

August 13, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 13, 2007 with the following members of the Board present: Vice Chair - Mr. Hillery Douglas, Mr. David Engelman, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mr. Brian Moody, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler, and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Although Chairperson – Ms. Nancy Cook and Mr. Gregg Meyers were absent; they were both contacted electronically (telephone) for the full discussion and the vote of agenda items 9.1 Charleston Charter for Math and Science and 9.2: Recommendation for Rivers Building. Staff members Mr. Donald Kennedy and Mr. Rodney Bynum were in attendance.

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

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel to convene into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:20 p.m. Mr. Douglas called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3.1: Special Recognition for August 13, 2007

1. Mayor Riley's extended an invitation to the First Day Festival scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 19, 2007 at Liberty Square.
2. Mrs. LaDene Conroy was recognized for being identified as one of the eighteen leaders honored to be charter members of the Education Leadership Fellows Program.
3. Mr. William Lewis was recognized for his recent briefing to US Naval Strategic Planning Group.
4. Mr. Alan Milburn was recognized for completing the Charleston Leadership Institute Program.
5. Dr. Connie Mathis was recognized for organizing the CCSD 2007-2008 Summer Leadership Institute.
6. Summer Art Program recognitions: Robert and Megan Lange of Robert Lange Studio, Seth Cunico of Redux Art Center, Jaycee Rappold of Charleston County School of the Arts, Robert Ivy of Robert Ivy Ballet Studio, and Nancy Steadman were recognized for their partnership with the district to offer CCSD students professional exposure to music and art.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- *The district is excited and ready to start a new school year. Teachers will return to class on Wednesday, August 15th and the first day for students is Tuesday, August 21, 2007. Parents were encouraged to send their children to school on the first day.*
- *Dr. McGinley thanked Charleston Math and Science Charter supporters for their support. She is committed to starting the school on a positive note.*
- *The District welcomed 350 new teachers at the New Teacher Orientation.*
- *Copies of coherent curriculum guides will be given to every teacher in the district.*
- *Both students and teachers will start the year with materials needed to ensure victory in the classroom.*
- *Teacher vacancy is now down to 29 unfilled positions at this time. Only 4 in the areas of math and science.*
- *Principals and HR staff members are doing an excellent job in having teachers in place which is critical to the Charleston Plan for Excellence success.*
- *The District has many excellent leaders and four schools will open with interim principals—St. Johns High, School of the Arts, Harborview Elementary and Academic Magnet High School. District staff is working diligently to identify permanent principals in those schools.*
- *This year CCSD students earned a total of \$36,323,201 in college scholarships. That is nearly three million more than 2006.*

- *Two very successful Community Conversation meetings have been held in Districts 3 & 9. Districts 4, 10 and 20 will host meetings in September, Districts 2 and 23 in October and District 1 in November. Board members were thanked for their attendance.*
- *This year at Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary School two classes of students will receive Montessori method of instruction.*

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Ms. Mary Fyall and Ms. Kimberly Fyall expressed concerns regarding the West Ashley High Adult Education Program.
2. Ms. Cecelia Rogers addressed the board about expanding Charleston Developmental Charter.
3. Mr. James Ward, Ms. Vonie Gilreath, Mr. Julian E. Keil, Mr. Gary Yackel, Mr. Sam Kaplan and Mr. Stanley Batter addressed the Board regarding St. Andrews School of Math & Science and Chadwick Park.
4. Ms. Tara Lowry, Ms. Carol Aust, Mr. Julian E. Keil, Mr. Park Dougherty, Mr. Joseph Green, Mr. Leroy Connors, Ms. Mary Carmichael, Mr. Richard Gowe, Mr. Dubose Kapeluck, Mr. Gordon Greer and Ms. Laura Rames addressed the Board in support of the Charleston Math and Science Charter proposal and Rivers facility.
5. Mr. Marvin Stewart, Mr. Lonnie Hamilton and Ms. Pamela Bryant addressed the Board regarding Charleston Progressive.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of July 23, 2007

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of minutes of July 23, 2007. The motion was approved 7-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 13, 2007

The Board acted on the following Executive Session Agenda items as follows:

- 1.1A: Approved a motion to remove the property line dividing two lots at Memminger. The motion was approved 7-0.
- 1.1B: Discussed the Lawrence Derthick Fund. Staff will bring recommendation to the board regarding same in the near future.
- 1.1C: Discussed the district's Tax Anticipation questions about a ninety-day window. Staff will investigate and bring a recommendation to the Board.
- 1.2: Discussed a contractual matter—withdrawal of offer from Town of James Island to purchase Medway Park.
- 1.3: Approved the recommendation for three contractors to submit pricing for Phase II pre-construction services not to exceed \$75,000 for each BE & K Building Group, Inc., M.B. Kahn Construction Company, and Trident Construction Company.
- 1.4: Approved the appointment of Tanya Underwood as principal at Pepperhill Elementary
- 1.5: Approved a recommendation for a list of four firms to provide independent commissioning services in response to request for qualifications solicitation number 07-CCSD-R-001.
- 1.6: Upheld denial of student transfer A; Approved student transfer B; and referred C to the No Child Left Behind Office.
- 1.7: Approved a motion to uphold the District 23 Constituent Board decision for a teacher appeal.
- 1.8: Approved a Workers' Compensation Settlement
- 1.9: This item was pulled from the agenda; no action was taken

6.3: Financial Minutes of July 23, 2007

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman to approve the Financial Minutes of July 23, 2007. The motion was approved 7-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

7.1: June 2007 Capital Projects Report

The Board received information; no action was taken.

7.2: Performance Management System Recommendation

This item was pulled from the agenda; no action was taken.

VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

There was no Charleston Plan for Excellence update on this agenda.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: *Charleston Charter for Math and Science – Mr. Kennedy – Under Separate Cover - Approved*

Pursuant to S.C. Code 59-40-80, conditionally approve the Charleston Charter school for Math and Science to begin operation as a charter school July 1, 2008, subject to meeting and providing evidence annually to the CCSD Board of having met the following conditions;

1. Obtaining a facility with a signed lease on or before:
July 1, 2008 that is approved for 180 students,
July 1, 2009 that is approved for 300 students,
July 1, 2010 that is approved for 400 students,
July 1, 2011 that is approved for 480 students,
July 1, 2012 that is approved for 480 students,
to include a certificate of occupancy and the approval from the local and/or State authorities having jurisdiction for the building code enforcement.
2. The school must have obtained the equipment that was described as being needed in its application.
3. Certificates of Insurance must be in accordance with the coverage limits as specified in the charter school application for Workers Compensation, Liability coverage, Property Insurance, Indemnity Insurance and Automobile Insurance.
4. Hiring qualified personnel as required by the application and Charter Law prior to August 1, 2008, as well as during the following years of the contract
5. By June 15, 2008, the District, in order to establish funding levels, will need a roster of students registered to attend the school to include the students full name, address home school, enrolling grade level, and EFA category. This will be required annually by June 15 for new enrollees in years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
6. Beginning 2008, by October 30th annually, evidence that an election of the Board of Directors (nine members) was held according to the charter contract, to include a list of full names, addresses and contact information.

Funding through CCSD for academic year 2008-2009 is \$1,266,915.76, which comes from the General Operating Fund.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman to approve the recommendation for the Charleston Math and Science Charter shown above. The motion was approved 9-0

9.2: Recommendation for Rivers Building

Mr. Ravenel requested the Board vote on each of the six conditions separately. The Board approved Mr. Ravenel's recommendation by consensus then went on to discuss the recommendations as follows:

The following recommendations have been formulated by the administration with serious attention to the academic goals of the Charleston County School District and our fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers. We believe that by approving this set of recommendations the board will enhance the availability of rigorous academic programs for all children and ensure that sound fiscal procedures guide future partnerships.

1. Approve a "conditional agreement" to move forward and delineate in writing a detailed agreement whereby the Math and Science Charter will share space in the Rivers building with Low Country High Tech High. We ask that the board approve this shared arrangement with the explicit understanding and agreement of the charter committee that they will establish a school with a diverse student body.
2. The district will support the establishment of an Advanced Placement Academy at Burke HS to start in August 2008. This will ensure that Burke will continue to be a viable academic option for children on the peninsula.
3. CCSD will agree to actively support the Charter's efforts and plans for community outreach and the enrollment of a diverse student body (see pages 5-6, Charter school application attached).

4. The district will complete the renovations and co-plan the educational specifications according to the design of Low Country High Tech High and the Math and Science Charter School. CCSD will work with the charter group to outline terms for leasing a portion of the building and will establish reasonable terms. We recognize that space is a challenge for charter groups and we do not want to impede success. Payment will not be requested until the charter group moves into the renovated facility. Note: It is reported that the market rate for rental space is, on average \$29 per square foot. Staff recommends that the Board set the terms of the lease at a reduced rate (percentage of market rate) and charge a fee based only upon exclusive space. The common areas, hallways and facilities shared with Low Country High Tech High will not be calculated as square footage in the lease agreement. There is 72,614 square feet in the main building at Rivers. We estimate that the Math and Science Charter School will occupy approximately 60% of the space less the common areas shared with CCSD.
5. After the reasonable lease agreement is calculated, CCSD further agrees to reduce the required annual payment by fifty percent for every year in which the charter group enrollment includes at least forty percent of students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals. Currently, CCSD has 50.37% of its students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals. Forty-two Title I elementary schools have a poverty rate above 70%.
6. The charter group will provide annual reports to the school board on the demographic characteristics of children enrolled in relation to the goals outlined in the charter school law.

59-40-60-F-8

The charter school application shall be a proposed contract and must include:

(8) a description of how the charter school plans *to ensure that the enrollment of the school is similar to the racial composition of the local school district in which the charter school is to be located* or the targeted student population of the local school district that the charter school proposes to serve and provide assurance that the school does not conflict with any school district desegregation plan or order in effect for the school district in which the charter school is to be located.

