

# Minutes

6 p.m., November 18, 2014, District Board Room

## Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting

### In attendance

#### Board members present-

James Brooks, Tyrom Faulkner, Margaret Gamble (Vice-Chair), Don McCorkle, Bobby Parker (Chair) and Bill Sumner

#### Board members absent-

Janice Dabney (Secretary)

#### District personnel-

Linda Blackwell (Elementary Instruction Director), Rick Chandler (Attorney), Gwendolyn Conner (Human Resources Director), Butch Dutton (Secondary Education Director), Scott Johnson (Information Technology Director), David Knight (Public Information Director), Angela McCrorey (Food Services Director), Gene Moore (Superintendent), Jan Petersen (Procurement Director), Lydia Quinn (Planning & Accountability Executive Director), Rachel Ray (Clinton Elementary Principal), David Small (Facilities Director), Shirnetha Stinson (Clinton Elementary Assistant Principal) and Tony Walker (Chief Financial Officer)

#### Guests-

Lesley Kelly and Jamie Matthews (McGregor & Company); Sharon Novinger (Partners for Youth)

#### Press-

Reece Murphy (*The Lancaster News*)

#### Citizens-

47

### Open session

#### Call to order and invocation-

BABA

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Chandler called the meeting to order. Mr. Sumner gave the INVOCATION.

#### Notice to media-

BCBB

In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, Cable 2, the Fort Mill Times, The Herald, the Kershaw News Era, The Lancaster News, WAGL, WBTV, WRHM and WSOC were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

#### Election of 2015 Chair-

BBAA, BBABA

Mr. Chandler explained the process for election of officers.  
Mr. Chandler called for nominations for chair.  
Mr. McCorkle nominated Mr. Parker for chair.  
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.  
A MOTION to close nominations was made and seconded.  
The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).  
A VOTE to elect Mr. Parker was unanimous 6-0.

#### Election of 2015 Vice Chair-

BBAA, BBABA

Mr. Chandler called for nominations for vice chair.  
Mr. Parker nominated Ms. Gamble for vice chair.  
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.  
A MOTION to close nominations was made and seconded.  
The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).  
A VOTE to elect Ms. Gamble was unanimous 6-0.

**Election of 2015 Secretary-  
BBAA, BBABA**

Mr. Chandler called for nominations for secretary.  
Mr. McCorkle nominated Ms. Dabney for secretary.  
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.  
A **MOTION** to close nominations was made and seconded.  
The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).  
A **VOTE** to elect Ms. Dabney was unanimous 6-0.

## Executive session

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**Executive session-  
BCBK, GBC/D, GBO, CGD, DFN**

The chair announced the purpose for executive session was to receive resignations, retirements, terminations, certified and non-certified employment recommendations, two contractual property matters, two contractual services matters and receipt of legal advice.  
The **MOTION** to enter executive session was made and seconded.  
The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

## Open session

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**Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance-  
BCB**

At 7:03 p.m., the chair welcomed the public on behalf of the board and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Results of executive session-  
BCBK**

The chair noted that the board held an executive session at 6:10 p.m.

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to accept the resignations/retirements/terminations of
  - **Andrew Jackson High**– Tara Darby, guidance counselor; Kimberly Meaders, LD resource teacher
  - **Buford Elementary**– Sylvia Stinson, cafeteria operator
  - **Buford High**– Jennifer Terry, cafeteria operator
  - **Indian Land Middle**– Cheryl Thomas, cafeteria operator
  - **Lancaster High**– Jessi Curry, bus driver
  - **Research & Development**– Reginald Lowery, Gear-Up program coordinatorThe motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).
- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to approve the superintendent's certified employment recommendation for
  - **Andrew Jackson High/Middle**– Michael Morgan, special education - severe disabilities
  - **Lancaster High**– Sarah Bell, ESOL; Marina Walker, special education - ED
  - **Southside Early Childhood Center**– Ann Blackmon, early childhoodThe motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).
- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to approve the superintendent's classified employment recommendation for
  - **Andrew Jackson Middle**– Lynette Garris, 29-hour classroom helper; Christina Stevens, food services
  - **Buford High**– Darlene Hyatt, food services
  - **Harrisburg Elementary**– Janice Stewart, food services
  - **Indian Land High**– Henry Brown Jr., bus driver
  - **Indian Land Middle**– Yolanda Guadarrama, food services
  - **North Elementary**– Keren Willis, instructional assistant
  - **Procurement Department**– Trevor Hammond, buyerThe motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).
- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to approve the superintendent's recommendation to extend the contracts below for 2014-15 with the option to renew for 2015-16
  - **Terracon Consultants/Gage Group**– Asbestos, lead paint and mold remediation

