

A regular meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street. The following members of the Board 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 Mr. Michael Bobby, Acting Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary.

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

Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Miller motioned, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to convene into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION
3:45 p.m.

Staff members Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Mrs. Anita Huggins, Mr. Ron Kramps, Mr. Lou Martin, Mr. John McCarron, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mr. Paul Padron, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, and Mrs. Latisha Vaughn-Brandon were also in attendance.

- 1.1: Legal Updates – Mr. John Emerson
- 1.2: Voluntary Transfer Appeals
- 1.3: District 3 Constituent Board Vacancy
- 1.4: Personnel Matter

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 May 26, 2015 to order at 5:33 pm. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Note: Mr. Mack left immediately after Executive Session.

Mr. Ducker read a short statement about Memorial Day.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adopt the May 26, 2015 agenda. The vote was 9-0

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

A. State Athletic Recognition

Mr. David Spurlock announced that some individuals were not present because of the Mt. Pleasant bridge closure. Then he recognized the following groups.

- Wando HS Girls Soccer Team Lower State Champions was represented by Devon Donaldson.
- Wando Boys Soccer Team – no representatives
- Wando LaCrosse State Championship – no representatives
- Track Team State Champions - Wando Garrett, AMHS, JICHS
- Richard Luden from WAHS presented a trophy to Mr. Bobby. CCSD won the Superintendent's Cup over Berkeley and Dorchester.
- Academic Magnet HS Boys Soccer Team – 2015 State Champions
- Academic Magnet HS Girls Varsity Soccer Team – 2015 State Champions
- Wando HS Baseball Team – 2015 State Champions

B. National PTA Reflections Winners

The Board recognized two National PTA Reflections winners.

C. US Presidential Scholar

The Board recognized three US Presidential Scholars.

D. State Odyssey of the Mind Champions

Students from JICHS and the Advanced Studies School West Ashley were recognized.

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

Mr. Bobby shared the following:

- An update will be done later during the meeting on the progress of the district's diversity & inclusion work.
- Academic Magnet HS ranked #7 in the nation and #1 in the state, and School of the Arts received a state rank of #3 according to the US News & World Report 2015 rankings.
- The School Wellness Celebration was amazing. Harbor View Elementary won this year's grand prize for the school wellness checklist. Daniel Jenkins won the new rising star award for the biggest gain in one year points, and Larsyn Runion from Wando won the Mark Cobb Award for staff wellness.
- State Superintendent Molly Spearman visited Sanders Clyde last week for a production of Annie Junion and the unveiling of the inaugural piece of artwork for the Inspirational Pathways Program.
- CCSD's Montessori expert, Mrs. LaDene Conroy, was named one of the 50 Most Progressive Charlestonians of 2015 in "Charlie's Magazine".
- The Charleston Educator's Symposium will begin on June 9th and end on June 11th. For Board members, it's a great opportunity to meet and mingle with teachers and administrators from across the district to gain a deeper sense of the successes and challenges facing our community. Board members were asked to join CCSD for some professional development sessions and keynote speakers.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Staubes read the policy BEDH.

