



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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Shiflet Hall Conference Room**

**March 3, 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, Tom Love, Craig Kesler, Ron Davis, Gary Coleman, Bert Bagley, Yvonne Knight-Carter, and Owen Smith.

A quorum was declared.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lamb made the motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion to amend the agenda to add a vote on the 2023 Academic Calendar and to add a vote on the Belize trip.

Mr. Love made a motion to add a vote on the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Davis Seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

**VI. APPROVAL OF 12.2.22 MINUTES**

Mr. Keasler made a motion to correct the 12.2.22 minutes. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion

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



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## VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

Mr. Keown met with the Governor's staff regarding funding. The House and Senate has approved a 1.3 million Ag Shop, a one million recurring budget, and an additional 2.1 million for De la Howe Hall. Mr. Keown also met with the House Ways and Means Committee. They were extremely impressed with the senior video. Mr. Keown also met with the Senate Subcommittee for Education. The State Fiscal Accountability Authority developed our own procurement and P card manuals.

Mr. Keown wanted to thank the Alumni Association for the Valentine's Dance. All two hundred and eight tickets were sold, and the proceeds will go to the residential halls. Forty-nine companies donated items to the auction. Ag Fest will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we will host the annual Miss FFA Pageant. We currently have the reigning queen, Kaitlyn Krout. The Miss FFA Pageant will have seventy contestants this year. Lyle Fulmer was crowned Mr FFA.

FFA Appreciation Day was held last Wednesday, and our students had a tour with Hugh Weathers. During the day, our students heard from Representative Patrick Haddon on his plan for school lunches to fall back under the Department of Agriculture.

Our school is looking into the possibility of having a ninth-grade virtual academy. Mr. Keown asked for the Board's thoughts on exploring this option.

After our visit with Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, she reported that she would attend a national conference and mention our school. We are trying to get Representative Tim Scott to our campus.

## VIII. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

### **Library- Ms. Brown**

Ms. Brown presented the Board of Trustees a proposal about a student trip to Belize that would be centered around Agriculture. Students at the Governor's School for Arts and Humanities and the Governor's School for Math and Science take international trips. The Foundation has agreed to help fundraise.



## **SC Governor's School for Agriculture**

**AT JOHN DE LA HOWE**

This trip would be conducted through EF Tours. EF Tours works Nationally and with thirty other schools in South Carolina. Ms. Brown wants to take a trip in November 2023 and Spring 2024.

Mr. Love made a motion to approve the international trip to Belize. Mrs. Knight-Carter seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **Education Center-Mrs. Miller**

Mrs. Miller provided the Board of Trustees with an update on community outreach. The calendar has been updated for summer camps. Mrs. Miller will be on maternity leave on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Camps with similar topics have been combined to take the stress off of employees. A lead intern and two other interns have been hired. This summer we will host the Farm Bureau Leadership Camp and two SC State Ag Immersion Camps. The environmental study and the learn and burn workshops that were canceled were made up. Field Trips have taken off on our campus and we will soon have eighty elementary schoolers on campus. Six other field trips are scheduled for the spring. McCormick Cattlemen and Forestry Association chose our campus to be the host site for the year. Boy Scouts groups have been working on our camping site.

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

Officer Osborne gave the BOT an update on security for the campus. Security is completely staffed. Yesterday, our school hosted *Escape the Vape Campaign*, where our school, Fox Creek, Ware Shoals, and McCormick participated. Each school made a campaign and presented it in front of a panel of judges. The Foundation awarded \$300 to the winner and \$150 to second place. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have a school program centered around drinking and driving. We have had issues with speeding on campus and our roads can be policed. We can issue tickets to violators.

Mr. Bland asked Officer Osborne to investigate having a department versus security.

### **Outreach and Student Services- Mrs. Keasler**

Ms. Keasler presented to the Board the admissions and enrollment report. The SC Governor's School for Agriculture had seventy-eight students this past year. Thirty-five were male and forty-three were female. Our student population represented twenty-six counties. We had one student from North Carolina, one student from Florida, and two students from Georgia. Our goal



## **SC Governor's School for Agriculture**

**AT JOHN DE LA HOWE**

for the recruitment season is to replace our graduating class. We have eighteen priority acceptances.

