

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2007 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson – Mr. Hillery Douglas, Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook, Mr. David Engelman, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Brian Moody, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Staff members Mr. Randolph Bynum, Mr. Larry Clark, Dr. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Elliott Smalley were in attendance.

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

### **I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairperson Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to convene into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Chairperson Douglas called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

#### **3.1: Special Recognition for November 26, 2007**

1. The Board recognized George Lockwood, President of CPM Federal Credit Union for donating \$8000 to fund a career exploration field trip for students at North Charleston High School.
2. The Board recognized Wando High School Volleyball Team for being State Runner-Up.
3. The Board recognized Wando High School Girls Tennis Team for winning the 2007 4A State Championship.
4. The Board recognized Community in Schools counselors, Andy Casson and Wallis Gandy for receiving national recognition for contributions to the development of Resilience in Students in Charleston County.
5. The Board recognized Garrett Academy students for building homes for low income families through the non-profit board called GATE.

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **4.1: Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- *Before Thanksgiving a letter of thanks was posted on the district's web page quoting Teddy Roosevelt saying "The best gift that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Dr. McGinley thanked the Board for giving her the chance to make a difference in the life of every child in the district.*
- *Report Card numbers were recently released. CCSD's improvement rating jumped two levels. High Schools are doing better than ever and over a dozen schools are exemplifying excellence. Sixteen schools earned excellent absolute ratings. Beginning in January, the District will run an "Exemplary Schools Series" on the website using video, pictures and articles to highlight two schools per month.*
- *Sanders Clyde Elementary received a \$25,000 award last week from the U.S. Department of Education for its honorable mention as a "Distinguished Title I School for Overall Achievement". Sanders Clyde is the only Low Country school to receive the award which is part of the National Title I Distinguished School Recognition Program under No Child Left Behind. The school will serve as a "best practice" for education officials outside the state.*
- *Chief Academic Officer, Randy Bynum, was congratulated for successfully completing the Broad Superintendents Academy.*
- *The district closely tracked discipline data according to race, and publish findings annually. After reviewing recent data, administrators decided to be pro-active in addressing the discipline gap between African American and other students. Last week the district started an initiative that convened a group of nearly 50 African American school leaders to help answer critical questions about how race, teacher-student relations and academic achievement intersect. The group will report recommendations to the Superintendent and solutions will be sought from the Board room to classroom. The district must ensure educational equality and excellence for every child.*
- *Mr. Gregory Martin – Executive Director of Professional Development was introduced.*

At this time, Mr. Ravenel commented on report card results indicating that while report card data was good, the district must be cognizant of the fact that the number of UNSAT schools has increased over the last three years. He also complimented the Superintendent on efforts to replace UNSAT principals. Dr. McGinley responded that the vast majority of UNSAT schools have had principal changes. Mr. Meyers added that while all schools have probably improved, the standards have changed so more improvement is required to make a significant difference.

#### **5.1: Visitors, Public Communications**

No visitors registered to address the Board at this meeting.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of November 12, 2007**

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of minutes of November 12, 2007. The motion was approved 9-0

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of November 26, 2007**

The Board acted on the following Executive Session Agenda items as follows:

- 1.1 Legal Matter – The Board approved a motion to direct General Counsel to respond to a letter from Sea Island YouthBuild Charter. The motion was approved 6-3 (Engelman, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

During discussion of the request from Sea Island YouthBuild Charter, Mr. Ravenel cited Act 189 indicating the act states that charter schools may not be denied anything other public schools are entitled to. Mr. Engelman stated the Board should want to support a Math and Science school which would meet the need of skills required by the business community. Most Board members agreed that a final opinion was needed from the courts to reconcile conflicting laws regarding charter schools (Act 189 and Title 59).

- 1.2: Property Matter – Since it was determined that further investigation was required, the Board deferred the Property Matter.

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of November 12, 2007**

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler to approve the Financial Minutes of November 12, 2007. The motion was approved 9-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

### **7.1: CPE Update: Adult Education**

Ms. Susan Friedrich, presented information on the District's Adult Education Program as follows:

- The mission of the Charleston County School District Office of Adult Education is to identify community needs and resources, to provide community based educational services, to ensure adults receive quality life long learning opportunities.
- Sites: 34; Programs: 48; Staff: 18 Full Time – 36 Part Time; Students: 2262 (2006 – 2007)
- **Program Services / Initiatives**
  - **High School Diploma / Exit Exam Remediation** is offered to students who wish to obtain a high school diploma. The students enrolled in this program must meet the same graduation requirements as a student who graduates from a high school in South Carolina.
  - **GED Preparation** is a high school equivalency diploma program is based on the GED Tests, a battery of assessments in four core academic areas: Language Arts (reading and writing), Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.
  - **Adult Basic Education** serves adults who function below the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in reading and mathematics.
  - **English Literacy** is designed to provide English instruction for those adults who speak a native language other than English or who have difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language.
  - **Workplace Program** assists businesses and industry in developing a skills curricula and instruction geared to employees whose limited skills prevent them from functioning effectively in the work environment.
  - **Computer Literacy** is designed to help adults understand the basics of operating a computer or to learn specific software applications in order to enhance their employability.
- The program has a 75% graduation rate

### **7.2: Accountability Report – Murray Hill Academy**

The Board received the Community Education Partners – Murray Hill Academy Accountability Report which is based on evaluation standards written in the CEP contract.

### **7.3: GOF Financial Report for September 2007**

The Board received the GOF Financial Report for September 2007 as information.

### **7.4: FY07 Financial Audit**

Mr. Larry Finney, a Certified Public Accountant with Greene, **Finney &** Horton shared results of the FY07 Financial Audit indicating that the district received an unqualified (good) opinion. He recommended the district continue increasing the fund balance and improvement of the district's control environment. These recommendations are included in the district's management letter. Also included is a recommendation to improve Risk Management compliance with Title I funding sub recipient monitoring.

Mr. Finney stated that some issues are already being addressed. He commended the district's financial staff and indicated it was one of the best in the state.

Also during discussion of the audit, Mr. Finney responded to questions regarding completion of the audit indicating that one charter has not been audited—Gregg Mathis Charter.

### **VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE**

There was no Charleston Plan for Excellence update on this agenda.

### **IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **9.1: Request for a separate street address for Memminger Auditorium – Approved**

*A recommendation to have a separate street address for Memminger Auditorium other than one for Memminger Elementary School.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to have a separate street address for Memminger Elementary other than one for Memminger School. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **9.2: Policy Revisions – Second Reading - Approved**

*A recommendation to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – GC – Professional Staff, GCFA – Clearance Standards for Professional Staff, GCFB – Hiring of Certified Administrative Staff, and GD – Classified Staff, at no cost to the district..*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – GC – Professional Staff, GCFA – Clearance Standards for Professional Staff, GCFB – Hiring of Certified Administrative Staff, and GD – Classified Staff. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **9.3: City of Charleston Cooper River Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - Approved**

*A recommendation to accept the City of Charleston Cooper River TIF documents as information and advise the administration if the Board desires to file an objection to the TIF redevelopment plan, at no cost to the district.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to accept the City of Charleston Cooper River TIF documents as information and advise the administration if the Board desires to file an objection to the TIF redevelopment plan. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **9.4: Bid Award Recommendation – Moultrie Middle – Early Steel Package – Approved**

*A recommendation to award the bid award for early steel package in the amount of \$2,172,400.00 to CMC South Carolina Steel for Moultrie Middle School Early Steel Package.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award the bid award for early steel package in the amount of \$2,172,400.00 to CMC South Carolina Steel for Moultrie Middle School Early Steel Package. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **9.5: Bid Award Recommendation – Moultrie Middle – Rebar Package – Approved**

*A recommendation to award a contract for Moultrie Middle School Rebar Package in the amount of \$112,168.00 to Sovereign Steel, LLC.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers the approval of the recommendation to award a contract for Moultrie Middle School Rebar Package in the amount of \$112,168.00 to Sovereign Steel, LLC. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **9.6: Facility Use Request – West Ashley High**

*A recommendation to approve the Facility Use Request for West Ashley High School from the Rotary Club of North Charleston and Piggly Wiggly, as required by Policy KF. This is at no cost to the district.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to approve the Facility Use Request for West Ashley High School from the Rotary Club of North Charleston and Piggly Wiggly, as required by Policy KF. The motion was approved 9-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 6:50 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Mr. Moody to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved: 9-0 – December 10, 2007

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Nancy J. McGinley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools