

## Minutes

A special called meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 9, 2016, in the board room at 75 Calhoun Street.

The following board members were present: Mrs. Cindy Coats—Board Chair, Mr. Chris Staubes – Vice Chair, Rev. Chris Collins, Mrs. Kate Darby, Mr. Tom Ducker, Mr. Todd Garrett, Rev. Eric Mack, Mr. Michael Miller, Mr. Tripp Wiles, and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary.

The following staff members were also present: Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mrs. Sandy Brossard, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Valerie Harrison, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mr. Glenn Stiegman, and Mrs. Erica Taylor.

### 5:00 p.m. OPEN SESSION

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

Mrs. Coats called the May 9, 2016 Special Called meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

#### II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby to Adopt the May 9, 2016 agenda. The vote was 9-0.

#### III. 3.1: Public Comments

1. Representative Robert Brown urged the board to not support the recommendation to close schools. He requested support for House Bill #5195. Also, he asked the board to consider delaying the closing of Jane Edwards Elementary for one additional year and provide a technology teacher for Frierson Elementary.
2. Ms. Christy James addressed the board in support of a millage rate increase to allow expanded opportunities for students at Northwoods Middle School.
3. Ms. Sara Newer, a Northwoods Middle School staff member, addressed the board in support of a millage rate increase.
4. Ms. Rose Porter, a Northwoods Middle School teacher, urged the board to vote to increase the millage rate to continue supporting at-risk students.
5. Ms. Meghan Rielly, a Northwoods Middle School teacher, spoke about the importance of positions that would be cut for the 2016-17 school year.
6. Mr. Gerald Stokes addressed the board in support of the North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School intervention program.
7. Ms. Janet Beckett, a CCSD teacher, addressed the board in support for Primary Grade Academy. She also spoke about the literacy program and the impact it would have on closing the achievement gap, if the program was eliminated.
8. Ms. Shannon Bullard, a Murray LaSaine Elementary teacher, addressed the board in support for Primary Grade Academy sharing a personal story on how it helped her two kids.
9. Ms. Nona Rowcliffe, an Edisto Island Volunteer, urged the board to not close Jane Edwards Elementary.
10. Dr. Millicent Brown urged the board to make schools better for all students.
11. Mr. Lou Rasmussen urged the board to withdraw the motion to close schools in Charleston County.
12. Mayor Jane Darby, of Edisto Beach, suggested resolving the Jane Edwards Elementary enrollment problem by undoing previous mistakes. She said the student population is small because of an

- earlier decision to remove 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Jane Edwards Elementary.
13. Mr. Jim Gettys addressed the board in support of keeping Jane Edwards open. He also urged the board to return the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to Jane Edwards Elementary.
  14. Mr. Jimmy Jones addressed the board in support of keeping Jane Edwards Elementary open. He spoke about the issue of sustaining the school when the district continues to remove students. Mr. Jones also mentioned the issue of attracting new community members because of the school issue.
  15. Ms. Shirley Wade and her son addressed the board in support of keeping middle school students at Sanders Clyde. Mrs. Wade said her son had issues and an IEP prior to receiving help at Sanders Clyde. She urged the board to allow the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to remain there.
  16. Ms. LaTonya Gamble extended an invitation to an upcoming community meeting to talk about school related issues.
  17. Ms Patti Smyer asked the board to not close Jane Edwards Elementary.
  18. Ms. Mishay Oubre, a retired CCSD teacher, urged the board to restore the partial magnet at Sanders Clyde.
  19. Ms. Mary Stansell addressed the board in support of the Primary Grade Academy program. She suggested the board consider increasing the millage, if needed.
  20. Ms. Sara Catto, a north area teacher, addressed the board in support of the Primary Grade Academy. She also shared a story about a student she taught to read.
  21. Mr. Jimmy Flannery, a North Charleston Creative Arts teacher, urged the board to increase the millage to sustain programs in CCSD schools.
  22. Mr. Peter Beck commented on the "Charleston Excellence is Our Standard" sign and added "with exception to the district's budget". Urged the board to keep Jane Edwards open and encouraged board members to be a part of the solution; not the problem.
  23. Mr. Paul Oakley addressed the board in support of keeping Jane Edwards open. He suggested the board delay the recommendation at this time and work on a solution to keep the school open.
  24. Mrs. Janet Oakley urged the board to consider ways to help Jane Edwards succeed versus the option of closing the school. She highlighted that the Jane Edwards' achievement rate was high than schools students would be transferred to.
  25. Ms. Lisa Grimball addressed the board in support of keeping Jane Edwards open. She questioned why the board wanted to vote to close the school if their intent was to keep educational opportunities on the island. She concluded that Jane Edwards is a school all could be proud of.
  26. Ms. Keyonna Babb, a North Charleston Creative Arts teacher and parent of student attending the school, urged the board to not cut the magnet program at that school. She also said she supports raising millage.
  27. Ms. Dot Scott, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Organization, urged the board not to discriminate against black students by opting to close schools (Jane Edwards and Lincoln). She suggested the board was showing favoritism towards Wando, Sullivan's Island, and other non-black schools.
  28. Mr. Jason Slade addressed the board in support of keeping middle school students at Sanders Clyde, literacy program, and not closing any school in CCSD. He urged the board to listen to the people in attendance.
  29. Mr. Michael D'Anglo addressed the board in support of Collegiate Charter School utilizing the McClellanville Middle facility. He also spoke of efforts to help students in McClellanville.
  30. Mr. James Graham, a Lincoln High coach, expressed concerns about the recommendation to close Lincoln High.
  31. Ms. Abigail Prochaska spoke in support of keeping Jane Edwards open. She said the non-profit organization she works for is willing to help CCSD find a solution.
  32. Rev. John Paul Brown expressed concerns about the district's budget shortfall and recommendation to close schools.

33. Mr. Thomas Colleton, the District 1 Constituent Board Chair, expressed concerns about school closings and rural school stipends. Mr. Colleton shared specifics of things promised in the school closing recommendation -- new buses with internet services, a certified teacher, etc. Also, he said there were no stipends for rural school teachers in the budget. Mr. Colleton spoke of his efforts to ensure that the board does not take advantage of students.
34. Ms. Anita Alston Gore, parent of CCSD students, a pastor, and a volunteer, urged the board to invest in the students in Charleston and the north area. She brought letters from North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary students and urged the board to raise the millage rate.
35. Ms. Wendy Hudson, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary parent and business owner, urged the board to increase the millage rate.
36. Ms. Candice Padgett, a Northwoods Middle School teacher, addressed the board in support of classified employees. She urged the board to increase the millage rate.
37. Ms. Julie Johnson, a North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary teacher, urged the board to raise the millage rate.
38. Mr. Gerry Katz spoke about teachers, Wando students, and Lincoln students and asked what would happen when a Wando student encountered a student that is four levels below norm.
39. Mr. Mark Kline addressed the board in support of increasing the millage rate. He said it is an investment in the future of students.
40. Ms. Lacey Ginn-Williams, a North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary teacher, urged the board to raise the millage rate.
41. Ms. Katlee Rubel urged the board to increase the millage rate for the benefit of students across the district.
42. Ms. Cheryl Glover, a District 9 Constituent board member, urged the board to increase the millage. Also, she asked the board to stop overturning student transfer requests from the District 9 since their decisions are based on board policy.
43. Ms. Jenny Leckie thanked Dr. Postlewait for meeting with the District 23 community. Then she expressed concerns about the recommendation for Jane Edwards asking if CCSD wants to educate students on Edisto Island.
44. Ms. Willette Wilkins spoke about the budget shortfall and suggested that Bayside should be able to attend the school in that area and not be bused to other schools.
45. Rev. Charles Glover, a District 23 Constituent Board member, said it was unacceptable that kids would suffer because of the mismanagement of funds in the district. He went on to say that five-year old students shouldn't be placed on buses at 5:00 a.m. They will address the issue with the state board, if necessary. CCSD needs to find the money.
46. Ms. Carlette Geddis, a Jane Edwards graduate, shared history of the school to show why enrollment is low at the school. She urged the board to keep the school open.
47. Mrs. Debra Grant addressed the board about rural schools. She urged the board to increase the millage and make sure there is someone in place to be accountable for the funds.
48. Mr. Tony Lewis suggested the board was taking the fiber out of schools. He spoke about Jane Edwards and North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary.

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes to convene in Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss the agenda items listed below:

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

- IV. 4.1: Personnel Matters**
  - A. Principal Appointments**
    - 1. E.B. Ellington**
    - 2. Baptist Hill Middle/High**
    - 3. Wando High**
  - B. Personnel Contractual Matters**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:21 p.m. with the same members present. Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order. Then she called for a vote on Executive Session items.

**V. 5.1: Vote on Executive Session Items**

- **Principal Appointments**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes to approve the following principal appointments. The vote was 9-0.

1. **E.B. Ellington**– Ms. Wanda Hughes
2. **Baptist Hill Middle/High** – Ms. Vanessa Brown
3. **Wando High** – Ms. Sherry Eppelsheimer

- **Personnel Contractual Matters**

The board discussed personnel contractual matters. However, no action was taken.

**VI. 6.1: Recommendations – Closing of Schools**

**A. Lincoln Middle – High School, June 2016**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett to close Lincoln HS at end of 2015-16 school year. The vote was 6-3 (Collins, Miller and Mack opposed).

**Motion: Lincoln High School**

Now, more than ever, an individual's level of education is related to future opportunities in life. In order to provide equal opportunities for high-quality learning experiences; equal access to academic and career preparatory programs; inclusion in social, co-curricular, and extra-curricular offerings; and ensure students receive the support they need to increase achievement, I move that the CCSD Board of Trustees close Lincoln High School at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Students in grades 9-12 will be zoned for Wando High School, and the middle school students will be zoned for St. James-Santee. A collaborative transition plan, including a plan to provide academic, social and emotional support for students will be implemented immediately. Two additional, air conditioned buses to be provided to transport students. By July, 2016, the board will begin developing a timeline and budget for construction of a new school on land that the school district is purchasing in Awendaw. The district will work with students who wish to transfer to a school other than Wando.

Rev. Collins offered an alternate motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to pull the Closing of Lincoln recommendation from the agenda and consider a 10 mill tax increase. However, the board did not vote on this motion since the earlier motion was approved.

**B. Jane Edwards Elementary School, June 2017**

Mr. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to work with the Edisto community over the next year to develop options to preserve educational opportunities on Edisto Island and transition to one of those options for the 2017-2018 school year. The vote was 9-0.

**VII. 7.1: FY17 Budget – General Operating Fund Revenue, Budget Framework**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker to adopt the 2016-17 budget with a millage increase. The vote was 6-3 (Collins, Garrett, and Wiles opposed).

**Motion: Millage Increase**

To cover the unfunded costs mandated by the state, to effectively address safety needs of all students, to support educational needs and opportunities for all students and create the foundation for

future growth, I move that the CCSD Board of Directors adopt the 2016-17 budget as presented with an 9.6 mill increase for a total of 110.3 mills of General Operating Revenue that will sunset at the end of three years (at the end of the 2018-19 budget year). Additionally, tax proceeds not specifically designated for operational requirements will be used to restore the mandated fund balance.

**VIII. 8.1: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by consensus.