

March 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 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 March 10, 2008

1. Board recognized Burke High School Boys Varsity Basketball team for winning the Lower State Championship.
2. The Board recognized the following Wando DECA students for winning first place in the South Carolina Competitive Conference:
 - Amy Butler – Hospitality Team Mgt.
 - Handler Hicks, Hospitality Team Mgt.
 - Steven Alexander, Accounting Applications
 - William Wright, Sports and Entertainment Team Mgt.
 - Philip Carey, Sports and Entertainment Team Mgt.
3. The Board recognized Mr. Julian Buckner, a Wando High School teacher for being named the 2007 National ProStart Teacher of Excellence.
4. The Board recognized Laurel Hill Primary School Improvement Council for being a finalist for the Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement award.
5. Linard McCloud, a student at Wando High performed for the Board.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- The ten semifinalists in the countywide Teacher of the Year competition—Sharon Alford – Belle Hall Elementary, Steve Arato – Orange Grove Charter, Gwendolyn Benton – Morningside Middle, Amy Buckheister – Birney Middle, Angela Childs-Kindred – James Island Charter, Edie Cusack – Cario Middle, Betty McKenzie – Laurel Hill Primary, Erica Roberts – C.E. Williams middle, Heather Wiker – Lambs Elementary, David Wingard – Mitchell Elementary. The Teacher of the Year banquet will be held on April 24th. An invitation was extended to the public to learn more about these individuals on the district's website.
- The district held a county-wide Teacher Recruitment Fair at Burke High over the weekend. Over 400 individuals attended which is an increase of 25% attendance over last year. The district has also posted the teacher transfer video shown at the last board meeting
- Dr. McGinley updated the Board on four key priorities addressed recently:

1. Disproportionate rate of suspension between Caucasian and African American students – Since October when the report was released staff began tracking suspensions totals and rates based on race and income on a bi-weekly basis. This data has driven actions taken by staff and recommendations made by the volunteer task force of nearly 50 African American school leaders are being implemented.
 2. CCSD staff is working with partners at the College of Charleston on potential cultural awareness training opportunities for staff.
 3. Effective programs such as the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports are being used to scale across the district, especially at the middle and high levels.
 4. The district is researching alternatives to suspension, including community service and Saturday School programs for implementation by next school year with the help of faith-based and community partners.
- Child Health and Nutrition is a topic the superintendent is paying a lot of attention to. According to one study, South Carolina is one of the unhealthiest states in the nation—ranking 46th nationally. If students are unhealthy, they can't learn, and they can't grow into successful adults. This is why child welfare is one of the superintendent's top priorities. A task force was established at the beginning of the school year to address childhood obesity and encourage healthy, nutritious foods in our schools. Walter Campbell, Director of Nutrition and Food Services and Coach Dave Spurlock are working hard to reduce high-fat, high-calorie offerings in our schools and replace them with healthy alternatives and promote physical activity in students and staff. Students from Garrett and Wando were recently awarded for videos they submitted to the Governor's Healthy South Carolina Challenge. The district is also partnering with the City of Charleston on a nationwide wellness initiative. A local nutrition expert, Dr. Ann G. Kulze, has also offered to work with the district on this initiative.
 - The Superintendent recently met with the Charleston Achieving Excellence Advisory Committee—a group of local business, community, and faith-based leaders who helped build the Plan for Excellence to hear their thoughts on the budget for the upcoming school year which she referred to as a "Perfect Storm". They shared good ideas for the preparation of the budget.
 - The Superintendent met with teacher coaches to thank them for their work and inform them that their role must change. Dr. McGinley assured them of her commitment and said they were among the best educators and the district needed their experience.
 - Community budget forums are planned to discuss the proposed budget. The dates and locations of these forums will be posted on the district's website.
 - Dr. McGinley said no matter how bleak the budget is, she promises to do everything to support schools first and make cuts where needed from the outside in.
 - A total of ten \$6,000 School Choice planning grants will be awarded to schools and neighborhood teams or "NPTs" to support their development of partial magnets and choice within their schools. Friday, March 28th is the deadline for submission of NPT grant applications. The review team will notify applicants of awards by April 11, 2008.
 - Dr. McGinley thanked the Board for supporting choice and encouraging the kinds of initiatives that can bridge learning gaps.
 - The superintendent extended condolences to the Mr. Richard Riley and family for the passing of his wife Mrs. Tunky Riley. The Rileys contribution to quality public education was acknowledged.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. David Richardson, Mr. Larry Blasch and Ms. Renee Chewning addressed the Board in support of Sea Island YouthBuild Charter.
2. Ms. Claudia Mazyck addressed the Board regarding Jennie Moore Elementary.
3. Mr. Mike Blanchard and Mr. Gil Jackson members of the Charleston Contractors Association addressed the Board regarding procurement procedures mentioned in a letter Mr. Infinger wrote to the Board.

