

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 with the following members of the Board present: Chair - Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Vice Chair - Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mrs. Ann Oplinger, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Dr. Doug Gepford, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Bill Lewis, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mr. John Emerson, and Mr. Elliott Smalley were also in attendance.

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

Chairperson Green called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel to convene into Executive Session to discuss agenda items listed below. The motion was unanimously approved.

Executive Session Agenda Items

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals
- 1.2: Legal Matters
- 1.3: Student Appeal Hearing
- 1.4: Teacher Appeal Hearing – Report and Recommendation
- 1.5: Personal Issues
- 1.6: Appointment – Principal – James Island Elementary

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:40 p.m. Mrs. Green called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- 1. The Board recognized Leaders are Readers participants who served during the 2008-2009 school year.
- 2. The Board recognized representatives from SunTrust Bank who presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to replace outdated books at Haut Gap Middle and Burns Elementary.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McGinley shared an update on scholarship information for the 2009-2009 school year. Seniors earned \$46,361,338 in scholarships which is \$4 million dollars above last year’s total. She said the success exemplifies parent’s commitment to children’s education in CCSD schools and beyond. She also thanked high school counselors and administrators for assisting students who applied for scholarships. In one month a new set of high school seniors will enter the doors of schools and programs to embark on the 2009-2010 academic year.

Dr. McGinley provided updates regarding efforts aimed at improving the district’s literacy rates and narrowing the achievement gap through the use of two strategic levers—extended instructional time and improved teacher quality. She said these two tools have a profound impact on students and must be incorporated into programs and interventions. A “New Day Learning: Expanded Learning Time and Partnerships” conference was held this past Wednesday and Thursday at North Charleston Elementary. This event, presented in collaboration with the College of Charleston and other lead community partners, allowed school leaders to gain insight from their peers, local providers, and national after-school experts. By relying on strong research based after school and extended day programs, CCSD schools and after-school program can deliver a cohesive foundation of math reading, and writing instruction.

Dr. McGinley congratulated Ms. Beth Meggett, a fourth grade teacher at Stiles Point Elementary who won a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award—given annually to only one Math teacher and one Science teacher across the state is the highest recognition that a math or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

“Quick Start” summer learning programs have been implemented for below-grade level students in “At Risk” rated schools. One of the most important features of the program is matching some of the highest-performing teachers with these students who will continue to work with them in the coming school year in an extended day setting. She reported that the District has already seen vast improvements in the skills of enrolled participants. The District will continue to track their progress and present it throughout the school year. Dr. McGinley closed by stating that she believes this program will be an important tool in closing the district’s achievement gap and better allowing every student to excel and graduate with scholarships and tools needed for success in the 21st Century.

In response to a question from Mrs. Jordan, Dr. Gepford shared the number of elementary students enrolled in Quick Start summer programs across the district. Mr. Martin also shared information on the number high school students who were invited to attend the high school Quick Start programs (8.5 and Star Academy).

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. William Rogers expressed concerns about the district’s procedures for acquiring telephone services.
2. Mayor Mary Clark, Town of James Island addressed the Board about surplus property located on James Island.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of June 22, 2009. The motion was amended to include corrections listed below. The vote was 9-0.

Corrections:

- Mrs. Kandrac said the votes on item 1.3 should be 6-3 (Kandrac, Ravenel and Toler opposed), not 9-0
- Mr. Ravenel pointed out that the word “not” was omitted from agenda item **9.3: Second Reading of the FY2009-2010 Budget page 4 of 8**. The revised statement should say Mr. Ravenel suggested the Chamber focus its efforts on the Education Finance Act and not getting rid of Act 388.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of July 20, 2009

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on July 20, 2009:

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals** – The board approved student transfer appeals A, B, C, E, F, I, J, K, and L. Student appeal D was approved pending availability of space. Student appeal H was denied. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.2: Legal Matters** – The Board discussed legal matters in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.3: Student Appeal Hearing** – The Board identified a date for a student appeal hearing.
- 1.4: Teacher Appeal Hearing** – Report and Recommendation – this item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.
- 1.5: Personnel Issues** – The Board approved a motion to promote two administrators to Deputies with increased pay and status. The motion was approved 6-3 (Kandrac, Ravenel and Toler opposed).
- 1.6: Appointment – Principal – St. James Santee Elementary** - The Board approved a motion to appoint Mr. Chris Swetkie to the position of principal at St. James Santee Elementary. The motion was approved with a 9-0 vote.

6.3: Financial Minutes of June 22, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the financial minutes for June 22, 2009. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Capital Fund Financial Report

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer presented the Capital Fund Financial Report which the Board received as information.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Request to Utilize District Facilities that have been closed as a result of redesign The Board received requests to utilize Charlestowne Academy, Schroder Middle, McClellanville Middle and Baxter Patrick as information. No action was taken. Chairperson Green requested the information regarding surplus property be placed on the District's website. Mr. Bobby said this information was provided to the Board to reinforce action taken by the Board on June 22nd and discuss opportunities to utilize district facilities for cash assets. He also cautioned the Board that if leased, the district could accrue costs for security, repairs and other amounts. He suggested the district look at ways to relieve itself of those type responsibilities.

9.2: Effective Utilization and Hiring of Teachers and Teacher Assistants - *A recommendation to approve effective utilization and hiring of teachers and teacher assistants.* Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the recommendation, with adjustment in the area of how it's reported. The motion was approved 8-0. *Mr. Collins did not vote on this item because he stepped out of the room shortly before the board voted on this item. However, he returned in time to vote on other agenda items.*

9.3: Budget Adoption FY2010 – Resolve \$3,000,000 gap between revenues and expenditures per direction upon budget adoption on June 22, 2009 – Mr. Bobby

1. Upon review of delinquent tax collection rates, increase the projected delinquent tax revenue by #1,000,000.
2. Utilize Fund Balance not to exceed \$2,000,000.
3. Continue to look for other reductions throughout the budget in order to minimize the need for the utilization of Fund Balance. The actions in this regard will be as follows:
 - a. Develop a plan to control personnel costs through the 10th day adjustment. (Note: This is a follow up action item on the Board agenda – “Effective Utilization and Hiring of Teachers and Assistant Teachers.”)
 - b. Review all department and school level budgets where greater than FY2009.
 - c. Transportation will continue to be reviewed and analyzed for savings with respect to Special Education and Magnet school transportation routes.
 - d. Although this is for FY2011, the district proposed that the Magnet school transportation fee for services concept be implemented for FY2011.
4. In addition to these changes staff proposes to return the school based portion of the non-personnel cuts that were made as a part of the second reading proposal in order to maximize resources provided for use at the school and classroom level. Note: This is approximately \$150,000.

Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to proceed with the proposals listed above. The motion was approved 9-0.

Mrs. Jordan thanked Mr. Bobby for finding the \$3 million to fill the FY2010 budget gap and questioned the proposal for magnet school transportation in 2011. Mr. Bobby said a fee for services based on ability for transportation is forthcoming.

9.4: Early release – *A recommendation to approve the Resolution early out days for the 2009-2010 school year.* Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation for early release. The motion was approved 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 6:57 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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