

**ST. JAMES-SANTEE CONSTITUENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1**

*of Charleston County, South Carolina*

**Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**(via Zoom)**

Tuesday, August 30, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Mr. Thomas Colleton, Chairperson  
Rev. Ej Milligan, Vice-Chairperson  
Ms. Dee Andria Brown  
Ms. Shirley Mitchell-Collenton  
Ms. Diane Geathers  
Ms. Marie Snyder-Facine  
Ms. Chayann Simpson

**Others Present:** Ms. Kimberly Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood, Constituent  
District 1 Liaison  
Ms. Kate Darby, CCSD Board of Trustees Member  
Ms. Anita Huggins, Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate  
Ms. Pamela Jubar, Associate Principal, Wando High School  
Ms. Toshiba Champaigne, Constituent Board Liaison

I. Meeting called to order:

Mr. Thomas Colleton, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

II. Welcome, Moment of Silence/Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Colleton opened the meeting with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda:

Mr. Colleton asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Rev. Ej Milligan made the motion, and Ms. Cynthia Geathers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Updates from Charleston County School District:

Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief overview of the presentation. He shared that the information will be shared with District 2 next month because they could play a role in the future of this process.

Mr. Borowy will ensure that the presentation is available to the board following the presentation to provide responses to questions or concerns the board may have.

Mr. Borowy presented information on the history, followed by Angela Barnette walking the board through a slide presentation.

Mr. Colleton asked, "When you are investing in future developments, where do you get the information from?" Ms. Barnette and her team meet with the municipal planning departments

quarterly to get updates. This way, they would have an accurate picture of what is happening in each area.

In reviewing the 45-day distribution report, Mr. Borowy noted that they cannot capture private or non-district charter schools. These schools would not be included in the reported numbers.

Mr. Colleton asked how CREECS is being carried. Ms. Barnette advised that CREECS does not fall under CCSD's charter umbrella, so the district does not have access to the data. If it fell under CCSD's umbrella, the district would be able to collect the data.

Mr. Colleton noted that it would be important to track where students are coming from (transfers) and attending schools outside the attendance zone. Regarding District 1, the district needs to track students attending District 2 middle schools to determine the number of students zoned for District 1.

Ms. Barnette shared various options. She noted that the options presented are just examples.

Board members asked questions about the options presented. Ms. Barnette responded, noting that the options presented were examples, mainly to show some different puzzle pieces and what the potential would look like.

Mr. Borowy shared that it will be extremely challenging to create a zone of 500 students for middle and high school. More growth was projected than what occurred. One of the things mentioned is to not only capture students from District 1 and potentially some from District 2 but also create an environment in a school that would attract students into a partial magnet. Families will send kids if it is the right type of opportunity for them. Mr. Borowy introduced Ms. Anita Huggins to speak from the educational side.

Mr. Colleton noted that Oceanside has been pulling a lot of CCSD students because their primary focus is on sports. Also, they have college credit programs. Mr. Colleton asked if transportation would be provided for a partial magnet school. Mr. Borowy noted that all CCSD magnet schools have district-wide transportation at central stops. Partial magnet students that reside in the zone are picked up and dropped off at their residence, and those that are attending the partial magnet school and live outside of the zone are picked up and dropped off at central stops. He would expect this to continue if the new school was some magnet school. However, he is not in a position to make that decision. Ms. Colleton commented that magnets are the reason District 1 is in the situation that they are in now. She feels that magnets will still exclude some students from the equation. Due to certain situations, families have been sending their children to Oceanside to Wando. She noted that if the county had provided the high school with the things that were needed, and certain things weren't taken away from the high school, District 1 would still have its students.

Ms. Huggins thanked board members for candidly sharing how they felt. She let the board know that she appreciates the opportunity to come before them to strategically develop ways to obtain the resources needed for District 1 students. Mr. Kennedy, the Superintendent, has experience in various areas, including that in various magnet-type schools that offer multiple approaches for students and families. She shared that they would want to work collectively with the board, principals, parents, and SIC to understand what is needed. All students in District 1 would have the opportunity to attend a new school built in District 1. If the new school is a partial magnet school, and the students are zoned to hear it, they would be able to because it would be their home school. In an effort to get the enrollment where it needs to be to offer the programmatic things that need to be offered, an application process can be opened to students in other parts of the district to allow students to enroll in the school.

Ms. Huggins spoke briefly about some of the concepts around the country. Some of the things that are potential in collaboration with all the stakeholders. She noted that they are not committed to

any one idea but wanted to work collaboratively to see what sort of things the board thinks the community might desire for the children.

1. The Fairchild Wheeler Campus, Bridgeport, Connecticut – Magnet school that offers three different fields of study.
  - a. Aerospace and Hydrospace wing
  - b. Zoological wing for biotech research
  - c. IT and Software Engineering wing

Students come in and go through the first year to year and a half of core curriculum classes, and then they get into more specialized courses in a major of their choice.

2. Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center outside of Bridgeport, where the major is Aqua science, working in the environment and in the area to serve the students in that area.

The board may be interested in using some of the booming business community in Charleston as a guide to developing a magnet school to attract other students across the county.

The district is willing to think creatively to work with stakeholders to make this a good fit. It is dedicated to getting the numbers needed to build a comprehensive middle and high school so that students attending can achieve at very high levels.

Mr. Borowy reiterated the need to 1) gather community input to see what families want and 2) create an environment where we have enough students to offer the programs. Mr. Borowy highlighted previous Blue Ribbon committees that were established. Consolidated Board Member, Kate Darby, chaired past committees. Mr. Borowy discussed the idea of establishing a charter that would create the framework for the Blue Ribbon Committee. The group leading the charter would be able to research successful opportunities around the country.

Mrs. Darby credited Mr. Colleton with saying that a Blue Ribbon Committee was a need Staff is excited and in support of this. The Blue Ribbon Committee would consist of parents and school representatives to look outside the box at options for building the best middle and high school in the area for District 1 students and to attract kids from outside of the area so that we have a critical number that can meet the needs. The goal is to do more than a traditional high school. The idea is to put a group together that can gather community input. The community meetings will allow interested parties to give feedback on what programs and services can be offered to meet the needs of the children in the community. Ms. Darby recognized Ms. Jubar as an essential part of the committee, highlighting that her relationship with District 1 students would benefit the project.

Regarding the various models presented, Mr. Colleton asked Ms. Barnette if the setting was considered. He noted that the Clemson Study looked at the rural and urban settings and how they would impact the students. He wants to ensure that the setting is taken into consideration. Mr. Colleton also asked about projections in the Awendaw area.

Ms. Huggins shared that the goal of the Blue Ribbon Committee would be to work with the administration, parents, and the community to determine what is needed.

The next step is to put pen to paper, for Dr. Eppelsheimer and Ms. Jubar to begin to craft the charter for the Blue Ribbon Committee, who would be members, and what that charter would be tasked with doing. Ms. Darby is committed to supporting this project in any way that she can.

Mr. Colleton asked if some of these things could be incorporated into a timeline and if there was a timeline established for the development of the property. Mr. Borowy shared that there has not

been a timeline established until decisions are made regarding programs and the number of students that will attend, it doesn't serve a purpose to begin a formal design at this point. They can work to end the lease when it's necessary. The next steps (in parallel) are to get the charter up and running, get the team assembled, and begin to look at some of the other opportunities around the area, and to (at the same time or right after the charter is developed) to take a look at other opportunities around the area and begin to develop some community engagement sessions to get input.

Rev. Milligan asked how is determined where the committee members come from. Does District 1 have any input on who the representatives will be? Ms. Darby let her know that in the past, the district has come up with a charter with the committee's makeup. She stressed that the most important part would be to engage the community so everybody who wants to give input can do so.

Ms. Collenton asked for a timeline for when all of these things are going to occur. Ms. Darby noted that a similar presentation on numbers would be made to the District 2 Board in September. The plan would be to have the charter and what the committee would look like for the October meeting, then work on setting up community engagement meetings and looking at visiting sites. Ms. Collenton understands that it won't be anything written in stone, but a draft would give the board an idea of the time it takes so the board will have a guide to follow for where they should be in the process.

Rev. Milligan asked if there would be a joint meeting for District 1 and District 2 after the District 2 meeting. Mr. Borowy shared that he would like to get the charter formatted and up and running, which would then drive a need to potentially bring Districts 1 & 2 together to assess a need to expand the zoning. Mr. Collenton agreed that the two would not need to meet. The two will only need to collaborate if/ until there is a need to redraw attendance lines. The input will come from the community.

Mr. Collenton thanked the board and staff for their attendance and participation in the meeting.

V. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Rev. Milligan, seconded by Ms. Collenton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Approved 12.13.2022  
Recorded by T. Champaigne