

October 29, 2018

**JOINT MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY'S MUNICIPAL COUNCILS,
COUNTY COUNCIL, BOARD OF EDUCATION, &
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Darlington County Board of Education hosted the joint dinner meeting of Darlington County's Municipal Councils, County Council, Board of Education, and Legislative Delegation on October 29, 2018, at 6 p.m., at Darlington County School District Administrative Building, 120 E. Smith Avenue, Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda, providing the date, time, and place of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the County Administrator's Office and mailed in advance to Darlington County's Municipal Mayors/Managers/Clerks, Darlington County School District Superintendent, Darlington County Board of Education Chairman, Darlington County Legislative Delegation, Darlington County Council members, and the local newspapers.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. J. Lewis Brown, Mr. David Coker, and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Ms. Mozella Nicholson, and Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

Darlington County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, Darlington County Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Darlington County Economic Development Director Frank Willis, Darlington County Board Of Education Members Jamie Morphis, Connell Delaine, Warren Jeffords, Charles Govan, Jr., Maureen Thomas, Thelma Dawson, Billy Baldwin, and Wanda Hassler, Darlington County School District Superintendent Tim Newman, City of Darlington Council Members Carolyn Bruce, John Segars, Elaine Reed, Bryant Gardner, and Shelia Baccus, City of Darlington Administrator Howard Garland, City of Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines, City of Darlington Police Chief, Kelvin Washington, City of Hartsville Council Members Johnny Andrews, William Shirley, and Tre Gammage, City of Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington, Society Hill Council Member Carolyn Oliver and Deborah Harrell, Lamar Council Member Angele White-Bradley, Speaker of the House of Representatives Jay Lucas, and US Senator Tim Scott's Representative A.D. Jordan.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Mr. Bobby Bryant of the News and Press.

Welcome / Invocation

Darlington County School District Superintendent Dr. Tim Newman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The invocation was presented by Board of Education Member Connell Delaine.

Dinner Discussion

After dinner, Dr. Newman reported that Darlington County School District representatives were conversating about things to be done within the school district. As feedback, he asked the group to present what they view as positives and challenges regarding Darlington County School District.

The positives included the Dual Credit Program, Darlington County Institute of Technology (DCIT), the School District being proactive, tremendous teachers, parent involvement, School Board and community involvement, test scores, engagement with other organizations, student successes, the 200th anniversary of St. John's Elementary School, academic opportunities, transportation for all students, leadership, and the levels of success and expertise regarding Fine Arts (bands, marching bands, choirs, etc.).

Challenges and solutions presented were:

Challenges

- Quality of life for students.
- Putting students to work.
- Bringing college graduates back to Darlington County.
- Housing for young teachers and teachers' salary.

Solutions

- Look at the students' environment/home.
- Establish internships wherein students will go to school for half day and work for pay the other half day with no commitment to the employer.
- Implement an internship program for college-bound students wherein businesses stay connected with the students after the internship ends and during college.
- Subsidize rent for new teachers coming from beyond the community; provide the same type housing together; provide incentives for teachers to stay within the county; provide student loan forgiveness; increase teachers' salary based upon the circumstances of the district since teachers would be giving up things (social activities, housing choices, restaurants,

etc.) to teach in communities such as Society Hill and Lamar.

Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington talked about the need to reinstate the Managers/Administrators/Chairman meetings to talk about things and bring the results back to this group.

Dr. Newman provided a handout and emphasized the caption which stated, *"There is always a new idea or better way of doing something waiting for someone to implement it. Why not YOU?"* He asked why not begin the collaboration for teacher housing incentives, etc.

Dr. Newman also reported that the School District was moving forward with building new facilities, internship initiatives, and block scheduling to support DCIT enrollment.

County Councilman Lewis Brown talked about there being an alignment issue and areas in the county that are not doing well probably because of the school system not doing well or the perception of the school system not doing well. When the School District was doing well, selling Hartsville was a lot easier. Mr. Brown also pointed out that almost 60 percent of the county's budget was being spent on crime-related matters. He would rather see these funds go towards improving the schools and for students after graduation.

It was pointed out that SAT scores in Darlington County were almost 70 points higher than those in Florence County.

Darlington City Administrator Howard Garland talked about the City of Darlington being hungry for something to pull for, whether it is sports, band, etc.

School Board Chairman Jamie Morphis stated that everyone must have pride in their community and support all the athletic teams and opportunities for young people.

Dr. Newman indicated that he was looking at and focusing on every aspect regarding the School District. It is his goal for the students to be in successful programs.

School Board Member Thelma Dawson suggested that everyone get someone involved in the community. She also talked about the need for good schools and infrastructure in order to have economic development.

County Councilman Lewis Brown talked there being a void in the interconnections with Florence/Darlington Technical College and transportation to that site. He also talked about the need for a labor force in order to improve economic development.

Economic Development Director Frank Willis commented about the lack of leadership at Florence/Darlington Technical College.

Representative Jay Lucas talked about what businesses look for when locating and the critical need for partnerships with students and industries/businesses in order to have

a workforce. He also talked about recruiting teachers to rural South Carolina, the State's 19-century curriculum, and the need for computer programming initiatives in order to fill the abundance of manufacturing jobs within the state. Without a ready workforce, manufacturing jobs may stop locating in South Carolina.

Lamar Councilmember Angele White-Bradley talked about the need for after-school programs in Lamar area. Dr. Newman responded that the School District was discussing relevant afterschool programs along with academic summer programs.

Darlington City Police Chief Kelvin Washington commented that the county will pay *"on the front end or the back end."* He talked about the percent of the world's inmate population being housed in the United States and the need to invest in education or continue funding the prison system.

Society Hill Councilwoman Deborah Harrell questioned the possibility of year-round school. Dr. Newman responded that he would like to pilot a year-round school to see what the data looks like and whether there would be enough community support.

Hartsville Mayor Mel Pennington pointed out that the amphitheater in Darlington could become an asset for the City of Darlington and the School District. However, there may be some liabilities.

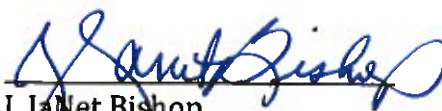
Board of Education Member Thelma Dawson talked about the need for a sewer lift station in the same area as the School District's \$20 million facility. She stressed that until the City of Darlington invests in infrastructure to keep children from walking through sewage and water, she would not support anything.

After a brief discussion regarding the infrastructure situation within the City of Darlington, Board of Education Chairman Jamie Morphis asked Dr. Newman to facilitate the formation of a group of two representatives from each municipality, the county, and the School Board, develop an agenda, discuss the issues, and report back to the group with solutions and opportunities. He commended the leadership of the School District and urged others to contact Dr. Newman with any concerns or questions.

Darlington City Administrator Howard Garland suggested that the meetings be held quarterly.

Board of Education Chairman Jamie Morphis thanked everyone for attending the joint dinner meeting. There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Janet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of December 5, 2018.