

Business

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 24, 2014, in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street. The following members of the Board were present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats - Chair, Rev. Chris Collins, Mrs. Kate Darby, Mr. Tom Ducker, Rev. Eric Mack, Rev. Michael Miller, Mr. Emerson Tripp Wiles and Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mr. Todd Garrett and Mr. Chris Staubes – Vice Chair were absent.

Staff members Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Dr. Lisa Herring, Mrs. Anita Huggins, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mr. John McCarron, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Latisha Vaughn-Brandon, and Dr. James Winbush were also in attendance.

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

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

4:30 p.m.

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to go into Executive Session at 4:15 p.m. to discuss the Executive Session items listed below. The motion was approved unanimously.

1.1: Student Transfer Request

1.2: Student Expulsion Appeal Hearings

1.3: Personnel Matters

1.4: Negotiations of Land and Building Purchase – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

1.5: Pinehurst Elementary Contract – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

OPEN SESSION

5:15 p.m.

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

Mrs. Coats called the Open Session meeting of November 24, 2014 to order. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to adopt the November 24, 2014 agenda with one amendment. Agenda item 7.3B Financial Minutes of October 30, 2014 was pulled because it was inadvertently left out of the board agenda packet. The vote was 7-0.

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

There were no special recognitions this evening.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Acting Superintendent, Mr. Michael Bobby began his report by thanking stakeholders in attendance for their support provided to CCSD. He also thanked Board members, Mrs. Coats, Rev. Mack and Mr. Staubes, for their support on November 14, 2014, when the District publicly acknowledged our "Excellent Rating."

Mr. Bobby thanked employees recognized at the at the monthly Superintendent's High Performing Breakfast for continuing to go above and beyond. He was able to see first-hand what is so special about honoring CCSD team members who do so much for our children. The discussion during the breakfast was informative and inspirational and he looks forward to hosting the next one in January.

Mr. Bobby thanked the current Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jamie Cunningham, whom he had the opportunity to present during a Charleston Classic Basketball Game. He commended her for her efforts and acknowledged that she continues to do great things for our students.

Current teachers who are being celebrated by their schools as the 2014-2015 Teachers of the Year candidates will be recognized at the district's annual Educator Gala in February

Mr. Bobby thanked the countless partners for supporting CCSD. Teacher Supply Closet was commended for

making it possible for teachers to supply their classrooms with the most basic tools so that our children will have the necessities they need for academic success. The Teacher Supply Closet and other partners that support the work of the district are appreciated.

Mr. Bobby said he was thankful for this season because the Thanksgiving holiday is his favorite holiday because it is filled with family, friends, and time to be thoughtful and grateful for the treasures of life we have received.

