



# SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES

Virtual – via Zoom

December 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 Zoom. 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, Gary Coleman, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

#### V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### VI. APPROVAL OF September 4, 2020 MINUTES

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

#### VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Keown provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the school's current quarantine due to COVID-19. One employee tested positive for COVID-19 during the week of Thanksgiving. Due to this person's exposure to various faculty, staff, and students, the COVID-19 Task Force deemed it



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necessary to move to virtual instruction for a 14-day period. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday break, the school only lost six days of face-to-face instruction. Thanks to the school's preparation the transition to virtual learning was seamless.

Mr. Keown addressed vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Melissa Tilden informed the Board that she would be resigning after the December meeting. Mrs. Tilden assured the Board that she had already submitted the proper paperwork to the South Carolina State Boards and Commissions. As of April 2021 both Mr. Tom Love and Mr. Edgar Lamb's terms will have expired for the Board of Trustees. Mr. Davis made the motion to keep Mr. Love and Mr. Lamb on the Board. Mrs. Tilden seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous. This would leave two additional vacancies on the Board. Mr. Keown informed the Board that he would pursue finding out the process to fill these two vacancies with the Governor's office.

The Board of Trustees reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2021. Mr. Love made a motion to change the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Trustee meeting to September 10<sup>th</sup>, to avoid the Labor Day holiday weekend. Mr. Lamb seconded this motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Keown informed the Board of the upcoming bill signing with Governor Henry McMaster to designate the school as the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. Mr. Keown invited all Board members to attend the ceremonial signing at the Dairy Barn on campus at 2:00 p.m. on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Keown provided various updates on agency and school operations. The Admissions team is interviewing three potential students to transfer to the Governor's School in January for the spring semester. Recruiting for the 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start. Forty-three applications have been received. All new cattle and hog panels have been purchased. A new grain drill, pow, corn planter, and disk harrow have been purchased to build the crop production program at the school. The Governor's School was notified by Clemson University that they were closing Starkey Swine Center and all equipment and hogs would be donated to de la Howe. The school's existing hog operation was sold in order to prepare for the new and better herd. One of the old barns by the Dairy Barn has been renovated to temporarily house the new hogs and equipment until a new facility is built. The Finance and Business Department had one employee resign. The duties of this employee will be dispersed amongst the remaining business office personnel. The new Foundation Board of Directors held its first meeting yesterday. Mr. Gary Coleman and Mr. Edgar Lamb will represent the Board of Trustees on the Foundation Board. The Education Center has begun hosting



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activities, as can be seen in the departmental reports. Savannah, McCormick, and Abbeville residential hall renovations are underway and on track to be finished by the summer.

## **VIII. ENABLING LEGISLATION – Mr. Bob Coble**

Mr. Coble provided an update on the Enabling Legislation. S.613 was passed and will be signed by Governor Henry McMaster at a ceremonial signing held on the school's campus on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. Mr. Coble noted that the school experienced "the greatest turn around in the history of South Carolina Legislature.". The bill passed with every vote unanimously, unheard of.

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

Mr. Coble briefly discussed the upcoming budget hearings. He does not think the coronavirus pandemic budget projections will have a major effect on the school's recurring budget. Good news is the opportunity for a lot of one-time money.

Mr. Coble expressed the importance of the John de la Howe School Foundation to comply with S.613. There are guidelines in the enabling legislation that explain how the Foundation is to be directed. A brief explanation of these guidelines shows that the Foundation and Board of Trustees will have control over the Foundation through a management agreement between the Foundation and Board of Trustees. In order to comply with this, the Foundation may have to be reconstituted or a new Foundation created. Mr. Coble also informed the Board of Trustees that he is working on the tax issues associated with this.

## **IX. STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION CONSULTING GROUP REPORT**

Mr. Gerald Moore provided an update on behalf of the Student-Centered Education Consulting group. He included a breakdown of the recently approved Enabling Legislation. SCECG is working with the school leadership team and teachers on strategic planning which will be due in April of 2021. They are also assisting with the state and national accreditation process. The goal is for Governor's School for Agriculture students to graduate with certifications such as animal welfare, horsemanship, drone technology, etc. The SCECG team is working with state leaders such as Mr. Billy Keels to bring these certifications to our state.

## **X. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**



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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.

### **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Love made the motion at 11:15 a.m. to enter executive session. Mr. Lamb seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

At 11:52 a.m. Mr. Davis made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Coleman 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, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Love made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Kesler seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.



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3-12-2021

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

  
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Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

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Vacant, Secretary

  
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Kinsley Miller, Recording Secretary