**Legislative update-  
LB**

**Trustees Awards-  
KHA**

**Special recognition-  
KHA**

**Public forum-  
BCBI**

– **Virco**– Furniture

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made and seconded to authorize the superintendent and board attorney to negotiate a contract with Comporium Communications for services.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

The chair reported that the board had completed its executive session business.

Dr. Moore gave an update on the state evaluation for teachers and principals.

On behalf of the board, the chair presented Trustees Awards to

- **2014 S.C. Junior Tradition Four-Ball Golf Tournament** – Brady Hinkle, Lancaster High; Logan Sowell, Andrew Jackson High
- **2014 S.C. School Nutrition Association Conference, First Place in Wreath Design**– LCSD Cafeteria Managers

The board recognized this year’s Andrew Jackson High Homecoming Court, which raised \$10,525 for Kershaw Area Resource Exchange (KARE). The check was presented at halftime during Andrew Jackson’s homecoming festivities.

These students – under the direction of sponsor Katrina Bernsdorff – held bake sales, did gift raffles, sold lunch plates and t-shirts, worked at Pizza Inn and even had a masseuse come in for teachers, all in just 22 days.

The homecoming court included students Makinzzie Caskey, Hannah Cobb, Savannah DeBruhl, Kaitlyn Haynes, Kolbie Hinson, Rebecca Hinson, Marketta McIlwain, Courtney McManus, Angela Sims and Katlyn Starnes.

The organization the students raised the money for – KARE – provides services ranging from basic food and clothing to family literacy programs for those in need in the Kershaw and Heath Springs areas. With the money raised, KARE was able to purchase a freezer to expand their efforts to provide more nutritional meals for their clients, improving the clients’ quality of life.

The board presented the students with Community Service certificates for their outstanding work on this worthwhile project.

The chair outlined the procedures for addressing the board and invited any member of the audience to come forward.

– Van Wyck resident J.R. Wilt addressed the board, stating county council had already approved first reading of new Tree Tops cluster development proposal that would negatively affect the school district and set a precedent for similar developments throughout the county. He urged the board to become more vocal about the negatives such developments would have on the district and on county’s taxpayers and to make its concerns known to county council, not just through letters but through face-to-face meetings and media. He volunteered to help in any way he can.

– Rev. Lorenzo Small addressed the board, stating that district and community must do everything in its ability to ensure all children are afforded the opportunity to succeed and that when we see patterns of failure, we must act to bring about change and not allow failure to become staus quo for any group. He stated the district and the community cannot be satisfied with one community segment achieving while another fails, cannot accept that some schools meet/

exceed standards while others have patterns of failure, because to do so puts all at risk.

He stated he served in corporate America at the executive level and fully understands how unwelcomed change is and how rarely it's made by those in power and that only someone with fresh eyes sees needed changes. He said he's fairly new here and sees obvious huge racial divides in county and more specifically, in City of Lancaster, divides that he says are at the heart of why schools like Clinton and Lancaster High continue to fail, divides that he says are at the heart of why there's very little, if any, effective and meaningful communication between this board and public, which the Delegation for Minority Affairs represents.

He stated he longed for the day when we realize we are better together and we finally understand we all want the same things – economic opportunity, safe communities, a place where we can raise our families and living close to our grandkids – things tied to good schools for all. He stated when he and his wife moved to Lancaster, they were told to run from Clinton and run to North, which disappointed him because for such a stigma to exist in any community around any school is a shame.

He stated again he believes these divides are the major reason why there is very little, if any at all, meaningful, effective communication between the board and citizens its elected to serve and why no one responded to a letter he sent each board member seeking partnership and asking what he could do to help develop a solution. He asked if the delegation could expect true dialogue and partnership with this board. He also stated the delegation believes these divides are at heart of why it's okay for schools like Clinton Elementary and Lancaster High, which have huge minority populations, to continue to fail with no change in leadership.

