



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Shiflet Hall Conference Room**

**September 22, 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**

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

A quorum was declared.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**VI.** Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**VII. APPROVAL OF 6.23.23 MINUTES**

Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Hancock seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Before Dr. Keown's report, Dr. Anne Hancock introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief background. Following this, Mr. Keown asked the Board to consider the meat processing center, as the Department of Agriculture plans to donate \$40 million to support South Carolina agribusinesses. The committee tasked with exploring meat processing centers visited several processing centers, including MidSouth Packers, LLC. Mr. Joseph Egloff presented to the board about his company, encouraging the board that the need for local farmer's meat is in high demand. In 2021, Midsouth Packers, LLC. had over a million dollars in revenue and supported over eighteen people with a payroll of over \$600,000. Moving on to the budget report, Mr.



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Thomas Kaminer provided the details. The fiscal year 24-25 budget starts next week, and \$306,000 will go to teacher step raises. A million was requested for recurring general operating expenses. For non-recurring requests, a new school bus, a new tractor, and a new hay bailer were requested. Fifteen million was asked for the new L.S. Brice building, and the strategic planning committee made several suggestions. It would cost 11.5 million to renovate and 15 million for a brand-new building, including demolition. Three million was asked for De la Howe Hall site work, \$400,000 for new security cameras, and \$60,000 for a new dairy barn HVAC system.

The dairy barn is now the host site for the Heritage Corridor Museum. The podcast has taken off, and the SC Governor's School for Agriculture has been broadcasted on RFD-TV three times. The Foundation hosted their first fundraiser, a skeet shoot, which was a huge success. Senator Verdin came Friday to meet with Bob Edmonds, and the Agency Accountability report was approved. Lastly, Senator Billy Garret presented Tom Love with a senate resolution for his dedication to the SC Governor's School for Agriculture.

### IX. 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. Each department head present gave an update on their department for the school year.

#### **Outreach-Mrs. Miller**

Mrs. Miller provided the Board with an update on community outreach. She informed the Board that enrollment forms for the upcoming school year will be digital, and the enrollment portal for the 2024-2025 school year was opened on October 1st. The outreach department has also been active in promoting the school, visiting events such as Ag Expo, the SC State Fair, and countless school visits. Additionally, the school will be hosting a Halloween event on campus on October 29th.

#### **Security- Officer Steve Osborne**

Officer Osborne provided the Board with an update on campus security. He informed the board that he visited a company out of Greenwood with security cameras and is working towards implementing them on campus. The school will also conduct active shooter training twice a year, as well as participate in



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the Great Shakeout, a nationwide earthquake drill to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### **HR and Residential Life- Ms. Martin**

Ms. Martin provided a brief update on two departments, HR and residential life. Regarding HR, EPMS evaluations are due on November 3rd, and the department is working on internships for the summer of 2024. State HR is behind schedule. On the other hand, residential life is changing the sign-out process, and the department will run the booth at the state fair on October 17th and 20th. Lastly, Ms. Martin will attend ABAC on November 6th and 7th.

### **School-Mr. Thompson**

Mr. Thompson provided an update on various matters. He informed the board that the school finished up the first nine weeks with a good news Friday, and October 17th is the SC Fair FFA Day. Mr. Thompson will attend the SC Land Grant weekend, and he also had a phone call with our Cognia sponsor. Mr. Galloway will retire on November 2nd. SAE presentations are being scheduled, and the holidays are approaching. The school will sponsor families in the area again. Finally, Mr. Thompson shared that our school report card scored an excellent rating of 98 out of 100.

### **Facilities and Maintenance- Mr. Mims**

Mr. Mims provided an update regarding maintenance and facilities. He informed the board that the original bids on Hessie Morrah, Hester, and Charleston were significantly over budget. JDLH has resubmitted the entire package for a rebid. The emergency generators installation is currently underway, and we are waiting for Verizon Wireless and SFAA's approval of the proposed contract. Additionally, JDLH and DP3 are finalizing the paperwork for submittal to OSE for De la Howe Hall. This can't happen until the money has been deposited into our account, which normally takes place around the end of September. Moving on, the package for the new greenhouse is under review at OSE, and bids should be received towards the end of October. The power pole replacement will resubmit the request for bids to SCBO in September, with all bids expected back by mid-October. The security fencing paperwork is complete and awaiting OSE's approval, and this bid should be due by the end of October. The Ag Mechanic Shop phase I paperwork is also complete, and we will submit this project to JBRC once we have received the approved funding in September. Finally, Mr. Mims shared that the facilities and maintenance staff currently has one supervisor, six



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maintenance staff, two janitorial staff, one part-time position, and one maintenance position open. The department received 220 maintenance requests last quarter.

### **Foundation- Mrs. Smith**

Mrs. Smith provided the Board with an update on the John de la Howe School Foundation. She informed the board that she has been working on the international travel scholarships as well as the policies and procedure manuals. Additionally, Mrs. Smith is looking into grants that could restore the Branch house. She shared that the Double D Foundation donated items and money over \$6,000 in value, which is a great contribution for the Foundation.

### **Farm- Mr. McCall**

Mr. McCall provided an update on the farm. He informed the board that Levi from the farm staff has taken a new job. Additionally, Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation may begin having their meetings on our campus. The farm recently purchased a combine, and Miller Construction generously donated getting it here. Wheat and oak will be planted soon, and the corn sales and dove hunt were fantastic.

## **X. VOTES**

Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 academic calendar. Dr. Hancock seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Lamb made the motion to approve the honor level ag courses. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Lamb made the motion to approve the site safety plan. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Lamb made the motion for the Board of Trustees to ask for funds held by the State Treasurer to be used by the Foundation as endowed funds. Dr. Hancock seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The Board policy will be voted on a later date. Board members will need to edit the policy. A hybrid meeting will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

Two nominations were made for vice chair, Mr. Lamb and Mr. Davis. Mr. Ron Davis will serve as the new vice chair.



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Dr. Hancock made the motion for the acceptance of an undisclosed amount to the Foundation Board as endowed funds. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Lamb made the motion to enter executive session. Mr. Bagley seconded the motion to enter executive session. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to enter executive session at 12:40 P.M.

Mr. Davis made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to exit executive session at 12:46 P.M.

## **XII. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action was taken during executive session.

## **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Bagley has several engines to donate to the school from John Deere. John Deere will donate the engines to the school for educational purposes.

## **XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M.**

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Smith made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Bagley seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 12:49 P.M.



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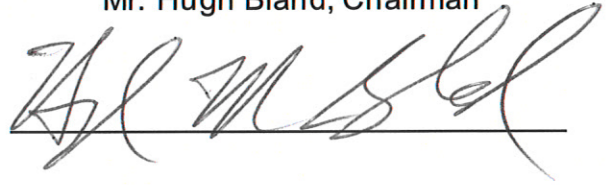
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Date Approved by Board of Trustees

12-8-23

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Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman



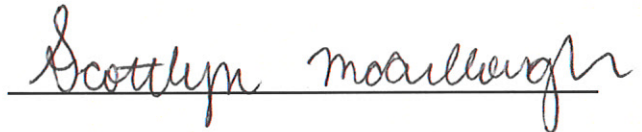
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Vacant, Secretary

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Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary



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