

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 12, 2015 in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street. The following members of the Board were present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats - Chair, Mr. Chris Staubes – Vice Chair, Mr. Tom Ducker, Rev. Eric Mack, Mr. Michael Miller, Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mrs. Kate Darby and Mr. Todd Garrett were absent. Rev. Chris Collins participated by phone.

Staff members: Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Dr. Lynda Davis, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Mrs. Anita Huggins, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mr. John McCarron, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, and Dr. James Winbush were also in attendance.

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

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m. Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION
4:30p.m.**

- 1.1: **Legal Updates – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel**
-Pending Cases
- 1.2: **Voluntary Student Transfer Appeals**

**OPEN SESSION
5:15p.m.**

II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, & PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE
The Board convened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order. Then she called for a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to approve the October 12, 2015 agenda with the following amendment – removal of agenda item 8.3B - School Choice Process and Timeline Update and Recommendation. It was also determined that this item would be placed on the October 26, 2015 agenda. The vote was 6-1 (Collins opposed).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

- 4.1: **A. Open Session Minutes of September 28, 2015**
Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the open session minutes of September 28, 2015. The vote was 7-0.

- 4.2: **Executive Session Action Items of October 12, 2015**
The Board approved the following executive session action items of October 12, 2015.

NOTE: Rev. Collins hung up at 5:24 p.m.

- 1.1: **Legal Updates – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel**
The Board received legal updates. However, no action was taken.

- 1.2: **Voluntary Student Transfer Appeals**
Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve three student transfer appeals, per policy, regarding tuition and transportation. The vote was 6-0.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS (15 minutes) – Mrs. Erica Taylor, Executive Director of Strategy & Communications

A. Wando Teacher Cadets were recognized.

B. National History Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Mary Huffman, a Charles Pinckney ES teacher, was recognized by the board for being the recipient of the National History Teacher of the Year award.

C. NSPRA Recognition

Mrs. Erica Taylor, the Executive Director of Strategy & Communications, was recognized for her dedication to CCSD and receiving a NSPRA award.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mayor Joseph P. Riley thanked the Board on behalf of the citizens of Charleston. Also, he addressed the Board about a construction item at Charleston Progressive Academy and the removal of louvers from the school building.
2. Mr. Harry Walker, a representative of Carolina Voyager, asked the board to approve a motion to allow Carolina Voyager to plan and negotiate a contract to use the St. Andrews MS facility. No CCSD funds would be needed. However, CCSD would probably gain funds due to sharing of utility costs.
3. Mr. Anthony G. Bryant addressed the Board about miscellaneous topics.
4. Ms. Natrice Henriques addressed the Board on behalf of Gregg Mathis Charter School. She asked the Board to consider providing a space for Gregg Mathis Charter School
5. Ms. Stephanie Robinson, Ms. Deborah Williams, Mr. Jon Gray, Mr. Tony Lewis, Mr. Erick Pineda, and Ms. Megan Fink addressed the Board in support of the facility request for temporary space for Carolina Voyager at St. Andrews Middle School.
6. Ms. Carmen Nash shared her experience with school choice. She said all choice schools have sibling preference with exception to Buist. She expressed concerns about siblings applying annually
7. Mr. Joseph Bower III, a District 1 Constituent Board Member, addressed the board in support of a zero-based budget and a forensic audit for the district. He thanked Dr. Postlewait, Mrs. Darby and Mr. Staubes for their ongoing work with the District 1 Constituent Board.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait – Superintendent of Schools

A. Board Work-session – October 20, 2015

Dr. Postlewait reviewed the Board Work Session agenda and shared information on the three presenters.

B. Superintendent's 90 Day Review

- Dr. Postlewait presented the Superintendent's 90-Day Entry Plan Status Report highlighting Outcomes, Actions, Deliverables and Status information. She requested an opportunity to discuss feedback with the board in open session in the near future. Rev. Mack commended Dr. Postlewait for the work that she has done to date. Dr. Postlewait asked the board to review her 90-Day Entry Plan and be prepared to provide feedback at the October 26, 2015 meeting.
- Dr. Postlewait also requested time for staff to unpack student data at the next meeting. Individuals from the community, that are also doing data analyses, will also be invited to come in and share their points of view. She said this will allow everyone to get on the same page and confront the brutal facts so the district could move forward.

C. FY15 Budget Shortfall

- A Summary of 2014-15 budget information discussed at a recent Audit and Finance Committee meeting was shared publicly. A document analyzing the findings from Mr. Bobby and his staff was reviewed.

Mr. Staubes asked about preventative measures to avoid something similar from occurring in the future. Mr. Bobby said they would work to accelerate the process in identifying how much funds will be received in the future. He shared details about the shortfall citing that there were four issues--growth, delinquent taxes and two other taxes that came in lower than anticipated (King Street TIFF and Boeing). Three TIFFs are scheduled to come on in 2017.

The Board received information on the unaudited interim financial statement of the General Operating Fund for FY2015. Action to amend the budget and close the fiscal 2015 year budget will be taken after the official FY2015 audited financial statements are completed, accepted, and received.

NOTE: Rev. Collins called in again at 5:53 p.m.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

8.1: Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Todd Garrett

A. Audit and Finance Committee Update – Mr. Todd Garrett

B. Charleston Charter School for Math & Science Facilities Use Agreement – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve a proposed revision of the Charleston Charter School for Math & Science facilities use agreement with the caveat that administration will work with the school officials to identify a reasonable time frame for reinforcing the asphalt in the bus drop off loop and removed the words, “as of the day of this agreement”, on page 3, section 4B, with an occupancy date of September 1, 2016. The vote was 6-1-0 (Collins abstained).

Mr. Wiles offered a friendly amendment that was accepted by Rev. Mack to remove the words, “as of the day of this agreement”, on page 3, section 4B (Grounds) since CCSMS doesn't utilize the entire facility. Mr. Wiles concluded that that his proposed amendment would allow the district to utilize the rest of the space, if CCSMS is not using it.

Dr. Postlewait requested a letter be written to accompany the agreement to make clear that it was not the district's intent to limit the use of the back wing. She said the major concern was the portables that sit there. Also, she mentioned the district's request for CCSMS to change out the asphalt in the circle where buses are parked and put reinforced asphalt because of the weight of the buses. However, she said that didn't need to happen right now, but that it should happen within a reasonable period of time.

Dr. Postlewait spoke about the need for CCSMS to move one bus on the paved loop and being responsible for converting the drop off loop to meet asphalt specifications. The date to repave the lot with reinforced asphalt will also be included in the letter accompanying the agreement.

C. 2016-17 Budget Process – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the district's recommendation proposal to implement zero based budgeting for in specific areas of district budget in fiscal 2017. The vote was 7-0.

Mrs. Coats suggested the motion be amended to say some departments will do a zero based budget in 2016-17. Mr. Miller suggested that the first 1/3 departments be identified when the 2016-17 budget discussion begin in January 2016. Mr. Ducker requested that the committees' work be done by December 31st. Mr. Bobby said he felt it was a deliverable that could be met by staff. Also he said a calendar for the budget process would come to the board on Oct. 26' 2015. Zero-based budgeting goals will be brought to the October 20th workshop.

D. Capital Program Phase III Excess Revenue Project List – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to authorize the use of excess Phase III (2011-2016) funds for the projects recommended listed in the agenda package. The vote was 7-0.

E. Allocation of 2015-16 Sinking Funds for Facilities Maintenance and Asset – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve a request from staff to allocate “sinking” funds outlined in the resolution included in the agenda package. The vote was 6-0.

Note: Mr. Staubes did not vote since he was not in the room when this item was voted on.

F. Locating a Charter School at St. Andrews Middle School – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the recommendation coming from the Audit and Finance Committee for further planning for locating a charter school at the former St. Andrews

Middle School for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 school years. The board will select the charter school to utilize the St. Andrews MS facility on October 26, 2015. The vote was 7-0.

Mr. Wiles requested the agreement be clear about it ending in three years, in the event there are other charter schools interested in utilizing the facility at the end of the three years.

G. Audit Request

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to authorize the superintendent to bring the names of three independent audit firms to conduct a forensic audit of CCSD's 2014-15 budget for the Board's consideration. Mr. Ducker asked to amend to approve the 2015-16 revenue projections. The vote was 7-0.

Rev. Collins ended the call at 6:57 p.m. Therefore, he did not vote on items below.

8.2: Policy & Personnel Committee – Mr. Tripp Wiles

A. Policy Committee Update - Mr. Tripp Wiles

B. First Reading - Policy BDE - Board Committees – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the first reading of the proposed revision of Policy BDE. The vote was 5-1 (Miller opposed).

8.3: Strategic Education Committee – Rev. Chris Collins

A. Strategic Education Committee Update – Rev. Chris Collins

B. School Choice Process and Timeline Update and Recommendation – Mrs. Mary Runyon

This item was pulled during the Approval of the Agenda. Therefore, no action was taken. This item will come back before the board on October 26, 2015.

IX. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1: A. Transportation Committee – Mr. Michael Miller

Mr. Miller said the Transportation Committee will bring a recommendation to the board on October 26, 2015 to change the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee to a standing committee.

X. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

10.1: A. Financial Minutes of September 28, 2015 Special Called Meeting

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the financial minutes of September 28, 2015. The vote was 6-0.

B. 2015-16 School Calendar Revision – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve a recommendation to designate October 5, 2015 as a make-up day. The vote was 6-0.

C. Contract Extension of Parent Link License – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve extending the current Parent Link contract for 90 days as the district transitions to the new vendor. The vote was 6-0.

XI. CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE (CAE) UPDATE

11.1: Good to Great and the Social Sectors – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools

11.2: Academic Division Function Alignment Study Recommendations – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools

The Board received information on the Academic Division Function Alignment Study conducted by Dr. Patricia Burns Dillard. The information was included in the agenda package.

Introduction of CAO Interims.

Dr. Postlewait introduced the following interims:

- Mrs. Patsy Pye is serving as Interim Chief Academic Officer until December 2014.
- Dr. Valarie Harrison will begin serving as the Interim Chief Academic Director in January 2016.

Also, Dr. Postlewait announced that Mrs. Sandy Bozzard is serving as Interim Executive Director of Curriculum.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

12.1: Student Disciplinary Appeals – Coats, Ducker, Mack & Staubes

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, a recommendation to adopt the procedure outlined in the board's agenda package for reviewing student discipline appeals. The vote was 5-1 (Miller opposed).

XIII. WRAP-UP COMMENTS

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. The vote was unanimous.