

**September 27, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, September 27, 2010 with the following members of the Board present: Chair – Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Vice Chair - Mr. Ray Toler, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Arthur Ravenel and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mrs. Ann Oplinger was absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Doug Gepford, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Bill Lewis, Dr. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Elliot Smalley were also in attendance.

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

Chair – Mrs. Ruth Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler to convene into Executive Session to discuss agenda items listed below. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session Agenda Items**

#### **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:17 p.m. Board Chair – Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order, led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

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

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **4.1: Superintendent's Report**

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Teacher of the Month – Ms. Melinda Sheckles from the Sixth Grade Academy is the district's first Teacher of the Month this school year. She is a great example of how hard teachers work in the classroom and beyond.
- Teacher Effectiveness – Sunday's newspaper article on Virtual Comparison Group (VCG) is an opportunity to push an important debate forward. It is known that high quality teaching, more than any other factor, is the key to student achievement. That's why the district invested in the VCG two years ago. The district is sharing "value added" data with teachers and principals and working on the "Teacher Development Cycle," which will address how to recruit, evaluate, develop, and reward effective teaching. Because the district recognizes the urgent need for an evaluation system that incorporates student achievement as a variable. To CCSD teachers who are uncomfortable or surprised to see schools listed in the paper or individual teacher names listed on the website, Dr. McGinley said VCG data was provided to all principals and schools two years ago. Some principals noted mistakes which were corrected. Administrators were advised by General Counsel that this data, including names of teachers is public information and by law, the district is required to release this information. Dr. McGinley said she wrote teachers two weeks ago to alert them that this was going on. CCSD administration requested individual teacher names not be published. However, the newspaper elected to move forward and place teacher names on their website. At the end of last year, the Teacher Roundtable was asked to help administrators define "effective teaching." Recently, staff invited small groups of teachers to begin brainstorming possible student achievement-related measures of effectiveness across different grades and subjects. An update on this project will be provided at the next Board workshop. In the meantime, staff will capitalize on feedback from Sunday's article to build on current momentum.
- Capital Plan – The campaign officially kicked off today at Sanders Clyde Elementary. Representatives from the campaign committee will share an update during the meeting. They are leading the effort to get the word out on how the capital plan has transformed schools for students, teachers, and communities, created thousands of local jobs and, given teachers and students the

high tech tools they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The district needs this great work to continue. Dr. McGinley thanked the Board and committee's leadership on this issue.

- Lowcountry Tech at the Rivers building – This agenda item is related to academic and capital planning processes. Dr. McGinley clarified her position and shared what the district has done to date. In 2007, the idea to house a Lowcountry Tech program at Rivers surfaced. Sharing the facility with the charter school was also included in the concept paper she wrote called “The Peninsula Project”. An extensive engagement process was led that year with a downtown group voicing support for the idea. The Board voted to endorse Lowcountry Tech at Rivers, stipulating that 60% of Rivers would go to the charter school for math and science, and 40% to Lowcountry Tech. The Board further voted to invest \$24 million into the renovation of Rivers. A Task Force was formed and the Board was briefed on proposed programs. These have evolved over time to better reflect the job market and students’ needs. Most recently, district administrators had a productive discussion with the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance about Lowcountry Tech being a Green Construction and Technology Academy for Burke and other CCSD students. Budget cuts have led to some delays, but all along, the district’s commitment has been firm. Downtown students need a broader portfolio of Career Academy options. Burke/Rhett simply does not have sufficient space. Lowcountry Tech isn’t a “Rivers building” program—it’s a downtown program which includes several Career Academy majors. It is the program the district has always maintained would be shared with the math and science charter school. This is about meeting students’ needs and collaborating to maximize resources. It’s the district, Board, and math and science charter working together, not against each other. The district fully support effective charter schools as viable choices for parents. CCSD has far more charters in it than any other in the state. CCSD is the only district to put capital investments behind charter schools. In addition the \$24 million for the Rivers building, a proposed \$25 million is in the next building plan for James Island Charter High School. Dr. McGinley said she was sure a solution for Lowcountry Tech at Rivers that will meet the needs of downtown students, respect the groundwork laid with the community, and accommodate the charter school’s needs. That’s been the intent of the district’s plan all along. The district plans to move forward with plans to place Green Construction and Technology major and IT career major at Rivers. This is a well thought out plan that can be done while still giving room to the charter school.
- U.S. Department of Education Visit – This week officials from the U.S. Department of Education will be in Charleston from Tuesday through Thursday to talk about school-neighborhood partnerships, brief the district on the President’s blueprint for reauthorizing *No Child Left Behind*, and offer resources to strengthen school-community collaborations.
- Medal of Honor – At the end of this week, the district will welcome Medal of Honor recipients—our nation’s true heroes—to Charleston. The district is thrilled that CCSD schools and students will be directly involved with the Medal of Honor convention. Mrs. Barbara Hairfield will provide an overview later during the meeting. In closing, Dr. McGinley said the district is privileged to be a part of this event and she looks forward to rolling out the red carpet for the recipients who will be pleased with the district’s word-class schools.

