

**Minutes of Clarendon One and Clarendon Three Joint Board Meeting  
January 9, 2020**

**The Board of Trustees  
Clarendon School District One and Clarendon School District Three**

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A joint board meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clarendon School District Three (CSD3) and Clarendon School District One (CSD1) was held January 9, 2020, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Cafeteria of East Clarendon High School, 1101 Pope Street, Turbeville, South Carolina 29162.

CSD3 Board Chair, Mr. Jason Newsome, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

In accordance with the attached agenda, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Jason Newsome, CSD3 Board Chair, at 6:36 PM. Other trustees representing the quorum were:

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

**Clarendon One Board of Trustees:** Chairman, Mr. Tony Junious; Vice Chair, Mrs. Ethel Marshall; Secretary, Mr. John Bonaparte; Legislative Liaison, Mr. Harold Morrow; Mr. Johnnie Lawson, Ms. Wanda Thomas; and Ms. Vastine Johnson.

**Clarendon Three Board of Trustees:** Mr. Ron Wingard, Ms. Norma Reardon, Mr. Ellis Evans, Mr. Dale McKenzie, Mr. John Hardy

Not present during establishment of quorum:

**Clarendon One:** Mrs. Cindy Risher and Parliamentarian, Mr. Keith Bowman  
**Clarendon Three:** Vice-Chairman, Mr. George Frierson III

**Absent:** Clarendon One: Mrs. Cindy Risher and Parliamentarian, Mr. Keith Bowman

Also, in attendance: CSD1 Human Resources Director, Mr. Wesley Terrill; CSD1 Finance and Technology Director, Russell Zimmerman; CSD1 Summerton Early Childhood Development Center Principal, Mrs. Patricia Middleton; CSD1 Parent Engagement Coordinator, Ms. Kathleen Gibson; CSD3 Director of Finance and Human Resources, Laura Fleming; and CSD3 Food Services Director, Gwen Phillips.

Mr. Jason Newsome, CSD3 Chairman, welcomed all persons present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

WELCOME

CSD3 Chairman Jason Newsome opened the floor for discussion regarding consolidation. Mr. Tony Junious, CSD1 Chairman, yielded the floor to Senator Johnson.

Senator Johnson shared the background and intended purpose of Proviso 1.88. The budget proviso 1.88 provided resources for districts that fell into a particular category or met certain criteria to consolidate. Eight school districts in SC fit that criteria. The hope was that those eight districts would consolidate to four. This

proviso allows input into the consolidation process and it also gives financial help to the school districts. Clarendon Three desires to add classrooms at F. E. Dubose and to have major repairs to their buildings. Clarendon One desires to absolve their debt and they intend to have a few building repairs as well. Once the plan is submitted to the State Department, half of the money will be available to CSD1 and CSD3. Once that legislation is passed to make the consolidation legal and binding, the rest of those funds will be available. He also stated that the purpose of this joint board meeting is to discuss and address issues and concerns that both districts have, leave with a consensus, and submission plan.

Senator Johnson shared that there would be no changes in control of the districts. Clarendon One School Board would control matters relative to their district. Clarendon Three would do the same. The consolidated district and all issues pertaining to that district will be controlled by the consolidated district's school board. The delegation's goal is to get a strong school board that is fair and works in the best interest of the entire consolidated district.

Senator Jonson, then, opened the floor to the questions and concerns of the school boards.

Both boards raised varying concerns. The concerns raised include the following:

- the updating of any language that referenced the items discussed and changed in the meeting of the delegation, the board chairs, and superintendents;
- removing all references to a facilitator and transition team;
- expenditure approval;
- consolidated school board administrative space;
- consolidated board compensation and superintendent salary;
- governance and consolidated board structure;
- consolidated board duties and responsibilities;
- consolidation with Clarendon Two;
- communication of information; and
- final deadline for submission.

In response to the concerns raised, Senator Johnson shared that the funds given to CSD1 and CSD3 can be spent only after both districts approve the requests. The consolidated school board will need administrative space. They will need technical advice from the SC SBA and other consultants. They will also be compensated as a board and they will hire a superintendent. All of the funds necessary for those actions will come from the 3 million dollars given by the State Department of Education (SDE).

He continued to share that the consolidated board will be an appointed board, initially. Since 2020 is a census year, the delegation recommended that the July 1, 2020 board be an appointed board. Once lines are redrawn and updated from the census data, elections will be held. The members will have staggered tenures so that the entire board is not being elected at one time. Only those who will do what is in the best interest of the students, will be appointed. If a member of the current CSD1 or CSD3 boards is appointed to the consolidated board, the delegation will also appoint someone to fill that seat. The consolidated board will hire the consolidated district's superintendent. He reminded all that this consolidation plan will not have major effects on the schools or dictate how the consolidated board is to operate the consolidated district because this is an administration consolidation.

Senator Johnson stressed that the main reason this consolidation includes Clarendon One and Clarendon Three is because both districts met the requirements set forth in the Proviso. Clarendon Two did not meet the requirements. He also shared that consolidation occurs when a piece of legislation is passed. Districts can be consolidated overnight if local legislators write it into law. He has never taken the steps to introduce a consolidation bill because that is not what the citizens wanted. CSD3 and CSD1 approached him about consolidation, so he is assisting and working with the districts on consolidation. However, he anticipates Clarendon County will soon have only one school district.

As an end to the discussion, CSD1 Chairman Mr. Tony Junious offered to make sure both boards agreed on the next steps. He restated the next steps of the CSD1 and CSD3 board and superintendents for approval. Both boards agreed that the only additions to the plan would be the CSD1 facility needs and language regarding the fiscal agent; the only corrections would be made regarding governance to reflect items discussed and approved in the delegation, board chairs, and superintendents' meeting; and the final plan would be viewed and updated by Mrs. Champagne, sent to Dr. Dennis for her approval of the updates, and submitted by both superintendents before Friday, January 17, 2020. All board members present agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:

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Mr. Tony Junious, Board Chairman

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Mr. John D. Bonaparte, Board Secretary