

CCSD Board Report

Monday, February 8, 2010

The following members were present: Ruth Jordan, Raymond Toler, Chris Collins, Chris Fraser, Greg Meyers, Toya Hampton-Green, Elizabeth Kandrak, Ann Oplinger, and Arthur Ravenel.

Call to Order, Invocation/Moment of Silence, and Pledge of Allegiance:

Ruth Jordan called the meeting to order. Mr. Darby, Chaplin from Morris Brown AME Church, led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Recognition:

Suzie Raiford presented the Proclamation for Career and Technology Education Month. Candy Bates-Quinn presented the Proclamation for National School Counseling Week. Principal Blondell Adams made a presentation to Dr. Charlie Smith.

Superintendent's Report:

Last week, the state PASS report was released. Last year, the PASS replaced the PACT as our state's elementary and middle school assessment. In a nutshell, our students' performance on the PASS mirrored the gains we were seeing on the PACT. In the last year of the PACT, we had our highest Proficiency rates in the ten-year history of the test, and our students earned higher rates of Proficiency than their state peers in every subject and grade level.

As a sign of continued improvement, this year, more CCSD students earned the PASS's highest score—"Exemplary"—than students across the state in every subject and grade tested. The PASS results also give us valuable data for our reform efforts. We need to close achievement gaps and increase our overall percentages of students hitting "Met" and "Exemplary" targets, and our literacy plan and other initiatives will be focused on these goals.

Also last week, we launched a "Help for Haiti" campaign designed to organize school and central office relief donations. John Emerson is spearheading this campaign and we are proud to see so many of our schools taking their own initiative to help our neighbors to the south. On a personal note, I would also like to thank the Charleston community for generously contributing to the Lewis sisters—our Spelling Bee winners from Sanders-Clye Elementary—and their family. Donations continue to pour in, and Dr. Brenda Nelson, our Director of Community Outreach, is managing the donations.

Today it was my pleasure to surprise our Teacher of the Month, Ashley River Creative Arts Fourth Grade Teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Feezle. Ms. Feezle was described by her principal as a "powerhouse of energy" whose teaching is "alive and exciting." One of her outstanding efforts is this school newspaper, "The Planet Unicorn," which she produces with fourth graders...Congratulations to Ms. Feezle, and please look for her "surprise" video on our home page all month long.

Finally, I want to brief everyone on last Friday's shooting in the Murray Hill neighborhood near Daniel Jenkins Academy. Sometime after dismissal, one of our students was shot and killed by another student in the neighborhood. According to the police, this shooting stemmed from an earlier altercation in an entirely different neighborhood—it was not a conflict that originated in the school itself, and in fact the two students involved were in entirely different classes and programs.

Shortly after the incident, Burns Elementary went into lockdown as a safety precaution, and we communicated with parents and schools to ensure that no students entered the Murray Hill neighborhood while the police were still searching for the suspect. As a further precaution, we postponed school for Daniel Jenkins students today so that the faculty could meet and plan to ensure that the school is prepared for a safe and smooth transition for students tomorrow. Today also offered a chance for the faculty to process the grief that they are experiencing, as many teachers and counselors were close to the students involved. I witnessed this grief firsthand in my visit to the school today. I would like to

thank Candy Bates-Quinn and the District Crisis Team for their first class efforts and support provided to the facility, staff and students at Daniel Jenkins Academy.

Youth violence is a social, community, and school issue that we must address collaboratively. Over the weekend, I met with Chief Zumalt and representatives from Daniel Jenkins, CCSD, and the North Charleston Police Department. We talked about the immediate needs of the faculty, parents and students, but also discussed longer-term ideas about how we can partner to stem juvenile violence in our neighborhoods. This will be an ongoing conversation, and one that will involve local Mayors, DJJ, the police, and community and faith-based leaders.

I will keep you posted on further developments...and before I close, I do want to commend the faculty at Daniel Jenkins Academy-as well as our district security officers Kevin Wren and Jeff Scott-for their work on Friday and every day. They care deeply for our students and know, as I do, that it "takes a village to raise a child." We must work together to address these challenges and help our students before they hurt others and themselves.

Visitors addressed:

Freddie Whaley addressed the Board regarding Lowcountry Tech.
B. Holmes addressed the Board regarding Greg Mathis Charter.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board approved the open session and executive session minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting.

The Board approved the financial minutes for January 25, 2010.

The Board approved motions of executive session from their meeting on February 8, 2010 as outlined below.

Motions for Executive Session, February 8, 2010:

- 1.1 The Board approved legal matters.
- 1.2 The Board approved personnel matters.
- 1.3 The Board denied the request from Greg Mathis.

Management Reports:

There were no Management Reports presented.

Charleston Achieving Excellence Update:

Mrs. Sallie Ballard gave an overview on Buist Academy Programme of Inquiry.
Mr. Bill Hewitt gave a presentation on Charleston Promise Neighborhood.

Potential Consent Agenda Items:

The Board:

- 9.1 Approved a recommendation to approve a Facility Use Agreement for Charlestowne Academy.
- 9.2 This item was pulled.
- 9.3 Approved a recommendation to approve a Home School Application.
- 9.4 Received information on the implementation of Career Majors at the Rivers Campus.
- 9.5 Discussed implementation of the Literacy Program.

The next regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2010, in the Boardroom at 75 Calhoun Street in downtown Charleston. All are welcome.