The Board voted on each of the six conditions individually. Criteria #4 was amended to say average \$11.28 per square foot; criteria #5 was amended reducing the annual enrollment to 40% free and reduced lunch students. The six conditions were approved as shown below:

- #1. Mr. Ravenel motioned approval of the recommendation from staff, seconded by Mr. Moody. The motion was approved 8-1 (Douglas opposed).
- #2. Mr. Moody motioned approval of the recommendation from staff, seconded by Mrs. Green. The motion was approved 9-0.
- #3. Mr. Moody motioned approval of the recommendation from staff, seconded by Mrs. Green. The motion was approved 9-0.
- #4. **Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green the amended the recommendation for average of \$11.28 per square footage. The motion amended by Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Green was approved 5-4 (Engelman, Moody, Ravenel and Toler opposed).**
- #5. Mr. Moody offered an amendment to the motion to “authorize superintendent staff to negotiate a fair lease amount with the new charter” which failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Douglas motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to approve a motion to reduce rent by 50% for each year if 40% of student population is eligible for free or reduced lunch. **Mrs. Green motioned to amend the motion, the amendment was accepted by Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Jordan to include the following “40% of student population is eligible for free or reduced lunch or 40% minority students”. This amended motion was approved 5-4 (Engelman, Moody, Ravenel and Toler opposed).**

- #6. Mr. Douglas motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the recommendation from staff. The motion was approved 9-0.

CCSD and charter will negotiate lease amount for use of the Rivers facility. \$10.4 million in bonds has already been issued for building modifications. The estimated cost to renovate and upgrade building for full occupancy at the facility is estimated at \$24 million, which will have to be covered through future bond issues.

9.3: Policy Revisions - First Reading – GBEB – Employee Conduct, GCKA – Teacher Assignments, GCKAA, Voluntary Teacher Transfers, GCKAAA – Involuntary Teacher Transfers, GCKAAAA – Assignment of Master

Teachers, GCKB – Hiring of Principals/Assistant Principals, GCKBA – Transfer of Administrative Staff, and GCOA –Teacher Evaluation – *Policy Committee* – **Approved**

A recommendation to approve the first reading revisions of policies listed above as recommended by the Policy Committee

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman to approve the first reading of policy revisions for policies listed above, at no cost to the district. The motion to carryover this item was approved 6-0.

9.4: Stall High School Program – Mr. Kennedy – Approved

A recommendation to approve the reallocation of funds to design and build the new Stall HS with a core for 1,500 students and initial academic capacity for 1,200 students. The projected cost to build the new Stall High at the recommended capacity is \$55.2 million. The approved budget is \$50.9 million. The remaining of funds will come from the reallocation of two projects; one in District 2 and one in District 4.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the Stall High School program recommendation. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.5: Bid Award Recommendation: Center of Arts and Academics – Mr. Kennedy - Approved

A recommendation to approve the construction contract bid award for Center of Arts and Academics to Austin Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$816,960.00. The funding sources are 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Program for School of the Arts approved budget of \$53,300,000 and 2006-2009 Capital Improvement Program for Academic Magnet High - \$32,000,000.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the bid award recommendation for Center of the Arts and Academics. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.6: Bid Award Recommendation – Moultrie Middle School – Site Package – Mr. Kennedy - Approved

A recommendation to approve the bid award contract for Moultrie Middle School – Site Package to Colony Construction in the amount of \$1,240,665.00. This project was previously approved by the Board for Moultrie Middle – Early Site Package (5646).

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the bid award recommendation for Moultrie Middle School Site Package. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.7: Bid Award Recommendation – Mt. Pleasant Academy – Site Package – Mr. Kennedy - Approved

A recommendation to approve the bid award contract for Mt. Pleasant – Site Package to Malphrus Construction in the amount of \$1,135,568.00. This project was previously approved by the Board for Moultrie Middle – Early Site Package (5654).

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the bid award recommendation for Mt. Pleasant Academy – Site Package. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.8: Pilot Program Applications - Mr. Bynum - Approved

A recommendation to approve applications for new pilot programs and pilot program continuations districtwide, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the bid award recommendation for Pilot Program Applications. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.9: Star Academy Program for Accelerated Learning and Dropout Prevention – Mr. Bynum - Approved

A recommendation to approve the request for the Star Academy program for accelerated learning and dropout prevention at Stall High, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the Star Academy Program for Accelerated Learning and Dropout Prevention. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.10: Home School Applications – New and Renewal - Approved

A recommendation to approve new and renewal home school applications, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the home school applications. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.11: School SRO Contract - Approved

A recommendation to approve an agreement with the City of Charleston Police Department for School Resource Officer Program for the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$138,000 – GOF budget – Security and Emergency Preparedness funds.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman a recommendation to approve the School SRO Contract. The motion was approved 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:20 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Moody seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

Nancy J. McGinley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools