



February 17, 2022, 6pm, via Zoom

## Statesboro Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: LaShai Campbell, Stacey Grant, Lakesha Hill, Karen Lambie, Debbie Vives, Caitlin Brady, Tracy Linderholm, Jennifer Mock, Kristina (Tina) Patterson, Yolandra Shipp, Amanda Clements, Scott Marchbank (Boys and Girls Club), Catherine Hendrix (Bulloch County Commission on Human Services)

Kristina Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:04 and noted quorum was present. Agenda was approved as written. Minutes from January meeting were approved as written.

The meeting began with an introduction of two guests, Scott Marchbanks, Board President of the Boys and Girls Club, and Catherine Hendrix, Executive Director of the Bulloch County Commission on Human Services as well as all commission members present.

Lakesha Hill gave an update from the most recent BOE meeting(s). The BOE continued the discussion of Instructional Coaches. There were questions around evidence of the success of the instructional coaches, re: changes in instruction, and increased student engagement. Mattie Lively and Langston Chapel Elementary have instructional coaches and there has been positive feedback. Virtual instruction option for 2022-23 is moving forward with a decreased number of slots available and adjustments to requirements to qualify and teacher ratios. BOE was asked for approval for mobile units at LCES to reduce teacher to student ratio to 1:17. BOE was

asked for approval for new HVAC at LCMS. The financial report noted the school system is currently on track with the budget.

Kristina Patterson gave an update on the Package sales ordinance, provision g. After spirited debate among the council members over whether to include provision g, the ordinance passed first reading, with the inclusion of provision g.

Lakesha Hill gave an update on the Our City's Youth discussion on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Participants identified 4 main areas of need: education, mentorship, workforce readiness, and social determinants of success. They noted the problem of poverty and learning gaps. Chief Broadhead discussed the importance of pre-3<sup>rd</sup> grade literacy. A key takeaway is that we have many community groups committed to addressing issues, noted importance of collaboration and being intentional on communication.

Mayor McCollar tasked SCYN with being a "one stop shop" for all youth serving resources in Statesboro/Bulloch. Catherine with BCHS noted that there was a lack of knowledge of available community resources. We have many resources, but need to capture and share. BCHS is working on updating their resource guide on the online platform, can be searched, and can be printed as a PDF. \*SCYN can help to get the resource guide populated.

Scott Marchbanks noted the need to prevent duplication of services in the community. Boys and Girls Club is collaborating with Ogeechee Tech to offer workforce development programming for 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Stacey Grant noted that Dads on Duty discussed how they were able to get into the school system to offer support.

(Unfinished business was skipped in the interest of time)

Kristina Patterson and Lakesha Hill presented the Mayor's idea for a comprehensive youth initiative: The Statesboro Children's Zone, which includes literacy and mentoring initiatives as well as mobile support services. The commission discussed ideas for the initiative. Yolandra Shipp noted that collaboration may give visibility to possible organization

partnerships. Scott Marchbanks agreed on the importance of partnership, noted Boys and Girls Club has certified teachers to provide academic support, which has been successful. LaShai Campbell noted Restoring the Breach offers tutoring housed at the Statesboro library, suggested partnering with Feed the Boro to provide food, Hope Chest to provide clothing. Stacey Grant suggested we send a letter to organizations to identify possible sources of needed resources. LaShai Campbell pointed out that Office of Inclusive Excellence at GSU has embedded mentorship programs, which could be a model. We discussed a resource mapping process and a focus on long term outcomes.

March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am at City Hall, Mayor McCollar is working with school guidance counselors to invite youth to City Hall to discuss their perceived needs.

#### Announcements:

Restoring the Breach will be hosting a clothing giveaway 1p-4p at the Community Outreach Center, 515 Denmark St., it's open to anyone. They will have men's, women's, and children's clothing and some household goods.

Our Girls Rock, Too will host a Daddy-Daughter dance on Friday 2/25 at Seventh Mile, 6:30-8:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15

#### Action Items:

Kristina Patterson to send Doodle poll to set a working meeting to discuss the Mayor's youth initiative. Plan to have working meeting prior to next full meeting.