

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 9, 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, Rev. Chris Collins, Mrs. Kate Darby, Mr. Tom Ducker, Mr. Todd Garrett, Rev. Eric Mack, Mr. Michael Miller, and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles attended the initial open session, and the executive session; he left prior to the board reconvening in the second open session.

The following senior staff members were present: Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mrs. Sandy Brossard, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Anita Huggins, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mrs. Patsy Pye, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, and Dr. James Winbush.

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

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. to vote on the two open session agenda items listed below: 1.1A and 1.1B.

Open Session  
4:00 p.m.

**I. Board Election of Officers**

In compliance with CCSD Board Policy BD – Organization of the School Board and statute 59-19-70 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), the Board of Trustees elected officers.

**1.1: A. Board Chair**

Mr. Staubes nominated Mrs. Coats to serve as the Chair. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Darby. The vote was 6-3 (Collins, Ducker, and Miller opposed).

**B. Vice Chair**

Mr. Garrett nominated Mr. Staubes to serve as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Coats. The vote was 9-0.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, at 4:10 p.m. to go into executive session to discuss the following Executive Session agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

Executive Session

**II. 2.1: Legal Updates**

**2.2: Workers Compensation Settlement – D. Henderson**

**2.3: Contractual Matters – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait**

**2.4: Legal Matter – Mr. Tom Ducker**

Open Session Reconvened  
5:15 p.m.

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:40 p.m. Mrs. Coats called meeting to order. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to adopt the November 9, 2015 board agenda. The vote was 7-0. Note: Rev. Collins did not vote since he was not in the room.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

**5.1: Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2015**

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the open session minutes of October 26, 2015. The vote was 7-0-1 (Miller abstained).

Note: Rev. Collins was not in the room. Therefore, he did not vote on this agenda item.

**5.2: Executive Session Action Items**

The Board voted on the following executive session items of November 9, 2015.

**2.1: Legal Updates**

The board received legal updates; however no board action was requested.

**2.2: Workers Compensation Settlement – D. Henderson**

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve a Workers Compensation Settlement. The vote was 5-2 (Garrett and Staubes opposed).

**2.3: Contractual Matters – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait**

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to support a recommendation from the Transportation Committee to post a position for the Executive Director of Transportation. The vote was 7-0.

Note: Rev. Collins was not in the room. Therefore, he did not vote on agenda items 2.2 and 2.3. However, after entering the room at 5:45 p.m., Rev. Collins voted on the remainder of the agenda items listed below.

**2.4: Legal Matter – Mr. Tom Ducker**

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to overturn the decision made by CCSD's General Counsel related to a citizen's complaint about the use of the district's alert system (RAPTOR), effective December 1, 2015. The vote was 7-1 (Staubes opposed).

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

**6.1: A. District 9 Special Presentation**

Rev. Eric Mack thanked the District 9 Fall Festival planners and participants He also thanked the vendors that sponsored the event. Finally, he presented an iPad to a student named Caleb who misplaced his raffle ticket while at the District 9 Fall Festival.

**VII. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly addressed the board in support of the decision to rescind General Counsel's decision related to a citizen's complaint. She asked the Board to consider a policy to address how the Raptor system. Then she asked the board to support her application to serve as a community representative on the district's Health Advisory Committee. Finally, Mrs. Moffly asked if the district had membership with the National School Boards Association.
2. Mr. Ted Cozart addressed the Board about the educational opportunities the Gaillard Auditorium would offer to CCSD students. He asked the district to create a policy to address School Resource Officers interaction with students. Then he thanked principals and teachers and spoke about academic and personal support for students.
3. Mr. Tony Lewis expressed concerns about the make-up day being on Election Day resulting in students interacting with voters. He spoke about equity issues related to student/teacher ratios. He asked the district to provide information to constituent board members regarding events in his constituent district. Finally, he announced his plans to support a single gender charter school for male students.

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

**8.1: A. Second Quarter Deliverables – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Postlewait presented the proposed second quarter objectives to the Board.

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to accept and approve Second Quarter Deliverables provided in the board agenda package. The vote was 9-0.

**B. Other Updates – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Postlewait presented the following updates:

- Staff reassignments - A total of 38 staff positions were reduced from the district's central office, resulting in twenty-four classrooms having certified classroom teachers in positions that were previously held by substitute teachers.
- Rev. Mack inquired about the number vacancies after the re-assignments were done. Mr. Briggman said there were approximately 8-10 vacancies.
- Dr. Postlewait announced that she is half way through her meetings met with principals to review their student achievement goals, data analysis from various assessments, achievement gap and goals to address the gaps. Upon completion of these meetings, her conclusions and observations will be shared with these principals prior to sharing them with the CCSD Board.
- All principals are working to increase vocabulary goals in the critical grades (K-3). Some principals are working on specific goals. Principals will be grouped for the purpose of sharing information on their progress. A later meeting will be held with principals to look at programs that made the greatest impact made in the shortest amount of time. Finally, research will be looked at to determine what is working and what isn't working.
- Dr. Postlewait said Mrs. Patsy Pye, Dr. Laura Donnelly, and Mrs. Sandy Brossard are leading the research. They will compare the district's analyses with the analyses of some individuals in the community before sharing it with the board. That information would be brought to the board before the budgeting process starts.

**Note:** Mr. Garrett left the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Therefore, he didn't vote on the items listed below.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

Mrs. Coats said the Strategic Education Committee met on November 2, 2015. However, nothing was brought forward for board approval.

**Policy & Personnel Committee**

**Mr. Tripp Wiles, Chair**

**9.1: A. Policy BG/BGD - School Board Policy Process/Board Review of Regulations – Mr. John Emerson – General Counsel**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to support the recommendation coming from the Policy & Personnel Committee to suspend Policy BG/BGD to allow the second reading of policy BDE – Board Committees to be considered sooner than thirty days after the first reading, for the purpose of voting on agenda item 9.1C only. The vote was 7-0.

**B. BE – School Board Meetings – Second Reading - Mr. John Emerson – General Counsel**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to support the recommendation coming from the Policy & Personnel Committee to approve the second reading of Policy BE – School Board Meetings. The vote was 5-2 (Collins and Miller opposed).

Mrs. Darby said this policy change enables the board to move toward the Committee of the Whole concept. The current policy requires the board to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The plan is to move forward with the Committee of the Whole, starting in January 2016, to change to the Committee of the Whole Meetings on the second Mondays. Board Meetings will be held on the fourth Mondays each month. Also, during the months of July and December, board meetings will be held on the second Mondays.

**C. BDE – Board Committees - Mr. John Emerson – General Counsel**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to support the recommendation coming from the Policy & Personnel Committee to approve the second reading of Policy BDE – Board Committees. The vote was 4-3 (Coats, Collins, and Miller opposed).

**D. Constituent District 20/Constituent District 4 Boundaries – Mr. John Emerson – General Counsel**

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to support the recommendation coming from the Policy & Personnel Committee to approve the proposal to request Legislative Action to move line between Constituent Districts 4 and 20. The vote was 7-0.

## Audit & Finance Committee

Mr. Todd Garrett - Chair

- 9.2: **A. 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) - Capital Maintenance Reallocation – R. Kramps**  
Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to support the recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to reallocate funds between “Early Out” projects under the 2017-2022 Capital Building Program (Phase IV) – Capital Maintenance. The vote was 6-1 (Miller opposed).
- B. Head Start/Early Head Start Grant Application – R. Taylor/A. Rock (10 minutes)**  
Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to support the recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start grant application, with the understanding that the superintendent will work with the board members on the wording for the sites. The Board also noted that \$1.4 million (1b) could not be committed at this time. The vote was 6-1 (Coats opposed).
- C. Head Start/Early Head Start Non-Federal Share Waiver – Mrs. Ruth Taylor/Mrs. Avis Rock**  
Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to support the Audit & Finance Committee recommendation to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start Non-Federal Share Waiver. The vote was 7-0.
- D. Head Start/Early Head Start Financials - August & September – R. Taylor/A. Rock**  
The Board received these items as information.
- E. City of Charleston Request for Permission to Build a Garden – J. Emerson**  
Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to support the Audit & Finance Committee recommendation to approve the request from the City of Charleston to build an educational garden in Medway Park in the Riverland Terrace community. The vote was 4-2 (Collins and Darby opposed).

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve an alternative motion to send this agenda item to the Strategic Education Committee to address the educational impact of the recommendation. However, since this item wasn't voted on since the first motion was approved.

## Other Agenda Items

- 9.3: **A. Financial Minutes – October 26, 2016**  
Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the financial minutes of October 26, 2015, with understanding, that CCSD would not assume any costs or be financially impacted based on an earlier decision to enter into an agreement with Voyager. The vote was 5-0-2 (Collins and Miller abstained).
- B. SCSBA Delegate Assembly Handbook**  
The Board discussed the SCSBA Delegate Assembly Handbook and board members were asked to provide input to the Board's Legislative Advocacy Delegate and/or Alternate (Rev. Mack and Mrs. Darby).
- C. November 23, 2015 Board Meeting Cancellation – Miller, Mack Staubes, and Coats**  
Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to cancel the November 23, 2015 board meeting. The vote was 7-0.

Mrs. Coats reminded the board that the selection of an audit firm to do the forensic audit would require the board to call a special-called telephonic board meeting.

- D. National School Boards Association Conference Request for Rev. Eric Mack**  
Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve requests from Rev. Dr. Mack and Rev. Collins to

attend the National School Board Conference in Washington DC – January 24-26, 2016 instead of the trip Boston, April 9-16, 2016 that was included in the Board agenda package. The vote was 7-0.

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously.