

March 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson – Mr. Hillery Douglas, Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook, 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. Mr. Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green joined the Board meeting via speakerphone from 4:30pm to 8:15 pm. Mr. David Engelman was absent 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. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook 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 March 25, 2008

There were no special recognition items on this board agenda.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- The District kicked off community forums on the 2009 budget last week, visiting North Charleston Elementary and St. Johns High Schools. Based on great feedback received from community members, the budget presentation was updated to be more parent-friendly and a new video on the budget will be available by the end of this week. An invitation was extended to everyone attend one of the four remaining forums-beginning next Monday at 6 p.m. at Wando High School if they haven't had the opportunity to attend one. The community input could also be e-mail to budgetatcharleston.k-12.us.
- The five Teacher of the Year finalists: David Wingard at Mitchell Elementary; Betty McKenzie at Laurel Hill Primary; Edie Cusack at Cario Middle; Erica Roberts at CE Williams Middle; and Gwendolyn Benton at Morningside Middle were mentioned in the Superintendent's Desk letter of last week. The new Teacher of the Year will be announced at Trident Tech on April 24th!
- Earlier today, the district held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Special Day School in North Charleston. The Superintendent thanked the Carolina Youth Development Center, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey for joining participation in this event.
- The Superintendent thanked the School Board for recognizing where changes in the district were needed the most, and how to bring about those changes so that every child is served. Upon the Superintendent's arrival in Charleston, the Discipline School that is now Murray Hill Academy was like a prison, surrounded by security fencing, filled with students wearing mandatory t-shirts that each read "Discipline School." Now, schools like this-and soon to be Special Day-have been transformed into world-class centers of excellence that students and staff can be proud of.

At this time Dr. McGinley and Mrs. Holiday responded to questions from Ms. Cook regarding the status of hiring an in-house attorney, indicating that the position has been re-advertised. Mr. Ravenel also commented on the cost of legal services and suggested that hiring an in-house attorney could be a cost-saving and objected to staff interviewing the in-house attorney. Mr. Meyers commented while the position could save money, the Board shouldn't be involved in the interview since the person reports to the Superintendent.

It was also determined that an update on High Tech High and expenses for both the Math and Science Charter and High Tech High at the Rivers facility be on the next Board agenda.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Rev. Alma Dungee addressed the Board in support of the Charleston Math and Science Charter.
2. Ms. Terry Seckinger addressed the Board in support of the Charleston Math and Science Charter and urged the Board to read the Attorney General opinion requested by her brother, Senator Chip Campsen regarding Act 189.
3. Mr. Park Dougherty addressed the Board regarding Charleston Math and Science Charter. Mr. Dougherty also informed the board that 194 students were in the process of being enrolled. 40% Caucasian, 41% African American, and 33% were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of March 10, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of minutes of March 10, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of March 25, 2008

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

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – the Board approved the following student transfer appeals based on availability of space. The motion was approved 4-2 (Douglas and Jordan opposed).
 - A. Harborview ES to Memminger ES
 - B. Harborview ES to Memminger ES
 - C. Lincoln HS to Wando HS
 - D. Lincoln HS to Wando HS
 - E. St. James Santee to Jennie Moore ES
 - F. St. James Santee ES to Belle Hall ES
 - G. Laing MS to Moultrie MS
 - H. James Island ES to Stiles Point ES
 - I. McClellanville MS to Cario MS
 - J. McClellanville MS to Cario MS
 - K. Ellington Es to Drayton Hall MS
 - L. Blaney to Drayton Hall ES
 - M. Laing MS to Moultrie MS
- 1.2: Contractual Matter – The Board approved a recommendation from staff on the HVAC at Wando High. The motion was approved 6-0
- 1.3: Legal Briefing – The Board received a legal briefing in executive session

6.3: Financial Minutes of March 10, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the Financial Minutes of March 10, 2008. The motion was approved 8-0.

NOTE: Only six members of the Board voted on items 6.1-6.2 because Mr. Moody arrived after the Board voted on these items and Mrs. Green's speakerphone connection was delayed because of transition from Executive Session. However, Mrs. Green was contacted and Mr. Moody arrived before the Board voted on item 6.3.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

7.1: FY09 Budget Discussion

The Board discussed the FY09 Budget and reviewed budget assumptions prior to confirming potential reductions.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Fortify Schools (Priority)
- Provide Strategic Support (Unsatisfactory/Below Average Schools)
- We must understand the impact of reducing the Fund Balance
- We are in agreement around the Re-negotiation of Service Contracts
- Board recognizes the link between Accelerated Academic Progress and Adequate Resources
- 72% of the District's budget is salaries & fringe benefits
- A millage increase of 3.4 has been used to offset the shortfall
- The Board has expressed confidence in the ability of the Legislative Delegation to provide CCSD with the \$11 million "hold harmless"

Budget Discussion - Potential Reduction Areas

Potential Reduction Area	Amount	Impact	Board Reaction ¹
CEP/Murray Hill net savings	\$700,000	Unable to fund 2 alternative transition centers to support overage high school students with 12 credits or less in a computer lab structure. Approximately \$220,000 would be used to replace expired grant money to staff prevention and intervention personnel.	Confirmed
School House funding	3,000,000	Offset with \$2.5 million for strategic staffing directed exclusively to middle and high schools rated Unsatisfactory and Below Average	Confirmed
Plus & Improvement funding	400,000	Limit discretionary funding to schools rated Good and Excellent	Confirmed
EIA funds redirected to GOF	1,500,000	Could add supplementary funds to schools	Confirmed
A+ stipends for Burke & Brentwood	560,000	Partially offset with extra pay for extra duty	Confirmed
A+ funds for student activities	95,000	Limits additional field trips & other activities for students	Confirmed
Departmental budgets	4,000,000	15% cuts in central office could result in decreased services & personnel	Confirmed

Increase in Non-Title I Kindergarten & 1st grade class size	1,563,014	Four studies were reviewed and indicate that class size, to be effective, should last for 3-4 years. The success of the initiative is dependent on changes in instructional delivery.	Confirmed
Cost of Living Adjustment - non-teaching staff	2,341,369	Negative effect on recruitment & retention of staff	Confirmed
Transportation	TBD	Reduced levels of service	Confirmed
Contract renegotiation	TBD	Reduced levels of service	Confirmed
TOTAL	\$14,159,383		

After discussion, the Board voted on the following motions.

- Mr. Ravenel motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to have staff assume setting aside \$15 million, eliminating the tax increase, taking in consideration all items identified for potential reduction and **bring a balanced budget to the next board meeting**. The motion was approved 5-3 (Douglas, Green and Jordan opposed).
- Mr. Meyers offered a second motion, seconded by Mr. Douglas to incorporate Mr. Ravenel's motion without elimination of tax increase. The motion was approved 5-3 (Cook, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

8.1: Title I District Improvement Plan – Corrective Action

The Board received the Title I District Improvement Plan as information.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: SCSBA Officer/Board Nominations

The Board will discuss and respond to the SCSBA request for Board Nominations and Resolutions the upcoming SCSBA Delegate Assembly.

Ms. Cook nominated Mr. Toler as delegate to cast vote on behalf of the Board at the upcoming Delegate Assembly. Mr. Douglas nominated Mrs. Jordan as alternate. The motion was approved 7-0.

NOTE: Mr. Ravenel left the meeting before the Board voted on items below.

9.2: Revised Policies – GDQA – Classified Staff Reduction in Force, GCQB – Administrative Staff Reduction-In-Force

A recommendation from the Board Policy Committee to approve the first reading of the revised policies listed above.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the first reading of revised policies listed above. The motion was approved 6-1 (Toler opposed).

9.3: Revised Policy Regulations – GCQA-R – Certified Non Administrative Staff Reduction-In-Force, GCQB-R – Administrative Staff Reduction-In-Force, GDQA-R – Classified Staff Reduction in Force

The Board will receive the revised policy regulations listed above as information.

The Board received revised policy regulations as information only. No action was taken.

9.4: Coherent Curriculum Printing – Approved

A recommendation for approval of the request for pre-approval for bid award contract for printing of the Coherent Curriculum not to exceed \$120,000. The funding sources are: Title II funds, K-5 Enhancement funds, 6-8 Enhancement funds.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of a request to pre-approve the contract award for printing of the Coherent Curriculum to meet proposed distribution deadline. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.5: EIA Technology Initiative – Approved

A recommendation to approve a request for the purchase of Follett Destiny Library Management System and identified IT equipment to support Coherent Curriculum. The funding source is EIA Technology Initiative funds from SDE. The cost for Destiny Library Management Systems is \$259,545.45 for seventy-one schools and the cost for IIT Defined Equipment, Installation and Software is \$53,000.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of a request to purchase of technology hardware and software to centralize and streamline library management. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.6. Pilot Program Applications – Mr. Bynum

A recommendation to approve applications for the following new/continued pilot courses--Introduction to Computer Networking and Basic Electronics and Amateur Radio, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve applications for new/continued pilot courses/programs as follows: 1) Introduction to Computer Networking and 2) Introduction to Basic Electronics and Amateur Radio, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.7. Pilot Program Applications – Mr. Bynum

A recommendation to approve applications for the following new/continued pilot courses—African American Studies I & II, African American Literature, Film as Literature

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve applications for new/continued pilot courses/programs as follows: 1) African American Studies One, 2) African American Studies Two, 3) African American Literature, 4) Film as Literature, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 7-0

9.8: Bid Award Recommendation-E.B. Ellington School Phase I-Site Development Package – Approved

A bid award recommendation for E.B. Ellington Elementary School Phase I – Site Development Package.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the bid award for EB Ellington School Phase I Site Development Package in the amount of \$1,217,380. Funding for this project is within previously Board Approved budget for EB Ellington School (5641). The motion was approved 7-0.

9.9: New District 4 Middle School - Approval of Chapter 17 Special Inspections Agency – Approved

A recommendation to approve the contract for Quality Assurance (QA) testing and International Building Code (IBC) for the new District 4 Middle School.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the contract for Quality Assurance testing and International Building Code Chapter 17 inspections, based on evaluation of the proposed offerors to S&ME for the New District 4 Middle School. The funding source is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement District 4 Middle School project. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.10: Request to make Procurement Cards a Permanent Program - this item was pulled, no action was taken.

A recommendation to approve the removal of “Pilot” from the procurement card program and allow Procurement Services to expand the program to include additional Facility, Maintenance and school staff.

Mr. Fred Feil, Procurement Officer responded to questions from the Board regarding procurement cards. Mr. Meyers requested page 9.10-11 violations and consequences be modified. Staff was directed to revised this agenda item and bring to the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:15 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Toler seconded by Ms. Cook to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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