4. Rev. Clyde Corbin and Ms. Floring Russell addressed the Board regarding facility use fees for Stall High School.
5. Mr. Joe Thompson, a Durham Bus Service driver expressed concerns regarding Durham School Bus Service.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of February 25, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of minutes of February 25, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of March 10, 2008

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

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – the Board approved the following student transfer appeals. The motion was approved 7-2 (Douglas and Jordan opposed).
 - A. A request to transfer from Laing MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - B. A request to transfer from Jennie Moore ES to Laurel Hill ES - Approved
 - C. A request to transfer from Laing MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - D. A request to transfer from Cario MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - E. A request to transfer from Cario MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - F. A request to transfer from Cario MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - G. A request to transfer from Cario MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
 - H. A request to transfer from McClellanville MS to Cario MS – Approved
 - I. A request to transfer from McClellanville MS to Moultrie MS - Approved
- 1.2: Appointment – Principal – Harborview ES - the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Timothy Ellenberger to the position of principal at Harborview Elementary. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.3: Property Matter - Appointment – The Board approved the contract to purchase property identified as the McAllister Togant Sloan Tract, LLC for the new Whitesides Elementary and transfer funds from project #5777, District 2 Land to project #5662, Whitesides ES to fund this land purchase. No additional funds are required, if the transfer is approved. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.4: Contractual Matters:
 - A. Center of Arts and Academics Revised Schedule – the Board approved a recommendation from staff as follows. The motion was approved 9-0.
 - 1) Allow contractors 18 months to complete Phase I.
 - 2) Open up discussion with successful contractor to determine if economically feasible to accelerate Phase I to open by August 2009 as planned.
 - 3) Recalibrate the opening dates for each phase of the project after contract award.
 - B. The Board received briefings in Executive Session on several contracts. No actions were taken.
 - C. Requests for Proposal for the new District 4 Middle School – The Board received information regarding CCSD Procurement practices regarding construction and the recent requests for proposal for the new district 4 middle school. No action was taken.
- 1.4: Legal Matter: The Board approved a recommendation from General Counsel on a legal matter. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.3: Financial Minutes of February 25, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook to approve the Financial Minutes of February 25, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

There was no Management Report on this agenda.

VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

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

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Revised Policy Regulations: IKACA-R – Parent Conferences, IMB-R – Teaching about Controversial/ Sensitive Issues, JJ-R – Textbook Selection and Adoption and IKAA-R – Tests and Examinations - Approved

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve revisions of Policy Regulations as follows. The motion was approved 9-0.

- IKACA-R – Parent Conferences, IMB-R – Teaching about Controversial/ Sensitive Issues
- IJJ-R – Textbook Selection and Adoption
- IKAA-R – Tests and Examinations

9.2: Second Reading – Policy DKC – Fiscal Management – Approved

A recommendation for the approval of the second reading of policy DKC.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the second reading of policy DKC – Fiscal Management. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.3: Update – Sea Island YouthBuild Site Visit - Received as Information

An update regarding site visits to Sea Island YouthBuild.

