

May 27, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson – Mr. Hillery Douglas, Mr. David Engelman, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Brian Moody, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green participated by phone. Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook and Mr. Arthur Ravenel 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 27, 2008

1. The Board recognized a School of the Arts student who was a finalist in the National Braille Challenge.
2. Candi Bates-Quinn presented the Jiffy Lube Road Trip Scholarship winners.
3. The Board recognized the Spring 2008 employees who were honorees of “Breakfast with the Superintendent.”
4. The Board recognized the teacher named as the 2008 Science PLUS Institute representative.
5. The Board recognized the recipients of Charleston Symphony Orchestra League Scholarships.
6. The Board recognized CCSD students who won State Championships in running including the James Island Charter School student who won the 400 meter race, the St. John’s High School Student who won the 200 and 400 meter race, and the Wando High School student who won the 1600 meter race.
7. The Board recognized the Wando High School Soccer Team who won the State Championship.
8. The Board recognized the Academic Magnet High School Boys Soccer Team who won the Lower-State Championship.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Nancy McGinley congratulated everyone receiving Board recognition then spoke about the end of the school year and the summer work schedule for employees. From June 9th to August 8th employees will work four ten-hour days. This schedule will allow the district to save over \$100,000 in utility costs. The CAO office will begin sending “summer success packets” home with elementary school students so their family members can help extend learning throughout the summer. Dr. McGinley encouraged students, staff, volunteers, and parents to stay focused for the remainder of the school year. Students and staff are hard at work these last couple of weeks. Dr. McGinley mentioned HSAP and PACT tests and schools gearing students up for a summer of fun and continued learning. She said across the district people are exemplifying excellence today while planning for tomorrow. Students and teachers in the Surf and Turf Club at C.E. Williams recently climbed Mount Mitchell. The final Teacher Roundtable for this school year was held. Pinckney Elementary school students taught teachers strategies for saving energy. She conveyed how students CCSD students have recently shared their many talents and accomplishments. She also mentioned last week’s retiree banquet and thanked the dedicated employees who were

recognized. She concluded with recognizing and thanking veterans in the audience who served in the armed forces.

At this time, Mr. Douglas shared the following statement in response to earlier remarks made by a Board member:

“By now most of you have heard about this. Although it happened in April, it wasn’t made public until this week, and I think it’s important, in this forum tonight, to set the record straight about our position-especially since there is still some ambiguity about what happened and what the response was. I have three key points.

First, there is no debate about what happened. The facts are well established and documented. We know that a Board member, in speaking openly to staff at district headquarters, used a demeaning and discriminatory term to describe the Superintendent. He did this not once, but twice. And he threatened the Superintendent’s job, saying she’d be history if she didn’t put something on the agenda.

This brings me to my second point. In no way did these threats have any bearing on putting anything on the Board’s agenda. The irony is that the Superintendent already had the disputed item in place.

It’s been suggested that these threats were somehow justified and effective. Nothing could be further from the truth. We do not push individual agendas, nor will we accept the usage of threats or profanities from anyone. It doesn’t matter what the topic is, or how emotional people feel about it. We have rules and protocol, and work together, not individually to push this district forward. And we do it with respect.

That brings me to my third and final point, the most important one I’ll make: We absolutely reject this kind of threatening and discriminatory language. It sets us back, not forward, and sends the wrong message--especially to women--about the importance of treating everyone with respect. We are all equal. And we are role models. We must demonstrate to children and the public at-large that things like hard work, creativity and achievement are rewarded-not power, money or possessions, and certainly not bullying.

Our students are watching our every move. So are educators from around the state and nation. As stewards of public education in Charleston County, we must always set positive examples.

I thank you for listening to me, and for joining me in ensuring that we maintain the culture of excellence we’ve worked so hard to build. Let’s close the book on this issue and move forward, because our kids deserve it. It is time to be unified, and to close the year strong.”

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Jon Butzon thanked Mr. Douglas for his remarks addressing the behavior of a Board member, and suggested the Board set standards for model behavior.
2. Ms. Mary Sims, a Academic Magnet High School parent, expressed concerns regarding testing for her son.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of May 12 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of minutes of May 12, 2008. The motion was approved 6-1 (Moody abstained).

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of May 27, 2008

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

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – the Board to upheld the constituent board’s decision on six student transfer appeals and approved seven transfer appeals. The motion was approved 6 - 1 (Douglas opposed).
- 1.2: The Board scheduled a hearing for a St. Johns High School student.
- 1.3: The Board approved the salary for Staff Attorney, John Emerson in the amount of \$145,000.00. The motion was approved 6-1 (Toler opposed).
- 1.4: Appointment – Principal – St. Johns High – The Board approved a recommendation to appoint Mr. Adrian Busch to the position of principal at St. Johns High. The motion was approved 7-0.
- 1.5: Appointment – Principal – Belle Hall Elementary – The Board approved a recommendation to appoint Mr. Kevin Conklin to the position of principal at Belle Hall Elementary. The motion was approved 7-0.
- 1.6: Legal Briefing – a) The Board approved a motion authorizing general counsel to settle a case. The vote was 7-0. b) The Board approved a motion to give notice to Sea Island YouthBuild that the District plans to revoke its charter. The motion was approved 5-2 (Moody and Toler opposed).
- 1.7: The Board scheduled two teacher appeal hearings.
- 1.8: The Board scheduled a student appeal hearing.

6.3: Financial Minutes of May 12, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to approve the Financial Minutes of May 12, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Management Reports to come before the Board at this meeting.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

8.1: School Choice Plans for St. Andrews Middle and West Ashley Middle

The Board received the report as information. Board comments regarding the district’s initiative to improve schools west of the Ashley were positive.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Summer School Instructional Materials

A recommendation to approve instructional materials recommended for use in the Charleston County School District’s summer school program. The funding sources are the Options material’s funding - \$57,430 from K5 Enhancement and 6-8 Enhancement and the Gourmet Learning - \$56,390 from EAA summer school budget.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody approval of the recommendation for materials for the district’s summer school program. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.2: Bid Award Recommendation – Food Service Bulk Purchase

A recommendation to approve the bid award for Food Services Equipment Bulk purchase in the amount \$3,400,472.75.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody approval of the recommendation to award the contract to General Sales Company for Food Service Equipment. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.3: Moultrie Middle School – Early Site Package for Simmons Street Widening and Overlay.

A recommendation to approve Change Order No 2 for widening and overlay on Simmons Street in the amount of \$162,898.00. Funds for this project is within previously Board approved budget.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody approval of the recommendation for Moultrie Middle School Early Site Package for Simmons Street Widening and Overlay. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.4: Approval of Teacher Contracts for 2008-2009

A recommendation to approve teacher contracts for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody approval of the list of teacher contracts for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.5: Policy Regulation – IKB - Homework

The Board received revised policy regulation IKB – Homework as information. No action was taken.

9.6: Utility Conservation Program

A recommendation to approve the proposed Utility Conservation Program.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler to approve the proposed Utility Conservation Program at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.7: Facility Use Request – Burke High School’s Parking Lot

A recommendation to approve the facility use request for Burke High School’s Parking Lot as required by Policy KF, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler to approve the facility use request for Burke High School’s Parking Lot. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.8: Sea Island YouthBuild Charter Discussion – Cook, Engelman, Ravenel and Toler

As requested by the Board members listed above, the board will discuss Sea Island YouthBuild Charter.

Although this item was pulled from the agenda and no action was taken, Mr. Meyers stated that he met with staff at Sea Island YouthBuild Charter and is concerned about the number of students enrolled. However, he is open-minded and sympathetic about the objective.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 6:45 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