He asked when the community can expect something to be done about failing schools like these and when the community will find out if a solution is in the works. He stated the delegation seeks to overcome these divides and bring this community together and doesn't desire to fight or draw lines in sand. He stated the delegation understands such change is systematic in nature and that true engagement is needed from the board and from parents. He stated the delegation has ideas on how to achieve this and asked if the board is willing to hear the ideas.

He asked the board to propose dates for a meeting, and he demanded more specific responses to the questions about the hiring process used for the secondary education director and stated the delegation would no longer settle for written responses that aim only to pacify or hold the delegation at bay. He stated the delegation wants and demands a true, meaningful dialogue at a meeting around the table as partners, earnestly seeking to bring systematic change to benefit everyone in community.

**Approval of consent action items-  
BCBD**

The chair called for approval of the consent action items below.

- Minutes of Oct. 21 regular meeting (BCBH)
- Recommendation to approve Early Head Start monthly financial report (DC)
- Recommendation to approve Head Start monthly financial report (DC)
- Recommendation to approve YouthBuild monthly financial report (DC)

A **MOTION** to approve the consent items without discussion was

**Affirmation of  
board policies for 2015-  
BDE**

made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

The chair referred board members to the appropriate agenda page and noted that the board needed to affirm policies for the next year.

A **MOTION** to affirm policies was made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

**Statement of 2015  
regular meeting dates  
and times-  
BCAA, BCAB**

The chair referred board members to the appropriate agenda page and noted the board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, except for June, when it meets the fourth Tuesday, and December, when it meets the second Tuesday. Planning meetings will be held in the spring and fall semesters, with dates to be set later.

A **MOTION** to set the board meeting dates and times was made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

**Regular monthly  
financial report-  
DCH**

Dr. Moore referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Mr. Walker, who reviewed the report.

After discussion, Dr. Moore recommended the board approve the reports.

A **MOTION** to approve the reports was made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

**Recommendation  
to approve Course Guide-  
IDAB**

Mr. Dutton reviewed proposal to delete courses, add courses & approve courses requiring local board approval.

A **MOTION** to approve the reports was made and seconded.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0).

**Consent information items-  
BCBD**

The board agreed to receive without discussion the reports below as consent information items. The reports were emailed to board members before the meeting.

- FY 2014-15 45-day average daily membership (JB/JBA/D)
- Parent/teacher conference results (IHAD)
- SCSBA information (MGB, BBBC)

**Clinton Elementary update-  
ID**

Dr. Moore recognized Ms. Ray, who gave the update.

**State school report cards-  
IDAF, MK**

Dr. Moore recognized Ms. Quinn, who gave the update.

**Receipt of 2013-14 external audit-  
DID**

Dr. Moore recognized Mr. Walker, who introduced Mr. Matthews.

He reviewed the audit and stated the district, for the 17th year, received a clean, unqualified opinion. Mr. Matthews thanked the accounting staff for its cooperation with the audit and commended the district for its financial program.

The report will be presented for board approval during the December 9 regular board meeting.

**Receipt of 2013-14 procurement audit-  
DID, DJE**

Dr. Moore recognized Mr. Walker, who introduced Ms. Kelly. She reviewed the procurement audit and stated the audit complied in all materials respects. Ms. Kelly thanked the procurement staff for its help with the audit and commended the district for adherence to procurement procedures.

The report will be presented for board approval during the December 9 regular board meeting.

**Facilities update-**  
FG

Dr. Moore recognized Mr. Small, who gave the update.

- contracts awarded for vestibule safety upgrades at 15 schools, with work complete in a couple of months.
- call issued for bids on restrooms at Andrew Jackson High baseball field & Lancaster High track, with work starting in December.
- capital projects scheduled for this summer include new roof at Buford Middle, parking lot & driveway resurfacing at Indian Land Middle & HVAC/electrical/lighting & ceiling tile upgrade at Lancaster High Career Center.

**Adjournment-**  
BCBF

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Janice C. Dabney, Secretary

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Robert W. Parker, Chair