1. Rev. John Paul Brown expressed concerns about Burke HS suggesting that parental input was not solicited in the planning of Burke HS. Also, he shared concerns about the lack of community input in the superintendent search.
2. Mr. Patrick Hayes expressed concerns about previous budgets and funds that are found after there is a budget shortfall scare. He asked about the proposed 2nd half of the Fox Lawson salary implementation and CPI.
3. Dr. C. H. Brown questioned why funds were being spent on a superintendent search when CCSD could promote from within as it relates to hiring a superintendent of school. Also, he shared concerns about Burke and what is being done there.
4. Mrs. Beverly Birch asked about transparency and secret meetings of board members as it relates to hiring of a superintendent. Also, she shared concerns about the proposed policy to limit public speaking to 30 seconds. She said it was done to silence individuals with concerns.
5. Mr. Arthur Lawrence expressed concerns about the policy allowing only 30 seconds for individuals to address the board. Also, he said downtown population will soon double. A new school should be planned with newcomers in mind. Burke is the only school with an Associate on campus. If Mr. Cannon's position is eliminated, his supervisor's position should also be eliminated.
6. Rev. Nelson Rivers expressed concerns about secret meetings held by board members. Also, he expressed concerns about the policy to limit time for visitors. He said it would insult and discourage individuals from the community.
7. Rev. Danny Reed, minister of the Unitarian Church, expressed concerns about seven board members meeting a superintendent candidate. He is on the Rigor & Diversity Task Force. Then he shared some advice and said the hiring of the superintendent was compromised.
8. Ms. Stacey Shoecraft, a fifth grade math and science teacher, spoke in support of 1-on-1 learning. She said iPads help with learning, organization, saves paper, promotes learning after school, impacts student learning, creates graphs, and increases learning for struggling learners.
9. Mr. Ted Cozart, a District 4 Constituent Board Member, urged the Board to be open and honest about the identification of a new superintendent to serve in CCSD.
10. Ms. Susan Dunn, ACLU director, spoke about limiting the time community members have to address the board.
11. Rev. Cheryl Mills, a clergy representative, recognized all the pastors that were present. She urged the board to address inequality issues. Also, she said they will work to ensure that an appropriate superintendent is selected.
12. Mr. Mohammed Idris said "Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free". He spoke about lies told by staff (school was moved because of contamination. However, condos were built on the same land) and others. He urged everyone to stop telling lies.
13. Ms. Latonya Gamble, a Burke alumni, suggested Burke remain a public high school; not a charter. She requested a trade school and Advanced Placement courses for Burke.
14. Mr. William Hamilton shared a Norman Rockwell picture that was posted in his elementary and high school

classes to illustrate the principles for which the allies fought. Then he expressed concerns about limiting the amount of time a speaker is allowed to address the board.

15. Ms. Willette Wilkins and her grandchildren addressed the Board about Burke HS. She expressed concerns about rumors they heard about Burke closing in August for renovations. She expressed concerns about student transfer and expressed concerns about lack of representation for students.
16. Mr. Allen Rouse, a Burke HS student representative, asked about curriculum concerns that are being addressed.
17. Mr. Willis Tany, a M. LaSaine ES parent, spoke about un-kept Board promises. She urged everyone to support diversity.
18. Ms. Zaria Pelzer, a Burke HS student, expressed concerns about possible closure of Burke HS.
19. Ms. Shakina Crooks, a Burke High graduate, read a statement that was distributed to Board members. Then she spoke about her experience at Burke and how Burke prepared her for college.
20. Mr. Dondoe' Smith, a Burke HS student, expressed concerns about plans to close Burke HS asked why the school had to be closed for a year for renovations. He said there is no valid reason to shut the school down for a year when there is a level upstairs. He urged the Board to consider the students when making decisions.
21. Mr. Tony Lewis expressed concerns about the plans to limit community input. He said everyone on the board had a motive. He urged the Board to allow Burke to remain a traditional school as requested by the D20 constituent Board.
22. Pastor Dixon said only a fifth of the students that participated in today's march are seated in the Board room. He went on to say that even more will be present at the next board meeting to support that Burke High remain a traditional high school.
23. Ms. LaShay Obruy said Burke is the only high school on the peninsula and it should be kept open even if it is renovated. Also, she said vocational/technical courses should be considered. She said charter is not wanted for Burke. She also asked that Fraser not be demolished, but kept open. She said Fraser ES is protected under the historical preservation society.
24. Mr. Dan Ryan said Burke should remain a traditional non-charter school.

Mr. Staubes asked staff to clarify if there are plans related to Burke HS. Mr. Bobby said following a community meeting held last week, he spoke with students and they shared the same concerns about the desire to have a traditional high school. He asked if the desire is to have a comprehensive traditional high school on the Burke campus. He said the charter school proposal was not his directive. The public shouted—put it in writing.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

7.1: A. Open Session Minutes of May 11, 2015

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve the open session minutes of May 11, 2015. The vote was 8-0.

7.2: Executive Session Action Items of May 26, 2015

The Board voted on the following executive session action items of May 26, 2015.

1.1: Legal Updates – Mr. John Emerson

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to accept the annual 2014 Fiscal Year Legal Report. The vote was 8-0.

1.2: Voluntary Transfer Appeals

The Board discussed Voluntary Transfer Appeals received between May 8 and May 15th as follows.

Mrs. Darby shared recommendations below –

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Garret, to do the following. The motion was approved 8-0.

- Overturn the Constituent Board's denial for student transfers #1225, 1115, 1310, 1632, 1627, 1629, 1569, 1358, 1657, 1551, 1248, 1247, 1637, 1673
- Overturn and approve the following applications for direct placement at the school: 1521 and 1276

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to approve direct placement of 8 students (1555, 1529, 1157, 1502, 1097, 1255, 1199, and 1281) from Lincoln to Wando. The vote was 8-0.

1.3: District 3 Constituent Board Vacancy

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve recommendation to allow Ms. Susan McManus to fill a constituent board vacancy in District 3. The vote was 7-1-0 (Collins opposed).

1.4: Personnel Matter

The Board discussed a potential reduction in staff and re-organization.

7.3: A. Financial Minutes of the May 11, 2015

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the recommendation to approve the financial minutes May 11, 2015. The vote was 8-0.

VIII. CAE UPDATE

8.1: CAE Diversity Task Force Academic Update

Dr. Herring provided two updates. Due to time limitations, she focused more on Diversity.

Academic Update

- Closing of 2015 sy; upcoming graduations

Rigor and Diversity – work of sub committees

Sub-Committee Summary:

Rigor & Access

- The Task Force for Rigor & Diversity in CCSD Schools
 - Have had a total of 5 full task force meetings (3/25/15, 4/9/15, 4/22/15, 5/6/15, and 5/20/15)
 - Average Number of Attendees: 40 per meeting
- The full task force has been broken down into 4 sub-committees, through a process of consensus building to include:
 - Rigor & Access (Theresa Ruff, Leader)
 - School Choice (Dr. Jennifer Baez, Leader)
 - School Climate/Culture (Dale Metzger, Leader)
 - Magnet Admissions (Anton Gunn, Leader)

The members are strong and passionate about this work and have been productive and inclusive in their work and they have a good picture of what rigor and access looks like.

Next steps:

Ensure there is a clear communication to district leaders and teachers on the definition of rigor
Immediate deliverable: Recommendation on Middle School Math.

School Choice Sub-Committee

Leadership Team:

Dr. Jennifer Baez, Leader

Robert Grant, Co-Leader

Radia Heyward, Facilitator

Number of Meetings: 3

Average Attendance: 6 per meeting

Sub-Committee Summary:

School Choice

Have reviewed and learned about the district's school choice options and learned the difference in acceptance policy of schools.

Next steps:

Will request more information from district regarding the challenges in relation to school choice

Will request data on how many high achieving students do not attend their neighborhood schools

School Climate/Culture Sub-Committee

Leadership Team:

Dale Metzger, Leader

Dr. Clifford Fulmore, Co-Leader

Lara LeRoy, Facilitator

Pastor Danny Reed, Co-Facilitator

Number of Meetings: 4

Average Attendance: 12 per meeting

Sub-Committee Summary:

School Climate/Culture

Have decided on three areas of concern:

1. Student curriculum to address diversity and acceptance for grades 6-12.
2. Staff development to address staff interactions with diverse groups, how to identify bullying and exclusion.
3. Find or develop a School Climate/Culture tool to gauge the experiences of various sub-groups.

Sub-committee is dividing into three teams to begin to investigate these areas and develop a proposal for the board.

Magnet Admissions Sub-Committee

Leadership Team:

Anton Gunn, Leader

Mary Runyon, Co-Leader

Dr. Darlene Rawls, Facilitator

Charlisa Pugh, Co-Facilitator

Number of Meetings: 5

Average Attendance: 12 per meeting

Magnet Admissions

After group research, recommendation is that the application process be revisited for all magnet schools. Recommends that proposals that have been submitted to increase diversity at AMHS be revisited.

Next Steps:

Activities will be launched to determine the level of urgency to draft Leadership and Board approved structures for the magnet schools application process, communication and support provided to students and families.

Additional Considerations:

Timeline Challenges

A "phased" approach

Executive Summary

Leadership Feedback

Dr. Herring said while there is a sense of urgency, quality matters. Committee members are willing to work into the summer to allow a fair, transparent and open process.

Mr. Anton Gunn, MUSC's Diversity Director, addressed the Board on behalf of the Diversity Committee. He said members have spent more than ten hours a week discussing the challenges. While he is new to the Charleston community, he is quickly learning more about Charleston from newspaper and other ways. He spoke briefly about a session he was in where everyone wasn't willing to talk about challenges. Then he spoke about the process being interrupted every time there was a discussion about the admissions process at Academic Magnet. He said diversity is not about black and white; but it is about humanness. It is important for everyone to understand the meaning of diversity. Most individuals on the task force haven't had diversity training and the same may be true for some CCSD board members. His concern is that he hasn't heard from the board what diversity means.

Also, Mr. Gunn spoke about the superintendent candidates and what diversity means to them. He would hate for the committee to spend so much time doing this work when someone may come in and say it is not important. He said diversity and inclusion should be tied into the superintendent's search because it is important to everyone. He said the diversity work is like climbing a "greasy" poll. Also, he said the Office of Civil Rights shouldn't be the ones to determine what needs to happen. The new superintendent, the board, and staff should be engaged in this discussion to bring equitable outcomes for students in CCSD schools.

There should be understanding and trainings for those on the committee, the board, and staff. Transparency should come from the top level. He asked why there were so many admissions processes in the district.

Questions:

- Rev. Collins asked if the majority of students enrolled in Academic Magnet HS were from private schools. Dr. Herring said the majority of students enrolled at Academic Magnet HS were CCSD students. Mrs. Coats said 20% were from private schools.
- Mr. Staubes thanked Dr. Herring for taking on the project. Then he thanked her team for their approach to look for solutions and not point fingers. He also thanked them for not looking for shortcuts and finding ways to make AMHS more diverse. He went on to say this is a tough job. Dr. Herring said the work was done by many individuals in-house and others. She commended Mr. Jerod Bishop, the project manager.
- Mr. Miller said everyone defines diversity differently. He suggested diversity training for the Board. Then he thanked Mr. Gunn and suggested the Board listen to his recommendations.
- Mrs. Coats requested a list of committee members, a timeline and the first set of notes from the diversity training.

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?

B. FY 2016 Budget Development (Update)

The Board received an update on the latest FY2016 Budget Developments.

 Mr. Bobby said CCSD staff continues to refine revenues and expenditures. Staff is closer to having a balanced budget. There are 11 pages followed by attachments. The 11 pages compare revenues and expenditures.

The numbers have been refined based on information received from tax office and others. Preliminary projections must be reviewed by the auditors. The \$237.7 million amount shows a \$13 million difference in revenues.

On page 1, the total budget \$426 million revenues and previous “must do” list. Bell time adjustment, growth in students and salary increase for staff. Shows a positive amount with a small millage increase.

Rev. Collins asked if there is a cost increase for District 4 bell time. Mr. Bobby confirmed. Then he said the cost was provided earlier for each constituent district.

A millage increase at 3 mills would include 2 mills to cover salary increases.

Pages 7-8 - \$7 million in reductions

Mr. Bobby suggested opening of Blaney Elementary be held for a year and/or open in 2016. A decision has to be made soon to notify parents. Also, he spoke about curriculum investments in nearby schools. He said moving it out one more year may be helpful.

Mr. Miller asked when a decision had to be made. Mr. Bobby said he’d like to bring an action item back to the Board on June 8th.

Mr. Bobby spoke about utilization of revenue funds to protect \$1.5 million GOF costs suggesting that centralizing bus pickups would stretch services and reduce cost. Mr. Bobby said if there is something that could be done more efficiently, he would consider it.

Mr. Bobby clarified a mistake made earlier--the 1.5% cost for increases was included in the \$246 million. This would allow the board to consider the Fox Lawson increases. Mr. Briggman said \$11

million was needed, that is 4+ mills. He concluded that Fox Lawson increases could be done in portions.

