

**SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
EDUCATION MINUTES**

**October 14, 2019**

**2:00 PM - SYLVESTER-WORTH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/EDA**

The following committee members were in attendance – Bill Settle – Chair, Jean Brooks, Shelly McPhaul, Bill Settle, Becky Geer, Kelly McCord, Christie Foerster, Will Smith, Ashley Collier, Staff – Karen Rackley

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Bill Settle presiding. Prayer led by Jean Brooks. Pledge led by Bill Settle.

**AGENDA** – Shelly McPhaul made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Jean Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES** – Kelly McCord made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Jean Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**GUEST – Will Smith – WCAC Principal**

Mr. Smith from the WCAC gave a brief history on the center and its plans for the center and students. The WCAC is in its fourth year and Mr. Smith is looking to change the mindset and culture of the center. In the past, the center was viewed as a place for students with behavior issues, Mr. Smith is looking to promote inclusiveness of students. The center has two programs wrapped into one, due to advanced technology, the center is now able to focus on the academic component of alternative education. There are currently 34 students enrolled in the alternative program. Mr. Smith has successfully sent over one hundred students back into the regular school setting during his tenure at the WCAC.

After attending the Georgia Association of Alternative Educators (GAAE), Mr. Smith brought back ideas from other communities to implement here in Worth County. In other communities, industries are working together with their alternative programs to provide opportunities for students to get their education during the day and earn money. This collaboration will give students a sense of worth and will encourage them not to lose their ambition to succeed after being placed in the alternative school setting.

**Ashley Collier Southwest Georgia RESA/ Wraparound Services Coordinator**

Miss Collier is with Southwest Georgia RESA in Camilla, Georgia. RESA provides the following services in the Worth County area, Reading, Math, English, School Improvement, School Climate, Technology and Wraparound Services. Due to the WCAC school designation as a Comprehensive School Intervention (CSI), with less than 67% graduation rate, Mr. Smith began working with Ms. Collier in January 2018. Since that time the Federal Government began

paying for sixteen positions for Wraparound Services in the state of Georgia. Ms. Collier feels fortunate to be one of those sixteen coordinators designated to serve the worth county area.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Collier laid out the needs for the future of the WCAC looking to start a Wraparound Center to provide food, clothes, shoes, and provide mental health services. The Chamber would be instrumental by providing mentors, and business leaders to visit the center and inform the students on the importance of excelling and what to look forward to in the work force. Ms. Collier ended the presentation by discussing some of the challenges faced and feels confident that one person can make the difference in the student's life who is currently on the path of alternative education. **See attached agenda for more notes on Wraparound Services in the alternative center.**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**New Hire Orientation** – 45 Bags were prepared to Welcome New Hires to the Worth County School District. Mr. Settle expressed gratitude to the Chamber and Education committee saying that the welcome bags are an impressive way to welcome new employees to the district and the community.

**Teacher Appreciation Breakfast** – WCHS had its appreciation breakfast on Monday, October 7, 2019. All other school breakfasts were held in July. Mr. Settle expressed how much the faculty and staff look forward to the appreciation breakfast each year. Breakfast sponsors were, Coca-Cola, Sylvester-Worth County Chamber, CTSI, Colony Bank, Phoebe Worth Medical Center, and Mitchell EMC. Faculty members received tickets to enter a drawing to receive one of four \$25 Chamber gift certificates. Mr. Settle gave away a pass to leave at 12:00.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**REACH Scholarship (DOE Initiative)** – The Chamber secured an anonymous donor for the scholarship. The donor will donate \$10,00.00 the second year of the program. The first year is paid in full by REACH. The scholarships will be awarded to five students on October 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the WCMS cafeteria. Mr. Settle invited all education committee members to attend the ceremony.

**College Access Grant** – The final payment of \$1,500.00 was presented to Mr. Settle at today's meeting. Mr. Settle will coordinate with Worth County Schools to see what the school's needs are and use funds as he deems necessary.

**Bench Project/CTAE Program** – As part of the downtown beautification project, The City of Sylvester has contracted the WCHS welding program to make benches. Six benches have been sponsored by businesses, three of them has been placed in front of the following businesses, Vintage Nest, Visions of Sylvester, and Fletcher Yeararta Jewelers.

**Middle School Awards Breakfast** – The next awards breakfast will be held on October 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. A reminder email will be sent to the education committee today.

**GA Partnership for Excellence In Education** – Karen Rackley has been chosen to serve as a Director for 2020.

**Christmas Clearing House** – Collection boxes for Christmas Clearing House will be placed in each school by November 1, 2019.

**Worth Schools Update – Bill Settle** – Worth County schools are celebrating homecoming this week, October 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. The homecoming parade has over 35 entries and will be held on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The WCES band performed at Kiwanis on October 9<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of the new band teacher, Mr. Lumpkin. The elementary school music room had new carpet placed in the music room and students received new band instruments. Mr. Settle and the students are excited about the future of the elementary school's music program.

**ADJOURN** – With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, January 13, 2020.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Jaki S. Johnson