

Palmetto Unified School District
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 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 education 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)

Rev. Ronald Bessant

Rev. Dr. Robert Reid

Dr. Elaine Richardson (present virtually via Teams)

Mrs. Charmeka Childs (present virtually via Teams)

Dr. James Ann Sheley (present virtually via Teams)

District Office and Headquarters Staff Members Present

Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene, Superintendent

Dr. Beverly Holiday

Dr. Charlette Taylor

Dr. Carmen Stone

Dr. Jay Collins (present virtually via Teams)

Bazella Glover (present virtually via Teams)

John Shipman

Shana Taylor

Vanessa Singleton

Josh Brade

Lila Grooms

Gina Williams

Chaplain Steven Hendricks

Georganna Martin (present virtually via Teams)

Meeting began at 10:00 am.

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

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

Invocation – **Chaplain Steven Hendricks**

Chairman Sumter swore in newly appointed board member **Dr. Sheley**

Old Business – Minutes reviewed from January 6th meeting. Rev. Reid accepted minutes with all in favor and minutes approved.

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

Superintendent's Report – **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated there is one action item included in Board Meeting packet that needs to be approved, the 2022/2023 calendar. After careful review, **Chairman Sumter** moved for a motion to accept calendar as is with first approval from **Dr. Richardson** and second from **Dr. Quinn**. **Chairman Sumter** asked if there is any discussion on the calendar as it and asked Board to note dates of Board meetings as well as graduation dates. No other questions. All in favor.

Next item on agenda was 2021-2022 Strategic Plan Update. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated we are currently updating the district strategic plan in terms of its data as well as the school's data that supports the districts. This data is due for submission April 30, 2023. Budget Report given by **Ms. Martin** was touched on by **Dr. Cash-Greene** who stated we are monitoring our budget very carefully with emphasis on the projection that we will be receiving \$1.6 million of support strictly addressing EFA students. However, another document from the agency showing overall budget and allocation as well as from the state department. That projection with expenditures totaled about \$10 million however with the subtraction of monies allocated by the state department we will have a deficit of \$1.4 million and prayerfully we will be able to sustain with the support of SCDCs budget. **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked if **Ms. Martin** or **Ms. Glover** wanted to add to this plan for next year's overall projection and our ability to sustain. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated we are keeping an eye on this but based on this she is sure SCDC will continue to support PUSD so that we can provide services to inmates relative to education. **Ms. Martin** thanked **Dr. Cash-Greene** for addressing this and stated that the administration is working to make sure the program will keep going. **Ms. Martin** added that they are waiting until the fiscal year to see exactly where we stand but they know they need to plan for the future of the district.

Dr. Cash-Greene discussed the Certificate Summary Report and stated we were able to obtain 16 GEDs, however we were unable to get high school diplomas for the month of March. 89 vocational certificates, 105 on the job training credentials. All the WIN and Workkeys ended for us in December until the state department approves a new career ready certificate so you will continue to see a 0 in this column until

that has been adopted and we begin to retest again. Employability Skills at 16 and Department of Labor 4. That is for the month of March. From July to this date, you will see an accumulation of a total report of credentials that has been earned thus far this year. **Chairman Sumter** stated it seemed that we started with statewide with the Workkeys already this year and asked if we've had any indication that we are not supposed to be doing that. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated that she has not received any notification and asked **Dr. Holiday** for clarification who also stated it has not been adopted yet and there are still conversations as far as what state career readiness assessment will be **Dr. Holiday** added that some districts may have taken it upon themselves to go ahead and test students with Workkeys, but it is at a halt at this time but the career assessment for the state has not been identified at this point. **Dr. Cash-Greene** recalled that districts could continue to use it, but it was supported by the state and they would have to send their payment to the Supreme Court in Tennessee, but PUSD was able to secure over 1,000 with 1,635 Workkeys that were administered this year prior to the end of the year in December and the strategy was to identify any inmates who were planning to leave by June and test those persons. This accelerated the testing for PUSD.

Human Resources Update was given by **Ms. Grooms** stating we currently have 111 vacancies, we have 3 pending that's pending for guidance counselor at Trenton, a guidance counselor at Camille and an assistant at Camille also. We have 33 vacant positions that we are working on. We have a retiree for January.

Dr. Cash-Greene stated one of the issues we have is because we have a variance between EFA schools and adult education centers, anytime a vacancy occurs in an EFA site it will create a vacancy in another location because of the disparity in terms of salary and that can be discussed later if there are any questions relevant to that. **Chairman Sumter** inquired if we are getting our vacancies on the SCDC site. **Mr. Brade** responded that we are.

Chairman Sumter asked for Curriculum Report update. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated there are no curriculum updates at this time.

Post-Secondary Update was given by **Ms. Taylor**. **Ms. Taylor** stated that our program participants in post-secondary program include 34 in Northeastern Technical College, 11 in Columbia International University, 8 in Claflin University, 16 in Denmark Tech. We are starting partnerships pending Second Chance Pell Grant approval with Morris College, Southern Western University and Midland Technical College. This year we have 30 new applications for Claflin University.

Dr. Cash-Greene shared a letter she received from an inmate who wrote about his positive experience with PUSD and how PUSD has changed his life. She also shared a discussion she had with **Mr. Clinkscale** and his experience with GED testing with a student who was overcome with joy and tears because she had achieved her GED. **Dr. Cash-Greene** gave recognition to both directors, **Dr. Holiday**, and **Mr. Shipman**, for the programs that oversee and for the staff for delivery of instruction, people in the office who are supporting staff members to ensure those things happen. She thanked the staff. **Dr. Cash-Greene** also stated we are getting approval to become a DMV site which will allow inmates to receive their driver's permit prior to leaving. We will be targeting those persons one year within their release.

Chairman Report given by **Chairman Sumter** who stated we just completed an audit and thanked **Dr. Cash-Greene** and **Dr. Holiday** for all the work that they and the staff have done to prepare the school for that audit. **Chairman Sumter** pointed out that the writing projects received recognition and thanked us for the newsletters that have been going out as well as the number of GEDs being given. **Chairman**

Sumter stated he hoped that board members were able to file their taxes with the ethics committee with the deadline of March 30th.

Dr. Quinn congratulated everyone on all the great things happening and stated he is concerned about the EFA reduction and how it will keep mounding up and the projection of hopefully getting help from the Department of Corrections. **Ms. Childs** commended the staff in assisting all that has been done to assist inmates and keeping us informed. **Dr. Richardson** thanked **Dr. Cash-Greene** for sharing the inmate letter. **Rev. Reid** stated the conference was great and encouraged attendance to school board meetings. **Mr. Bessant** gave a very emotional response about the number of student inmates we are able to help. **Mr. Bessant** also stated he will be speaking with Ms. Hampton with SCABA about having a discussion with PUSD about what we do. **Rev. Reid** recognized **Mr. Bessant** again for his 30 years with the school district. **Chairman Sumter** stated that one of the goals we have is to keep inmates from returning and that number has gone down and an area of the audit that he wanted **Dr. Holiday** to share. **Dr. Holiday** stated that during the audit she shared with the compliance monitoring review team that the SC Department of Corrections received recognition as being the lowest in the state for recidivism at 21.9% for the entire nation but that recognition was only received because of the educational services that we provide at PUSD for the offenders so that once they leave here, they don't have to come back. Even though that highlight was shined on SCDC, it was also shined on PUSD. **Dr. Sheley** stated that she is honored to be part of this group and honored to serve. She (**Dr. Sheley**) stated that the letter shared by **Dr. Cash-Greene** from the inmate was extremely powerful and helps her better understand our mission. **Dr. Cash-Greene** let **Dr. Sheley**, and other board members know that their bowls are ready to be picked up from the district office. **Mr. Shipman** gave information about the bowls.

Dr. Richardson gave an update on the task force including a visit to Greenville on March 9th with 3 members of the task force including Mr. Jerry Blassingame. The task force is assisting inmates post prison. **Ms. Childs** inquired about the purpose of the task force to get further clarification. **Chairman Sumter** thanked **Dr. Richardson** with her involvement with the task force.

Chairman Sumter next Board meeting slated for July 7th. **Chairman Sumter** moved to adjourn meeting, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Next meeting July 7, 2022

Respectfully,

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

Approved by: _____
Superintendent