

Palmetto Unified School District
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 6, 2022

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 (present virtually via Teams)

Mrs. Charmeka Childs (present virtually via Teams)

Rev. Ronald Bessant

Rev. Dr. Robert Reid

Dr. Elaine Richardson (present virtually via Teams)

Mr. Tyson Grinstead (present virtually via Teams)

Executive Office Staff Members Present

Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene, Superintendent

Ms. Gina Williams

All Remaining Staff present virtually via Teams

Meeting began at 10:09 am

Chairman Sumter – confirmed a quorum and meeting was called to order.

Pledge of Allegiance – led by **Chairman Sumter**

Invocation – **Chaplain Lester Drayton, Jr.**

Old Business – Overview of November 4th Board Mtg

New Business - Budget Update presented by **Georganna Martin**

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Cash-Greene discussed several topics including quarantine report, WIN certificate update and monitoring Covid guidelines. **Dr. Cash-Greene** also stated reduction in students due to legislature. **Dr. Cash-Greene** also recognized newly degreed.

Compliance Monitoring/Curriculum – Dates for Compliance Monitoring March 16-30th.

Student Enrollment - Dr. Taylor gave Student Enrollment update reporting that number at 192. **Dr. Cash-Greene** inquired if there is a difference in the number from the prior year. **Dr. Taylor** was unsure of the number and stated she would check and see. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated that upon her arrival in 2019, the number for EFA was over 400 students. Due to that number, it is significantly impacting our school.

Certificate Summary - Update from Ms. Singleton.

July 1, 2021 to 12/31/2021

61 High school equivalency
1 High School Diploma
628 Vocational
1724 OJT
1530 Workkeys
60 Employment skills
10 Department of Labor

Dr. Cash-Greene stated that one of the strategies that has been asked of the schools is to identify anyone who will potentially be released in June to have tested prior to the end of December since that test will no longer be available to us.

Human Resources – Ms. Grooms

- 113 filled positions
- 37 vacant
- 5 institution interviews scheduled
- Now scheduling on-boarding for new hires (2 certified teachers and 2 admin assts)
- Goal of 126 filled positions
- Will be recruiting next week

Dr. Cash-Greene congratulated SCDC on continuing to fund positions despite budget. **Dr. Cash-Greene** also thanked the staff for participating from their homes to allow us to meet physically.

Special Recognition of our Board – Dr. Cash-Greene recognized school board recognition month for January 2022. **Mr. Shipman** explained that bowls were made by Manning Carpentry from donated wood from a low country company. These bowls were presented to the board members. **Dr. Cash-Greene** states she would send what was sent to her from the state department relevant to continuing to serve those HS students, 17-21, for an additional year granted they are under supervision of SCDC. This will allow us to put some money back on the table for inmate students. Right now, those students are being released prior to them finishing their studies so this will help them stay in school for an additional year it will support us with reduction in funding. The reason is that those young people leave with nothing: a GED or high school diploma which means that if education reduces recidivism, we can expect at least half of those people to return at some point because they are uneducated. If you are interested in drafting a letter to support this and send it back, she will compile it or give a point of contact at the state level.

Curriculum and MAP testing – **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated this is the first year we are administering MAP testing to our students. This is due to a legislature policy that states if students are not tested, we can be penalized. **Dr. Taylor** states we have begun MAP testing in the EFA locations. For the 9th grade students, we've had 8 tests so far. We do have a number that are unable to due to quarantine reasons, but as of yesterday we have tested 8. **Dr. Cash-Greene** inquired about bottom number which **Dr. Taylor** replied 8 out of 73. Updates were sent out to leaders, so they are aware of where we are with testing. **Chairman Sumter** inquired if there is a timeline for this. **Dr. Taylor** states it is this month and that she will follow up to see exact date. Scores of those we have were submitted to the State Dept yesterday. **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked that **Mr. Josh Brade** to explain some of the hurdles that we have to jump over in order to test. **Mr. Brade** states from a technology standpoint there are quite a few issues we face with getting implemented in our labs, but he'll have it resolved relatively quickly. The hold up for the entire process has been SCDC. **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked if **Ms. Bazella Glover** wanted to chime in with no response.

Chairman Sumter recognized **Rev Reid** for a question **Rev Reid** had for **Dr. Taylor**. **Rev Reid** stated if we can get these numbers up from 8 to a little higher, he believes the whole organization can do it. **Chairman Sumter** inquired if we are trying to get 90% of 73 or if 73 was the 90%. **Dr. Taylor** stated the percentage is the 85% of the prior ADM so the 73 is the number of students we have that will be tested. **Dr. Cash-Greene** explained **Chairman Sumter's** question in detail. **Dr. Taylor** stated it is 85% of our prior ADM and she will have to get that information.

Dr. Cash-Greene stated that last part, as stated by **Mr. Brade**, is getting it through procurement, satisfying NWEA as the vendor and that is an entire process and that we were not clear to begin testing until the week of December 20th and dealing with quarantine has hit us hard.

Post-Secondary Updates - **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked **Mr. Willie Bertha** the exact number of student inmates participating at each of the secondary partnerships.

- Northeastern Technical College has 30 students. (Will communicate with Ann Jones next week for update on that number.)
- Claflin has 46 total with 11 new students enrolling
- Denmark total of 5 students enrolled (After speaking with Dr. Richard these numbers were confirmed. **Dr. Cash-Greene** corrected **Mr. Bertha** on his contact's name. **Mr. Bertha** stated Rev. Melvin when in fact it was Dr. Richard.) however for the spring semester we have 18 students that will enroll.
- Columbia International has a total of 21 students. 8 students coming in for spring semester.

Rev Reid expressed that he is proud about the Post-Secondary school updates and that we have worked very hard. He also thanked all staff for hard work in accomplishing goal.

Chairman's Report - **Chairman Sumter** discussed upcoming conferences, in particular new board member session that is mandatory. Another opportunity to attend will be in April.

Dr. Richardson has question regarding Post-Secondary Update and mentoring program through Clemson University. **Dr. Richardson** asked **Mr. Bertha** if report numbers are for face-to-face classroom instruction. **Dr. Richardson** requested a number on how many inmates are enrolled in the paper based correspondence courses. **Mr. Bertha** stated he will get that information to **Dr. Richardson**. **Mr. Bertha** added that during his visits to Kershaw and Manning, there are many potential students who want to

participate and go to these colleges, but inmates are having an issue with leaving their current institution and going to either Ridgeland or Trenton and think they will be all alone at those institutions. **Mr. Bertha** stated he has discussed this issue with **Dr. Cash-Greene**, and they are looking at having student inmates who have been at institutions for 1-2 years come in and mentor the new students. Another issue is the student inmate's custody level.

Chairman Sumter recognized **Dr. Richardson** to resume her discussion about a mentoring program through Clemson and had an open discussion with members from the Clemson University as well as **Dr. Cash-Greene, Chairman Sumter**, and others from PUSD with a total of about 16-18 in attendance. It was discussed whether it should be an individual approach or should it be a college program through Clemson University.

Chairman Sumter asked that board members who are interested in attending February convention let **Ms. Williams** know. **Chairman** also reiterated that we have very little funds so the number of conferences that board members attend is limited, and we will send out a survey to find out who wants to attend. Paperwork is due in the next few days for this convention so we will be working quickly.

Dr. Quinn requested a future layout of upcoming conferences so that we can get more lead time. **Chairman Sumter** stated that all board members should be receiving correspondence from SCSBA. **Ms. Glover** confirmed that board members should be receiving weekly notifications about upcoming events.

Chairman Sumter reminded board members about Statement of Economic Interest due by March 30th.

Chairman Sumter congratulated **Mr. Bessant** for 30 years of service.

Executive Session – No request

Board Members Input – Input from **Mr. Bessant**, nothing from **Mr. Grinstead**, input from **Dr. Richardson**, input from **Ms. Childs** with nothing to add, input from **Dr. Quinn**. **Chairman** added that we are making great progress, district going in great direction with rising numbers.

Chairman Sumter movement to adjourn meeting, movement confirmed by **Mr. Bessant** with **Rev Reid** second. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Next meeting April 7, 2022

Respectfully,

Gina Williams, Meeting Secretary
Palmetto Unified School District Board of Trustees

Approved by: _____
Superintendent