### **Wellness Center -Ms. Horne**

Mrs. Horne provided an update on the Wellness Center. We had two positive Covid-19 cases from staff, not students. We are maintaining our CLIA Wavier that allows us to perform Covid-19 testing. Mrs. Horne is looking into Flu and Strep tests. As for CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), three staff need to finish skills. Mrs. Horne is working closely with Residential life. We would also like to have an educational workshop on mental health.

### **Public Information-Mr. Baughman**

Mr. Baughman provided the Board with an update. Mr. Baughman is working to launch *Field, Forest, and Water*, a podcast aiming to connect our students to national ag leaders. Mr. Baughman is also looking to launch radio PSAs on radio stations across the state. In addition, he is working with SCETV to make an expanded version of the PSA and a TV program. Mr. Baughman wants to ensure that we are in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act. If there is an item to vote on it had to be amended on the agenda.

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

Mr. Thompson provided an update for the Board of Trustees. The school staff roster has been updated and one hundred percent of staff will return. Mr. Thompson has been in communication with Piedmont Tech trying to see if an associate degree for our students would be possible. On March 18<sup>th</sup> we will have our livestock competition, Ag Fest. Honors day will be held in May. Lethe had the highest GPA of the residential halls. Many of our seniors applied out of state for college but are slowly looking back in state with the cost of tuition. Our goal for our seniors is to pass the number of scholarships from last year that totaled \$450,000. The school has partnered with the US National Forest Service, and they are going to hire three students for summer work.

Mr. Love made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar. Mr. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

Mr. Mims provided an update regarding maintenance and facilities. The lift is still currently on backorder. The lift will be installed after delivery. The original



## **SC Governor's School for Agriculture**

**AT JOHN DE LA HOWE**

bid on the emergency generators were \$40,000 over budget. We are working with JBRC to get additional money approved. Constant water systems are currently being installed in some campus facilities. We are currently awaiting approval for the new greenhouse. The project for security fencing has been fully funded. Mr. Mimms presented the Board with the drawings of the front gate. As soon as Columbia approves, the work can begin. The lawn maintenance contract, pest control contract, and the propane had been fulfilled for five years.

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

Mrs. Smith provided the Board with an update on the John de la Howe School Foundation. Mrs. Smith met individually with the Foundation members, Ag teachers, and staff. The Foundation is looking into the money held by the state Treasurer. Mrs. Smith is working on the policy and procedure manual. Ag First sent two representatives to our campus. Martha Sanders, Foundation Board member, invited Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette. The Mayor of Greenwood toured our campus and loved it. Mrs. Smith is working on the Secretary of State Documentation. The Foundation has been approved for their first fundraiser.

Mr. Bagley made the motion to approve the MOU as submitted in the documents provided. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

Mr. McCall provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the farm. An inventory of all the equipment and animal herds has been completed. The infrastructure of all farm systems has been evaluated. Mr. McCall is working to integrate the farm work schedule to complement the teacher's curriculum. There are now weekly ag labs for each ag teacher. Students have completed pig castrations and docking tails. Long range planning for timber harvesting and pasture expansion has begun. The farm is fundraising for a new ruminant facility. The students are working on soil sampling and fertilizer. With the Duke Energy Grant, the farm now has a new skid steer. Keith Wise raised over \$5,000 for the farm to restore the fencing in the goat pasture.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**



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**AT JOHN DE LA HOWE**

Mr. Lamb made the motion to enter executive session. Mr. Love seconded the motion to enter executive session. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to enter executive session at 1:38 P.M.

Mr. Love made the motion to exit executive session. Mr. Kesler seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to exit executive session at 2:42 P.M.

## **X. REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action was taken during executive session.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **XII. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, June 23 at 10:30 A.M.**

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Love made the motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Lamb seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:44 P.M.



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06/23/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Bland', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vacant, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Scottlyn McCullough', written over a horizontal line.

Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary