

CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
December 14, 2015
75 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 14, 2015 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, Mr. Todd Garrett, Rev. Eric Mack, Mr. Michael Miller, Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles, and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary.

The following senior staff members were present: Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mrs. Sandy Brossard, Dr. Lynda Davis, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Valerie Harrison, Mrs. Anita Huggins, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mrs. Patsy Pye, Mrs. Mary Runyon, Mr. Glenn Steigman, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, Mrs. Michele English Watson, 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 4:15 p.m. Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION
4:15p.m.

1.1: Home School Applications (10 minutes) – Ms. Patsy Pye

1.2: Personnel Contracts – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait

1.3: District 20 M.B. Kahn Contract Amendments – Mr. Jeff Borowy – Mr. Jeff Borowy & Mr. Wayne Wilcher

1.4: Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson

OPEN SESSION
5:15p.m.

II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, & PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order.

Then she referred to Dr. Postlewait to announce the death of Mrs. Lucy Beckham. She also announced that the meeting would begin with honoring Mrs. Beckham. Mrs. Darby shared the following information related to the memorial services for Mrs. Lucy Beckham.

- Visitation Friday 5-8pm at Wando HS
- Service Sat. at 11am Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian
- Burial will be private
- Memorial to Dream Weavers Fund at Wando

Then Mrs. Coats asked Rev. Mack to offer a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adopt the December 14, 2015 agenda with one amendment--to pull agenda item 8.1 A: Middle School Bell Times. The vote was 9-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

4.1: A. Open Session Minutes of November 9, 2015

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the open session minutes of November 9, 2015. The vote was 9-0.

Note: Mr. Miller left at 5:19pm; therefore, he did not vote on the following items.

B. Open Session Minutes of November 16, 2015.

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to approve the open session minutes of November 16, 2015. The vote was 8-0.

4.2: Executive Session Action Items

1.1: Home School Applications – Ms. Patsy Pye

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the recommendation coming from the Strategic Education Committee for Home School Applications. The vote was 8-0.

1.2: Personnel Contracts – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait

The Board received information on personnel contracts. No action was taken.

1.3: District 20 M.B. Kahn Contract Amendments – Mr. Jeff Borowy – Mr. Jeff Borowy & Mr. Wayne Wilcher

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve a recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to authorize staff to negotiate an amendment with M.B. Kahn, within the approved budget, for construction and up-fit of the third floor shell at James Simons Elementary School and authorize staff to negotiate a contract with M.B. Kahn, within the approved budget, to remove the existing louvers at Charleston Progressive Academy. The vote was 8-0.

1.4: Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson

Since the board did not receive a legal update in Executive Session, no action was taken.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

5.1: A. National Association for Gifted Children - Gifted Coordinator Award

The Board recognized Ms. Denise Zacheral in the district's Gifted and Talented Office for receiving the National Association for Gifted Children Gifted Coordinator Award.

B. P-Card Rebate

Mr. Wayne Wilcher presented Dr. Postlewait with a rebate check in the amount of \$160,176.95 for Bank of America for Procurement Card purchases.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The following individuals addressed the Board:

1. Mr. William Pugh, a student from Academic Magnet High School expressed concerns about the district's decision to place the magnet school application online citing that many low income parents would not have access to the internet. Also he spoke to the board about diversity issues in CCSD.
2. Mr. Kevin Woods, a student at Academic Magnet School, addressed the board about diversity in CCSD.
3. Ms. Joyce Coleman addressed the Board in support of the Prestige Preparatory Academy Charter School application. She suggested the charter school could help close the achievement gap in CCSD.
4. Mr. Neil Coleman yielded his time to Ms. Mary Carmichael.
5. Ms. Mary Carmichael asked the board to consider a conditional approval of Prestige Preparatory Academy Charter. She said if the charter school did not meet the charter requirements by the February deadline, the board could vote against it at that time.
6. Mr. Casdell Singleton addressed the board in support of a conditional approval for Prestige Charter School. He also said he would do everything in his power to ensure that the charter school would not cost the district any money.
7. Ms. Adrienne Riley addressed the board in support of Prestige Charter School.
8. Ms. Carmen Nash addressed the Board in support of rebuilding Stono Park Elementary. She shared copies of a petition signed by other supporters. Finally, she asked the board to re-vote to rebuild instead of renovating the Stono Park Elementary School.

