

August 11, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Chairperson Hiller Douglas, David Engelman and Mr. Brian Moody were absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Dr. Doug Gepford, Mr. Bill Lewis, Mr. John Emerson and Mr. Elliott Smalley were in attendance.

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

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Nancy Cook called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Green 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. Vice Chair Nancy Cook 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 August 11, 2008

Proclamation: First Day of School Initiative

Vice Chair, Nancy Cook read the following First Day Initiative Proclamation as follows:

First Day of School Initiative Proclamation

WHEREAS, First Day of School is a national celebration which began in 1997 that generates widespread community support for schools and excitement about the beginning of another school year; and

WHEREAS, currently entering its fifth year, the First Day of School initiative encourages parents to attend with their children on the first scheduled day of school; and

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of First Day of School is to celebrate education by hosting special activities and getting parents to come to school with their children on the first day of school each year; make parents feel welcome; encourage their continuing involvement; then reap the benefits as parents, schools, and communities team up to support their children's education; and

WHEREAS, the best way to connect to our schools is to be there from the beginning and focus attention on the importance of the schools in our community; and

WHEREAS, by having their parents attend the first day of school, the students feel more excited about the beginning of the school year; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the first day of school, Tuesday, August 19, the community will come together to celebrate education at the 6th Annual First Day Festival on Sunday, August 17, 2008 from 12 noon – 4 p.m. at Liberty Square at the SC Aquarium; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charleston County School Board fully supports and endorses the 2008 First Day of School Initiative.

Drayton Hall Elementary Red Carpet Award

The Board recognized Drayton Hall Principal John Cobb for receiving the State Department of Education Red Carpet Award.

British Petroleum A+ Award for Energy

The Board recognized Mr. Michael Cline and Ms. Stacey Shoecraft of Pinckney Elementary and Ms. Michele Powell of Wando High School for being recipients of the British Petroleum A+ Award for Energy. These teachers received a \$10,000 grant to teach students about energy conservation.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Efforts to ensure that more students are in class and ready to learn on August 19th—the first day of school were outlined as follows:
 - The District has partnered with the City of North Charleston to promote their “It’s Cool to be in School” initiative, a grassroots campaign that has officers and faith-based leaders going door-to-door making sure that parents have all the resources and information they need to get children in school the first day.
 - The District posted a fact sheet on the Parent section on the website and staff members are disseminating it all across the county in places such as churches, grocery stores and community centers.
 - On Tuesday, August 12th, “Parentlink” calls will be made to all CCSD households (over 40,000 students) to remind them that the first day of school is one week away.
 - This weekend, Darius Rucker from Hootie and the Blowfish will be recording a back-to-school phone message for parents that will be sent as a reminder on Sunday night.
 - The District has promoted free school supply and clothing initiatives, such as the “Hands of Christ” distributions at Presbyterian churches across the county. This weekend a concert sponsored by Hootie Blowfish and the First Day Festival will be held.
- In two weeks, staff will present a three-year strategic plan (Charleston Achieving Plan for Excellence) to the Board. This plan takes the Charleston Plan for Excellence to a new level with results-oriented, 21st Century vision built on three simple goals and three core values. The Charleston Achieving Excellence Plan will accomplish three things:
 - Elevate the achievement of students overall;
 - Close the achievement gap between groups of students; and
 - Raise the graduation rate

If these things are done well, everyone benefits, and all—from Pre-K to 12th grade have a role to play. These roles are defined largely around core values that support our goals: Results, Access, and Partnerships. The District is also going to support the plan with district-wide initiatives—some at the central office level, others at the school level. Classroom modernization and implementation of a new performance instrument for staff that ties annual salary increases to individuals, groups, and district successes are among the supports identified.

Achievement gap will be addressed. Dr. McGinley said the importance of diversity, the need to raise standards, expectations, and access for every child are topics she has talked about since she became the Superintendent because she believes that all children are college material and race or income should never predict academic performance.

A new “Success for All” Taskforce, co-chaired by Drayton Hall Principal John Cobb and Baptist Hill Principal James Winbush has been formed. This taskforce will develop strategies to close the achievement gap over the next few years. District-wide last year about 17% of our teachers were African American. Even though this is higher than the state average and significantly higher than national trends, the district can and should do a better job of ensuring that our students are exposed to teachers and administrators who come from different backgrounds. This district principal distribution has not changed from last year. The district has 34% African American principals compared with 16% nationwide. The bottom line is that the district needs to raise student achievement for all students, especially those struggling.

Teacher vacancies are down to 14 now. Last year school started with 26, the year before 90.

- In closing, Dr. McGinley announced the death of Mt. Pleasant Academy teacher, Paula Kemp who passed away during the weekend. She was a veteran and Nationally Board Certified first grade teacher who had given 25 years of service to Charleston County School District.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. *Mr. Tommy Dew and Mark Brandenburg addressed the Board regarding the entrance policy for Buist Academy.*
2. *Mr. Derrick Stipp addressed the Board regarding a student transfer from McClellanville Middle School to any middle school in Mt. Pleasant for convenience.*
3. *Ms. Deborah Ribbette Greig expressed concerns regarding the broken air conditioner at Wando High School.*
4. *Mr. Theodore Brown addressed the Board about the new North Charleston Middle School.*
5. *Mr. Arthur Ravenel requested the Board bring a consolidation plan to merge two schools to provide space for Charleston Developmental Academy under Act 189.*
6. *Mr. Park Dougherty thanked the Board for supporting the motion on April 14th which allowed the Charleston School of Math and Science facility project to move forward. He also extended an invitation to the Board to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, August 14th at 4pm.*

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of July 21, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of July 21, 2008. The motion was approved 6-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 11, 2008

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

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – The board approved student transfer appeals as follows with a vote of 6-0.
 - Approved A, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M, N, and O;
 - Upheld denial for B and D
 - Upheld denial, pending availability of space for C
 - Approve L if meets No Child Left Behind requirements
- 1.2: Appointment – Principal – Sanders Clyde Elementary - The Board approved the appointment of Mr. Melvin Middleton to the position of principal at Sanders Clyde Elementary. The motion was approved 6-0.
- 1.3: Student Expulsion Appeals – The Board scheduled three student expulsion appeals on Wednesday, August 20th beginning at 4:00pm.
- 1.4: Contractual Matters
 1. The Board approved the recommendation to award the construction contract for Sanders Clyde K-8 to HG Reynolds Construction Company, Inc. for the stipulated sum of \$17,938,000. The motion was approved 5-0-1 (Cook abstained).
 2. The Board also discussed The Wando HVAC in executive session. However, no action was taken.
- 1.5: Personnel Matter – The Board received information on a personnel matter in Executive Session. However, no action was taken.
- 1.6: Legal Briefing - This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of July 21, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel to approve the Financial Minutes of July 21, 2008. The motion was approved 6-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Brief Status – Opening of Schools – *Mr. Bobby*

Mr. Michael Bobby briefed the Board on the status of opening of schools sharing a list of things done to ensure a smooth opening of schools.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: No Child Left Behind: AYP Status Update – *Mrs. English-Watson*

Mrs. Michele English-Watson presented information to the Board regarding the status of No Child Left Behind. Mrs. English-Watson also responded to questions from Mr. Ravenel regarding the number of Title I schools in the school improvement category indicating that three additional schools were added. Mr. Ravenel also requested information on the total number of schools that didn't make AYP.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Home School Applications

A recommendation to approve home school applications.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of home school applications. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.2: James Island Charter High School IB Program – *Dr. Gepford*

The Board will receive information on the International Baccalaureate Program at James Island Charter High School.

The Board received information on the IB Program at James Island Charter High School. No action was taken.

9.3: Architect change between Jennie Moore ES and Stono Park ES

A recommendation to approve the change of A/E firms previously approved by the Board of Trustees for Jennie Moore and Stono Park Elementary.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to change the A/E firms previously approved by the Board of Trustees for Jennie Moore and Stono Park Elementary Schools to allow Jumper, Carter, Sease Architects to provide advance design for the new Jennie Moore Elementary School and McKellar & Associates to provide advance design for the new Stono Park Elementary School. This project does not require any additional funds. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.4: CCSD Hazard Mitigation Plan

A recommendation to approve the proposed resolution for the adoption of the revised Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to approve the proposed resolution for adoption of the revised Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is no cost associated with the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Funding to put elements of the plan in place will be subject to future board action. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.5: Town of Mt Pleasant Farmers' Market Joint Use Agreement

A recommendation to approve the joint use agreement between CCSD and the Town of Mount Pleasant at the Moultrie Middle School for the Farmers' Market.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the Joint Use Agreement between CCSD and the Town of Mt. Pleasant at the Moultrie Middle School for the Farmers Market, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.6: Annexation of the newly acquired property that is adjacent to the Jennie Moore ES campus (TMS #: 578-00--00-172,173 and 205) into the Town of Mt Pleasant

A recommendation to authorize staff to proceed with annexation into the Town of Mt. Pleasant and abandonment of interior property lines of the CCSD newly acquired property adjacent to the Jennie Moore Elementary School.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to allow staff to proceed with the annexation into the Town of Mt. Pleasant and abandonment of interior property lines of the CCSD newly acquired property adjacent to Jennie Moore Elementary School identified as TMS #578-00-00-172, 173 and 205, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 6-0.

9.7: Annexation of the newly acquired land that is adjacent to the West Ashley HS campus (TMS #:307-00-00-014, 016, 017, 047,048,049,050,051,087, and 088) into the City of Charleston

A recommendation to authorize staff to proceed with the annexation into the City of Charleston and abandonment of interior property lines of the CCSD newly acquired property adjacent to the West Ashley High School.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to allow staff to proceed with the annexation into the City of Charleston and abandonment of interior property lines of the CCSD newly acquired property adjacent to the West Ashley High School identified as TMS #307-00-00-014, 016, 017, 048, 049, 050, 051, 087 and 088, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 6-0

9.8: 8% Bond Resolution

A resolution to approve the 8% Bond Resolution.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to approve the 8% Bond Resolution in an amount not to exceed \$42 million. The funding and customary fees for the cost of issuance will be funded through proceeds of the Bond sale. The motion was approved 6-0

9.9: Costs to Construct Temporary Campus for Charleston Charter School of Math and Science

The Board will receive information on the cost to construct a temporary campus for the Charleston Charter School of Math and Science.

The Board received information from Mr. Bill Lewis regarding the cost to construct a temporary campus for Charleston School of Math and Science. In response to a question from Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Lewis indicated the cost is approximately \$3 million to complete phase I.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 6:30 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Ms. Cook to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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