



SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

June 18, 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 Mr. Michael Murphy, Ms. Dana Martin, Mrs. Anne Horne, and Mr. Sylvester Coleman. Mr. Bland also introduced Ms. Lindsey Hodges and Mr. Matthew Hensley 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. Davis made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Love seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the agenda.

VI. APPROVAL OF March 12, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Gary Coleman 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.

Mr. Keown introduced and welcomed Ms. Scottlyn Cloninger, the new executive assistant. Ms. Cloninger will be replacing Mrs. Miller as she transitions into a new role as the Director of the Education Center.



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Mr. Keown then provided a brief update on the Foundation Board that met the previous day. The Foundation board added a new member, Dr. Austin. The Foundation Board did receive additional funds from West Carolina.

Mr. Keown gave an update on campus-wide community events and updates that had taken place. The Miss. FFA pageant brought over two hundred and fifty people to our campus. Ag Fest brought over five hundred participants. Our first ever 5k, the "Bull Run," had ninety-three contestants and was a huge success. Our event with Sarah Frey had over two hundred and fifty individuals on campus and had a great turnout despite the weather. Ms. Frey toured and fell in love with our campus. Our campus also hosted two free covid vaccine clinics.

Mr. Keown then reported on updates from the school. Our teachers, staff, and students were part of one of the only schools in the state to meet face to face all year long. During that time, John de la Howe had two state champion teams, Wildlife CDE and Ag Mechanics. Our floriculture team also brought home a third-place prize. Our school participated in the Bradford Pear Eradication program, where we removed sixty-seven Bradford Pear Trees from our campus. Our students also participated in a small hydroponics through a library grant. Our goal with this project is for our campus to become fifty percent self-sustaining.

Additionally, our students participated in a garden and corn variety research lot. Our Greenhouse sale was highly successful and had over two hundred people buying on the first day alone. Our campus buried a time capsule that will be opened in fifty years. This serves as a great reminder of our inaugural year. Our students had two award banquets, academic, and FFA. The JDLH prom was an extremely successful event that was safe and fun for our students. As we prepare for the next school year, renovations will continue as we plan to continue renovating De la howe Hall and residential halls.

VIII. ENABLING LEGISLATION – Mr. Bob Coble



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Mr. Coble provided an update on legal matters. Mr. Coble discussed news concerning the Foundation. All major issues were resolved. The Current MOU will meet the requirements and can go ahead and raise money. This means the Foundation is supportive of the school and the Board agenda. The Foundation Board can now elect officers. The Foundation does not have to reapply to the IRS exemption again. The IRS form 990n has been filed, and there was not a three-year gap.

Mr. Coble ended the discussion with items that needed to be completed by the Foundation. Mr. Coble recommends that the Foundation review the Governor's School for Math and Science's MOU to see if we want to refile ours. Secondly, we need to get an accountant to review all 990n forms. Thirdly, when we receive a contribution, we must do a contemptuous letter, and we will review it. Lastly, the bylaws need to be updated for the JDLH Foundation.

IX. STUDENT-CENTERED EDUCATION CONSULTING GROUP REPORT

X. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Board Members received departmental reports from the school prior to the scheduled June 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.

Business Operations- Mr. Coleman

Mr. Coleman gave an update on the SC Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. With the fiscal year ending June 30th, \$1.2 million will carry into the new fiscal year. With the retirement of our procurement specialist, we have executed a shared agreement MOU. Also, WCTEL has completed the single-mode fiber to increase our educational experience. We have switched to LED lighting, and our utilities did not increase from this.

Maintenance- Mr. Durham

Mr. Durham provided a summary of the updates happening throughout our campus. Mr. Durham provided a list of successful projects such as lighting,



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water pipes, drainage, irrigation, and security. The three new residence halls will be completed for students to move into. Generators will be installed before students return on campus. Moving forward, JDLH has several projects that are currently in progress. Mr. Durham and his team are working on making a practice facility by the horse barn at a meager cost and are currently working with a civil engineer. The rear entrance has a chain-link fence that is up for release in August. We are now putting bids up to have the fence replaced. The pool demolition is underway and is waiting on SPECS to put out bids. Twelve trees were removed from the Forest Service.

We have a historical firm looking at The Branch House to see its historical value and what needs to be done to the building. The dairy barn handicap lift will be removed and replaced depending on the condition. In closing, De la Howe Hall has a lot of state requirements to go through to get the project ready.

School-Mr. Thompson

Mr. Thompson gave an update regarding the school. We have our graduation planned for June Fourth, and we have touched base with Jostens for rings, caps, and gowns. We are also excited to have our first ring ceremony. On our roster, we have five vacancies with a 90% retention rate with teachers. Our final grades for this school year ended in a bell curve. All of our facility was invested in academic success including Ms. Martin and her RAs. Our final test scores ended in a 71% passing rate for biology, 60% for history, and 100% for ELA and math. 74% of our students received a silver, gold, or platinum rating for their career readiness test.

Our students also received several academic and FFA awards at our awards banquet. Several students won awards through their CDE, including horse, floriculture, and ag mechanics. For next school year, we are proposing a new elective course called "Real World 101". This class will focus on resumes, college applications, and financial literacy. We are still working with McCormick County Schools to try and offer ag classes to some of their students while many of our students play sports for McCormick County.

Mr. Kesler made the motion to approve "Real World 101". Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved "Real World 101".



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Media Specialist- Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown provided details on an international trip to Guatemala that she wants our students to experience. This trip would work directly with the non-profit, PEG Partners. This cultural experience is essential to our students to help broaden perspectives, increase world views, personal growth, and give students a chance to participate in a service project that focuses on agriculture. With agriculture being the number one industry in Guatemala, students tour coffee and macadamia nut farms. PEG Partners' mission is to focus on education in Guatemala. The trip would cost \$100 per day for a group of ten with \$400 round trip plane tickets and a \$110 passport. Students would complete an interview process to choose who would get to go. Students who could pay financially could pay their way, while scholarship applications could be given to cover certain costs.

Mrs. Miller- Education Center

Mrs. Miller gave a summary of the extremely busy summer she has had with our Education Center. All of our summer camps have had over twenty participants in every camp. In July, we are having our first overnight camp, Aggie Adventure, for rising 8th and 9th graders. This year we have the honor of hosting the Farm Bureau Ag Camp. Our continuing education classes are in full swing as we just hosted a canning workshop. Our education center has hosted several groups, including the SC Commission Ag Board, Anderson Farm Bureau, State Garden Club, and the McCormick Garden Club. We hosted several field trips through the school year, and our staff has now been trained on the low ropes course for future events and field trips.

Dana Marin- HR and Residential Life

Next, Ms. Martin, who replaces Ms. Daniels in April, updated on HR and residential life. In the HR department, part-time RAs must be rehired, and we are also hiring three new full-time RAs. Ms. Martin is still working on teacher step pay increases and hiring teachers, a cook, a procurement specialist, and a maintenance worker.

For residential life, many events and activities were held since the last board meeting. Prom was held at the Talmage in McCormick, SC, and students also help set up and participate in our first ever "Bull Run." The last day for students is May 28th. Our students did a great job keeping their residential



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halls neat and clean. Residential Advisors will be cleaning out De la Howe Hall and working on policies and procedures over the summer.

Security- Officer Steve Osborne

Officer Osborne gave the BOT an update on security for the campus. Mrs. Horne is working on providing a CPR lifesaving class. Officer Osborne also met with Josh Taylor from EDIMOS to discuss offering a farm machine rescue course. On campus we have a large camera surveillance system and are adding cameras to outdoor areas. The Marines had their training on our property again where they had a down pilot in a third world country. Two students participated in this.

Wellness Center - Anne Horne

Mrs. Horne provided an update on the Wellness Center. Around thirty employees got vaccinated and three students. Mrs. Horne also met with the school nurse at Connie Maxwell to see their policies and procedures. We gave one Covid test and it was negative. For summer camps, Mrs. Horne looked through all records. Mrs. Smith is working with us to try and create an extension for power school. Lastly, we are preparing to train staff through Vector Solutions.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lamb made the motion at 11:48 a.m. to enter executive session. Mr. Love seconded this motion. The board voted unanimously to enter executive session.

At 3:15 p.m. Mr. Lamb 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 the board unanimously voted to uphold the school's decision regarding student A.

Mr. Bland reported that the board unanimously voted to agency properties and facilities should only be used for agency activities

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS



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XIV. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, December 3rd 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 3:25 pm.

9-10-21

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Bland", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scottlyn Cloninger", written over a horizontal line.

Scottlyn Cloninger, Recording Secretary