

Joint Press Release from Mr. Martin Wright and Dr. Ronald Wilcox

## PRELIMINARY PLAN CELEBRATION SHARED BY DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Hampton School District One and Hampton School District 2 met in a joint meeting on January 14, 2020 at Estill High School. Superintendents Dr. Ron Wilcox and Mr. Martin L. Wright shared with board members and community the following accomplishments (1) both districts agreed to voluntarily consolidate, (2) monthly joint board meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, (3) consolidation plan was developed and submitted to State Department of Education for approval, (4) joint boards are awarded \$3 million dollars in 188A funds (5) joint boards are awarded \$10 million dollars in 188B funds, (6) Dr. Zona Jefferson was hired as Consolidation Facilitator, (7) the districts have agreed to share services in Special Education and Food Service, (8) the new school district name is Hampton County School District, (9) established a new district office address and (10) joint boards are on track to accomplish their first year objectives.

Dr. Zona Jefferson discussed the Preliminary Plan Year 1 Strategies for Board members to consider. Her plan included board composition, DUNS #, organizational chart, job descriptions, district level personnel positions, salary equalization, staff development, instructional programs, school calendar, facility study, professional services and aligning software packages.

Board members agreed to establish a district office address for the new school district. The district address will be as follows: 372 Pine Street East, Varnville, SC 29944. By establishing the new school district address, the districts can move forward and apply for a new DUNS number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character number used to identify organizations receiving funds from the federal government. More specifically, the DUNS number track how federal money is allocated.

The State Department of Education has awarded the districts \$3 million dollars for facility needs related to consolidation (1.88A) and \$10 million dollars for construction of a new consolidated high school (1.88B). The Boards decided that Hampton County School District One will be the fiscal agent for 1.88B and Hampton County School District 2 will be the fiscal agent for the 1.88A.

Dr. Wilcox and Mr. Wright presented their responses to the State Department questions relating to the consolidation which included facilities upgrades, salary analysis, and establishing Wide Area Network (WAN) connections between the districts.

Board members voted to establish a Central Office address, approve the districts' response to South Carolina Department of Education question regarding the updated submission to the preliminary plan.

There is an opportunity for public input during joint board business meetings. The public is encouraged to attend each district's local board business meeting and the next joint consolidation meeting.

The Joint Meeting of Hampton One and Hampton 2 School Boards will take place at North District Middle School on February 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM.