



# SC Governor's School for Agriculture

AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Shiflet Hall Conference Room

September 8, 2022– 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 Mr. Daniel Greenwood of Piedmont Technical College and Ms. Lindsey Hodge of 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, Ron Davis, Gary Coleman, Bert Bagley, Yvonne Knight-Carter, 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 June 17, 2022 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.

Mr. Keown gave the Board a brief update on the John de la Howe School Foundation. Mr. Keown provided the Board of Trustees with a school update. This year we have not had any homesickness, and we have to send a few of our students home, or they would stay full-time. We give credit to the senior class for creating that welcoming culture. Our graduating class from last year



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received \$475,000 in scholarships. This year we want to break \$500,000. Our student body held student body elections last week and elected officers. The South Carolina Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association is creating a scholarship for our students. We are branching out on where our students are from, and this year we have our first Peedee student. We met with Darla Moore on scholarships for students from the Peedee region. We have seventy-eight total students this year, and we are stuck at this number until the dorms are completed.

Mr. Keown gave the Board an update on finances. Two weeks ago, JBRC met with us to approve the last three dorms and staff residential homes completed. We were given 6.1 million dollars and asked for an additional 2.1 million. We met with the Governor's Executive Office, which is the first step in asking for additional money. We met with the SFAA auditors two weeks ago, who gave us a clean slate. The Department of Admin now runs our finances, which has taken an enormous load off our agency. The agency pays \$85,000 for shared services which saves the agency \$260,000. As for the budget, we asked for a higher recurring budget of two million since we have not had an increase in three years. The CPIP Plan has been submitted, and the State Accountability report is being worked on.

Sadly, Mr. Warner has resigned. We are proud of him; he has left our agency to work for Piedmont Tech. Five individuals have applied for that position. The position of the Executive Director for the Foundation will open soon. The Enabling Legislation requires this position. The Duke Energy Foundation has donated \$130,000. AgFirst Farm Credit Bank has donated \$25,000 for a new greenhouse and have promised \$25,000. The Foundation Board has approved the hotel rooms for our students for the Sunbelt Ag Expo and has approved up to \$15,000 to offset the cost of the FFA National Convention. We will have twenty-two students attend, where most schools send four individuals. The CDE state winners will automatically participate as well as our FFA officers.

Our agency needs part-time weekend residential advisors. Our newly hired Equine Coordinator, Heather Rhoden, has done a fantastic job. Our school is now NCAA-certified because one student participated in college rodeo. Our students can now be recruited.

Mr. Keown thanked the Foundation Board. \$950 was given in memory of His mother, Linda Keown. This money will help offset the trip to the national convention. Tom Trantham's family has chosen our school to receive donations in honor of his memory.



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Mr. Keown discussed the alcohol policy and is waiting on the lawyer. Mr. Bland suggested it be held off campus and for the lawyer to write a policy everyone must follow.

## **VIII. 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.

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

Mrs. Miller provided the Board of Trustees with an update on community outreach. This summer, we offered eleven summer camps of our own while offering two summer ag immersion camps with SC State and while hosting the SC Farm Bureau Leadership Camp two years in a row. Next summer, we want to add even more camps. We have also offered continuing education through our workshops. Recent workshops have included a learn and burn and ag painting class. The Education Center has hosted one field trip in August and already has four more field trips lined up for the school year. Tony did an excellent job getting video footage of summer camps.

### **Human Resources and Residential Life- Ms. Martin**

Ms. Martin began her report by briefing the Board with a residential life update. The residential life department worked all summer to move into Shiflet Hall. The residential life department hired several employees this summer due to losing employees to other jobs on campus. We desperately need weekend RAs and feeding chaperones for the weekend shift. Due to the lack of employees, we have to put students in the hotel on weekends. As for Human Resources, a full-time HR recruiter is outside our budget. This summer, five summer interns were hired. Two of these interns stayed on as RAs. We also had two student interns. Three full-time RAs have been hired, and we have posted the Ag Lab Manager position. Five individuals have applied for this position, two external applicants and three internal. As for the Executive Director, we are waiting for the State to approve the position. We are also looking to hire a part-time custodian.

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

Officer Osborne gave the BOT an update on security for the campus. By law, our school is required to conduct a fire drill and active shooter drill in the fall and the spring. We also conduct earthquake, hurricane, and tornado drills in the spring. Officer Osborne showed the Board of Trustees how companies



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market THC products to children. SLED is waiting for a significant case to make a law. We are trying to educate our students on the danger of vapes as we have caught several students with them. SLED landed a helicopter on our campus and spent the entire day with our students.

Officer Osborne asked the Board of Trustees to approve the Site Safety Plan for the school. Tom Love made the motion to approve the Site Safety Plan with the additional corrections. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion to approve the Site Safety Plan with the additional corrections. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

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

Mrs. Keasler provided the Board of Trustees with an update on recruitment. Thirty-six students will be returning, and we have forty-two new students. We have thirty-five male students and forty-three female students. Our goal is to recruit all ethnicities. We have seventy-eight students total, with seventy-three being residential and five-day students. We will have twenty-one graduates this upcoming school year. As for the 2022 fall recruiting, we have preview days set up, the Hall-oween Festival, Farm, Bureau Women's Conference, steam days, tours at the 1797 event, CAFLS Tailgate, 4-H events, and shows. Our goal is to have one hundred students next year, depending on the residential dorms. On November 5, our campus will host the 1797 Celebrating honor, two-hundred and twenty-five years of John de la Howe's history. On October 28, we will present to Florence County School District with the other two Governor's Schools.

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

Mrs. Horne provided an update on the Wellness Center. The residential life department has had training on medication. We have had no positive Covid cases on campus. The mental health workshop has been rescheduled. The medicine cabinets have been put into place in the dorms. We will host a flu clinic on September 23rd.

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

Mr. Baughman provided the Board with an update on several of his projects. Our agency has been working with the state archives to work on record inventory and to make sure we are following state laws. As for PR, we are working on a new podcast to connect students with regional and national



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leaders in agriculture. In addition, a series of public service announcements are in the works to air on radio stations.

## **School-Mr. Thompson**

Mr. Thompson began his report by briefing the Board of Trustees on his theme for this school year, "huddle up." This comes from the desire to have teamwork and not to be complacent. Our school had a 100% teacher retention rate and a 93% overall staff retention rate. Ms. Hollingsworth moved to Greenville and could no longer commute to our school. Our school hosted an Apply to College Day, where the fees were waived on college applications. Our career day will occur next week at SRP Stadium, and our students will eat dinner at Southbound. Afterward, they will attend the CSRA College Night. On October 5th, we will host a recruitment night at SC State. Piedmont Tech is possibly working with the school to offer our students an associate's degree.

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

Mr. Mims provided an update surrounding maintenance and facilities. The horse barn has been our best asset so far. We are working to see if we can put water at the horse barn. As for the dairy barn, a company came in and placed a new elevator. The dairy barn could be a potential wedding venue. The new residential halls passed phase two. The abatement of De la Howe Hall has begun. The emergency generators have been placed on hold due to an issue with propane. New A.C units have been priced out for L.S Brice. Mr. Hall has denied the Dominion Lighting Project. The wood from the barn on campus needs to be gone because we have nowhere to store it. The Verizon tower has moved leaps and bounds in the last six months. Three water alternate water supply systems have been ordered; one for a male dorm, one for a female dorm; and one for the cafeteria. A contract has been signed for the portable toilets. Fourteen miles of the trail have been cleared off. The hotel rooms have been beneficial.

The CPIP projects, the greenhouse, power poles, and security fencing for the gate have been approved. For the 2024 CPIP, we have asked for \$1.3 million for a new ag shop, \$2.5 million to start a campground and the rest of De la Howe Hall. For the 2025 CPIP, we have asked for \$9.5 million to renovate L.s Brice, \$2.1 million for a science lab, and 3 million for site work around De la Howe Hall. For the 2026 CPIP, we have asked for \$400,000 for a new student parking lot and \$8 million for a new student dorm space. For the 2027 CPIP, we have asked for \$5.5 million for a new arena and \$355,000 for a new barn.



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Mr. Mims ended his presentation by showing the Board of Trustees the architect's drawings of De la Howe Hall.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No motion was made to enter executive session.

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

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **XII. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 12:59 pm.



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12/2/2022

Date Approved by Board of Trustees

Mr. Hugh Bland, Chairman

Vacant, Secretary

Scottlyn McCullough, Recording Secretary