

Palmetto Unified School District
South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC)
Board of Trustees Meeting

July 7, 2021

Mission Statement: Palmetto Unified School District and South Carolina Department of Corrections will provide students with relevant academic courses, highly effective career related vocational programs and necessary life skills to make a positive impact in society.

Vision: Palmetto Unified School District educates and empowers participants to become employable, self-sufficient citizens.

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

Board of Trustee Members Present

Mr. Michael Sumter, Chairman

Dr. James Quinn, Vice-chairman

Mrs. Charmeka Childs

Mr. Robert Bessant

Dr. Elaine Richardson

Executive Office Staff Members Present

Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene, Superintendent

Ms. Beverly Holiday

Dr. Carmen Stone

Dr. Charlette Taylor

Dr. Jay Collins

Mr. John Shipman

Ms. Lila Grooms

Ms. Vanessa Singleton

Mrs. Bazella Glover

Mrs. Lakeshia Adams

Mr. Josh Brade

Mr. Russell Salter

Other Members Present

Mr. Jake Gadsden; Deputy Director of Programs and Re-entry

Ms. Kathy Privott, Ms. Kimberly Higham, Ms. JaNean Martin, Ms. Shakeya Sanders, Ms. Houston Boyd, Ms. Chantel Rochefort, Mr. Thomas Brown, Mr. Donnie Lunsford, Mr. Paul Clinkscale, Ms. Tina Stahlman, Ms. Shana Taylor, Ms. Johan Belin, Ms. Judyth Wylie, Dr. Emanuel Alston, Wanda Colclough, Ms. Cara Finley, Ms. Aparna Desai, Ms. Tamikah Battle, Mr. Kevin Smalls, Ms. Bonnie Callan, Ms. Green, Ms. Kristy Calvert, Mr. David Saverance, Ms. Nicole Heaston, Ms. Suzanne Beaudet, Mr. Justin Hinds, Mr. Charles Johnson, Ms. Nancy Hart, Mr. Ryan Bartola, Ms. Allison DeYoung, Mr. Roderick Patterson, Ms. Dedra Heyward, Ms. Courtney Black, Mr. Andrew Wright, Ms. Shaquetta Ferguson, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Mr. Edwin Thomas, Ms. Martha Herchak, Mr. Scott Rogers, Mr. Jonathan Phillips, Ms. Yvette Lakin, Ms. Susan Anderson, Ms. Valerie Lockhart, Ms. Della Brisbon, Mr. John Boswell, Ms. Jill Shealy, Ms. Patsy Petrie, Mr. Jamie Jeter, Mr. Thomas Preston, Ms. Pamela Sloss, Ms. Sophie Spivey, Ms. Nancy Chillders, Ms. Georganna Martin, Mr. William Bowen, Mr. Johnny Williams, Mr. Michael Poole, Ms. Sandra Hunter, Mr. Jason Gibson, Mr. Robert Coward, Ms. Sherina Robinson

Meeting began at 10:00

Chairman Sumter- confirmed a quorum was present, called roll (all present); Meeting was called to order

Pledge of Allegiance- let by **Chairman Sumter**

Invocation- **Chaplain Wright**

Old Business- Chairman Sumter - April 8th, 2021 minutes, no changes motioned by **Dr. Richardson, Mr. Quinn** second; no changes nor addition; approved 10:05 minutes from last meeting

New Business

- **Martin**- finish of fiscal year, July 14th final transactions, financial report will be provided to Dr. Cash-Greene

Superintendent

- 73 participants, thanks to all staff members for their work and joining in on meeting today
- Recited Vision and Mission Statement (thank the board for recognizing and approving)
- Invited Deputy Director Gadsden- not on meeting yet
- 5 year strategic plan- limit our focus to 3 overarching goals; all student entering SCDC will be assessed to determine their level (GED or HS), by 2024 80-100% who enter without credential , will have at least 1 work readiness credential, HS diploma, WIN certificate, vocational credential, employability skills or apprenticeship by increasing each category measured by 2%, 90-100% of teach staff remain certified

- 77 GED's, HS diploma 2, 789 vocational certifications, 1215 OJT's, 842 WIN, 139 Employability Skills Certificates, Dept of Labor Certificate 0
- Post-secondary offerings: Claflin, Denmark, North Eastern Technical College, CIU
- CARES Act- digital devices, family literacy books, job shadowing
- Shared graduation dates; no visitations at graduation

Mr. Gadsden- philosophy is start reentry at the earliest possible point, contacted James Alston, Mr. Alston has created a risk assessment tool that we will use, we are going to require that every offender be involved in some kind of educational and work readiness capacity. We will start targeting inmates earlier and not when they are 2yrs out from release, 6 months of programming prior to when they are 24 months out. James Alston came in and changed our classification system, emphasizing positive behavior and programming. We requested a way to predict the likeliness of an inmate returning once released, so the needs assessment evolved for this purpose. **Chairman Quinn** asked has this tool been used before? **(Mr. Gadsden)** This tool has been used in RI, it has been used since 2003 and in several other states. **Cash-Greene-** added this new process allows inmates to be actively engaged and PUSD/SCDC goals to assist them with work release challenges identified using both risk and placement assessments. **Mr. Gadsden** stated we will also focus on vocational programming as well along with academics.

Human Resource (Grooms)

- Discussed number of positions, new employees, job fairs attended and recognition of retirees (Terry, Jeancake, Miller)
- **Mr. Shipman-** shared what retiree will received
- **Mr. Quinn** wants our job openings displayed on our website

Dr. Cash-Greene- TOY and Classified Employee of the Year- currently Jamie Jeter and Bazella Glover

Dr. Stone- announces 2022 Classified Employee of the Year (Josh Brade) and TOY Gwynette Waters, explained the process for the selection of the both the classified employee of the year and TOY

Dr. Cash-Greene- Congratulated the 2022 selected

Chairman Sumter- congratulated retirees, EOY and TOY for 2022, keep up the good work, any comments

Richardson- commended district for them expanding higher education for inmates; There are 16 technical colleges around the state. What would be the chance of establishing relationships with the other technical colleges across the state? **Dr. Cash-Greene** we are having additional conversations with other colleges (Greenville, Spartanburg, Benedict and Morris)

Quinn-congratulated Brade, Waters, and all staff/faculty, Cash-Greene, commended the growth in opportunities the district provides for inmates

Dr. Cash-Greene- July 15 Governor is coming to Manning, we will be showcasing how we impact inmates from our perspectives.

Chairman Sumter- movement to adjourn- **Dr. Quinn** moved, **Mr. Bessant** second

Meeting adjourned 10:40 Next meeting January 2022

Respectfully

Lila Grooms, Meeting Secretary

Palmetto Unified School District Board of Trustees

Approved by: _____
Superintendent