Mr. Randolph Bynum provided an update on academic site visits to Sea Island YouthBuild Charter as follows:

- A team visited the school November 2007 and February 2008. The report indicated the level of instruction from non-existence to little evidence. Students were un-supervised. A construction student was left unsupervised in a locked classroom. Because there is no master scheduled, many things did not take place. In regards to enrollment, there were 30 students present during the first visit and 10 during the second visit. No attendance records or files were onsite and no student work was available. The District pays \$6000 per student. To date, the charter school has been paid \$347,000. Rev. Heyward, the minister of St. James Church on James Island has also expressed concerns about teachers not being in classrooms. Rev. Heyward also shared concerns from a student about availability of textbooks, restroom breaks, and no teachers in classrooms.

Mr. Bynum recommended that Sea Island YouthBuild be terminated because of students not receiving instruction and safety and security issues. During discussion, some members of the Board expressed concerns about the process in which this information was presented to the Board. Mr. Ravenel motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody to receive the update as information only. The motion was approved 8-1 (Douglas opposed).

9.4: Textbook Adoption for 2008-2009 - Approved

A recommendation to approve the adoption of instructional materials for Business/Marketing, Career Education, Family and Consumer Science, occupational, Foreign Languages, K-12, Performing Arts K-12, Social Studies 9-12, Visual Arts K-12.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to adopt instructional materials listed above. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.5: Facility Use Request – West Ashley High - Approved

A recommendation to approve a facility use request for West Ashley High in accordance to Board Policy KF.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the facility use request for West Ashley High. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.6: Facility Use Request – Stall - Approved

A recommendation to approve a facility use request for Stall High in accordance to Board Policy KF.

This item was pulled for discussion. Mrs. Jordan asked staff to reconsider miscellaneous fees for usage of the Stall facility. After discussion, Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the facility use request for Stall High and look at facility fees. The motion was approved 7-0. (Mrs. Green left the meeting before voting and Mr. Engelman briefly left the room and was not present during voting of this item).

9.7: Facility Use Request – Wando High - Approved

A recommendation to approve a facility use request for Wando High in accordance to Board Policy KF.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the facility use request for Wando High. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.8: Facility Use Request – Wando High - Approved

A recommendation to approve a facility use request for Wando High in accordance to Board Policy KF.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the facility use request for Wando High. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.9: Bid Award Recommendation – Early Rebar for Mt. Pleasant Academy, Orange Grove ES, E.B. Ellington ES - Approved

A recommendation to approve a bid award recommendation for Early Rebar for Mt. Pleasant Academy, Orange Grove ES and E.B. Ellington ES, at a cost of \$119,235.00. The funding source is capital funds.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the bid award recommendation for Early Rebar for Mt Pleasant Academy, Orange Grove ES and E.B. Ellington ES. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.10: Sanders Clyde K-8 School Early Pile Site Package Construction Contract Award - Approved

A recommendation to approve the Sanders-Clyde K-8 School Early Site Pile Package construction contract. The cost of \$1,047,029.00 - capital funds.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve the Sanders Clyde K-8 School Early Pile Site Package construction contract. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.11: High School Band Instrument Initiative Program - Approved

A recommendation to approve a lease to purchase program agreement option for high school band instruments. The cost of \$115,000.00 - capital funds.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve a lease to purchase program agreement option for high school band instruments. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.12: Infinger Letter – Received as Information

The Board discussion regarding a letter received from Mr. Infinger regarding the bid process.

Mr. William Lewis, Interim Chief Operating Officer provided information to the Board in response to a letter the Board received from Mr. Infinger regarding the bid process. Then Mr. Lewis responded to questions from individual board members.

9.13: Software Purchase – Academy of Reading and Math – Not Approved

A recommendation to approve the Academy of Reading and Math software purchase.

Since this agenda item was added to the agenda and no information was provided in advance, it was the consensus of the Board that this item be addressed at a Special Called meeting on March 17, 2008 before the Budget Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:30 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Mr. Moody to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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