Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT › excellence is our standard

**CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL CALLED
TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES**

VISION 2016
CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

I.	OPEN SESSION

A special called telephonic meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Friday, August 16, 2013. The following Board members participated: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats – Chair, Mr. Craig Ascue – Vice-chair, Mr. John Barter, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mr. Todd Garrett, Mr. Michael Miller, and Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly.

News media was properly notified. However, they did not participate.

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to go in Executive Session to discuss the agenda item listed below. The vote was unanimous.

II.	EXECUTIVE SESSION

2.1: Student Transfer Appeals
A. In County Transfers Received August 6 – August 15, 2013
B. Student Transfer Appeals from Employees
2.2: Course Exemption Request

III.	OPEN SESSION RECONVENED

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 3:23 p.m. with the same members present.

IV.   ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Moffly moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to amend the agenda to reconsider a student transfer appeal that was heard by the board earlier. The motion was approved 8-0.

V.   Executive Session Action Item of August 16, 2013

The Board took action on the following Executive Session items.

2.1: Student Transfer Appeals
A. In County Transfers Received August 6 – August 16, 2013

Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to approve student transfer appeals B, F, N, and V. All other student transfer requests were denied due to lack of space. The vote was 8-0.

B. Student Transfer Appeals from Employees

Mr. Ascue moved, seconded Rev. Collins, to approve two student transfer appeals from CCSD employees. The vote was 8-0.

2.2: Course Exemption Request

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Barter to deny the course exemption request before the Board today. The vote was 7-1 (Moffly opposed).

Mr. Miller said the committee was scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 20th. Mr. Barter suggested the committee forward a recommendation to the Board on August 26, 2013.

Mr. Garrett suggested the committee address the broader issue of course exemptions district wide.

Dr. McGinley said the course exemption request for the Wando student is outlined in the memo from Principal Lucy Beckham in response to the parent's request received spring 2013. The issue presented is not consistent with what is on file. Both Mr. Martin and the district's Science staff member supported the recommendation from Mrs. Beckham. The letter was emailed to the Board earlier today. Five hundred students are enrolled in physical science and it is a pre requisite course for Biology. While high schools have the option of waiving the physical science requirement, the reason why physical science was kept as a pre requisite is outlined in the document provided. If this is changed, it will be hard to hold schools accountable for the outcomes. Wando's track record speaks for itself. When Mr. Martin was asked to try to reach the family halfway, he offered to allow the student to take the "end of year" course and if he scored 85% the course would be counted. The parents rejected the offer. To interfere with a school's decision about what courses to offer would be monumental.

Mrs. Moffly said when the family contacted Mr. Emerson in May 2013 he said he would get back to them on the issue. However, the student was in the hospital and just recently released prior to the request coming to the board. According to the diploma, physical science is not required. Mrs. Moffly read a statement from the Wando Student Handbook and stated that according to the state, the district determines the pre requisites. Dr. McGinley

said CCSD allows individual schools to determine the pre requisites. Mrs. Moffly added that testing should only apply to students who transferred into the school.

Mr. Barter said it would be a travesty for the Board to rule without input from the principal at Wando.

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting ended at 4:10, by consensus.