

Minutes

The Charleston County School District Board Public Budget Hearing was held on Monday, June 13, 2016, in the board room at 75 Calhoun Street.

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

The following staff members were present: Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mr. John Cobb, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Valerie Harrison, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mrs. Mary Runyon, Mr. Glenn Stiegman, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Taylor and Mrs. Michele English-Watson.

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

OPEN SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Coats called the Public Budget Hearing to order at 5:09 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Rev. Collins to adopt the agenda. The vote was 8-0.

III. 3.1: A. 2017 Budget Presentation

Mr. Stiegman presented FY 2017 budget. The highlights of the presentation are shown below:

- Challenges;
- A conservative approach was taken for 2017 budget to assume that all teaching positions will be filled and not have a "slush fund";
- Timeline for moving toward budget stability -
 - A revised budget will be brought to the board in September. After that point, there will be minimal reductions.
- Mr. Miller asked about the Tax Increment Financing funds (TIF). Mr. Stiegman said no TIF money would be received this year. Some TIFs will end next year. One of the largest is the Mt. Pleasant TIF. There are also TIFs for East Bay and North Charleston.
- The June 2016 the budget was adopted with a 9.6 mill increase which builds the revenue base for local funds. Some adjustments may have to be made as we go along especially with Act 388.
- The district has not been conservative in the past which may have contributed to the budget issue.
- There is a lot of misinformation, so the goal is moving toward transparency.

Unknowns

- The millage increase has a 3 year sunset provision.
- New additional state mandates for salaries and program requirements were shared.
- Issues related to efficient provision programs and equal services to all students results in difficult decisions.
- Mr. Ducker asked about the shortfall in Food Services. Mr. Stiegman said other districts have the same struggle. He suggested looking at staffing levels. He said food service is provided to charter schools at no cost. Then he said there were several issues.

- Mr. Ducker asked about the dropping of Food Service sales by over \$1 million, page #34. Mr. Stiegman said he would ask Mr. Campbell about it. Then Mr. Ducker said the newspaper article spoke about Literacy Programs being slashed. However, the Literacy program wasn't slashed. The article was incorrect. The programs funds were re-directed by the superintendent. He asked Mr. Bowers, the news reporter, to revisit article.
- Mr. Miller asked about the revised/proposed budget amounts and the number of persons and schools impacted. Mr. Stiegman said the budget is projected on student population divided by 25 for teacher allocation. However, no one was let go.
- Mr. Miller asked about the revised budget for the superintendent's department. He said the budget has grown by \$54,000. Also, he asked if there was a reduction at constituent district offices. Dr. Postlewait said the increase in the superintendent's budget was the salary for the person that works with Constituent Offices and printing costs that weren't budgeted appropriately. Mr. Stiegman said he would provide a comparison of 2016 and 2017 budget.
- Mrs. Coats also said there was a deficit in the board's budget benefits.
- Mr. Miller asked about Magnet and Montessori school amounts. Mr. Stiegman said he would confirm the numbers.
- Rev. Mack asked about the Health Services decrease of \$102,000. Mr. Stiegman said that's the allocation for nurses in schools. He used Drayton Hall ES as an example and said 1 full time nurse was allocated for schools with a high level of medication administered. Mr. Stiegman said he would get an answer from Ms. Melissa Prendergrast.

B. Public Comments

1. Pastor Willette Scott Ashe addressed the board about Lincoln and downsizing of the Literacy Program. She spoke in support of the Literacy Program urging the board tweak the program, but not to band the program it citing the need for resources in Title I schools. She also asked the board to review the data and revamp the allocation formula because of the impact the new the formula would have on Mary Ford.
2. Ms. Julia Dawson, an Academic Magnet High School graduate, asked the board to repeal its decision to close Lincoln HS and building a new middle school. She spoke about inequality and asked the board to educate itself on white supremacy in the state of SC. She suggested the study of South Carolina history would help with race-related violence.
3. Mr. AJ Davis spoke about CCSD positions that have been eliminated in Title I schools and the elimination of parent advocate positions.
4. Mr. Tony Lewis addressed the board about a letter he received from the district's staff attorney in response to an incident that involved his grandson who was threatened at James Simons Montessori.
5. Ms. Radana Scott, a National Action Network advocate, expressed concerns about discrimination and misallocation of funds within the Food Service Nutrition Department. She shared details from a letter she sent earlier to Dr. Postlewait about discriminatory actions in the Food Service Department and asked that the supervisor be removed from his position.
6. Ms. Annette McKnight, a 20 year Food Service employee, shared concerns she had while working with the current Food Service supervisor for 10 years. She suggested that new employees are paid \$10 more than her and they have less experience. Kelly workers are putting experienced workers at risk. Walter Campbell needs to go.
7. Ms. Mary Banks, a Food Service employee, spoke about being overlooked for a food service position when others that came behind her were hired.
8. Ms. Lavone White, a 10 year Food Service employee, said she was mistreated after she asked questions about her work hours. She doesn't receive benefits and only work 5 hours. However, workers hired through Kelly Service work longer hours.
9. Ms. Marie Jenkins, a 22 year worker at Military Magnet School, said she was fired after she inquired about her pay because CCSD owed her money.

10. Ms. Millicent Brown reminded everyone about the history of the CCSD Board dating back to 1961 when African American students weren't allowed to attend school with Caucasian students. She said Educational Television (ETV) was brought in to provide equalization at African American schools. She suggested that Lincoln students were moved to gain access to better curriculum. However she said, with the technology available, that shouldn't be an issue these days. The CCSD board hasn't listened to the community.
11. Jessie Williams – Issue with Burns has been disappointing. He suggested the transition at McNair was poorly communicated to parents. Students don't know at this time where they will attend school in 2017.
12. Rev. Charles Glover, the District 23 Constituent Board Chair, said the board should give the communities more respect and do a better job of communicating with constituents.
13. Ms. Josephine Matthews, the District 23 Vice Chair, shared concerns about the article she read about elimination of the literacy program. She spoke of the importance of having the literacy program especially in rural schools. Also, she spoke about the closure of Lincoln HS which was open for 62 years. She asked the board not to consider closing Jane Edwards.
14. Mr. Charles Maker shared historical information about Lincoln and urged the board to re-open and leave Lincoln High School open until a new school is built. Or, he said, the board should consider naming the new school Lincoln High School.

C. APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 GENERAL OPERATING FUND BUDGET – Action

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes to approve the 2016-2017 General Operating Fund Budget with a millage increase as follows. The vote was 9-0. (Note: Mr. Garrett called in to vote on this agenda item).

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 4.1C-5 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby to go into executive Session at 6:13 p.m. with eight members present and Mr. Garrett participating by telephone.

IV. 4.1: Principal Appointment

4.2: Personnel Matter

4.3: Consideration of Charter School Application

OPEN SESSION RECONVENED

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

V. 5.1: Vote on Executive Session Action Items

4.1: Principal Appointment

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

4.2: Personnel Matter

The board considered a personnel matter. However, no action was taken.

4.2: Consideration of Charter School Application

Mrs. Coats announced that the board discussed a charter school. However, no action was taken.

5.2 Suspension of Policy BDE – Mr. Wiles, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Staubes, & Mrs. Darby

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker to suspend Policy BDE to allow the Board Chair, to serve on legislative or ad hoc committee. The vote was 9-0.

At this time, Rev. Mack read a letter to the board and Dr. Postlewait. The letter mentioned the anniversary of the Emmanuel Nine, quoted several scriptures relating to goals for the board to include trust for the superintendent, closing the achievement gap, preparing students to be college and career ready. He urged the board to visit three Horry County Schools that were predominately African American schools that have transformed.

VI. 6.1: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. by consensus.