

January 14, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson – Mr. Hillery Douglas, Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook, Mr. David Engelman, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Brian Moody, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Staff members Mr. Randolph Bynum, Mr. Larry Clark, Dr. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Elliott Smalley were in attendance.

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

### **I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairperson Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook 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 5:15 p.m. Chairperson 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 January 14, 2008**

1. Mr. Alan Wutzdorff and Ms. Susie Raiford of the Chamber Foundation presented the Board a check in the amount of 9,002.00. This amount was raised at the 2007 Golf Tournament to support the Ronald McWhirt Teacher Scholarship Fund.
2. The Board recognized Rick and Carol Olney for completion of training for the National Model in Inclusive Science Classrooms sponsored by NASA SERCH.
3. The Board recognized Community Education Director John Kennedy for being inducted into the National Community Education Association Hall of Fame.
4. The Board recognized CCSD's Community Education Directors for achieving top ratings by the National Community Education Association.
5. The Board recognized Wando High School for achieving the Silver Medal status among the Nation's Best High School.
6. The Board recognized Wando High School Band for winning the state championship.
7. Ms. English Preston presented a check to the Board in the amount of \$21,997.19. This amount represents a 3% rebate on the total amount spent by CCSD at Office Depot.

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **4.1: Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- Congratulations to CCSD students and staff recognized earlier by the Board.
- Palmetto Gold and Silver winners were announced by the state department last week. CCSD had the most winners among districts in the state of South Carolina.
- This month is School Board Recognition Month. Events are planned throughout the month to recognize Board members.
- The Leadership Compensation and Accountability plan is on tonight's agenda. A Task Force was formed to make recommendations. The approval of the plan will enhance hiring of principals. Over the last few years, over half of the principals have been replaced. Principals are now held accountable. Principals currently on improvement plans are not eligible for salary increases. The Superintendent believes in accountability and compensating only those who meet standards.

- The Board received information on the Rivers Building at the last Board workshop. It has been determined by engineers that the building does not meet earthquake standards and requires seismic upgrading at \$24 million. This amount exceeds the \$10.8 million allocated to renovate the building. Staff is currently moving forward with environmental efforts to remove asbestos and lead paint from the facility and working with construction managers to develop a cost estimate to rebuild since the total expense of seismic repair and renovation is so high. The Charter School for Math and Science has requested space on the Rivers campus to place mobile units beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. The Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Bill Lewis is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the charter group to address this request.
- School Choice was presented to the Board in December 2007. Since that time, multiple community meetings with internal and external audiences were held and copies of the proposal were circulated to community, faith-based, business and parent leaders. All parents want school choice. By enhancing choice, an idea that is quickly growing locally and nationally, the district will boost the quality and improvement of schools district-wide. School Choice is on tonight's agenda. The Board is encouraged to approve the proposal to allow staff to implement a choice plan that will reflect the needs and interest of neighborhood communities.
- Dr. McGinley also commended students from Ashley River Creative Arts who performed at Mayor Riley's Inauguration.

At this time, staff responded to comments and questions from individual Board members as follows:

- Mr. Meyers said the state's decision on the Charleston Math and Science Charter affected his thoughts about district obligations. He suggested the board disconnect diversity from the rent issue.
- Ms. Cook concurred with Mr. Meyers thoughts on the Charleston Math and Science Charter rent issue and questioned spending of district funds to remove asbestos and lead paint, if a new facility is being considered. Mr. Lewis responded that it's required by law, even if a building is demolished. The kitchen which is separate from the building will be ready for use at the start of the 2008-09 school year. The Memorandum of Agreement for the Charleston Math and Science Charter should be completed in approximately two weeks.
- Mr. Ravenel pointed out that diversity is a requirement in the charter law, so it shouldn't be an issue in the Memorandum of Agreement for the Charleston Math and Science Charter.
- Mr. Douglas questioned the cost to repair the cafeteria at the Rivers site and mentioned that three other schools in the district also require seismic upgrades. He also questioned the best use of the \$10.5 million allocated for renovations at the Rivers site. Mr. Lewis shared Mr. Dougherty's strategy to do an advance design. Mr. Douglas reiterated that 10 other charters have been applied for in the district and questioned if additional funding would be provided by the state. Mr. Douglas went on to say how the district treats one charter will set the stage for others charter schools. Sea Island YouthBuild charter may be revoked because they have no space. Mr. Ravenel suggested excess capacity at existing schools be used to address charter facility needs. Mr. Ravenel also suggested some schools be combined to address space issues or that Sea Island YouthBuild be housed in an under-utilized school on Johns Island. He reminded everyone that Senator McConnell and Representative Campsen introduced Act 189 and how important it is to obey the law. Mrs. Green pointed out the issue is there are two conflicting laws—Act 189 and a statute that gives the board charge over district facilities.

## **V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1: Visitors, Public Communications**

1. Mayor Joseph Riley addressed the board in support of the School Choice proposal. He commended the Superintendent for presenting the idea and urged the Board to endorse the plan.

2. Dr. Fran Welch, College of Charleston Dean of Education, Health and Human Services, addressed the Board in support of the proposed School Choice Proposal.
3. Dr. Terry Petersen, Senior Counselor at the College of Charleston addressed the Board in support of the School Choice proposal. He feels the proposal can expand learning at community schools. Dr. Petersen urged the Board to move forward cautiously in funding the proposal.
4. Mr. Brad Davis of Rick Hendrick Imports addressed the Board in support of the Leadership Compensation and Accountability Plan. He urged the Board to support the plan.
5. Mr. Jon Butzon of the Charleston Education Network addressed the Board in support the proposed Leadership Compensation & Accountability plan.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of December 10, 2007**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody approval of minutes of December 10, 2007. The motion was approved 9-0.

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of January 14, 2008**

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

- 1.1: Contractual Matter** – The Board approved a motion to transition Murray Hill Academy back to the district for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.2: Student Transfer Appeal** – The Board approved a student transfer appeal for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.3: Student Expulsion Appeal** – The Board approved a motion to overturn the Constituent Board’s decision and directed staff to place student at another school and continue counseling. The motion was approved 8-1 (Engelman opposed).
- 1.4: Student Appeals – St. Andrews Elementary School (6)** – The Board approved a motion allowing all six students to stay at St. Andrews Elementary for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. The motion was approved 8-1 (Cook opposed).
- 1.5: Property Matters (2)**
  - A. Laing Middle School Land** - The Board approved a motion authorizing staff to proceed with purchasing three tracts of land adjacent to Jennie Moore Elementary. The motion was approved 9-0.
  - B. Land Option** – The Board approved a motion authorizing staff to proceed with the purchasing of approximately 5 acres in Mount Pleasant near Wando High. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.6: RFP P7040 Legal Re-bid** – No action was taken.
- 1.7: Personnel Matter** – The Board received information on a personnel matter. No action was taken.

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of December 10, 2007**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the Financial Minutes of December 10 2007. The motion was approved 9-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

### **7.1: South Carolina School Boards Insurance Trust (Property and Casualty Insurance)**

### **VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE**

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

### **IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **9.1: Leadership Compensation & Accountability Plan - Approved**

*A recommendation to approve the release of budgeted dollars for the second phase of external market adjustments for administrative employees (school based and non-school based) meeting performance expectations (excludes employees on improvement plans) and acceptance of the accountability plan. The estimated annual impact is \$355,020. Funds have been budgeted, increases would be retroactive to the beginning of the school year or the date of employment contract was signed. The increases impact approximately 306 employees.*

Mrs. Green motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the recommendation for the Leadership Compensation & Accountability Plan outlined above. The motion was approved 7-2 (Cook and Engleman).

Ms. Cook noted for the record that her vote was based on the fact of some schools being under-funded.

#### **9.2: School Choice – Approved**

*A recommendation from staff for School Choice therefore authorizing the Superintendent to issue a call for proposals to establish Neighborhood Planning Teams and offer planning grants in February 2008. Beginning in August 2009, CCSD will offer an expanded portfolio of school options to parents. Schools will serve neighborhood children and become “partial magnets” with enrollment open beyond the zone.*

*The budget impact follows:*

*Year One (February 2008 – September 2008)*

*NPT Grants (10 x \$6,000) = \$60,000*

*Funding Source: Title V Grant*

*Year Two (FY2010)*

*Approved “partial magnet” schools will receive up to two additional FTEs and \$40,000 - \$50,000 startup funding to launch changes. These funds will be a part of the FY2010 budget.*

Mrs. Green motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody to approve the recommendation for School Choice outlined above. The motion was approved 7-1 (Engelman opposed).

Note: Mrs. Jordan left the meeting at 8:45 p.m., therefore she did not vote on agenda item 9.2 which was pulled for discussion purposes.

#### **9.3: First Reading - Policies GBEBB – Gifts and Solicitations, SIC School Improvement Council, GBEBD –Acceptable Use of Technology and JFAB – Non-resident Students - Policy Committee**

*A Board Policy Committee recommendation for approval of first reading of the policies listed above, at no cost to the district.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the first reading of policies GBEBB – Gifts and Solicitations, SIC School Improvement Council, GBEBD –Acceptable Use of Technology and JFAB – Non-resident Students. The motion was approved 9-0.

**9.4: Fiscal Year 2009 E-Rate Application – Mr. Douppnik**

*A recommendation to approve a resolution to meet E-Rate application requirements to support filing of applications for funding. The funding source is General Operating Fund for FY2009. The proposed CCSD Budget amount is \$2,183,183. The potential E-Rate reimbursement is \$1,283,706.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the resolution to support filing of applications for E-Rate funding. The motion was approved 9-0.

**9.5: Agreement with Coastal Community Foundation of SC, Inc. – Mr. Clark**

*A recommendation to approve the agreement with Coastal Foundation and authorize the transfer of scholarship and other funds to Coastal Community Foundation and schools as outlined in the discussion. This is at no cost to the district.*

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the agreement with Coastal Foundation and authorize the transfer of scholarship and other funds to Coastal Community Foundation and schools. The motion was approved 9-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:50 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Mr. Moody to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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