



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

December 3, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. WELCOME GUESTS and MEDIA

Mr. Bland, President, introduced Ms. Georgia Seabrook from the John de la Howe School Foundation, Inc. and Ms. Lindsey Hodge from the Index Journal.

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, Ron Davis, Gary Coleman, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF September 10th MINUTES

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

VII. APPROVAL OF 2022 MEETING DATES

Mr. Kesler made the motion to approve the meeting dates set for the 2022 Board of Trustees. Mr. Gary Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the meeting dates.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

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

Mr. Keown gave the Board an update on the students who attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The Foundation Board of Directors for the John de la Howe School Foundation, Inc. paid for the bus to go. Mr. Keown also provided a brief update on student achievements. Sierra Tinsley from Greenville competed in county shows and won a two-thousand-dollar junior supreme champ scholarship. She also won the top award for dairy at the State Fair. One of our seniors from Clinton, Anna Grace, won the field trial competition, show team, and grand champion for the Zebu class. Anna Grace will be attending ABAC next fall. Trey Haddon, our 4-H president, and FFA Treasurer, showed swine and beef cattle. He took home several grand championships for beef. Trey also won a two thousand five-hundred-dollar scholarship at the state fair and attended nationals. Trey will attend West Texas A & M University in the Fall. Ryan Joseph from Anderson shot his first deer this week with the Take One Make One Hunt under Mr. Morton's guidance. Ryan had to take the hunter safety course before hunting. He sang and played at our Halloween Festival. Mr. Morton went to National Convention and had the opportunity to compete in two CDEs. To compete at nationals, you must win at the state level. Both teams scored at the bronze level, and we had one student make it to the silver level.

Mr. Keown provided a brief update concerning the Foundation Board. At the last Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board voted to accept a donation of twenty-five thousand dollars to go to a new greenhouse. Mr. Keown recently visited with Dara Moore at her facilities in Lake City. She would like to offer a ten-thousand-dollar scholarship from our school, but they must be from the Peedee region. We have reached back out with handwritten letters.

Mr. Keown proceeded to give the Board of Trustees an update on the school. Our students won the top award in several events at the state fair and competed in nine-county fairs. We have added four new students this week that will start in January. Several of our students attended the Saluda Livestock Yard to learn about artificial insemination. We had a preview day with twenty students, and this week we had our shadow day with twelve potential students.

Since the last meeting, we have had an MOU signing with SC State. They will provide us with high tunnel hoop houses, and we will give the summer camps for their 4-H campers. In addition, we have had several events on and off-campus, such as Mr. Morton hosting an AKC seminar at the Education Center. Our students traveled off campus to the Farm Bureau Ag Day and the Sunbelt Ag Expo. We also had our ring ceremony for our juniors and seniors. Furthermore, our graduation date is May 27th, and we will have 24



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

graduating. Mr. Keown also updated the Board on his trip to National Rural Conference with Ms. Giba and Mrs. Miller. From this trip, a group of USC professors want to come see our campus, and Mrs. Miller had a great conversation with some individuals from California.

Ms. Hayley Belton has left us for a new job, and she has gone on excellent terms. We still have three residential halls left to renovate. We will hire a general contractor to renovate, which means the dorms will most likely not be ready until October or November. This will limit us on how many students we can recruit. We have talked about using the hotel rooms as a backup plan. Mr. Keown will also judge the Young Farmers and Ranchers that will help choose the best young farmer under thirty-five. Next week, Mr. Durham and Mr. Keown will attend JBRC.

In closing, we would like to strengthen our partnership with Clemson. We have offered a livestock agent an office space, and we will sign an MOU with Clemson. Also, Mr. Thompson's dream is to have a culinary arts magnet school. We are looking into the potential of having a cafeteria at the Education Center. Next week, we will be meeting to look into a culinary arts program and meats lab.

IX. UPDATE FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD

Ms. Seabrook briefed the Board of Trustees regarding the John de la Howe School Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is working with legal counsel and a CPA slowly and thoroughly. We are moving forward with the policy and procedure manual.

.

X. 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.

Maintenance- Mr. Durham

Mr. Durham provided a summary of the updates happening throughout our campus. Mr. Coleman provided maintenance a budget of 1.2 million dollars to carry over. We are pushing that number with all of the projects on the book, minus De la Howe Hall. The horse arena is complete minus a little electrical



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

work and looks great. We are working on six residential hall renovations, which will cost about \$850,000. Hopefully, we will get approval to get an architect, and then we will go to phase two. The swimming pool is now gone, which opened up about thirty-four- thirty-five parking spaces. For L.S Brice, we have been trying to get two HVAC units. At the Education Center, we are scraping and adding a parking lot. The specifications have been written and have been sent to OSE. There were a few comments on them. The site for the five stand has been cleared, and we are waiting on the architect to design it.

De la Howe Hall has made phase one and phase two. We should have a contact from DP3 today. We will have people onsite to conduct a building assessment. The alternate water supply for the McCormick County water system needs repair. Mr. Durham has contacted engineers on this. We want to have water to at least use the restrooms if needed. To have another water supply, you must go through DHEC, but we will let a company come in and conduct a study.

Mr. Durham closed out by letting the Board know that this would be his last Board meeting and that he would love to help in any way he can. He loves this place, and this job has been one of the best he has ever had.

School-Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson gave an update regarding the school. We have a diverse group of teachers by age, gender, and ethnicity. One of the main things the school has worked on is professional rigor. We have our instruction and data team looking at this rigor. Using Schoology has been extremely helpful and was a smooth transition. Our school provided all students with tablets.

On March fifth, we have Ag Fest, and we are trying to make this a tradition. We have more college acceptances, and our kids are looking at different colleges. We had a FASFA meeting with parents. We have students interested in SC State and Tennessee State. We also have a few seniors interested in ROTC. May twenty-seventh will be our graduation day, the last day of school. This way, parents will only have to come once.

As far as data, we want to show diversity. The African American population, as well as the Asian population, has increased. Gender is even as of right now. We want to look at the age of students and where they are coming from. We want some students from the Peedee Region. Our current students have had the best grades since we have been here.



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Some of our students who did not meet the honor roll have been placed on an intervention regarding grades. We have implemented MIA from 11:00-11:30 to work on missing work. The following report will have PSAT scores and some of the retakes of the WIN tests. You will also receive data on the SAT and ACT. Midterm testing will occur before the holidays, and we are in the local parade tomorrow. We have also adopted three local families. Angel Tree Ministries in Abbeville has a lot of great things happening with our young people.

Mr. Thompson asked the Board to approve the requirements for Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Mr. Kesler approved the motion for Valedictorian and Salutatorian requirements. Mr. Love seconded the motion for Valedictorian and Salutatorian requirements. The Board unanimously approved the Valedictorian and Salutatorian requirements.

Mrs. Miller- Education Center

The Education Center has also been busy hosting workshops such as the small ruminant workshop at the show barn and a burlap wreath workshop from a gentleman in Abbeville. In October, we will be hosting a livestock welfare assessment skill for law enforcement. This program will be for law enforcement officers and will be taught by experts from The University of Georgia, the University of Florida, and Clemson Extension Agents. We will also be hosting our first annual wildlife conclave that will have schools and homeschool groups participate. They will be here from Thursday through Sunday.

Also, Mr. Warner has scheduled a bull breeding soundness exam. We are looking to reschedule our forestry event that we had to cancel in March. Our campus has had several field trips groups, and Calhoun Falls Elementary has come and wants to come back in the spring. This summer, we will have the Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Camp, and we are also working with SC State on several summer camps. We have one Boy Scout doing his project on our primitive camping sites. The Education Center now has a lot of traffic, and Mr. Warner and his crew have done a ton of cleanup around the area. We have had several garden clubs support us, and we also have had several Farm Bureau Groups out. Our school will be hosting the Miss. FFA pageant will be held on March 11th at Lander University. Our Halloween Festival was a great turnout, and we had a food truck, activities, and farm activities. Our students have decorated three Christmas Trees in the town of McCormick, and it is open today to the public. We will also be participating in the McCormick County Cookie Walk.



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

Dana Marin- HR and Residential Life

Next, Ms. Martin updated on HR and residential life. In the HR department, we will be using shared services. We will have them throughout next October. We have been working on posting vacant positions. We have lost a full-time RA to another state agency, and we are looking to fill it permanently. That position will hopefully be reposted in March. We have two full-time custodians and one evening part-time custodian position available. We also have several other positions: a student activity coordinator for residential life and administrative specialist and several different positions.

Ms. Martin also updated the Board of Trustees on residential life. Residential life has been extremely busy supporting kids after school teaching life skills. Residential life has hired a new assistant director, Mrs. Denise Wise. Mrs. Wise has a good background of our community. A parent will start in January as the second assistant director. December will be a full month for residential life activities.

Security- Officer Steve Osborne

Officer Osborne gave the Board of Trustees an update on security for the campus. We have a great staff and have had only two incidents of contraband, and our staff reported it. There was no evidence of the student using it on campus. We had guest speakers on campus during red ribbon week, and the Highway Department will be coming during prom season to talk about drinking and driving. Our security cameras are working well on campus.

Wellness Center - Anne Horne

Mrs. Horne provided an update on the Wellness Center. We will be hosting a hearing and vision screening on campus with the Lions Club. Sixty-five employees have finished Vector Solutions. Our campus will also be sponsoring a booster clinic. DHEC has sent us Covid testing kits for students that are now in. We will also be getting new Epi-Pens in. We will also have a mental health workshop on campus.

Farm and Grounds- Andrew Warner

Mr. Warner provided an update regarding the farm and grounds. During the three months he has been here, Mr. Warner has made many campus improvements. Our thirteen piglets are healthy, and we have also finished planting a lot of pastures. We have established a pig pasture operation. We



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

are working on commercial and homestead operations. Our campus has ten new goats, and the dairy barn has been cleaned up. We have collaborated with the UGA Extension office, and Dr. Chastain has also come out and talked with us. We have also spoken with Will Henderson, hopefully giving us some new row crop connections. In the short term, we need to reduce beef and cattle head, we need several different breeds, and we need to focus on the grounds. Our midterm goal would be looking at timber, and for our long-term goal, we would like to be nationally recognized

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lamb made the motion at 12:20 p.m. to enter executive session. Mr. Love seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

At 1:07 p.m. Mr. Davis made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to exit executive session.

XII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson wanted to take time to tell the Board of Trustees about Mr. Keown winning The Administrator of the Year Award.

XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, March 11th at 10:30 a.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Love made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Davis seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm.



**SC Governor's School
for Agriculture**
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

03/11/2022

Date Approved by Board of Trustees



Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary



Scottlyn Cloninger, Recording Secretary