

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(Note: Board members, essential CCSD staff, and a limited number of the general public including media representatives were offered the option to attend the meeting in person subject to the capacity of the Board room using social distancing protocols. The meeting was also provided via Zoom, and live streamed on CCSD's YouTube channel for the public.)

Monday, October 12, 2020

Generated by Julia Erickson

Members present

Mr. Todd Garrett, Rev. Eric Mack, Mrs. Kate Darby, Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats, Rev. Chris Collins, and Mr. Chris Fraser attended in person.

Mr. Kevin Hollinshead attended virtually. Ms. Joyce Green was absent.

1. Opening Items

Procedural: A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Action: B. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda, moving Items 5-A through 5-D to Consent Agenda:

5-A Audit & Finance: Committee Meeting Review

5-B Audit & Finance: Two Percent Administrative Fee on State Appropriations to Charter Schools

5-C Policy FF - Naming of Facilities - Camp Road Middle School Gymnasium

5-D Review of Homework Policy

Motion by Eric Mack, second by Chris Fraser

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yea: Chris Collins, Cindy Bohn Coats, Eric Mack, Kate Darby, Kevin Hollinshead, Todd Garrett, Chris Fraser

2. Public Comments

Information: A. Review of Online Public Comments Submitted to PUBLICCOMMENTS@charleston.k12.sc.us

Two public comments were received online and provided to Board members prior to the meeting. All comments will be posted on the district website.

3. Superintendent's Report

Information: A. Safe Restart Update

Dr. Postlewait and Mr. Borowy provided an update on the following:

- Review of most recent metrics; and
- Operations Update:
 - Charleston is one of the largest school districts in the country. Most large districts were not able to begin the new school year with in-person learning for students 5 days per week due to high Covid-19 outbreak numbers and/or facility conditions. Charleston's Covid-19 rates have steadily declined since mid-July.
 - Primary components of the CCSD Safe Restart Plan include the building capacity to house students, overall positive facility conditions, and the capabilities of the air filtration and air exchange systems. Mr. Borowy provided a brief capital improvements and use overview.

4. Strategic Education Committee

Information: A. Summary information, CCSD 2019-2020 Achievement Results

District-wide achievement data on MAP, End-of-course, Advanced Placement pass rate, and overall 2019-20 student performance were summarized for the board. Main points:

- The MAP scores show the heavy negative impact of closure of schools. In a normal year, the percentile range of a student (where a student scores in comparison with his peers across the country) does not vary significantly from fall to fall. This year the variance is stark. Important to note: the database used for comparison was NOT re-normed based on fall, 2020 data only. The norms are based on comparable achievement from previous years. Thus, across the country the majority of students may be scoring below the 50th percentile this fall.
- End-of-course tests were not administered in the spring. Data provided represent a snapshot of all students taking the courses tested in 2018-19 vs. some students taking these courses first semester of the 2019-20 school year, so the comparison is not meaningful.
- CCSD's incredibly strong Advanced Placement pass rate (70+%) did not appear to be negatively impacted by school closures; however, it is important to note that the College Board made adjustments for online AP testing that occurred during the school closure period.

Information: B. CCSD Accreditation Requirements and DRAFT 2020-21 Goals

Dr. Postlewait reported on the following:

Synopsis: The Board should establish goals (see Policy CBI) for the purposes of identifying budget priorities and, if desired, for the evaluation of the superintendent for the 2020-21 school year. Findings from the district's accreditation process, the CCSD Strategic Plan, recommendations from the Clemson Equity and Inclusion study, Shared Future group, Mission Critical community engagement groups, and priorities identified through an analysis of various data should be considered in setting annual goals. The goals are being introduced for discussion today, with the understanding that goals should be finalized after the November election cycle.

Background regarding the district accreditation process:

Goal areas the administration must address include those identified by the accrediting agency in order for the district to maintain accreditation status. For the first time in the history of Charleston County Schools, the district achieved ACCREDITED status in 2018. CCSD received a five-year accreditation in 2018-19 by the international accreditation agency, AdvancED (now Cognia). To determine whether the district met the standards to be accredited, highly skilled and trained teams reviewed documents from every division, viewed videotapes of board meetings, examined board policies, and gathered other first-hand evidence to evaluate CCSD's performance against research-based Performance Standards. Team members also made unannounced visits to CCSD schools and interviewed teachers, support staff, principals, and community members. AdvancED granted accreditation to CCSD and reviewed with the board areas that must be improved in order to maintain accreditation status. Listed below are the areas the accrediting agency identified as "must be addressed" during the in-person and written report to the CCSD Board. The district must report progress toward improving, especially in the deficient areas, on an annual basis.

The district's 2019-20 goals addressed many of these findings. As the Board contemplates next year's goals, these areas for improvement identified by AdvancED (Cognia) should be revisited:

- **Board Governance** -- The Board needs to commit and engage the whole board training regarding the role of governance in leading and supporting effective educational systems, focusing on the work of the Board as a team.
- **Allocation of Resources** -- The budget process must begin with determining the needs of students and the goals of the Strategic Plan. This will require the will and courage to redirect resources from areas that have little or no need to those areas that have valid and noted needs.
- **Community Engagement** -- As the district begins the implementation of actions in support of the Strategic Plan, the effort to engage various communities that are served by CCSD is critical. The district needs to design and enact strategies that will focus on building understanding and commitment to the Strategic Plan.
- **The Culture of the Classroom** -- Far too many classrooms have disengaged students. The district needs to investigate, determine, and commit the necessary resources for professional development, coaching, and mentoring of teachers to create and nurture healthy environments of learning.
- **Alignment** --
 - There is little evidence that there is a known, well-articulated curriculum that is aligned vertically and horizontally. There is insufficient evidence that the assessment practices of the district are aligned with instructional practices and curricula.
 - The district must align major functions that guide the work of the district including:
 - Board governance; the Superintendent's evaluation and expectations; and the goals of the school system;
 - The taught curriculum; the programs that support learning; the evaluation and progress monitoring of program effectiveness and student learning;
 - The allocation of resources;
 - Professional development; and.
 - Recruitment of teachers and principals.

Draft goals that address the accreditation requirements and other key strategic and board priority areas have been discussed by district division leaders and were included in documents provided to the Board and reviewed with the public. The meeting attachments contained more detail regarding the draft goals, showing their alignment to Accreditation requirements that must be addressed. Other documents provided to the Board earlier show alignment to and consistency with the Harvard report, Clemson Study, Shared Future, and Mission Critical efforts.

Action: C. Mission Critical Facilitation Work

The Shared Future group requests that the Board reconvene Mission Critical facilitators to continue the work begun last year. Motion to table discussion until November 16, 2020.

Motion by Cindy Bohn Coats, second by Kevin Hollinshead

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yea: Chris Collins, Cindy Bohn Coats, Kate Darby, Kevin Hollinshead, Todd Garrett, Chris Fraser

Nay: Eric Mack

5. Other Board Committees

All items under No. 5 were moved to Consent Agenda earlier this evening:

A. Audit & Finance: Committee Meeting Review - These items will be recommended for action at the Sept. 26 meeting:

- Capital Maintenance Plan 2017-2022 Year 5 (2021) Update
- 2010-2016 Capital Building Program (Phase III) Sales Tax Budget Reallocation
- 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) Sales Tax Budget Reallocation
- 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) Sales Tax Budget Reallocation - Mitchell Elem
- Capital IT Plan 2017-2022 - Year 5 (2021) Update
- Audit & Finance Membership Renewal
- Salary Survey (Recommendation to bring, on average, all employee classifications to at least 98% of market for 2021-22 and at least 100% of market in 2022-23)

Action: B. Audit & Finance: Two Percent Administrative Fee on State Appropriations to Charter Schools

Action: C. Policy FF - Naming of Facilities - Camp Road Middle School Gymnasium

Information: D. Review of Homework Policy

6. Other Business

Action: A. Act 273 - School Board Compensation, 4:45

Motion to adopt the provisions of South Carolina Act 273 (2018), adjusting the pay for Charleston County School Board members to \$800 per month for Board members and \$900 per month for the Board Chair, effective after the November, 2020 election.

Motion by Eric Mack, second by Kate Darby

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yea: Cindy Bohn Coats, Eric Mack, Kate Darby, Kevin Hollinshead

Nay: Todd Garrett, Chris Fraser

Abstain: Chris Collins

7. Closing Items

Information: A. Upcoming Meetings

October 12, 2020 - Special-called Meeting

October 26, 2020 - Board Meeting

November 9, 2020 - Committee of the Whole

November 16, 2020 - Board Meeting

Action: B. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.