

May 12, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 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. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green participated by phone. Mr. David Engelman and Mr. Brian Moody were absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. Randolph Bynum, Mr. Bill Lewis, 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 Mr. Toler 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 May 12, 2008

1. The Board recognized Mrs. Gwendolyn Benton, a teacher at Morningside Middle, for being selected as the Charleston County 2008 Teacher of the Year.
2. Ms. CeCe Byers presented the Charleston County Education Association scholarships,
3. The Board recognized Eric Mack, Jr., student at Haut Gap Middle Schools, for his participation in the Junior National Young Leaders Conference.
4. The Board recognized the Wando Air Force JROTC Unit SC-872 for earning the 2007-2008 Distinguished Unit Award.
5. Principal Carol Temple presented a video in appreciation for the donation of an activity bus.
6. The Board recognized two St. Andrews Middle School students for winning the Optimist Club Regional Oratorical Competition.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. Nancy McGinley shared highlights from her first State of the Schools address held last week. Over 300 community partners, lawmakers, Board Members, district staff and students attended. The event featured the contributions of partners and showcased student performances. In her address, Dr. McGinley spoke of the shift from the **Charleston Plan for Excellence to Charleston Achieving Excellence** through school choice, innovative partnerships, expanded learning opportunities, high-quality teaching and school leadership, and a focus on college and workforce preparation. Everyone benefits from excellence in public education. In honor of the recent celebration of *Teacher Appreciation Week*, Dr. McGinley expressed appreciation for the district's teachers. Tuesday marks the first day of PACT test, Dr. McGinley shared well wishes to 3rd through 8th grade students. Dr. McGinley also mentioned how schools are using best practices as well as innovative approaches to prepare students and make learning enjoyable. She thanked Board Members for attending recent groundbreaking and other school events in recent weeks.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Stephen Cofer-Shabica addressed the Board regarding the recent naming of the new District 4 Middle School and the legacy of Dr. Daniel Jenkins. Mr. Cofer-Shabica asked the Board to reconsider their decision.
2. Ms. Michele Bolton, Ms. Patricia Scarry, and Ms. Sharon Robles addressed the Board regarding funds for the Child and Family Development Center.
3. Mr. David B. Richardson and Mr. Brian Kurtz asked the Board to continue funding of the Sea Island Youth Build Charter School.
4. Rev. McKinley Washington asked the board to consider returning the former principal of Jane Edwards Elementary.
5. Ms. Carole Becker expressed concerns about bullying at CE Williams Middle School.
6. Ms. Michele Forsythe addressed the Board regarding legal matters associated with the Sea Island Youth Build Charter School urging the Board to consider statute 69-40-110.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of April 28, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of minutes of April 28, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0.

NOTE: Mrs. Toya Green who also participated in the entire discussion during Executive Session, by phone, was contacted to vote on Executive Session agenda items only.

Shortly after voting on Executive Session items, Mrs. Green who earlier stated that she could not participate in the meeting in its entirety, ended her call. Mr. Toler stated for the records that he contested Mrs. Green participating only through the vote of Executive Session agenda items, per the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Cook also expressed concerns about the same.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of May 12, 2008

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

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – the Board approved a recommendation to uphold the constituent board’s decision on all four transfers. The motion was approved 6 - 1 (Douglas opposed).
- 1.2: Appointment – Principal – Mitchell Elementary – The Board approved a recommendation to appoint Mr. Dirk Bedford to the position of principal at Mitchell Elementary. The motion was approved 7-0.
- 1.3 The Board discussed personnel matters in executive session. No action was taken.
- 1.4: Contractual Matters – The Board discussed a legal matter in executive session. No action was taken.
- 1.5: The Board approved the Military Magnet Academy – Phase 2 Swamp Fox Utilities Change Order #004 (Quadrant) in the amount of \$240,500. The motion was approved 7-0.
- 1.6: Legal Fees – the Board received info on legal fees. No action was taken.
- 1.7: Appointment – Staff Attorney – The Board approved a motion to authorize the superintendent to enter salary negotiations with Mr. John Emerson. The motion was approved 4-3 (Cook, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

6.3: Financial Minutes of April 28, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to approve the Financial Minutes of April 28, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: GOF Financial Report

The Board received the Management Report as information.

7.2: Capital Projects Report

The Board received the Capital Projects Report as information.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

8.1: Fitness and Academics

Mr. David Spurlock presented information to the Board on Fitness and Academics. During this presentation Mr. Spurlock shared research information to support the improvement of academics through brain stimulation. A wellness policy will soon be presented to the Board.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Sea Island YouthBuild Charter School

A recommendation for Sea Island YouthBuild Charter.

Chief Academic Officer Randolph Bynum shared the following:

- In November 2007, the Chief Academic Officer was directed to conduct site visits at Sea Island YouthBuild. During staff visits in February, April and May areas that did not meet terms of agreement were identified:
 - Instruction – Lack of certified teachers in Math, English and Special Education. The school response is that since they are a year round school, math will be taught during the summer. Since the school doesn't have a Special Education Teacher, no IEP's have been done. The Office of Exceptional Children asked for an action plan in September, December, February and March.
 - Safety and Supervision – Students are often left alone in classrooms sometimes in locked rooms. Members of St. James Presbyterian Church staff are currently monitoring the situation.
 - Enrollment – 75 students were targeted. That number has decreased to 21 students.
- Shelter Instruction Model – the intent is to facilitate high quality instruction. Available research derived from teaching English and Math. No research was found to support this instruction model with the students taught at Sea Island YouthBuild Charter. No one else is using this model. This model is sophisticated, however, the school has a high turnover of staff and staff lacks training which impacts instruction. Also, students show up for school at various times during the day.
- On May 7th Mr. Bynum visited the school at 12:00 p.m., spoke with one teacher, told 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. was lunch time and that Physical Education was at 1:00 p.m. He saw 3 students playing basketball, 4 sitting and smoking. At 12:35 the Physical Education Instructor showed up and the students continued playing basketball. The Physical Education Director left at 12:40pm without providing any instruction. No student engagement was observed.

Mr. Bynum recommended the charter be revoked due to lack of staff, quality instruction, compliance with special education and lack of supervision. During a lengthy discussion, staff responded to questions from the Board regarding the recommendation and the school's appeal rights, and payments made to the school, etc. In reference to payments to the charter, Mr. Bynum indicated that the charter has received all

funds allocated for this school year. The next scheduled payment would be on July 1, 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Meyers said although he is sympathetic to the objective, the charter must satisfy the market. Mr. Ravenel said although he voted earlier to revoke the charter, he will not support the closure of the Sea Island YouthBuild Charter at this time and urged the County Board to do the right thing and obey the law--Act #189. Mr. Douglas said Sea Island YouthBuild Charter received \$350,000 for 21 students since September 2007. If they weren't able to buy table and chairs with that amount, then they have the wrong people in place. Also in response to concerns about Mr. Ravenel's statement about charter schools being harassed, Mr. Meyers stated that Charleston County School Board has approved more charter schools and voted to support Sea Island YouthBuild Charter when revoking the charter was mentioned earlier. Mr. Ravenel replied constant visits by staff and stated that students in charter schools are mostly African Americans.

Since all questions regarding the revocation of the charter were not answered, Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Douglas to have staff bring a recommendation to the May 27th Board meeting. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.2: St. Johns High School Track

The Board received information on the track field St. Johns High School.

The Board received information on the track field at St. Johns High. No action was taken.

9.3: Bid Award for District-wide Air Filters

A recommendation to approve the bid award for Districtwide air filters.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the recommendation to award for District-wide air filters to Kru-Kel, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000 annually in FY09 General Operating funds. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.4: Purchase of eSchool Procurement Software

A recommendation to approve the procurement of eSchoolMall procurement software. The funding source/purchase amounts are coming from the GOF 2008 Budget - \$85,000 Software and Implementation, \$13,500 Annual Maintenance 1st year; GOF 17112572540 - \$70,000 and GOF 17112572545 - \$30,000 in current budget.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the recommendation for purchase of the e-procurement software from eSchoolMall. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.5: Purchase of Laptop Computers with Cart Stations for Burke High School

A recommendation to approve the purchase of laptop computers for Burke High School from state contract vendor Dell Computers. This funding amount is \$102,417.40 the funding source is 368 EAA Technical Assistance Funds.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the request to purchase laptop computers with cart stations for Burke High School. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.6: Door Hardware Bulk Purchase Pricing Agreement

A recommendation to approve the request for staff to enter into a pricing agreement for the bulk purchase of Door Hardware. The funding source is the 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Program for door hardware purchased in support of the program and general operating funds for replacement of existing door hardware.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the request for staff to enter into a pricing agreement for the bulk purchase of Door Hardware. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.7: Bid Award Recommendation – E.B. Ellington Elementary School Phase I – Site Development Package

A recommendation to award a contract to Malphrus Construction Company for E.B. Ellington School Phase I Site Development Package in the amount of \$1,277,030.00. Funding for this project is within previously Board approved budget for Ellington Elementary (5641).

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to award a contract to Malphrus Construction Company for E.B. Ellington School Phase I Site Development Package in the amount of \$1,277,030.00. The motion was approved 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:00 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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