

Palmetto Unified School District
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, January 5, 2023

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 Trustees Members Present

Mr. Michael Sumter, Chairman

Dr. James Quinn, Vice Chairman

Rev. Ronald Bessant

Rev. Dr. Robert Reid

Mr. Wade Keith Coones

Dr. James Ann Sheley (present virtually via Teams)

Mr. Tyson Grinstead (present virtually via Teams)

Ms. Charmeka Childs (present virtually via Teams)

District Office and Headquarters Staff Members Present

Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene, Superintendent

Dr. Beverly Holiday

Dr. Charlette Taylor

Dr. Jay Collins

Dr. Matthew Thompson (via Teams)

Tamikah McDuffie (via Teams)

Emanuel Alston (via Teams)

Ms. Georganna Martin

Ms. Bazella Glover

Ms. Lila Grooms

Mr. John Shipman

Mr. Josh Brade

Mr. Russell Salter

Ms. Gina Williams

Ms. Ariel Williams

Ms. Monica Kirby

Chaplain Pamela Nates

Meeting began at 10:05 am

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

Pledge of Allegiance – led by Chairman Sumter

Invocation – Chaplain Pamela Nates of Kirkland CI

Old Business – Minutes reviewed from October 6, 2022. **Mr. Coones** stated his name is spelled wrong. Minutes say “Wayne” and should be “Wade”. **Rev. Reid** accepted minutes with necessary correction and all board members were in favor with motion passed.

New Business – Budget Update presented by **Georganna Martin** with news that an additional \$100,000 was put into the budget. **Chairman Sumter** asked if any board members had questions regarding the budget.

Superintendent’s Report – After acknowledgement of board member’s presence, **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked that **Mr. Shipman** and **Ms. Glover** present news. In honor of Board Appreciation Month, **Mr. Shipman** presented board members with a gift from PUSD. **Ms. Glover** gave board members individual name tags/pins that can be used while they are in conferences and travelling. **Dr. Cash-Greene** asked **Mr. Shipman** to explain how the steel plaques presented to the board members is made. **Dr. Quinn** inquired about who to thank for the plaques and **Mr. Shipman** mentioned Mr. Bettencourt from Wateree. **Dr. Cash-Greene** informed the board members that all audit deadlines have been met and we are awaiting responses from the receiving offices however, there is one report from our CTE office. **Mr. Shipman** distributed a letter from the Department of Education and highlighted statements in the letter stating, “Palmetto Unified School District is compliant with federal/state grant requirements” as well as a positive statement regarding Palmetto Unified School District’s success with the CTE programs. **Mr. Shipman** also states we are compliant with all state and federal guidelines. **Rev. Reid** gave positive feedback about the Department of Education letter, spoke about his experience at the Black Caucus, thanked **Dr. Cash-Greene** for the outstanding job she is doing with the school district and thanked the staff as well. **Dr. Cash-Greene** stated an audit has been submitted referencing ESSER funds and we have yet to receive feedback as well as audit information submitted for SPED.

SPED Update - given by **Dr. Collins**. **Dr. Cash-Greene** acknowledged **Dr. Holiday** for completing the annual audit.

Adult Education /Certificate Summary update - given by **Dr. Holiday** expounding on the audit processing and stated last year we went through the formal audit and each year leading up to five years is the informal audit with very little difference. **Dr. Holiday** states it will in March of this year, and she will be gathering information to give to **Georganna Martin**. **Dr. Holiday** stated we currently has 83 GEDs across the state, 1 high school diploma that has been declared thus far but we do have other students who are on the high school diploma track, 611 vocational certificates, 963 OJTs (on the job training certificates), and WIN was just awarded the contract again. We don’t have any WIN certificates yet, so we are waiting for everything to be signed by the new superintendent. At this time, we have 132 employability skills completed and we do not

have any Department of Labor apprenticeships but that will change by the end of the year. As far as enrollment, there are 625 students enrolled, 145 on the high school academic track, 555 enrolled in vocational programs/ABE, 19 EFAs which are the 17-21-year olds.

Human Resources Update - given by **Ms. Grooms**. Currently we have 7 new employees since our last board meeting making the total 108 employees with Palmetto Unified School District. We have 15 positions posted on the website and we have 1 retiree. Pink Slip positions were discussed.

Post-Secondary Participants/Partners - update was given by **Dr. Cash-Greene** who stated **Ariel Williams** was announced at the last board meeting as being the post-secondary coordinator however, **Dr. Cash-Greene** made the report informing board members that information is included in their packets with the number of current participants. **Ms. Grooms** introduced **Ms. Monica Kirby** as one of our new test administrators. **Dr. Cash-Greene** added that Voorhees University, Southern Wesleyan, Benedict College and Morris College will be coming on second session of this spring semester. Voorhees will service Allendale as well as MacDougal and Lieber, Southern Wesleyan will service Perry and Tyger River, Benedict will service Kershaw, Manning and Broad River and Morris will service Turbeville and Lee. **Dr. Cash-Greene** added that the numbers board members have does not include any correspondence courses stating that she is not certain if any of the institutions keeps track of any of those courses.

Chairman Sumter inquired if there were any questions thus far with no questions confirmed. **Dr. Cash-Greene** acknowledged the passing of Ms. Jeancake, a teacher at Trenton, whose funeral service was attended in December. **Rev. Reid** asked for a pause of silence to pay respects for Ms. Jeancake and said a small prayer.

Chairman Sumter presented **Rev. Reid** with a plaque, pin, and certificate for his number of years of service with the South Carolina School Board Association. **Chairman Sumter** reminded board members to remember for file their taxes with the State Ethics Commission with a deadline of March 30, 2023. **Chairman Sumter** asked if there was a need for an executive session with a response of no from board members.

Chairman Sumter asked board members who attended conferences in the past to share their experiences. **Rev. Reid** gave a statement about his experience. **Chairman Sumter** asked the board if there were any comments from **Ms. Childs** who responded no comments. **Dr. Sheley** who commended **Dr. Cash-Greene** and staff on their hard work and stated her appreciation to **Chairman Sumter** on how effectively he runs the board meetings. **Mr. Coones** simply wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Bessant commented on the great things PUSD is doing. **Chairman Sumter** asked if there were any other comments, to which **Rev. Reid** asked if **Mr. Shipman** would be leaving before the next board meeting to which **Mr. Shipman** responded that he will be here for the next board meeting. **Chairman** stated if there is nothing else, he will entertain a motion to adjourn with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next meeting April 6, 2023

Respectfully,

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

Approved by: _____

Superintendent