Rev. Collins asked about iPads and lottery funds.

Mr. Ducker said several members stressed interest in preserving the rural school funds. He asked if the rural school stipend would impact workers. Mr. Bobby said it wasn't a huge incentive. However, if he is wrong, it would be added it back in. Ms. Shannon said it was added back in. The cost is \$300,000.

Mrs. Coats asked about Renaissance training. Then she asked if Revenues would rise next year enough to cover those items that are delayed. Mr. Bobby said additional funds may come from a TIF coming off this year or next.

Mr. Garrett asked about community education reduction. Mr. Bobby said they would have to operate from funds coming in from Kaleidoscope and building rental funds.

Rev. Collins asked about Security. Mr. Bobby said it's in the Fixed Cost of Operations to upgrade surveillance systems. Rev. Collins suggested a more sophisticated security and that cameras be increased because recent issues in the news. Mr. Bobby asked Rev. Collins to have a 1-on-1 conversation with Mr. Scott.

Mr. Bobby announced that the Public Budget Hearing is June 3rd at 5:15pm in the Board Room. Also he said the final reading would possibly be on June 8th or June 22nd.

Mrs. Darby asked about Middle School Opening on pages 6-7. She suggested furlough be for exempt employees; not non-exempt employees, if needed. Mr. Bobby said he would rather not do it. Mrs. Darby said people, staff, and top talent, are priorities.

Mrs. Coats compared the cost of adding a grade at NCCAES and Meeting St. Academy. Mr. Bobby said it's growing a grade and growing the size of the school with increased enrollment. A report would be available after the 7th day of school.

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. Second Reading - Policy BEDB-E – Board Agenda

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to approve the second reading of policy BEDB-E. The vote was 6-2 (Collins and Miller opposed).

Mrs. Darby said the recommendation is to change agenda to include a Constituent Board Report once a year. It should be 9.3 Constituent Board Report.

C. Second Reading - BEDN – Public Participation at Meeting

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Wiles, to approve the second reading of policy BEDN, changing two minutes in the original policy to one minute per person. The vote was 6-2 (Collins and Miller opposed).

Mrs. Darby said originally their desire was to manage the time allocated for public input. However, after many comments, she looked at what others are doing and she looked at the number of individuals that addressed the Board. Then she suggested visitors delete the welcome and other comments and get their point across in one minute.

10.3: Strategic Education Committee – Rev. Chris Collins

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?

XI. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

11.1: A. Establishment of Task Force on Operational Efficiency and Cost Control

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded Mrs. Darby, to approve the recommendation to establish a Task Force to look at operational efficiency and cost control. The vote was 5-3 (Collins, Ducker and Miller opposed).

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to send recommendation to the appropriate committee. The motion failed 5-3 (Collins, Ducker and Miller supported motion).

B. Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposal for a Staffing Audit

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, that the request to authorize staff to issue a RFP for a Staffing Audit be referred to the Policy & Personnel Committee and Audit and Finance Committee and not come back before the Board until the Task Force on Operational Efficiency and Cost Control is established. The vote was 8-0.

C. Establishment of a District 4 School/Community Task Force

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Darby, to approve a recommendation to establish a School/Community Task Force to look at structure and configuration of District Four (4) high schools and the upcoming construction of the District 4 Center for Advanced Studies (CAS). The vote was 7-1 (Collins opposed).

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker to take this before the Strategic Committee. The motion failed 5-3 (Collins, Ducker and Miller supported the recommendation).

D. CCSD Board Committee Meeting Calendar

The Board established CCSD Board Committee meeting dates for 2015-2016.

- Audit & Finance Committee
- Policy & Personnel Committee
- Strategic Education Committee

Mrs. Darby moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to pull this item from the agenda and ask committees to identify meeting dates through August. The vote was 8-0.

Mrs. Coats asked for input on having two meetings in July. It was the consensus of the Board that there should be only one meeting in July.

Mrs. Coats asked committee chairs to identify committee meeting dates in advance to compile the annual calendar.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Since there weren't any further business to come before the Board at 8:57pm, Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to adjourn the May 26, 2015 Board meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.