

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, November 8, 2010 with the following members of the Board present: **Toya Hampton-Green – acting Chair**, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs., Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mrs. Ann Oplinger and **Dr. Doug Gepford – Chief Academic Officer - sitting in for** Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent and Executive Secretary. The four newly elected board members-- Mr. Craig Ascue, Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats, Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly, and Mrs. Mary Ann Taylor were also present. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Melissa Metarazzo, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Bill Lewis, and Dr. Brenda Nelson were also in attendance.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Toya Green called the meeting to order at **5:18 p.m.** and welcomed the four new Board members. Mrs. Kandrac called for a point of order questioning Mrs. Green's handling of the meeting without input or a vote from the Board. Mr. Chris Fraser moved, seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Oplinger, approval or a motion allowing Mrs. Green to serve as chair until the new Board chair is voted in. The motion was approved 5-4 (Collins, Kandrac, Moffly and Taylor opposed).

Rev. Collins motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser, to adopt the Revised Agenda which moves Executive Session to the end of the agenda and shifts all other agenda items up. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Green led the group in a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.1: Oath of Office

The Honorable Judge Deidre Jefferson administered the following Oath of Office to the four new Board members--Mr. Craig Ascue, Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats, Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly, and Mrs. Mary Ann Taylor.

OATH OF OFFICE

"I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I AM DULY QUALIFIED, ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE, TO EXERCISE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE TO WHICH I HAVE BEEN ELECTED (OR APPOINTED) AND THAT I WILL, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES THEREOF AND PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS STATE AND OF THE UNITED STATES, SO HELP ME GOD".

(S.C. Constitution, Article III, Section 26)

1.2: Election of Officers

Mrs. Green opened the floor for the nominations for Board Chair. Mrs. Oplinger nominated Mr. Fraser. Mrs. Taylor nominated Rev. Collins. The nomination for Mr. Fraser as chair was approved. (Ascue, Coats, Fraser, Green, and Oplinger supported the nomination).

Chairman Fraser accepted the position and opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair. Mrs. Green nominated Mrs. Oplinger. Mrs. Moffly nominated Mrs. Taylor. The nomination for Mrs. Oplinger as Vice Chair was approved. (Ascue, Collins, Fraser, Green, and Oplinger supported the nomination).

Chairman Fraser recognized former Board Vice Chair, Mr. Ray Toler who was in the audience.

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS (20 minutes)

There were no Special Recognitions to come before the Board at this meeting.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Doug Gepford share the following:

- Congratulations to the four new Board members and the new Board Chair and Vice Chair.
- Dr. Gepford welcomed and extended an apology for Superintendent McGinley who is attending a Greening America's Schools Summit in Sundance Village in Utah. Dr. McGinley, Mayor Riley, other superintendents, mayors, environmentalists, and community leaders from twelve cities are discussing how "green" schools can improve public education and provide health, learning, and community benefits for children, parents, and teachers. Dr. Gepford said the Superintendent looks forward to sharing these ideas—and turning them into a plan of action—with our staff, parents, students, local leaders, and the school board.
- On behalf of the Superintendent, Dr. Gepford thanked the voters of Charleston County for investing in schools through the passage of the One Cent Sales Tax. He said these projects will have a lasting, positive impact on students, teachers and communities and CCSD staff looks forward to working with the Board, the public, and the Citizens Oversight Committee on the transparent implementation of the new capital building plan.
- Dr. Gepford said in reference to discussions which took place before the election about the district's successes and challenges that staff work hard to consistently share data and results with parents and the general public throughout the year. Recently, the district received a very positive high school report which shows that students are not only improving but out-performing their peers statewide. The state will release the elementary and middle school report cards this Friday. High School and District ratings will be available in January. The district looks forward to receiving this data and discussing it with the board, staff and public.
- In closing, Dr. Gepford mentioned one of the superintendent's top priorities is school choice. The district has made tremendous progress in this area. Parents, principals, staff and community members who attended the Parent Information Fair last Saturday were thanked. Through this fair the district was able to empower 250 parents with information on school choices, including neighborhood, charter, magnet school options, and special programs.

Dr. Gepford responded to questions from the Board about trainings for principals on the new teacher evaluation instrument. Dr. Gepford said the year-long training has already begun. Mrs. Audrey Lane responded to a question regarding the establishment of a committee to study the implementation of student achievement. She indicated that the committee is underway and staff has benchmarked practices in other districts.

IV. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (Not to exceed 30 minutes)

1. Mr. Gunnar Vizbulis expressed concerns about the seismic building plans for Sullivan's Island Elementary and questioned why there were only two pages on the district's website to justify the project.
2. Ms. Shari Sebuck and Ms. Kelly Rees, expressed concerns regarding the Capital Building proposal for Jennie Moore Elementary.
3. Ms. Beth Crunelle expressed concerns about the district's proposal to split Jennie Moore Elementary to develop a primary level campus and elementary level campus.
4. Mr. Steve Rapchick expressed concerns regarding a contract extension for the Superintendent.
5. Mr. Anthony G. Bryant urged the Board to scrutinize all future contractual agreements
6. Mr. Henry Copeland asked the new Board Chair to ban Board committee assignments. He encouraged Board members to sign up for all Board committees, suggested the Board reconsider items discussed in Executive Session, expressed concerns about Freedom of Information Requests he submitted two months earlier, and appealed to the Board to be more accountable.
7. Mr. Warren Sloan urged the new Board to work for better education for children. He urged the Board to table the discussion of the Superintendent's Contract Extension to allow the new members more time to review it.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

5.1: Approval Open Session Minutes of October 25, 2010

Mrs. Green motioned, seconded, by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 15, 2010. Mrs. Kandrak said the minutes did not mention that she voted no on several items because she did not have enough information on finances which she mentioned during the vote of agenda item #1.5. She also mentioned that she received information from staff that she requested at an earlier meeting. The Board approved Open Session board minutes of October 25, 2010. The motion was approved 8—0-1 (Coats abstained).

5.2: Financial Minutes of October 25, 2010

Mrs. Moffly questioned the financial minutes which reflects a VIF payment of \$192,000. Mr. Bobby said VIF teachers were used in hard-to-fill vacancies. However, last year the Board took a stand to reduce VIF teachers, ultimately to zero.

Mr. Bobby responded to comments from Mrs. Bohn Coats on employees who got new titles. She said it appears they were promoted with additional salaries. Mr. Bobby said after the death of Mr. Mark Cobb, that division was reorganized and placed under Mr. Troy Williams. Also in response to Mrs. Bohn Coats, Mr. Bobby said there would not be a ripple effect of other raises and the evaluation procedure would remain the same. After staff responded to a couple other questions taken from the October 25, 2010 Financial Minutes, Rev. Collins stated that both the Board Minutes and Financial Minutes document Board agenda items that were approved by the Board at the last meeting. Rev. Collins moved approval of the Financial Minutes of October 25, 2010, seconded by Mrs. Green. The motion was approved 8—0-1 (Coats abstained).

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

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

VII. CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

7.1: PIC Update – Ms. Rebecca Amerson

Ms. Rebecca Amerson presented information on PreSchool Special Education Child Find as follows:

- IDEA Child Find Mandate – Policies and procedures must be in effect to locate, evaluate, and identify all children in need of special education and related services
- 368 referrals during 2009-10 school year - Head Start, First Steps, parents, pediatricians
- 175 eligible and require special education services and/or related services
- Preschool Intervention Programming
 - IDEA Mandate to Instruct Children in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
 - 14 Preschool Intervention Classes (PIC) serving 90 children with special education needs with 49 peers/mentors
 - 10 Preschool Intervention Classes blended with Child Development (CD)/4K serving 42 children with special education needs
 - 151 children receiving services in their natural preschool settings, i.e., Head Start, private preschools, CD programs, home
- Accountability - CCSD has met target at 100% for past three years
- Highlights/Accomplishments
 - Increased opportunities for preschoolers with disabilities to be served in inclusive settings with typical peers
 - Increased collaboration with Head Start Programs and private preschools
 - Researched-based practices in preschool settings
 - Focus on literacy and language through activity-based intervention and tiered instruction

