

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 24, 2014, in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street with the following members of the Board present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats – Chair, Mr. Tom Ducker - Vice Chair, Mr. Craig Ascue, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mr. Todd Garrett, Mr. Michael Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly, Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles, and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent and Executive Secretary.

Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. Bill Briggman, Dr. Charles D'Alfonso, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Bill Lewis, Mr. Louis Martin, Mr. John McCarron, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Latisha Vaughn-Brandon, and Dr. James Winbush were also in attendance. Dr. Lisa Herring was absent.

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

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION
4:30 p.m.**

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to go into Executive session at 4:30 pm to discuss Executive Session items listed below. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Wiles requested the Voluntary Leave Policy be pulled for further revisions.

- 1.1: Legal Matters – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel
- 1.2: Personnel Matters
- 1.3: Student Expulsion Appeal Decisions

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

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adopt the March 24, 2014 agenda with the amendments listed below. The vote was 8-0 (Mrs. Moffly was not in the room. Therefore she didn't vote on this item).

- The Voluntary Leave Policy agenda 10.2 was pulled earlier.
- Mr. Fraser suggested moving agenda item 10.3B Hursey Montessori after Visitors/Public Communications.

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

A. National Board Certified Teachers

Ms. Meike McDonald, teacher at Clark Academy, recognized the new class of National Board Certified teachers. The National Board provides programs and advocates policies that support excellence in teaching, leading, and engaging National Board Certified Teachers and leaders in the process.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent of Schools

- Last Friday Military Magnet hosted more than 50 wounded warriors and Patriot Guards. The wounded veterans made their way across the Lowcountry last week and stopped by Military Magnet where they were greeted by the JROTC and other school organizations. At the end of the ceremony, Military Magnet Academy presented the Wounded Warriors with a check for \$415.
- Last Saturday, Stall High School hosted the Latino Festival, a celebration of the Hispanic culture. In 2012 the Hispanic population at Stall was 14 percent. This year it is 21 percent and growing.
- Parent University will host a Girls Summit this Saturday. The event is at School of the Arts.
- Raven Saunders, a CCSD student, is becoming a household name in the world of track and field. She announced last week that she would attend Southern Illinois University on a full scholarship.
- Raven Walters, an 8th grade student at Buist Academy, was recognized for being named the 2014 Emerging Young Leaders in the Founder's Day Community Service recognition program.
- The Office of Strategies and Communication was recognized for receiving five South Carolina Chapter of National School Public Relations Association awards this year. They were singled out for their work on the State of the Schools video production, photography work with the Ronald McDonald House, Guide to Better Communications that was distributed to every school and department in the district, and the

District Data Wall Graphics Package. They also received the Golden Achievement Award for the crisis communications and planning around the potential work stoppage last year during the Durham and union negotiations. Mrs. Erica Taylor and the team were commended for a job well done.

- Annual community budget meetings will begin this week. The meetings will be held at five schools across the county. These meetings help the district hear directly from parents, staff and community members about budget priorities and allow the district to share budget priorities for next year. The meeting information is posted on the district's website.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mr. Mohammed Idris addressed the Board on various topics.
2. Ms. Pam Hricick addressed the Board in support of expanding the Montessori Program at Hursey. Also, she requested Rev. Collins to recuse himself from the Hursey vote since his children attended that school.
3. Ms. Latrisha Pringle, a Durham bus driver, addressed the Board about bus issues--roaches, mold and mechanical issues.
4. Pastor Thomas Dixson addressed the Board regarding Durham bus service issues and Durham's dismissal of Mrs. Cooper. He suggested Durham not be considered for a contract in the future.
5. Mrs. Dot Scott, president of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP, expressed concerns in support of Durham Bus Service drivers in Charleston County. She urged the Board to listen to the concerns of bus drivers regarding the condition of the buses they drive. She also asked the Board to not renew the company's contract to provide bus service.
6. Representative Wendell Gilliard addressed the Board regarding concerns related to Durham Bus Services--treatment of its employees, bus conditions, etc. Representative Gilliard also stated that he instructed the State Superintendent to do a study of all buses in the state.
7. Representative Seth Whipper addressed the Board about an accident that occurred on the Durham parking lot that involved two of its buses. He questioned why the driver that had to leave for emergency reasons was arrested for leaving. Also, he urged to Board to be mindful of the message sent to constituents as it relates to choosing Montessori over traditional programs. He added that African Americans are very suspicious and discouraged about what is being done.
8. Mrs. Kyle Lamb addressed the Board on behalf of Mayor Summey in support of the Montessori Expansion at Hursey.
9. Ms. Amy Maciariello addressed the Board in support of the expansion of the Montessori program at Hursey. She spoke of the advantages of the Montessori program.
10. Mr. Ron Wilson, regional manager of Durham Bus Services, addressed the Board in support of the Durham recommendation. He said Durham takes bus safety seriously. Durham Bus Service passes inspection on their buses. However, some buses are state owned. About the employee terminated, Mr. Wilson said it was a scare tactic to get the individual rehired. However, the employee was dismissed for using cell phone, texting or doing other things that are caught on tape.
11. Ms. Ellen Monteith, a Montessori student at Hursey, addressed the Board in support of the Montessori program at Hursey.
12. Mr. Charles Monteith addressed the Board in support of the Montessori program at Hursey. He spoke about the parent votes and community members support for the Montessori program expansion at Hursey. He spoke about other Montessori programs in the district and urged the Board to approve the recommendation.
13. Ms. Jane Taylor made reference to a book titled "The Rise of Superman" in relation to Montessori schools.
14. Mrs. Beverly Gadson-Birch addressed the Board in opposition of the recommendation to expand the Montessori program at Hursey. She said there is no reason to uproot students to make room for new families moving into that area. Also, she said there was no waiting list for Hursey. She suggested the continuation of a dual program at Hursey ES.
15. Mr. Tony Lewis reminded the Board of the oath they took as board members. He expressed concerns about Durham bus services and expansion of the Montessori at Hursey.
16. Mrs. Louise Monteith addressed the board in support of the recommendation to expand the Montessori program at Hursey ES.
17. Elder Johnson, president of the National Action Network, addressed the Board in support of a dual program at Hursey ES. He urged the Board to vote against the Montessori program at Hursey.
18. Mr. Russell Patterson addressed the Board in support of the recommendation to expand Hursey Montessori. He said the Montessori program was added because enrollment and test scores were dropping. Students currently enrolled in the traditional program at Hursey will continue at Hursey.
19. Ms. Susan Cloud addressed the Board in support of the recommendation to expand the Montessori program at Hursey.

20. Ms. Myrtice Brown addressed the Board about the poor condition of buses transporting CCSD students. Also, she addressed the Board in support of a dual program at Hursey. She said the Hursey facility would not be able to accommodate all the students that want to attend a Montessori program there.
21. Rev. Clinton Brantley, pastor of St. Matthews Church, told a story about a farmer and his wife, to illustrate what everyone wants versus what is needed.
22. Mr. Mitch Rubinstein addressed the Board in support of the Montessori Program. He asked the opposition spend time to learn more about the Montessori program before saying no to it. He also urged the Board to consider a new bus company.
23. Ms. Cheri Knight addressed the Board in support of Montessori programs. She spoke about the program and its success.
24. Mr. Bryce Koch, a Boeing employee, addressed the Board in support of the Montessori program. He spoke of the demand for the Montessori program and said some of the best engineers in the world are African Americans who attended Montessori programs.
25. Mr. Levy Berry, a member of Charity Baptist Church, addressed the Board in support of a dual program at Hursey ES.
26. Mr. Leonard Riley addressed the Board about Durham concerns. He spoke of an earlier meeting with staff about Durham bus concerns. He urged the Board to end the contract with Durham Bus Service.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

7.1: Open Session Minutes of March 10, 2014

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the open session minutes of March 10, 2014. The vote was 8-0. Note: Rev. Collins did not vote since he was out of the room.

7.2: Executive Session Action Items of March 24, 2014

The Board acted on the executive session action items of March 10, 2014 shown below.

1.1: Legal Matters – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

No action was taken.

1.2: Personnel Matters

No action was taken.

1.3: Student Expulsion Appeal Decisions

No action was taken.

7.3: Financial Minutes of March 10, 2014

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the financial minutes of March 10, 2014. The vote was 8-0. Rev. Collins was out of the room.

VIII. CAE UPDATE

8.1: West Ashley Middle School Merger Update – Mr. Paul Padron

Mr. Paul Padron provided an update on the West Ashley Middle School Merger.

- Timeline
 - Schedule of meetings with staff and community members
- Seven Strategic Focus Areas
 - Facilities and Infrastructure
 - Work Team Leader: Ron Kramps
 - Staffing
 - Work Team Leader: Bill Briggman
 - Curriculum, Climate and Culture
 - Work Team Leader: Paul Padron
 - Community
 - Work Team Leader: Mary Runyon
- Facilities infrastructure
 - Mrs. Runyon said meetings are being held with architects and plans will be ready mid April. In June and July the renovations will begin. It has been determined that Service Solutions will clean the facility after renovation.
 - An inviting exterior will be considered.
- Curriculum – The Springboard curriculum will be used for students at all levels
- Community
 - Mrs. Runyon will meet with student ambassadors to talk about the mascot and school colors.
 - A calendar is being developed with speaking engagements with community groups
 - April 27th – open house for magnet students
 - May 4th - open house for other students
 - The magnet school webpage and brochures are being developed

- Meetings with student ambassadors/student leaders from both schools, grades 6-7 will be held
- Staffing
 - The duplication of clerical and teaching staff will be addressed by administrators.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Padron and Mrs. Runyon for their efforts. He said he would support their efforts to market the school. While merging two Middle Schools is different from Haut Gap Middle, he feels sure it will work. Mr. Padron said he met with the District 10 Constituent Board last week. He and Mrs. Runyon will ensure the success of the program. Mr. Miller suggested the Constituent Board be engaged in the planning process in future projects.

Mr. Padron said Open House is Sunday, May 4th from 4-5pm.

Metis Learning Initiative – Mr. John McCarron and Dr. Lori Ramsey

Dr. Lori Ramsey presented the results of the One to One Learning Evaluation. She commended the district for embarking on an evaluation early because most ask for it much later. They are also evaluating the Personal Master Learning with the Race to the Top Grant. A summary follows:

- Evaluation Overview
- Schools Served
 - Angel Oak, Drayton Hall, Haut Gap
- Evaluation Methods
- Findings
 - iPad Usage
 - Teachers comfort levels are high
 - Differentiation is a key strength
 - Student ownership of learning is emerging
 - Technology challenges hinder teachers use of iPads to support instruction
 - Student Engagement and Motivation
 - All stakeholders believed the use of iPads increased levels of student interest and motivation
 - Staff noted decreased discipline issues
 - Staff perceived no impact on attendance
 - Student Learning
 - **PASS**
 - Subgroup differences were observed.
 - No gains across target students.
 - **MAP**
 - Learning gains of One-to-One students were similar to gains of non-program students.
 - **AIMSweb**
 - Most target Grade K students mastered basic literacy and numeracy skills.
 - Satisfaction
 - Most stakeholders are satisfied.
 - Most would like students to have the opportunity to take the iPads home
 - Professional development offerings well received by staff
 - Staff indicated a need for more training and day-to-day support
- Recommendation:
 - Continue collaborating with other districts (or schools)
 - Develop new and targeted professional development activities
 - Address technical challenges
 - Expand school-based technology support
 - Provide greater on-site day-to-day implementation
 - Examine the impact of iPad usage on student outcomes
 - Create a tool and process for measuring fidelity of implementation

Questions from the Board:

Mr. Ducker asked if the Board would be asked to buy more iPads. Dr. Ramsey said she couldn't make that request because she works for an independent company. Mr. Ducker asked if there is data to serve as evidence of improvement. Dr. Ramsey said at this time the program is showing improvement based on input from teachers, small improvement from some subgroups. Then she shared information on gains for Hispanics and said her job is just to evaluate what is being done in the district; not promote the use of iPads.

Mr. Ascue asked about gains for African Americans. Dr. Ramsey said MAP data results show that those that scored 2 or higher increased by 6%. He said the district has an opportunity to do a rigorous analysis to see what is working and what is not. In response to Mr. Ascue's question about fidelity, she said teachers could be observed and rated based on the use of iPads. That information could be fed into an analysis to see if it revealed positive outcomes.

Mr. Fraser asked about the consistency of teachers' use of iPads. Dr. Ramsey said based on her observation, a pretty decent group used it. However, many had just received their iPads during the time of her observation.

Mr. Miller asked about trainings to ensure fidelity. She said the evaluation was not a rigorous design. Therefore she was only able to say that there are pockets of increase at schools that use iPads. That warrants further examination. Dr. McGinley said Ms. Elaine Berry, the Director of Educational Technology, would address questions about professional development for teachers. Ms. Berry said teachers are assigned iPads first to allow them to get comfortable with it. Then students are assigned iPads. iPads are used instead of pencil and paper. Mr. Miller asked how many hours teachers had to put in during phase one. Ms. Berry said 15 hours. There is a sense of consistency district wide to change learning and for kids to use it as a learning tool.

Rev. Collins asked the number of years the schools had the iPad. Ms. Berry said its three years but they have only used it one year. Rev. Collins asked how soon it would be expanded to other schools. Dr. McGinley said she is waiting for him to make a motion. She said staff would like to expand it but will wait for data showing how it is improving learning. Rev. Collins said he didn't feel more research is needed because it's motivational. Dr. McGinley said it's motivational, however, it is necessary to ensure some things because of the kind of things they could be doing on it. Mrs. Coats requested a copy of the raw data for the Board.

IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

X. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

10.1: Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. Todd Garrett

A. Audit & Finance Committee Update

The Committee will provide information and receive input from Board members on the following:
-Items that are currently before the committee that have not been brought forward to the Board;
-Future topics the committee plans to bring forward; and
-What is needed to move the item forward?

10.2: Policy & Personnel Committee – Mr. Tripp Wiles

A. Policy Committee Update

The Committee will provide information and receive input from Board members on the following:
-Items that are currently before the committee that have not been brought forward to the Board;
-Future topics the committee plans to bring forward; and
-What is needed to move the item forward?

B. Donation of Leave Policy

The second reading of the Donation of Leave Policy was pulled. Therefore no action was taken.

10.3: Strategic Education Committee – Mr. Michael Miller

A. Strategic Education Committee Update

The Committee will provide information and receive input from Board members on the following:
-Items that are currently before the committee that have not been brought forward to the Board;
-Future topics the committee plans to bring forward; and
-What is needed to move the item forward?

B. Hursey to Expand to Montessori to include 7th and 8th – Dr. James Winbush, Associate Superintendent

Mr. Miller said the Strategic Education Committee's motion was to add the middle school at Hursey had a tie vote. Also, the motion to have a dual program at Hursey had a tie vote. He said data was provided to the Board about enrollment of students in the traditional program. He said students currently in the traditional track would continue until completion. There is no intent to disrupt the community.

Mrs. Moffly moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to maintain the dual track program at Hursey and increase Hursey Montessori to have 7th and 8th classes next year and identify and relocate to a full

stand alone facility to move the full Montessori program out the following school year 2015-16. The vote was 3-6 (Ascue, Coats, Fraser, Garrett, Miller and Wiles opposed).

Mr. Ducker offered an amendment to Mrs. Moffly's motion to identify and confirm a location for a stand-alone Montessori program for 2015-16. However, Mr. Ducker later withdrew his motion after discussion.

Mr. Ducker said he wanted to have the Montessori students stay at Hursey and find another location. Mrs. Coats said one classroom was needed for a 7th and 8th grade next year. Dr. Winbush said a total of three classrooms would be needed.

Mr. Lewis said if McNair was considered for a standalone elementary/middle school would require a change of occupancy and would have to be brought up to code. That would require money the district doesn't have. He said McNair would not be ready next year.

Rev. Collins asked what Hursey was built for. Mr. Lewis said it's also an elementary facility. However, it is not a two story building.

Mr. Ascue said this discussion began a long time ago. Then he spoke about the zone concept and the need to have more options in North Charleston. He said Charleston has the opportunity to make it happen and give children of all races the opportunity to go to a good school. Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the motion to expand the Montessori program at Hursey.

Mrs. Coats said she resides in that area and she is on a panel with Elder Johnson. Then she spoke of Rev. Brantley's work with Metanoia. She said it's not a racial divide. Rev. Collins is her neighbor and there are two schools in close proximity. Her neighborhood is very diverse. Her vote is to give all children an opportunity. She has learned from Mrs. Moffly when she said all children don't learn the same way. She supports the recommendation to have a full Montessori at Hursey.

Rev. Collins asked Mrs. LaDene Conroy to respond to Montessori questions. He asked if the 20 students in the traditional program at Hursey could get into the Montessori program at Hursey. Rev. Collins said his point is that there is room at Hursey. Also, he said there is no waiting list for Hursey. Mrs. Conroy said there is one and she has the list. Rev. Collins suggested the dual track remain in place for another year to allow the Montessori program to find another facility.

Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to expand Hursey to include a 7th and 8th and continue transitioning to a full Montessori, maintaining the diversity of the neighborhood make up and present the annual report to the Board. The vote was 5-4 (Collins, Ducker, Miller and Moffly opposed).

Mr. Fraser said he was uncertain how it would be done. Mrs. Coats said it should be doable and the Board could ask for annual reports.

XI. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

11.1: 6-12 ELA and Social Studies Textbook Selections – Dr. Lisa Herring, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to approve a recommendation to adopt textbooks for ELA and Social Studies, at no cost to the district. The state will cover the cost. The vote was 9-0.

Mrs. Coats asked about the public notice. Mrs. Betsy Reidenbach said it was done at the school level and notes were sent home with students to invite parents to review them.

Mrs. Moffly said the materials are controversial. Therefore, community members should have been invited. Mrs. Barbara Hairfield said information to principals was for community. Mr. Ducker asked about approval. Mrs. Hairfield said the state had already approved the curriculum. Also, surveys were done.

11.2: Additional Professional Development Days for CPN Learning Community Schools – Mary Ford and Chicora – Dr. Lisa Herring, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to approve a recommendation to add (5) additional professional development days for Charleston Promise Neighborhoods (CPN) Learning Community Schools. The vote was 7-2 (Coats and Garrett opposed).

Mr. Ducker said Professional Development is being decreased in other areas to provide additional PD in the CPN schools.

Mrs. Coats asked why only in two of the CPN schools. Latisha said one is already a Renaissance School and they are receiving Montessori training. Mrs. Coats asked why another level of Professional Development is being added to CPN schools. Mrs. Vaughn Brandon said additional time is needed to lay a foundation for the climate in the four schools.

11.3: Reduction of Professional Development Days for Renaissance Schools - Dr. Lisa Herring, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve a recommendation to reduce the number of professional development days to 10 days for the Renaissance Schools for the 2014-15 school year. The vote was 9-0.

11.4: Professional Development Days – West Ashley Middle – Mr. Padron, Assistant Associate Superintendent

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve a recommendation to approve (5) additional contract days for West Ashley Middle for professional development for the 2014-15 school year. The vote was 9-0.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

At 8:03 p.m., Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, to adjourn the meeting since there was no further business to come before the board. The motion was approved unanimously.