## **V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1: Visitors, Public Communications**

1. Mr. Patrick Bryant and Mr. Ron Jones announced the Yes for Schools Campaign support for the one cent sales tax Bond Referendum.
2. Mrs. Beverly Birch, Mr. Pete Lawrence, Ms. Ethel Greene, Ms. Mattesse Leque, Rev. Ed McClain, and Mr. Robert Kennedy addressed the Board in support of Lowcountry Tech at Rivers, urging the Board to keep its’ promise to house Information Technology and Green Technology at Rivers.
3. Ms. Constance Heyward urged the Board not to exclude Aviation and Mechanics from the curriculum for Lowcountry Tech.
4. Mr. George Dawson addressed the Board in support of Lowcountry Tech at Rivers and expressed concerns regarding the district’s failure to solicit bids for Construction Management Services.

5. Mr. Donald McCutcheon, President of the Black Contractors Association, urged the Board to honor the state procurement code and not mishandle major construction projects, thereby, giving locals an opportunity to bid on those projects.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION BOARD MINUTES**

### **6.1: Approval of Open Session Minutes of September 13, 2010**

Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers, approval of Open Session Minutes of September 13, 2010. The motion was approved 8-0.

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of September 27, 2010**

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session:

**1.1: Contractual Matters** – The Board approved a motion authorizing the Superintendent to extend a contractual amendment to two administrators. The vote was 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

**1.2: Legal Briefing** - The Board received a legal briefing in Executive Session.

**1.3: Recommendation for Award of Real Estate & Consulting Services (BI047)** – The Board approved a recommendation to award a contract to Clement, Crawford and Thornhill, Inc. the contract for Real Estate and Consulting Services. The funding source is revenues made from existing leases through the Property Management department and commission from sale of properties. The motion was approved 8-0.

**1.4: Convert the lease for 16 mobiles @ Charleston Charter Math & Science to purchase** - The Board approved the recommendation to convert the leases for the 16 mobile units at Charleston Charter School of Math and Science to purchase. The funding source is Rivers Project Fund. The amount is \$746,095.88. The motion was approved 8-0.

**1.5: Recommendation for Executive Director of Human Resources** – The Board approved the recommendation appointing Mr. Bill Briggman to the position of Executive Director of Human Resources. The motion was approved 8-0.

**1.6: Charter Amendment – Charleston Development Academy** – The Board approved the request to amend the Charleston Development Academy Public Charter School recent five year renewal plan allowing them to serve twenty CD (pre K-4 year old) enrollees annually. The motion was approved 8-0.

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of September 13, 2010**

Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers, approval of the financial minutes of September 13, 2010. The motion was approved 8-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **7.1: Capital Projects Report – July 2010**

The district's Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Michael Bobby briefed the Board on the Capital Projects Report for July 31, 2010 which includes the 2005-2009 Capital Building Program, the Fixed Cost of Operations and Classroom Modernization Programs for FY2009 and FY 2010, and two projects to be completed from the 1999-2004 Building Program. In the month of July, the districts' expenditures amounted to \$7.5 million. All projects are complete, except for Rivers and Sullivan's Island. In response to Mrs. Jordan's question regarding the timeline for those projects, Mr. Bill Lewis said the Request for Proposals was done and proposals are being received for Rivers. He also stated that additional information would be provided to the Board on that project. Regarding the Sullivan's Island project, that project was in the Design stage at this time. The board approved design architects Cummings & McCrady earlier. In response to a question from Rev. Collins regarding the process for the Rivers project, Mr. Lewis outlined the process— Seismic Work, Exterior Upfit, Mechanical Work, RFO, Evaluation, Pricing, and Bid. Rev. Collins also inquired about the work of the evaluation committees. Mr. Lewis said there were three individuals on the Technical Evaluation Committee and three on the Selection Evaluation Committee and he is not on the Technical Evaluation Committee. Also in response to Rev. Collins, Mr. Lewis shared information regarding the Quality Board and stated that, by law, Board members cannot serve on this Board. Rev. Collins

requested additional information regarding the law. Mr. Lewis said he did not have that information with him. Mrs. Jordan suggested further discussion, in the near future.

## **7.2: June 2010 Interim Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**

Chief Financial Officer, Michael Bobby said while the economy impacted the district's budget, the district implemented strategies (furloughs, funds sequestered, etc) which allowed the June 2010 Interim Statement of Revenues and Expenditures report to be positive. Mr. Bobby reported Revenues 6.54% under projected amount. Also, this time, transfers for charters did not include a consumer index increase. The district's preserved fund balance is nearly 5% and the 2012 school year will present serious conditions because there will be no additional state revenues and stimulus funds will soon go away. In response to Mr. Ravenel's request for information on fund balance, Mr. Bobby said it was between \$14 and \$15 million at this time. Mr. Bobby also responded to a question from Mr. Fraser about state reductions stating that no info was available at this point. However, he expected that information would be available at the upcoming fall conference. Mr. Bobby shared info from Moody's Ratings regarding the district's financial ratings. He said the district should continue its strong financial status because of its fund balance.

## **VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE**

### **8.1: Medal of Honor – Ms. Barbara Hairfield**

Barbara Hairfield, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist provided an update on this week's Medal of Honor activities and CCSD's participation. This Friday, selected schools will host and honor Medal of Honor recipients throughout the county. Mrs. Hairfield, Mr. Jim Braunreuther and Mr. David Spurlock spoke of the district's art, literacy and security efforts. Information was also provided on the MOH partnership with the District, involvement of students from all high schools and two middle schools, one elementary school.

## **IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**9.1: SCSBA Delegate Assembly** – *The Board will name a Delegate and Alternate for the upcoming 2010 Delegate Assembly meeting scheduled December 4, 2010, Hilton Head.* – Mrs. Jordan suggested the Board vote on the Delegate at this time and postponed the vote of an Alternate until the new board members are seated following the November election. Then Mrs. Jordan moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, the nomination of Mrs. Mrs. Toya Green as the district's Delegate for the upcoming South Carolina School Boards Association Delegate Assembly. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.2: NSBA Membership** – *The Board will discuss National School Boards Association membership.* – Mrs. Jordan announced NSBA (National School Boards Association) offer to lower the district's membership fee to \$5,100. In response to Mrs. Kandrac's statement about the district spending \$300 more for her and Rev. Collins' to attend the last conference, Mr. Meyers said spending \$5,000 to save \$300 could not be justified. It was the consensus of the Board not to renew the district's NSBA membership.

**9.3: Second Reading – Board Policies** – *A recommendation to approve the second reading of Board policies listed below.*

- A. JFAB – Nonresident Students
- B. JICFAA – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
- C. GBEBD – Acceptable Use of Technology