Mr. Bobby concluded his report by saying although this has been a rocky month in Charleston County, we remain thankful. We remain thankful for our ever-improving ratings; for the extension of the one penny sales tax which will help us continue our cutting-edge capital programs initiative; and for the unwavering support we receive from thousands of community partners.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mr. George Green, a Mt. Pleasant Academy (MPA) parent, spoke on behalf of other MPA parents, inquiring about the appeal process for rezoning in District 2. He expressed concerns about the number of students impacted and the amount of time parents must wait to appeal.
2. Rev. Ed McClain used biblical scriptures about the use of straw to build bricks to express his concerns about Low Country Tech at Rivers. He congratulated Dr. McGinley and staff about the recent announcement of the report cards scores. He also urged the Board to reinstate Dr. McGinley as Superintendent of Schools for the sake of Charleston County Students instead of going through a costly process of searching for a new superintendent.
3. Rev. Nelson Rivers said 60 years ago schools were officially desegregated by the South Carolina Supreme Court. South Carolina refused then and refuses now. He spoke of the history of Bonds Wilson High School stating that it was built as a segregated school. And, sixty years later there is another segregated school on the same campus as Academic Magnet High School. In that school only 15 of the 650+ students are African-American. He went on to say that Academic Magnet High School is a publicly funded private school and said it was a disgrace that Board members allowed this to happen in 2014. Rev. Rivers spoke about the district's Report Card celebration and expressed concerns about Dr. McGinley being forced out and fired when she should be credited for doing the right thing and bringing the district to this point. He urged the Board to reinstate Dr. McGinley and not accept a publicly funded private school that is almost all white in 2014.
4. Ms. Yolanda Gibbs, a James Island parent, expressed concerns about overcrowding and the future of schools on James Island. She said Harborview, Stiles Point, and James Island Elementary are all at capacity. She asked if traditional students would be forced in trailers to allow a full transition of the Montessori program. She said it is imperative to have four elementary schools on James Island.
5. Ms. Shante' Ellis, presented questions and concerns with the Board about the Montessori and Traditional programs at Murray LaSaine.
6. Mr. Shannon O'Brien, a retired CCSD educator and state department specialist at the State Department of Education, spoke in support about Dr. McGinley. She mentioned the goals Dr. McGinley put in place for students and teachers and how she motivated teachers and principals to build strong teams. She urged the Board to reinstate Dr. McGinley.
7. Mrs. Ann Birdseye, a retired educator that worked with the CCSD Central staff, addressed the Board in support of reinstating Dr. Nancy McGinley. She urged the Board to reinstate Dr. McGinley.
8. Ms. Jean Morgan addressed the Board about the District 2 Board's rezoning and the impact on students that were granted transfers for multiple years. She also expressed concerns about the process. She said the timing of this decision—three weeks after the magnet school application deadline was unfair. She requested the Board grandfather students impacted by the rezoning decision and provide information to parents regarding the appeals process.
9. Mr. Muhammed Idris spoke about a book titled "Mis-education of Negroes" by Carter G. Woodson and the gap between the rich and poor citing that the gap between the two groups is not about race; but about greed. He said when one is educated, they don't look for a job; they create jobs. He said society has taken God out of the educational system and has given the credit to professors. He concluded that there is no fairness in the system.
10. Mrs. Carol Tempel, a retired CCSD educator, spoke about the district's excellent report card and attributed the achievement to the leadership of Dr. McGinley. She said the decision about Dr. McGinley was a last

minute decision of an outgoing board. She suggested the new Board has the ability to reinstate Dr. McGinley to allow her to complete her vision for 2016 and provide a quality education for the students in the district.

11. Rev. Alonzo Washington addressed the Board about the district's excellent report card rating. He said it was a travesty to see Dr. McGinley, whose leadership resulted in an excellent rating, be treated unfairly. He urged the new Board to consider an offer to reinstate Dr. McGinley.
12. Mrs. Dot Scott, addressed the Board on behalf of the NAACP, to urge the board to reconsider the recent decision to accept the resignation of Dr. McGinley as School Superintendent. She said the decision was far from voluntary and a result of being pressured to resign due to the racial issue with the Academic Magnet High School football team. She suggested the Board used that as an excuse to get rid of Dr. McGinley who kept her promise about the shared Rivers facility and establishment of Low Country Tech Academy. Dr. McGinley was also pro-active in promoting diversity among her senior staff and worked hard to bring equity in funding and staffing in all schools. It is sad that those on the school board were only interested in micromanaging and catering to their own interests. While Dr. McGinley and the NAACP hasn't always seen eye-to-eye, she has displayed a willingness to talk to the community and build linkages. Since her forced resignation, her work has resulted in an excellent rating. Mrs. Scott urged the Board to reinstate McGinley for the children in Charleston County.
13. Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, a retired educator, addressed the Board about the efforts of Dr. McGinley and the implementation of her long range plans. She requested that Dr. McGinley be reinstated.
14. Mr. Tripp Moye, expressed concerns about rezoning in District 2 and issues related to shuffling students back to their home school. He urged the Board to reconsider the process.
15. Ms. Lora Renedo, expressed concerns about rezoning in District 2. They were informed on Friday that they'd have to go back to their home school when they were told earlier that they were accepted through the grade level. She asked the Board to reconsider the decision to rezone.
16. Mr. Dexter Rumsey expressed concerns about the recent rezoning decision in District 2. He suggested the constituent Board revisit the decision.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

7.1: A. Open Session Minutes of October 21, 2014 Special Called Meeting

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the open session minutes of October 21, 2014. The vote was 7-0.

