



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Shiflet Family Life Center Conference Room

September 4, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA

Mr. Tim Keown, President, introduced Mr. Gerald Moore and Dr. Sharon Wall of the Student-Centered Education Consulting Group who joined the meeting via conference call. Also joining remotely was Lobbyist Mr. Bob Coble. No other guests or media were present.

III. INVOCATION

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

IV. ROLL CALL

Mr. Keown conducted the roll call. In attendance were Hugh Bland, Edgar Lamb, Tom Love, Craig Kesler, Melissa Tilden, Ron Davis, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF June 19, 2020 MINUTES

Mr. Love made the motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Tilden seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with the following corrections:

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Keown explained the new process for Board of Trustee meetings. Board members will be provided with reports at least two weeks prior to each meeting. Reports are to be reviewed thoroughly before the actual meeting date. During the meeting time will be allotted for any discussion pertaining to



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the reports provided. The goal of this new process is to ensure meetings are concise and efficient.

Mr. Keown introduced the newly instated JDLH Future Farmers of America (FFA) officer team to Board Members. He also invited students to speak about their established Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Board Members heard about projects ranging from tractor restoration to bee keeping. The school's 4-H club is being established as well. Officers for this club will be elected in the coming weeks. The school also has established a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) chapter and will elect officers for this in the near future. This chapter is entirely student led and voluntary, as to ensure separation of church and state. The students in this chapter have cleaned the chapel on campus and plan to utilize it for chapter needs.

Mr. Keown reported on a potential partnership with Mr. Zeb Portanova. Mr. Portanova visited campus and spoke to students about potential internships and jobs at his 6,000-acre farming operation in Hampton County. He also updated the Board on other speakers who are being recruited to present to students on real life experiences and opportunities.

Mr. Keown gave an update on enrollment. Due to COVID-19, admissions saw a decrease in enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. Thirty-four students were enrolled at the start of the school year. To date one student withdrew, while four students transferred in. There are three students from Georgia and one from North Carolina. The COVID-19 plan for the school can be found on the website. Masks and social distancing are enforced, while additional cleaning measures are being taken to ensure the health and safety of students. Students are also required to go home for one weekend a month for a deep cleaning of school buildings and residence halls. Mr. Keown noted that recruiting efforts for the 2021-2022 school year will be virtual until further notice due to the pandemic.

Since the start of the school year, one employee has tested positive for COVID-19. This employee was a member of the farm staff, showed no symptoms, and fortunately did not come into contact with any students or faculty or staff. The employee was instructed to quarantine and be retested according to standards provided by SC DHEC.

Mr. Keown and the administration team have been conducting observations in general and agricultural education classes to monitor curriculum. There were parent concerns over the level of rigor, adjustments will be made as needed. The school's academic coach has been working diligently to offer a plethora of academic resources to students such as tutoring. Residential Advisors are also responsible for assisting students with schoolwork after school hours.



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Mr. Keown expressed a special thank you to Mr. Gerald Moore, who graciously donated funds to cover student's FFA and 4-H dues for the 2020-21 school year.

VIII. ENABLING LEGISLATION – Mr. Bob Coble

Mr. Coble gave an update on the Enabling Legislation. The Enabling Legislation received final approval on March 10th from the Senate. The following week legislators adjourned until further notice due to COVID-19. Upon their return, the House of Representatives change the bill to S.613. The language remained the same in the bill and it received a second reading in May. S.613 was on the agenda for the Senate to concur upon their return in June, however, due to COVID-19, the Senate only reconvened long enough to approve pressing matters before adjourning again. It is anticipated that the Senate and House will be in session on September 15th and will have time to do a final vote on the Enabling Legislation before it goes on to the Senate for concurrence.

Mr. Coble also reported that the Declaratory Judgement Action regarding Dr. de la Howe's will was completed in June.

Lastly, Mr. Coble updated the Board on the current situation with state budgets due to COVID-19. Mr. Coble expects that we will learn more about budgets and recurring money after September 15th. It is expected that the non-recurring 5.8 million requested will not be authorized until more details regarding the state's economy are available.

Mr. Coble commended the school leaders at de la Howe on their handling of the pandemic and hard work to ensure the school year began as originally planned.

IX. STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION CONSULTING GROUP REPORT

Mr. Gerald Moore expressed his gratitude towards the Board of Trustees for their support of the school and commended the hard work of the faculty and staff who worked diligently to make the School for Agriculture a reality. He reported under his observation the teachers are working collaboratively.

X. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board Members received departmental reports from the school prior to the scheduled September meeting. They took this time to discuss any questions or concerns they had from the written reports.

It was noted that COVID-19 halted progress of several projects under the Maintenance and Facilities department. Construction of the Welcome Center was delayed a March start date due to the pandemic. The project was



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approved at the Joint Bond Review Committee (JBRC) meeting in June and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. The security lighting project is underway, with hardware and power already completed. The lights must be leased from Dominion Energy through a 10, 20, or 30-year lease. The state will only approve 7-year leases, so the leadership team at de la Howe is working to determine a solution to this problem.

The first meeting of the newly established John de la Howe School Foundation Board of Directors was postponed in June due to COVID-19. This meeting has been rescheduled for October.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Davis made the motion at 12:00 p.m. to enter executive session. Mr. Love seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

At 12:53 p.m. Mr. Davis made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Love seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to exit executive session.

XII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bland reported that no action was taken in executive session.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, December 4th 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 12:56 p.m.



**SC Governor's School
for Agriculture**

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December 4, 2020

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

Approved virtually 12.4.2020

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Approved virtually 12.4.2020

Mrs. Melissa A. Tilden, Secretary

Approved virtually 12.4.2020

Kinsley Miller, Recording Secretary