

Palmetto Unified School District (PUSD)
South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC)
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 11, 2019

Objective: To prepare educational staff members for the efficient and effective operation of SCDC schools.

Board of Trustee Members Present

Mr. Ronald Bessant, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene
Mrs. Charmeka Childs
Dr. M. Elaine Richardson
Dr. James Quinn

Executive Office Staff Members Present

Ms. Beverly Holiday, Interim Superintendent
Mr. John Shipman
Dr. Jay Collins
Mr. Josh Brade
Ms. Bazella Glover
Ms. Brenda Miller
Mr. Russell Salter

Other Members Present

Chaplain Lester Drayton, Jr.
Ms. Evelyn Link

Prior to the Board Meeting, Vice Chairman Ronald Bessant began by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and he led the Invocation.

Vice Chairman Ronald Bessant called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Vice Chairman Ronald Bessant asked if all members had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. The members acknowledged that the minutes had been reviewed and were unanimously accepted.

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

Student Enrollment

Total EFA enrollment is 532 Students and total ABE enrollment is 1,828 Students.
Average daily attendance is still low (20%) due to the lock-down since April 2018.
Most institutions are still on a “tiered” gradual release system.

Only three (3) institutions are allowing students to report to school on a daily basis: Manning Re-entry/Work Release Center, Camille Graham, and Leath.

Other institutions are allowing limited number of students to attend school.

Many teachers send packets of assignments and/or go to the dorms personally to work with the students.

Current Staffing

We currently have 34 positions posted and/or positions that have recently close and applicants will be selected for the interviewing/hiring process.

Two (2) teachers transferred from part-time to full-time positions. (Tyger River and Perry CI); one (1) teacher transferred to teacher pay scale (from Broad River to Manning Re-entry/Work Release Center); and one (1) teacher was hired as a part-time teacher (Palmer Pre-Release Center).

We have several teachers that are retiring soon; thus, once again, we will have several teaching vacancies. The National teacher shortage is impacting traditional education and correctional education classrooms.

New District Office Staff Personnel: Mr. Russell Salter has been hired as our IT Consultant. Ms. Erica Patterson has been hired as our Special Program Coordinator. Ms. Brenda Miller has been hired as our Administrative Assistant/Business Manager.

Superintendent Hiring Update

Interviews were held and “hopefully” an announcement will be made soon as to who will be the new Superintendent.

Budget Update

Projected Budget Compared to Year-to-Date Expenditures (FY 2018-2019) through month ending 03/31/2019 (Third Quarter) was provided to Board Members by Ms. Evelyn Link.

2019 Academic Goal Attainment – 3rd Quarter

GED's/HS Diplomas – Goal 300; Attained 325 (78% of goal)

Vocational Certificates – Goal 3,000; Attained 1,476 (49% of goal)

WIN/Essential Soft Skills Certificates – Goal 1,100; Attained 884 (80% of goal)

On-the-Job Training (OJT) Certificates – Goal 3,200; Attained 2,141 (67% of goal)

Department of Labor Apprenticeship (DOL) – Goal 30 Attained; 0 (0% of goal)

Totals – Goal 7,630; Attained 4,736 (62% of goal)

Future Direction New Career Readiness Programs

Information Technology (IT) Computer Repair Programs

Camille Graham and Turbeville CI (Focus: Learn basic computer repair skills). Received donations from Computer Upgraders in Sumter, SC. We are waiting approval for additional computers to be purchased for State Surplus.

Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Mobile Simulator

Bulldozers, backhoes, graders, and etc. (Focus: Purchase mobile simulator that will travel to selected institutions to provide HEO instruction to students. The simulator is currently in the purchasing process.

Tiny House Project- Manning Re-entry/ Work Release Center Carpentry students (Focus: Build a Tiny House to be sold, and if successful, expand to other carpentry programs. Materials are currently being purchased.

Kershaw Masonry Program – New program at Kershaw is being constructed in cooperation with Facilities Maintenance and Education Programs at Kershaw (Carpentry and Masonry). The site is being prepped for the laying of the foundation.

Announcements

Adult Education Programs will be going through a Local Plan Review Audit conducted by the SCDE, (Audit Dates: May 21- 24, 2019).

Recognition Awards

Ms. Beverly Holiday presented the Board Members with an award trophy as a thank you for all they do.

In Closing

With no other business on the agenda, Mr. Ronald Bessant, Vice-Chairman made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Miller, Administrative Assistant
Palmetto Unified School District Board of Trustees

Reviewed By: _____
Ms. Beverly Holiday, Interim Superintendent