B. Open Session Minutes of the November 10, 2014

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to approve the amended open session minutes of November 10, 2014. The vote was 7-0.

- Rev. Mack asked staff to determine the cost of constructing a new facility for Angel Oak Elementary.
- Rev. Mack said Mr. Garrett said \$9.3 million was allocated to Angel Oak; not Stono Park.

7.2: Executive Session Action Items of November 24, 2014

The Board voted on the following executive session action items of November 24, 2014.

1.1: Student Transfer Request

Mr. Ducker, moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to deny a student transfer request. The vote was 7-0.

1.2: Student Expulsion Appeal Hearings

The Board identified dates for student expulsion appeal hearings.

1.3: Personnel Matters

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Rev. Mack to create the position of Deputy Superintendent for Academics and to authorize the Chair to execute addenda to the current employment contracts between the Charleston County School District and Dr. Lisa Herring to serve as Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Mr. Michael Bobby to serve as an Acting Superintendent, which will provide additional responsibilities and compensation respectively, consistent with the discussions in executive session. The vote was 7-0.

In response to a question from Rev. Collins, Mrs. Coats said the contract addendums would be effective immediately.

1.4: Negotiations of Land and Building Purchase – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to authorize the district to negotiate a purchase contract for Northwoods Academy site and structures. The contract would ultimately be brought to the Board for

final approval. The vote was 7-0.

Mr. Bobby said there are 3 parcels with approximately 10-12 acres. Staff is determining how much of the land is usable.

1.5: Pinehurst Elementary Contract – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to authorize the district to negotiate a contract with the highest ranked shortlisted firm post interview/presentation at a Not to Exceed (NTE) cost of \$850,000.00. The funding source is the one-cent sales tax revenues. The vote was 7-0.

7.3: A. Financial Minutes of October 21, 2014 Special Called Meeting

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the financial minutes of October 21, 2014. The vote was 7-0.

B. Financial Minutes of the October 30, 2014 Special Called Emergency Meeting

The financial minutes of October 30, 2014 were pulled from the agenda. Therefore, no action was taken.

C. Financial Minutes of November 10, 2014 Meeting

The financial minutes of November 10, 2014 were pulled from the agenda. Therefore, no action was taken.

Mr. Ducker asked why the FY15 impact was \$470 million. Mr. Bobby said that was an error that would be corrected.

VIII. CAE UPDATE

8.1: A. Murray LaSaine Montessori Pilot Update – Mrs. Terri Nichols

Mrs. Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent in the Elementary Learning Community, presented an update on the Montessori pilot program at Murray LaSaine Elementary.

Background Information

- November 2012 the Board approved the Montessori pilot program to begin Fall 2013 at MLES
- Fall 2013, Montessori classrooms opened (3 Primary and 2 Lower Elementary)
- During the 2013-2014 school year 36 informational meetings were held to inform the MLES community about the Montessori option

Facility Upgrade

- Develop plans for the renovation of MLES that started Fall 2013
- Plans include classroom space large enough for Montessori instruction
- MLES relocates and renovation begins - Fall 2014

Current Enrollment - Murray LaSaine: Enrollment Today

- Primary: 64
- CD and K:46
- Lower EL:59
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade:40
- Upper EL:18
- 4th and 5th grade:24

Total Enrollment

- Montessori - 141
- Traditional - 110
- Total Enrollment –251

Program Support

- Montessori Training: LaDene Conroy
- Classroom best instructional practice: Cassie Novell
- District PD Instructional Coach: Jo Anne Solesbee

Primary Grades Academy Growth

- MLES PGA Students: Students who made at least typical growth Fall to Spring MAP Reading (2013-2014)

Summary:

- Montessori students served in Lower EL (1-3): 13
- Percentage who met goal (at least typical growth): 11/13 (85%)
- Traditional Students served: 16
- Percentage who met goal (at least typical growth): 9/16 (56%)

Average Growth MAP

Fall 2013

- Traditional Classes had an average increase of 13.6 points in RIT scores for Math.
- Montessori classes had an average increase of 21 points in RIT scores for Math.

Spring 2014

- Traditional Classes had an average increase of 24.6 points in RIT scores for Reading.
- Montessori classes had an average increase of 23.25 points in RIT scores for Reading.
- Note: Typical growth for 1st grade is 16.6 points and typical growth for second grade is 13.7 points

Rev. Collins asked what was used to measure student growth. Mrs. Nichols said MAP scores are used in 1st Grade. Rev. Collins asked the number of students in the classroom. Mrs. Nichols said there are 22 students in a classroom. Rev. Collins suggested that Montessori may have performed better because of the student/teacher ratio.

Mr. Ducker asked about the movement of Montessori students. Mrs. Nichols said some Montessori students are leaving the school. There were 157 students and now the number is down to 146.

Mrs. Coats asked why there is a waiting list since there is space at the school. Mrs. Nichols said there are slots because of students that left in grades 2, 4, and 5.

Mrs. Coats asked why there were vacancies at Murray LaSaine. Mrs. Nichols said there are slots in traditional side for grades 3, 4, and 5.

Mrs. Coats asked where Murray LaSaine Montessori students would go for middle school. Mrs. Nichols said there is no room for middle school and some parents would want the Middle School option. However, that would be a board decision.

Mr. Ducker said that question was asked when Dr. McGinley presented to the Strategic Education Committee on the dual track she said there was a plan. Mrs. Nichols said many options were discussed but she was not at liberty to discuss it at this time. However, the plan is to have an option through 8th grade.

IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

There were no Management Reports to be presented at this meeting.

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?

B. Design Parking Improvements – Mitchell Elementary School – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve a contract to Fosberg Engineering Surveying, Inc., in the amount of \$58,000 for design of parking improvements for Mitchell Elementary School. The funding source is FCO The vote was 7-0.

Mr. Kramps shared the design to address safety issues on Perry St.

Mr. Ducker asked if there was a savings linked to relocating the parking. Mr. Bobby said the savings

was a different project for central staff.

Rev. Collins asked about Fosberg Engineering and what the amount allocated would cover. Mr. Kramps said the amount included the design and the work. He said some adjustments may be needed in a garden nearby. Rev. Collins asked about advertising efforts. Mr. Kramps said a Request for Proposal was not needed for this project.

C. Head Start/Early Head Start Financials – Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Rev. Collins to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start Financials for the period ending September 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014. The vote was 7-0.

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. Health Advisory Committee Appointments – Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Rev. Collins to re-advertise for openings on the HAC. The vote was 7-0.

Mrs. Coats said a student has expressed interest in being on the committee. However, his name was not on the list.

C. JFABC – Student Transfers– Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

Mr. Wiles moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to pull, re-evaluate and send the policy back to committee in light of recent concerns about student transfers. The vote was 7-0.

D. JRA – Student Records– Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to pull policy JRA and send back to committee. The vote was 7-0.

Mr. Wiles suggested adding an option for parents that don't want their confidential info exposed.

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. Approve First Steps Contract for Home Visitors – Dr. Lisa Herring, Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to approve the First Steps contract to include two home visitors and administrative costs for FY2014. The funding amount is \$117,250. The vote was 6-1 (Wiles opposed).

Rev. Collins asked who the clients were. Mrs. Taylor said at-risk families. And, pregnant students were also served.

Mr. Wiles said it is unfortunate that this is an issue and it is growing problem. He said the root cause should be identified. He suggested many young men are growing up and not choosing to be mature adults and make responsible decisions. And, as a result, there are a lot of folks in this situation. Even though he believes it could help a lot of folks in this situation, he knows that temporary solutions sometimes become permanent solutions with taxpayers' dollars. Therefore, he would not support this recommendation.

Rev. Collins said the children in these families don't have a choice. Mr. Wiles said he understood that. Rev. Collins said parents in poverty shouldn't be punished. Mr. Wiles said his intent, by no means, is to hurt anyone. He said, personally, he is committed to look for solutions rather than temporary longstanding programs that don't work.

Mr. Miller said its part of the process educators put in place to help parents learn the importance of parental involvement in schools. He said it is unfortunate that some parents are negating on their

responsibilities. However, these programs were developed to help students who don't get to select their parents or the conditions they are going into. He spoke of the disadvantages of students to include those that come to school without having breakfast, help with prenatal care, etc. He said this type program would help level the playing field.

Mr. Wiles said the policy encourage behaviors and discourage behaviors. And, in a long run, it would encourage a behavior that shouldn't be encouraged.

Mrs. Coats asked about the scope of work what is being done for the other 0-3 students in HeadStart. Mrs. Taylor said because of the way the grant was written, it had to show the partnership with a recognized program that works with at-risk students. She reiterated that it was a part of the grant written with the \$8 million funding. Rev. Collins asked if grant money covered the cost. Mrs. Taylor said grant money with matching dollars. Mrs. Coats asked why some (24) are visited at home when others are visited in schools. Mrs. Taylor said these were the prenatal 0-3 and although funding is received for a larger number, only 120 are served in the school facility, the others must be served at home.

C. School/State Report Card Data – Dr. Laura Donnelly, Assessment and Evaluation Director

Dr. Donnelly presented information to the Board on school/report card data.

- 2014 is the last year for dual accountability systems.
- Currently, there are two accountability systems in SC – 1) State system and 2) ESEA (Federal system).
- With changing assessments, no report card ratings are anticipated for 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- Late Friday, the district learned that the PASS test will be replaced with the ACT Aspire and grade 11 the ACT Test. This test would be aligned with the Common Core test this year.
- There are five Report Card Ratings
 - Excellent/Absolute Ratings - Performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the SC Performance Goal.
 - Good - Performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the SC Performance Goal.
 - Average - Performance meets the standards for progress toward the SC Performance Goal.
 - Below Average - In jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the SC Performance Goal.
 - At Risk – Performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the SC Performance Goal.
- CCSD's absolute rating is **Excellent**
 - Highest ever
 - Up from Good for prior 3 years
 - CCSD's growth rating is **Good**
 - Up from Average in 2013
 - Improvements reflected in report card ratings include
 - On-time graduation rate: 76.9% (2013) to 80.3% (2014)
 - End-of-Course passage rate: 78.2% (2013) to 83.3% (2014)
 - 5-year graduation rate: 78.7% (2013) to 80.2% (2014)
 - Certain grades/subjects showed increases in PASS results
 - 4 schools earned higher ratings in 2014
 - WAHS increased from Good to Excellent
 - Lambs ES increased from Below Average to Average
 - Memminger ES and Stall HS increased from At-Risk to Below Average
 - In 10 of our schools, report card ratings declined
 - PASS 2014 for ELA and Math were "bridge" assessments—included only items meeting BOTH the SC standards AND the common core standards were included for ELA and Math
 - As stated by the Education Oversight Committee, declines in PASS performance in ELA and Math were expected due to this change
 - Unfortunately ten schools declined. However, that was expected.

XI. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Collins suggested a motion to send a letter to Legislative Delegation re Act 189 be placed on the next board agenda.

Rev. Mack asked, since he heard several visitors, that addressed the board, say they support bringing Dr. McGinley back, how to revisit an item voted on. Mrs. Coats said any four members on winning side or members that were not present at meeting could put it on an agenda. However, since Dr. McGinley resigned, that's what the board voted on. Rev. Mack said he only inquired to see if there was an opportunity for it to be revisited.

Since there wasn't any further business to come before the Board, at 8:00 pm, Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Rev. Mack to adjourn the November 24, 2014 Board meeting. The vote was approved by consensus.