

LATTA SCHOOL BOARD  
Minutes  
September 14, 2021

(Minutes submitted are unofficial until approved at the next month's regular monthly meeting.)

The Latta School Board of Trustees met for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the District Administrative Conference Room. In accordance with S.C. Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80(E). *The Dillon Herald* was notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting. The agenda is also posted in the District Office and on the district website.

Trustees present were Kyle Berry, Ray George, Kwame Hennagan, Eleanor Powers and Jo Ann Williamson. Vanessa Harrison and Stuart Poston were absent.

Chair Kyle Berry welcomed all present and Dr. John Kirby opened with prayer.

Dollie Morrell recognized John Craig Carmichael, IV for making a perfect PASS score in science.

George Liebenrood recognized Shelly Marsh as District Teacher of the Year.

Stephanie Ard recognized Josiah Davis and Nicholas Mendez as summer program students.

There being no corrections or additions to the August 24, 2021 minutes, Chair Kyle Berry ruled that they stand approved. Chair Kyle Berry amended the agenda by moving citizen input on items of general interest to schools before old business.

**CITIZEN INPUT ON ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO SCHOOLS:**

The Board received citizen input concerns regarding specific program support. No formal action was taken on such.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. John Kirby updated the Board on the Federal Esser Fund Plan. (Handout attached becoming part of the minutes.)

**DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS**

Donna Taylor presented the status report for July 2021 on the General Fund budget. (Report attached becoming part of the minutes.)

An update on the summer academic recovery expenditure and current out of district student totals was given by Donna Taylor.

George Liebenrood gave an update on the 2020-2021 test scores. Test scores were above the state average. (Handout attached becoming part of the minutes.) The Board of Trustees officially recognized and thanked all teachers for their efforts and perseverance and continued dedication for our students in these challenging times.

A motion to continue to write grants for federal funds was made by Eleanor Powers and seconded by Jo Ann Williamson. Vote was unanimous.

Larry Legette updated the Board on the shortage of bus drivers and the status of the custodial staff.

An update on teacher housing was given by Dr. John Kirby.

Dr. John Kirby updated the Board on the McLeod's career partnership.

Chair Kyle Berry spoke about Trustees attending a delegation drop-in on October 12 for Representative Lucas Atkinson. The regular October 12 Board meeting was canceled in order for Trustees to attend this function.

Dr. John Kirby and Board members discussed the South Carolina Supreme Court mask mandate ruling. Board Members signed a resolution strongly urging members of the South Carolina General Assembly to reconvene immediately and repeal Proviso 1.108. (Resolution attached becoming part of the minutes.)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Kwame Hennagan made a motion to authorize the school district to proceed with the design-build contract for the expansion of the elementary school and high school. Eleanor Powers seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Jo Ann Williamson to approve first reading of the following policies:

- EBCB            Safety Drills
- IHAC           Social Studies Education
- IKA-R          Grading/Assessment Systems
- IKF-R          Graduation Requirements
- JBAB           Student Gender and Orientation
- JICDA-R       Code of Conduct

Kwame Hennagan seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. (Policies attached becoming part of the minutes.)

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Kwame Hennagan volunteered to represent Latta Schools by being a delegate to the South Carolina School Board Association's 2021 Delegate Assembly being held on December 4, 2021.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel contracts.

**FORMAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Upon exiting executive session, no action was taken.

There being no further business, Chair Kyle Berry adjourned the meeting with unanimous consent at 9:00 p.m.

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Kyle Berry, Chair  
JMK:sg

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Vanessa Harrison, Secretary