

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

April 3, 2025

Mission Statement: Palmetto Unified School District and South Carolina Department of Corrections will provide students with relevant 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.

Board of Trustee Members Present:

Dr. Mary Elaine Richardson

Dr. James Ann Sheley

Rev. Ronald Bessant

Mr. Wade Keith Coones (virtual)

Mr. Tyson Grinstead (virtual)

Rev. Dr. Robert Reid

Ms. Karen Tucker

Mr. Michael Sumter

PUSD District Office Staff Present:

Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene, Superintendent

Mr. Russell Salter, IT

Dr. Beverly Holiday, Director Adult Education

Mr. Josh Brade, IT

Mr. Rodney Zimmerman, Director of Curriculum

Ms. Nancy Jeter, Testing Administrator

Dr. Matt Thompson, Director of CTE

Dr. Relus Lucear, Pee Dee Regional Principal

Dr. Charlette Taylor, Director of Federal Programs

Dr. Emanuel Alston, Lowcountry Regional Principal

Rev. Dr. R. Reid called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and requested if the meeting was duly exercised according to the Freedom Information Act. He acknowledged the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair and assumed the role to facilitate the meeting. A quorum was established with the presence of seven Board members.

Rev. R. Bessant - led the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was led by Chaplain Pamela Nates, Kirkland Correctional Institution

Old Business

Rev. Dr. R. Reid - request approval of the minutes from January 9, 2025 meeting.

Mr. T. Grinstead – moved to approve the minutes

Dr. E. Richardson – second the minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting.

New Business

Rev. Dr. R. Reid request updates from the superintendent beginning with the Budget Report

Superintendent Cash-Greene - In the absence of Ms. Martin and Ms. Glover- you have in your packet the quarterly summary of the budget report. The items break downs are for EFA funds, CTE Funds, IDEA Funds and Title I Funds. This third quarter shows a positive balance thus far. The main rationale for the positive balance is we have staff wearing multiple hats and doing multiple jobs to cover for the vacancies. I really want to thank the staff for the job that they are doing to cover the vacancies that exist.

Mr. T. Grinstead – Does this compare somewhat similarly to this time last year in quarter three?

Superintendent Cash-Greene – Last year during the third quarter we did have a positive balance, but it was projected that by the end of the third quarter the balance would be negative.

Mr. T. Grinstead – Thank you. That's great.

Superintendent Cash-Greene – Acknowledges the Board Chair, Vice-Chair and members the Board. To continue with the reports, thank you Rev. Reid for facilitating our meeting this morning. Updates were requested of the District. We will share some exciting news from our CTE program by Dr. Thompson, followed by reports from Dr. Taylor and Dr. Holliday. We will begin with Dr. Taylor with our proposed 2025-2026 District Calendar which will require your approval.

Dr. C. Taylor – Director of Federal Programs: You have before you the 2025 calendar. I would like to bring to your attention that the Board meetings are the first Thursday. The meeting in July is on the third and that is the day before a holiday. You may want to consider moving to the next week which is July 11th. The Board is always invited to attend the District convocation and this would be a combined meeting which is July 11th.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid - it would be better to move the meeting and align with the convocation.

Dr. C. Taylor – Director of Federal Programs: Just to make note of the meeting in January is the second Thursday rather than the first Thursday.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid - The 8th of January and the 11th of July. Board Members are there any questions.

Dr. E. Richardson - I am ready to approve this.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid - Is there a second?

Dr. A. Sheley - Motioned to approve the 2025 calendar with the adjustments indicated.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid – Thanked Dr. Taylor for the wonderful newsletter that she publishes weekly.

Superintendent Cash-Greene – additionally, both calendars A and B were sent out to the staff for their input and final selection. Calendar A which you voted on was selected by the staff. Next, I would like to ask Mr. Zimmerman to share the Districts 2025-2026 strategic plan and school renewal updates.

Mr. R. Zimmerman – Director of Curriculum: Good Morning Board Chair, Vice-chair We have

Dr. B. Holiday – Director of Adult Education: Good morning, everyone. First, I was "under the gun" for a few weeks writing the Corrections Education Grant, but now I feel much better since the grant was successfully submitted on Monday, March 31, 2025. After a sigh of relief, she reported the following credentials have been achieved in PUSD as of March 31, 2025. As of today, we have 178 High School Equivalency Diplomas, and staff are cranking up testing in the schools, so we are anticipating many more. I am confident that we will meet and exceed our goal of 314. Also, we have one (1) EFA student at Tyger River High School who has completed his High School Diploma. In addition to him, we have approximately six (6) other students on the High School Diploma, including two (2) or three (3) students pursuing the Adult High School Diploma pathway.

Additionally, our students have attained 1,615 WIN credentials, just 47 away from our targeted goal of 1,662. Also, students have 326 Employability Skills certificates, 26 away from our goal of 349. Dr. Thompson will report on the Vocational, Department of Labor Apprenticeship, and iCEV credentials. Dr. Cash-Greene asked Dr. Holiday to share about the Northstar Digital Literacy initiative. Dr. Holiday shared that the Northstar Digital Literacy initiative was new this year within the district. It is a district-wide initiative, and several students have attained certificates from Northstar. This initiative is of utmost importance as it offers more current digital literacy skills needed in today's workforce than the digital literacy skills on the WIN platform, and we can receive additional funds from the Office of Adult Education for students who earn a Northstar Digital Literacy credential. There are many certificates a student can attain from the Northstar Digital Literacy modules, but there are five main assessments the students must successfully pass to earn the Northstar Digital Literacy credential. Livesay is leading the pack with students achieving the Northstar certificate.

Dr. Holiday shared that the Corrections Education Grant funding amount was \$500,000. The allocated amount of the Corrections Grant was also \$500,000 the last time it was written four (4) years ago. We received \$390,000 of that amount. Hopefully, we will receive the same amount or higher this grant cycle because all the funds are used for the teachers' salaries.

Question: Dr. Shealy asked whether the grant funds were state or federal. Dr. Holiday shared that this was a federal grant under the WIOA Act, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Question: Rev. Reid asked about the graduation schedule. Dr. Holiday shared that it was being worked on and would be finalized soon.

Dr. M. Thompson – Director of CTE:

further describes the new software and its support of the vocational program to include one of the airlines South West Airline who provides a certificate in effective professional communication. Several request has been made particularly with the female institutions.

Superintendent Cash-Greene – The vocational program has really taken off. Dr. Thompson drives from Spartanburg. He has a strong work ethics and a high a level of commitment to the vocational program. Further announcements - the agency has allowed us to post two certified teaching positions for Kirkland High School. The rationale is to address the needs of the DJJ students coming into the agency. These

students are the EFAs ages 17-21. We were also granted permission to hire two administrative assistants. Unfortunately, one hired lasted for two weeks and resigned.

The post-secondary report is still unavailable due to the transition in a new data software. We are unable to provide for you accurate data on the enrollments.

This concludes my report – if there are any questions at this time from either of us w will try to answer them at this time.

Rev. Dr. R. **Reid** – Thank you all for your commitment. This organization and the staff have done great work. My hats go off to all of you. There has been a request for executive session I will need a motion to go into executive session.

Mr. M. Sumter – So move

Dr. E. Richardson - Second

Rev. Dr. R. Reid – All in favor - the vote was unanimous. We will return to our public session. All who are virtual can remain on until we return. A link will be provided for the Board members to join us.

Mr. T. Grinstead – Has another meeting and will not attend the executive session.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid – Welcome back to public session – No action was taken no required from executive session. We will hear from Board Members.

Dr. E. Richardson – The goal of the America's College trying to move forward but the goals are too big. One of the things we did the committee members and Northeastern Tech, we toured Jump Start in Spartanburg. Toured the facilities. Also visited the wood working shop. Propose that this Board do a similar tour. It will be good to see. I would like to ask for a motion that we visit.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid - Board members should we have a motion

Dr. A. Sheley - made a motion to visit

Mr. M. Sumter - second and all was in favor to visit the facility.

Rev. Dr. R. Reid – Are there any additional information from Board Members

Mr. M. Sumter Moved to adjourn

Rev. R. Bessant second the motion to Adjourn 11:15 AM