Ms. Amerson responded to several questions from individual Board members indicating the program is countywide, number of Child Find staff members, and the number of students served. Mrs. Amerson said currently 160 students are served by the program. However, the program is driven by needs and many

students that are referred are not eligible for services under IDEA. The program is for Pre School Special Education students. Child Find transitions students to public schools. The program is an optional year round program.

Mrs. Taylor said she would like to meet with staff to discuss the Child Find program. Mrs. Kandrac asked if the 0-3 program was part of the Charleston Neighborhoods of Promise program. Ms. Amerson said it was renamed and is now called Babynet. In response to a statement Mrs. Kandrac made regarding funds the Board approved for Charleston Neighborhoods of Promise, Mr. Fraser said that it was not topic that was being discussed.

VIII. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Taylor suggested all consent agenda items be tabled or pulled since the agenda was just delivered on Friday.

8.1: Home School Application - *A recommendation to approve a Home School Application.* – Rev. Collins motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of a Home School Application. The motion was approved 9-0.

8.2: SCSBA 2010 Delegate Assembly - *The Board will identify an Alternate for the Saturday, December 4, 2010 annual business meeting.* – Mrs. Moffly motioned, seconded by Rev. Collins for Mrs. Kandrac to serve as the Alternate at the upcoming SCSBA 2010 Delegate Assembly. The motion was approved 9-0.

8.3: Bonds Wilson High School Historical Marker - *A recommendation to approve a request to place historical markers at Mary Ford Elementary School and Center for the Arts and Academics commemorating Bonds Wilson High School.* – Mrs. Green motioned, seconded by Rev. Collins approval of the recommendation to place historical markers at Mary Ford Elementary School and the Canter for the Arts and Academics commemorating Bonds Wilson High School. The motion was approved 9-0.

8.4: Agreement for the 2010-2011 School Resource Officer Program - *A recommendation to approve the agreement with the City of North Charleston for the School Resource Officer Program for the 2010-2011 school year. The funding source is General Operating Funds. The amount is \$267,000.00* – Rev. Collins motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the SRO Agreement for 2010-2011. The motion was approved 9-0.

Mrs. Taylor expressed concerns about the total cost and suggested this item be pulled. Mr. Jeff Scott said the total cost of the program is \$1.1 million. However, the district supplements \$267,000 which is inclusive of vehicles, officers, etc.

Mrs. Moffly said she would like to an Ad Hoc Committee to review the SRO Program.

8.5: Request to Approve Funding for Air Conditioning at Garrett Academy - *A recommendation to approve funding, per direction of previous School Board of Trustees, for installation of Air Conditioning at Garrett Academy of Technology and other projects. The total amount identified for the Garrett Project is \$1,275,000.00 The funding sources are Fixed Cost of Ownership Contingency 2010 (\$175,000.00) and Garrett Academy Project (\$1,275,000.00).*– Rev. Collins, motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the recommendation to approve the funding for Air Conditioning at Garrett Academy. The motion was approved 9-0.

Mr. Bobby shared background information regarding the Air Conditioning for Garrett Academy stating that it came out of a discussion when it was recognized that Garrett Academy was the only gymnasium without air conditioning. The Board asked him to identify funds. He recommended Capital Funds from current building program ending this year. No funds were taken from other projects. Mr. Bobby went on to say that Garrett

has many improvement needs that have been identified over the years, to include a roof that leaks. However, the air unit will be bided on first because it's the priority project. Also, in response to Mrs. Coats question about how projects would be funded if the sales tax was not approved, Mr. Bobby replied 8% Bond Cap funds.

Mrs. Taylor said she would like to see an expansion of technical schools in the District. She also asked questions about the size of the gym and the number of BTUs. Mr. Bobby also responded to questions regarding left-over funds. Mr. Bobby said staff tries to bring projects at or below amount allocated and if funds are left-over from the Garrett project, it will be recycled.

Mr. Bobby responded to Mrs. Kandrak's question about black mold in the science lab at Garrett indicating that some work has been done. The district's Environmental Officer, Mr. Keith Brown, will assess the mold problem and determine if it needs to be contracted out.

8.6: Approval Request to Transfer EIA Categorical Funds - *A request to transfer \$1,526,147.69 EIA Categorical Funds under Joint Resolution H.4299 and Provisos 1.43, 1.50 and A. 23 for fiscal year 2010-11.* – Rev. Collins motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green, approval of the recommendation to approve the request to transfer EIA Categorical Funds. The motion was approved 9-0.

Mr. Bobby presented information on the Flexibility Proviso as follows. He said using the proviso which was passed, protects funds going forward. The \$1.5 million from carryover and funds received late from the state. He is just asking to hold funds in Special Revenue fund 381 to use later. CCSD and other districts have Title I, IDEA, and Stabilization Funds which will cease.

What are Technical Assistance (TA) and Palmetto Priority School (PPS) funds? Answer: EIA /state funding for schools not meeting the required academic performance standards.

- *FY 2009 combined funding allocation (2nd preceding year) was: \$7.5M – the Board approved flexing carryover funds of \$657,000. 38 schools (Board of Trustees approved 1/25/2010 and the first time the Proviso was accessed by District)*
- *FY 2010 combined funding allocation (prior year) was: \$6.1M – we are asking to “flex” prior year carryover balances, or \$719,000. 35 schools*
- *FY 2011 combined funding allocation (current year) is: \$4.5M – we are asking to “flex” additional monies that were allocated from the state – after the local budget process was already completed, \$809,000. 33 schools*
- *FY 2011 GOF resources (over and above formulae) to provide staffing to these specific schools: \$2,986,787. 17 schools or approximately \$175K each*

Mrs. Bohn Coats asked why funds weren't used. Mr. Bobby said because the state released funds after the school year had begun. He mentioned Technical Assistance funds for Palmetto Priority Schools and the \$3 million used from the district's General Operating Fund to support those schools. He concluded, had the state given the funds up front, the district wouldn't have used GO funds. However, it was necessary to have staff in place before the funds were received.

8.7: November 22, 2010 Board Meeting (Kandrak, Collins, Ravenel & Toler) - *The Board will discuss the November 22, 2010 Board meeting date.* – Mrs. Kandrak moved, seconded by Rev. Collins the November 22nd Board meeting date be changed to November 29th. The motion was approved 9-0.

IX. Executive Session

At 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Rev. Collins to convene into Executive Session to discuss agenda items listed below. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.1: Contractual Matter
- 9.2: District 3 Constituent Vacancy
- 9.3: Student Expulsion Appeals
- 9.4: Appeal Hearing
- 9.5: Legal Briefing

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED

IX: Motions of Executive Session of November 8, 2010

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:42 p.m. The Board acted on Executive Session items as follows:

9.1: Contractual Matter – The Board approved a motion to table the discussion of the contractual matter until November

9.2: District 3 Constituent Vacancy– The Board approved a motion to withdraw the recommendation for District 3 Constituent Vacancy. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.3: Student Expulsion Appeals

A. The Board approved a student expulsion recommendation made by the board committee that heard the appeal on Thursday, November 4, 2010 overturning a District 9 Constituent Board's expulsion decision and assigning a student to Daniel Jenkins Academy for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

B. The Board agreed to hear a student appeal on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

9.4: Appeal Hearing – The Board discussed an appeal hearing for a library book. However, no action was taken.

9.5: Legal Briefing – The Board received a legal briefing in executive session. However, no action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:45 p.m. Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Rev. Collins to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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