On Behalf of the Policy Committee, Mrs. Green moved approval of the second reading of Board Policies listed above. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.4: Communities In Schools Proposal for Student Support Services** – *A recommendation to approve the funding request for Communities In Schools Student Support Program.* – Mrs. Green moved, seconded Mr. Meyers, approval of the recommendation to approve the funding request for Communities In Schools Proposal for Student Support Services. The funding source is Title I Stimulus funds. The total amount requested from CCSD is \$694,128. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.5: Construction Management Services** – *As requested by four board members (Ravenel, Collins, Meyers, and Jordan), the Board will discuss Construction Management Services.* – Mr. Lewis shared a presentation titled **Procurement Options Construction Management Services 2010-2016 Building Program**. He said before his arrival, the district made a decision to have Construction Management folks in-house and \$900 million in projects was managed by the two in house employees. Mr. Lewis said the objective for the Request for Proposal for Construction Management Services Contract for the 2005-2009 Building Program state the intent to potentially extend the contraction period for the follow on for the 2010-2014 building program. He also outlined the rationale for option—Advance Designs (7), Continuity of Service, Accelerate start up, Fee Negotiations (<5%), and Qualified and Experienced personnel; a strategic partnership. Mr. Lewis said the district cannot afford a break in continuity. He cited the extended length of time individuals would have to wait for the program to begin after the referendum passes. At this time Mr. Lewis share his recommendation:

1. Authorize the Superintendent to exercise the option for the five seismic schools and Rivers.
2. Re-Compete remainder of program after November 2, 2010 election.

Mr. Lewis reminded the Board of the commitment to parent if the desire is to re-compete and wait until November. Mrs. Green requested information on the percentage of what is allocated to each construction management firm. Mrs. Jordan said she placed this item on the agenda because the district's spending should be transparent with use of taxpayers' dollars. The procurement of construction management services should be open so the public could compete because the same construction firms have been in place since 1997. She said even if one of the existing companies received the bid, they should compete for it. Rivers and Sullivan's Island have already been allocated. Mrs. Jordan said because of the embarrassment of the tree service news article, she wanted to make sure the CMS process was open and fair. After reading the 2009 information, she said eight weeks was not enough time for expenditure of \$450 million. Mr. Lewis' response was if the work for the downtown schools was not done as planned, it the August return date would be difficult. Promises would not be kept if the directive is to re-procure work for seismic schools. Mr. Jordan and Mr. Ravenel suggested Mr. Lewis knew six months earlier that Board approval was required. They questioned why it was brought to the Board earlier. Mr. Lewis responded that he didn't think there was a desire to do something other than honor the current contract. He accepted the responsibility and said this is the only time the Board had not honored change.

Rev. Collins expressed concerns about the committee's size and their responsibility for millions of taxpayers dollars. Mr. Lewis spoke of the district's partnership with City of Charleston staff members to excel the project with the intent to move forward. Mr. Lewis said given the competed regulatory requirements, limited market—4 S.C. firms certified by the state, he was surprised to hear about others firms interested. After Mr. Lewis took responsibility, Dr. McGinley apologized to the Board took responsibility for Mr. Lewis not forewarning the Board earlier. However, he said it is in the best interest not to punish students who attend downtown schools. To not bring them back on schedule would be a travesty because children and parents are looking forward to returning to downtown schools.

Mr. Toler moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to accept staff's recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to exercise the option for the five seismic schools and Rivers and Re-Compete remainder of program after November 2, 2010 election.. The motion was approved 6-2 (Collins and Jordan opposed).

**9.6: BHHS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Addition** – Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, approval of a recommendation to award the contract for Baptist Hill High School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Middle School Academy) – Phase II Building Package (QSCD Project #5967 – Solicitation #10-SMG-B-003) to Metro Contracting for the base bid, in the amount of \$2,969,969.00. The funding source is QSCB Funds. The motion was approved 8-0

**9.7: 8% Bond Resolution** – Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, approval of the 8% Bond Resolution in an amount not to exceed \$62 million. Usual and customary fees for the cost of issuance will be funded through proceeds of the Bond sale.

**9.8: Auditing Software and Operational Audits** – Mrs. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, approval of staff's recommendation to obtain monitoring software and issue RFP's for operational audits for improved efficiencies and savings for specific functional areas over a 5-year period. The motion was approved 8-0.

Mrs. Kandrak suggested the district use vendors who will not charge unless something is found. Mr. Bobby cautioned the Board stating that it is necessary to be careful with the structure of audits because the Board may not be supportive and follow through on audit recommendations that would determine savings. Mrs. Kandrak said it's on the agenda for the third time and she wants the district to implement best practices.

**9.9: Low Country Tech at Burke High School –**

There was an in-depth discussion on continued plans for Lowcountry Tech at Rivers. Mr. Louis Martin, Associate Superintendent in High Schools Learning presented information to the Board on Lowcountry Tech at Burke High. Mr. Martin began by providing information required by the Education Economic Development Act and the district's zone concept. Mr. Martin reviewed the Central Zone Career Majors for Burke, Rivers, and West Ashley High. He went on to say that green technologies are piloted at the state level and scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Other programs planned for Rivers in addition to Green Technology are Graphics Communications, Information Support and Services and Networking—all technology based. He shared course specifics for programs at Rivers. Burke campus will house expanded majors—Culinary Arts, Heath and Science, AV, Graphics Communications. In response to a question from Mrs. Jordan regarding Graphics Communications at both sites, Mr. Martin said levels 1-2 would be housed at Rivers and levels 3-4 would be housed at Burke.

Mr. Ravenel said everyone is looking forward to Lowcountry Tech because Garrett is the only vocational school in the District and it is full. He suggested Auto Mechanics and Welding also be taught along with Heating and Air, Carpentry, Brick Laying. Mr. Ravenel asked if Technical Education would prepare students for jobs that are available in this area. Mr. Martin said the Career Academy incorporates industrial certification so students are ready to go to work or into a two-four year certification program. The district has partnered with Trident Tech since welding is so expensive to have on school campuses. Mr. Martin said it was difficult to populate programs at Garrett because students don't complete programs.

During discussion of shared space at Rivers, Dr. McGinley said 60/40 is listed on the only written record of what the board agreed to earlier. Common areas like the auditorium and cafeteria were not factored in. The possibility of Lowcountry Tech being a stand-alone program would be costly. Also, she said about concerns about taking students away from Burke, the intent is not to duplicate academics at West Ashley

and Burke. She went on to say that staff plotted CCSMS (Charleston Charter School for Math and Science) needs and felt they would need more space than originally proposed. The original proposal was based on classroom needs; not common area. In response to Mr. Meyers about space concerns at Rivers, Dr. McGinley said there was enough space to have the two programs. Mr. Meyers said while the future Board could change the plans for Rivers, he didn't want to leave the Board with outstanding issues.

Mr. Fraser liked the program proposal and hopes the program will drive the requirement, instead to the requirement driving the program. He said Lowcountry Tech makes sense. In response to Mr. Fraser's question if there was money in the current building program, Mr. Lewis said the line item for Burke could address the needs. He further stated that if the sales tax referendum passes, there would be money to accomplish the task. However, funds for hiring of staff would need to be added to the General Operating budget. Mrs. Jordan said \$24 million has been set aside for repairs and upgrades. She supports the proposal that was presented by staff. Mrs. Jordan said she hopes the new Board will not change plans for Lowcountry Tech. Dr. McGinley said the district is committed to this proposal because it addresses the Education Economic Development Act which is state law. Mr. Toler said requested information on Perkins (CTE) Funds.

Also during discussion, Mrs. Jordan questioned why the equipment at Garrett was so out-dated. Mr. Martin said equipment replacement is a huge expense. Mr. Bobby said the district worked hard to create replacement cost for fixed assets. This past year Mr. Martin and other developed a plan which will come to the Board for approval.

Mr. Meyers said he wanted this discussion to clarify concerns about facility percentages (60 vs. 66%). He suggested school board candidates be asked to commit to the plan for Rivers because that would be the only way to hold them to it.

Mr. Toler questioned why a new vocational program was being considered when there is a shortage of funds. Dr. McGinley said one vocational school is not enough. In response to Mrs. Jordan's question about starting Lowcountry Tech in mobiles, Mr. Lewis said any amount spent on a temporary facility would take funding away from the final project. A lot of work has to be done and space may be needed for demolition.

Mrs. Jordan suggested four new trustees be encouraged to keep the promise for Lowcountry Tech. She then stated the consensus is that LowCountry Tech met zone needs.

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Meyers moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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