9. Mr. Tony Lewis addressed the Board in support of Prestige Preparatory Academy. He thanked Mrs. Erica Taylor and staff for supporting him with a District 20 effort. Also, he asked the Board consider having an annual event to recognize its employees and constituent members.
10. Mr. Louis Yuhasz expressed concerns about the reducing the number school nurses employed by the district because of the budget deficit.

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

7.1: A. Financial Concerns and Response – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait

Mrs. Patsy Pye was commended for her work with the district.

- Dr. Valerie Harrison, the new Interim Chief Academic Officer, was welcomed.
- Dr. Postlewait highlighted three district goals. Then she shared a brief overview of the District's Finances to include the history, what is currently being done to address the shortfall, and the importance of having a healthy fund balance as stated in the board's policy were shared. Dr. Postlewait shared the following steps to ensure future financial stability:
 - Changes in practice
 - Changes in procedure
 - Short Term/Long Term Plans
 - Moving toward zero based budget
 - Efforts underway

Finally, she spoke about the well-managed building program

- Strong controls at multiple levels; adherence to clear procedures, close and continuous monitoring.

7.2 Financial Report – Mr. Glen Stiegman

Mr. Glen Stiegman presented the November 2015 monthly financial report of expenditures and revenues as information.

- Revenue
 - The collection of taxes is being monitored closely.
 - Everything looks good at this time.
 - There should be a little more money coming forth due to the increased number of students.
 - The Tax Anticipation Note will have to be paid back in spring.
- There is an overage in the utility and copying expenses because they were budgeted at an amount that was much too low.

Rev. Collins asked about the sinking fund. Mr. Stiegman said the sinking fund on the capital side is \$8 million. The funds are restricted to building.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Transportation Committee Meeting

NOTE: The following agenda items came to the Board without recommendation since a quorum was not present at the Transportation Committee meeting.

VIII. 8.1: A. Middle School Bell Times – Mr. Jeff Borowy & Mr. Jeff Scott

This item was pulled. Therefore, no action was taken.

B. Transportation Committee Charter – Mr. Jeff Borowy & Mr. Jeff Scott

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to forward the Transportation Committee Charter to the Policy & Personnel Committee for approval with one amendment. The vote was 8-0.

- Mr. Ducker requested that there be a total number of three board members voting.

Strategic Education Committee

8.2: A. Montessori Options – Re-Alignment – Mrs. Runyon & Mr. Sean Hughes

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the recommendation coming from the Strategic Education Committee to realign the attendance zones for CCSD Montessori schools in Constituent Districts 3, 9, 10, and 23 in order to provide equitable access to Montessori programs for students throughout the Charleston County School District. The vote was 8-0.

B. Reducing the Risk Curriculum Revisions – Ms. Sandy Brossard

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the recommendation from the Health Advisory Committee and the Strategic Education Committee to adopt the revised curriculum that is currently being used in CCSD schools as well as the Revised 5th edition (2015). The vote was 8-0.

**C. Heritage Keepers Curriculum Revisions – Ms. Sandy Brossard
– Ms. Sandy Brossard**

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the recommendation from the Health Advisory Committee and the Strategic Education Committee to adopt the revised curriculum that is currently used in CCSD schools. The vote was 8-0.

D. A Teen's Guide to Sexuality: Building Healthy Relationship Skills – Ms. Sandy Brossard

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve the recommendation from the Health Advisory Committee and the Strategic Education Committee to approve this program that was adopted previously by CCSD and used for many years without the Health Advisory Committee's approval. The HAC has now approved the materials to correct a technicality. The Strategic Education Committee recommends the Board vote to affirm the use of the supplemental workbook already in use. The vote was 8-0.

Mr. Ducker asked if other curriculums were being used in CCSD schools. Ms. Brossard confirmed that there were. Dr. Gerrita said staff would look at the number of choices going forward to limit the choices to three.

E. Prestige Academy Charter Application – Mr. John Emerson & Mr. Bob Olson

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve a recommendation coming from the Strategic Education Committee to bring the new charter school application before the board on January 4, 2016 at 4pm for a Public Hearing. The vote was 8-0.

F. Raising the SC Legal Dropout Age – Ms. Patsy Pye

Mrs. Darby, moved seconded by Rev. Mack, to approve the letter to local Legislative Delegation supporting Mark Epstein's effort to raise the legal dropout age in South Carolina to 18. The vote was 8-0.

Policy & Personnel Committee

8.3: A. Health Advisory Committee Vacancies – Mr. John Emerson

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve a recommendation coming from Policy and Personnel Committee to fill three of the four vacant HAC positions with the candidates listed below. The vote was 8-0.

- Clergy – Mr. Van Barnhill
- Clergy – Mr. R. Gordon Cashwell, III
- Medical – Dr. Lesly Davidson

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to add the name of Debbie Jones as a Community Member. Mrs. Darby said she didn't have an issue with adding another name. However, a recommendation came from the Committee. The vote failed 3-5 (Collins, Ducker and Garrett supported the motion).

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby to approve a recommendation coming from Policy and Personnel Committee to allow Ms. April Borkman to fill the vacant community HAC position in

accordance with requirements of a state statute. The vote was 5-3. (Collins, Ducker and Garrett opposed).

B. Policy IG- Curriculum Development, Adoption and Review and Development – Ms. Sandy Brossard

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve a recommendation coming from Policy and Personnel Committee to approve the first reading of policy IG and the rescinding of policies IHAAA and IKE upon adoption of the Second Reading. The vote was 7-1 (Staubes opposed).

C. Survey of Board Development Areas of Interest – Dr. Postlewait

Board members were asked to provide information in response to a survey of board development areas of interest to Dr. Postlewait in the near future.

Audit & Finance Committee

8.4: A. FY 2015 Audit – Mr. Glen Stiegman

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to approve a recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to place into public record the FY 2015 Annual External Audit Report. The vote was 8-0.

Mr. Larry Finney shared the findings and said the most important information is listed in the compliance section to include fund balance and regular board reports with narratives. Also, the management letter addresses long-term decisions that would impact a budget and future impact so necessary adjustments could be made.

Mr. Garrett asked Dr. Postlewait to address all the findings identified. Dr. Postlewait said she would create a chart with a timeline of when it would be done.

B. 946 Whipple Road Early Lease Termination- Mr. Jeff Borowy

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Mack, to approve a recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the early lease termination for the property at 946 Whipple Road. The vote was 8-0.

Note: Mr. Staubes left at 6:59pm; therefore, he did not vote on the following items.

C. Configuration of Otranto Campus to Relieve District 4 Overcrowding– Mr. Jeff Borowy

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Mack, to approve a recommendation coming from the Audit & Finance Committee to use the Otranto campus, beginning 2016-17 to relieve overcrowding at Ladson, A.C. Corcoran, and Northwoods Middle. The vote was 7-0.

POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IX. 9.1: A. Financial Minutes – November 9, 2015 – Mr. Glen Stiegman

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the November 9, 2015 Financial Minutes. The vote was 7-0.

B. Financial Minutes – November 16, 2015 – Mr. Glen Stiegman

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the November 16, 2015 Financial Minutes. The vote was 7-0.

C. Updated Financial Minutes – October 26, 2015 – Mr. Glen Stiegman

Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the October 26, 2015 Updated Financial

Minutes. The vote was 7-0.

D. Head Start/Early Head Start Financials – October – Ms. Ruth Taylor & Ms. Avis Rock

The Board received the Head Start/Early Head Start Financials for October 1 – October 31, 2015 as information.

X. WRAP-UP COMMENTS

Dr. Postlewait thanked district staff members present for their dedication and passion and the incredible work they are doing.

By consensus the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.