necessitating alternative funding avenues through a non-recurring request as an improvement project. Dr. Keown will move forward with this request.

Dr. Keown shared recent engagements, including a visit to the Governor's School for Science and Math to explore virtual education options such as virtual ninth grade or introductory courses in agriculture. Notably, South Carolina has 110 schools without a curriculum on agriculture.

A discussion panel was held with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at SC State and JC Chandler represented our school extremely well. Board member, Ms. Yvonne Knight-Carter also sat on the panel as well. Dr. Keown served as a meat judge at the SC Farm Bureau conference. Trey Haddon and Anna Grace Cross were selected as SC Farm Bureau ambassadors. Mr. Bob Evans released a book featuring the Governor's School.



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IX. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board Members received departmental reports from the school prior to the scheduled December meeting. They took this time to discuss any questions or concerns they had from the written reports. Each department head present gave an update on their department for the school year.

School-Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson, School Principal, provided an overview of recent school activities and achievements. He highlighted that our students are gaining acceptance into prestigious institutions, reflecting positively on our academic standards.

Mr. Thompson mentioned the successful participation of our school in a college and career day event in North Augusta, where students had the opportunity to engage with numerous agriculture professionals. He also proudly noted our students' success at the national convention, where they received numerous awards.

Regarding the school report card, Mr. Thompson emphasized our school's excellent performance in maintaining a positive and conducive learning environment, which is of utmost importance to us. Additionally, he expressed pride in our students' achievements in college and career readiness, with many obtaining certifications. Mr. Thompson highlighted the significance of the ASVAB Test in assessing student readiness and our outstanding graduation rate of 100%.

Moving forward, Mr. Thompson provided an update on our interaction with COGNIA, mentioning that our meeting with them was productive, and they expressed satisfaction with our school's performance. We are eagerly awaiting confirmation of our national citation acceptance. Additionally, Mr. Thompson mentioned ongoing collaboration with Piedmont Tech to facilitate student enrollment initiatives.

Facilities and Maintenance- Mr. Mims

Mr. Mims commenced by proposing to the board the utilization of funds from the timber account, which currently holds \$188,000, for the construction of the greenhouse. Sterling Structure emerged as the successful bidder for the project. However, it was noted that Mercury Greenhouse, was disqualified, because they are not a general contractor. Also, their bid covered only the



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greenhouse construction and not the associated site work. The total funds available for the project amounted to \$225,000 from state funding, with an additional \$25,000 in donations. The A/E cost \$25,700. We had an additional third-party inspection fee of \$2,000. After accounting for these expenses, the remaining budget amounted to \$222,300 with the Sterling Structure Bid at \$348,000. We need \$174,700.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve up to \$174,700 to complete the greenhouse project. Dr. Hancock seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- XI. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- XII. OTHER BUSINESS**
- XIII. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, March 22 at 10:30 A.M.**
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

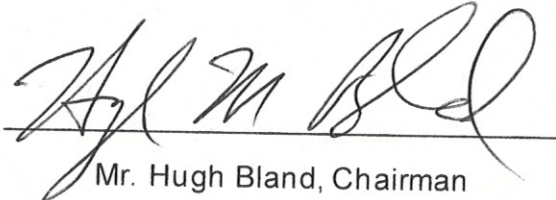
Mr. Kesler made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Lamb seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:53 AM.



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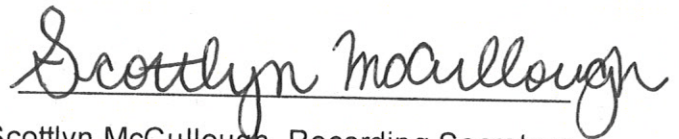
03/22/24

Date Approved by Board of Trustees



Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary



Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary

