

CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

July 25, 2016

75 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401

Minutes

A meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 27, 2016, in the board room at 75 Calhoun Street.

The following CCSD board members were present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats – Chair, Mr. Chris Staubes – Vice Chair, Mrs. Kate Darby, Mr. Tom Ducker, Mr. Michael Miller, Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles, and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Rev. Chris Collins participated by phone. Mr. Todd Garrett and Rev. Eric Mack were absent.

The following staff members were present: Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mr. John Cobb, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Valerie Harrison, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mrs. Mary Runyon, Mr. Glenn Stiegman, Mrs. Erica Taylor, and Mrs. Michele English-Watson.

The news media was duly notified of the meeting and representatives were present.

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus. It was also noted that Executive Session agenda items #3 and #4 had already been voted on. However, they are included with agenda item #8.3. Also, agenda item #1.4 was changed from information to information/action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

4:00 p.m.

I. 1.1: Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson

1.2: Personnel Contractual Matters

1.3: Teacher Appeal Hearing

1.4: Student Transfer Appeals (4)

II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the July 25, 2016 agenda and approve the consent agenda items listed in section VIII of this agenda. The vote was 8-0.

Mrs. Coats said item 1.1 was changed earlier to an information/action item during the adoption of the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1: A. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Meeting - June 27, 2016

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the June 27, 2016 minutes, including the

financial impact statement. The vote was 5-0-1 (Miller abstained). Rev. Collins was not on the telephone during the time of the vote.

B. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Meeting June 30, 2016

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the June 30, 2016 minutes, including the financial impact statement. The vote was 5-0-1 (Miller abstained). R Rev. Collins was not on the telephone during the time of the vote.

C. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Meeting July 11, 2016

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the July 11, 2016 minutes, including the financial impact statement. The vote was 5-0-1 (Miller abstained). Rev. Collins was not on the telephone during the time of the vote.

4.2: Approval of Executive Session Items

1.1: Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson

Mrs. Coats said the board felt strong enough to add this item to the agenda after receiving information about PACE Academy so it could be voted on tonight.

Dr. Postlewait provided an update referencing a call she received in December 2015. She spoke about PACE's shortage of \$300,000 owed to CCSD. Then she said PACE resolved they would end their charter if the district was able to keep the students together. While staff worked to make that happen, there were legal requirements that changed the situation and the increased cost because of transportation needed. It would cost the district \$27,000 per student to serve students at PACE which doubles the cost of educating students currently enrolled in CCSD schools. After a meeting with PACE representatives last week and before staff could communicate with the CCSD Board, things got out of hand because some PACE representatives took to the media. Then, a request was received from PACE to reinstate their charter.

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to reinstate the PACE charter for the earliest if school remains fiscally sound or through the expiration of their charter; with the following terms - Funding from CCSD will be provided using the 2016-17 statutory charter school formula, as is provided to all other charter schools; PACE will not look to the District for additional funding; All Medicaid reimbursement will be processed through CCSD offices; the charter agrees to cooperate in facilitating quarterly reviews of its financial status and instruction programs. Further recognizing PACE's unique financial challenges CCSD agrees to forgive the approximately \$300,000 in past debt due to CCSD. The vote was 7-0.

1.2: Personnel Contractual Matters

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the principal appointment of Christopher Haynes to serve as principal at Liberty Hill. The vote was 6-0-1 (Mr. Miller abstained).

1.3: Teacher Appeal Hearing

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to uphold the superintendent's decision. The vote was 4-3 (Collins, Ducker, and Miller opposed).

1.4: Student Transfer Appeals (4)

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the transfer requests for #1, #2 (#75 and #76), and #5 (#79) and to place those students at the requested schools. The vote was 6-1 (Miller opposed).

V. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Mr. Gerald Mindel thanked the board and staff for reinstating PACE Charter.
2. Ms. Jill Smith thanked the board for their decision on PACE Charter School. She said they would work to see that PACE doesn't make the same mistake again.
3. Ms. Crystal Hill thanked the board for the PACE Charter School decision.
4. Ms. Debra Mikell, the Director of Disabilities at the College of Charleston and Charleston Community Action Network representative, thanked the board for making the right decision
5. Mr. Richard Gross – PACE Board Member – addressed the board in support of continuance of PACE.

6. Mr. Gerard Kelly – PACE Board Member
7. Mr. Fran Clasby thanked the board for supporting PACE Charter School.
8. Ms. Audrey Mack thanked the board for allowing the Friends of Frierson to present at the Strategic Education Committee meeting on July 11, 2016. She asked the board to consider allowing 5 years instead of 1 year to get the enrollment at Frierson up to par. She briefly spoke about rezoning and asked the board to provide the name of a contact person regarding rezoning.
9. Mr. Tony Lewis spoke in support of PACE Academy and suggested that certain staff members were penalized because of budget shortfall.
10. Mayor Riley Bratton, the Mayor of Rockville, spoke on behalf of the Frierson Elementary School recommendation and spoke about grassroots efforts to address the enrollment issue.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait – Superintendent of Schools

6.1: Financial Report – Mr. Glenn Stiegman

The board received the Financial Report as information.

Mr. Steigman said not much changed since the July 11th COW meeting. Since 2015-16 revenues were over-budgeted by \$18 - \$19 million and expenditures were off by \$4 million, during the 2016-17 school year some adjustments would be made.

6.2: July Updates

- Data Workshop – a thirty minute workshop is planned for the August 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Staffing Status Report – the board received information on vacant classroom and support positions.
- Facilities Status Report – staff is preparing for the following openings: Springfield and Chicora Elementary, 3rd floor at James Simons, Burke new Culinary Arts and Technology programs the following year. Mr. Borowy and Mr. Kramps recognized for the work they did during the summer to prepare for school openings.
- Other Updates:
 - August 8, 2016 – Committee of the Whole meeting 12:15 - 3:15 p.m. followed by the Constituent Board Reports 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
 - August 11, 2016 - Teacher Appeal
 - Aug. 11, 2016 - Student Code of Conduct Training
 - August 22-23 Governance Workshop and self assessment
 - Nationwide tragedies and division among groups
 - Closing the opportunity gaps and focusing on student achievement and the creation of a culture serving all children
 - Dr. Postlewait announced that Dr. Harrison has volunteered to work to bring recommendations to address how kids could work collaboratively with one another. This new assignment has an accountability system attached to it. Recommendations would aim at eradicating the opportunity gap, address culture and recommend how to address issues with at risk students. This is the district’s contribution to a national situation that has become polarized. Dr. Postlewait briefly spoke about what could happen if it is not addressed. Then she said this was the district’s recommendation.
- Mr. Miller asked about programs at Burke High School that he informed earlier. He is anxious to see Dr. Postlewait and Dr. Harrison address the national issues. He said the district has opportunity to address gaps and lead by example. He appreciates the district moving in this direction especially with the upcoming trial of the nearby tragedy. He spoke about the need to fix issues that are brought to the board’s attention.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Strategic Education Committee

7.1: 2016-2017 Code of Conduct and Progressive Discipline Plan – Mrs. Jennifer Coker

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the revised Elementary and Secondary Codes of Conduct and the new Progressive Discipline Plan. The vote was 6-0. Rev. Collins was not on the telephone during the time of the vote.

Policy & Personnel Committee

7.2: A. Renew Use of Hearing Officers – Mr. John Emerson

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve renewal of the existing practice of allowing hearing officers to hear appeals of continuing contract teachers. The vote was 5-1 (Miller opposed).

Mr. Miller asked about savings with the use of Hearing Officers. Mrs. Coats said the approximate savings was \$650,000.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

During the **ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**, Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to adopt agenda moving 10.1C before approval of the minutes. The vote was 8-0.

VIII. Audit & Finance Committee

8.1: Capital Maintenance Reallocation (2017-2022 Capital Program Phase IV – Sales Tax) – Mr. Ronald Kramps

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the reallocation of funds in the amount of \$54,722 included in the resolution. The vote was 8-0.

Policy & Personnel Committee

Health Advisory Committee Vacancies

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the Health Advisory Committee Vacancies recommendation. The vote was 8-0.

8.3: Student Transfer

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve student transfer appeals. The vote was 8-0.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- August 22-23 – School Governance Training

X. Adjournment

Mr. Ducker said he requested cost-related information for Burns. Mr. Stiegman said staff completed the work earlier today and it would be released this week.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. by consensus.