

April 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, April 14, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson – Mr. Hillery Douglas, Vice Chair - Ms. Nancy Cook, Mr. David Engelman, 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. Michael Bobby, Mr. Randolph Bynum, 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 April 14, 2008

1. The Parent University graduates were recognized. Parents of students enrolled at one of seven CCSD schools worked with teachers to improve the quality of education for their children.
2. Dr. Lynda Davis was honored and awarded by the College of Charleston with the Presidential Legacy Award.
3. Garrett Academy of Technology hospitality students were recognized by the Board for winning the South Carolina Lodging Management Student Invitational.
4. James Island Charter School Media Technology students were recognized for being 1st place winners in the FBLA Competition.
5. James Island Charter School Academic Bowl students were acknowledged for being winners in the 2008 Academic Bowl Competition. They will also compete at the national level.
6. Wando High School students were recognized for the State HOSA Competition.
7. St. Andrews Middle School students were honored for being 1st place winners in the Odyssey of the Mind State Championship. They will represent the district in the World Championship.
8. CCSD Spelling Bell Winners were named and recognized.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent, Dr. Nancy McGinley reported the following:

- The District held the last of six budget forums last Monday at West Ashley High School. At each meeting a seven minute budget video was shown followed by a question and answer period. Some themes heard during these forums were support our teachers, don't change what's working, how can we help? and what could be done to change the budget formula. Dr. McGinley thanked everyone for their support and State Legislators who attended budget forums and helped staff explain the state budget formula. Staff is prepared to present a preliminary budget to the Board later in the meeting which offers a solid blueprint for a successful 2008-09 budget.
- Dr. McGinley congratulated twelve Charleston County Schools which the State Department recently identified for closing the achievement gap. Those schools are: Harbor View Elementary, Minnie Hughes Elementary, Jennie Moore Elementary, Dunston Elementary, Sanders Clyde Elementary, Springfield Elementary, St. Andrews Elementary, Stiles Point

Elementary, Ashley River Elementary, Buist Academy, School of the Arts, and Pinckney Elementary.

- In the last few weeks, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate a new basketball court at James Simons Elementary; the unveiling of a state-of the-art “outdoor learning Classroom” was celebrated at James Island Elementary; a “Math Bowl” competition was held at St. Andrews Math and Science in which Board Chairman Hillery Douglas participated and Ms. Rachel Ray visited Jennie Moore Elementary.
- Dr. McGinley also extended condolences to the family of the late Jerry Zucker who participated in the November Principal for a Day celebration at North Charleston Elementary.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Theodore Brown addressed the Board about school issues.
2. Ms. Jamie Robinson addressed the board about an opportunity for the district to purchase Stoney Field.
3. Kathleen Dingle, Giavonna White and Kaitlyn White asked the board to consider an allocation for a full-time band/choir director at Mitchell Elementary.
4. Marvin Stewart addressed the Board in support of the Charleston Math & Science Charter and shared concerns regarding District 20 Schools.
5. Ms. Robyn Bradley and Mr. Richard Davis addressed the Board regarding the proposal for shared space for Academic Magnet.
6. Dr. David Church, Executive Director of South Carolina Association for Public Charter Schools addressed the Board regarding the Charleston Math and Science Charter. Dr. Church urged the board to support Charleston Math and Science Charter School and informed the board that a facility to house the charter is crucial.
7. Mr. Larry Kobrovsky addressed the Board regarding the naming of a new school. He suggested the board consider naming the new Dorchester Road School for Ms. Elizabeth Kandrac who won a case for racial hostility in the district.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

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

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of minutes of March 25, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of April 10, 2008

The Board acted on the following Executive Session Agenda items as follows. **Note: Mr. Moody did not vote on Executive Session items because he did not return to Open Session until the Board got to item**

6.3 -Approval of the Financial Minutes.

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – the Board approved the following student transfer appeals based on availability of space. The board approved all transfers except L and R. The motion was approved 6-2 (Douglas and Jordan Opposed).
 - A. Angel Oak ES Harborview ES –
 - B. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
 - C. Mt. Zion ES to Harborview ES
 - D. Mt. Zion ES to James Island ES
 - E. St. Johns HS to West Ashley HS
 - F. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
 - G. Mt. Zion ES to Stiles Pt. ES
 - H. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
 - I. Haut Gap MS to Ft. Johnson MS
 - J. Frierson ESA to Stiles Point ES

- K. St. Johns HS to West Ashley HS
- L. Angel Oak ES to Stiles Point ES
- M. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
- N. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
- O. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
- P. St. Johns HS to West Ashley HS
- Q. Angel Oak ES to Stiles Point ES
- R. James Island ES to Stiles Point ES
- S. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES
- T. Angel Oak ES to Harborview ES

- 1.2: West Ashley Middle Student Appeal – The Board pulled this item from the agenda. No action was taken.
- 1.3 Appointment – Principal – Academic Magnet High – The Board approved a recommendation appoint Ms. Judith Peterson to the position of principal at Academic Magnet High School. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.4: The Board pulled the recommendation for the appointment of principal at SOA.
- 1.5: The Board approved a recommendation appoint Mr. Louis Martin to the position of Associate Superintendent for the Secondary School Learning Community. The motion was approved 7-1 (Engelman abstained).
- 1.6: The Board approved a recommendation appoint Ms. Terri Nichols to the position of Associate Superintendent for the Elementary School Learning Community. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.7: Contractual Matter – The Board approved a motion to amend the HVAC Equipment at Wando HS motion approved March 25, 2008 to exempt this procurement from the CCSD Procurement Code. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.8: Personnel Matters – The Board discussed several personnel matters in executive session. No action was taken.
- 1.9: Legal Matter – The Board discussed a legal matter in executive session. No action was taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of March 25, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to approve the Financial Minutes of March 25, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORTS

7.1: FY09 Preliminary Budget

The Board discussed the FY09 Preliminary General Operating Budget and a request for approval of early release for strategic staffing funds to allow contracts to be issued for teachers to fill positions. As requested earlier by the Board, staff brought two options of balanced budgets as follows:

Option A:

- ¹ Includes Hold Harmless @ FY2008 level (\$10.4M) and 3.4 mill increase
- ² Does NOT include additional Hold Harmless for reductions to State revenue in fringe benefits of \$3.9M
- ³ Includes use of Fund Balance for FY2009 budget of \$1.7M

Option B:

¹ Includes Hold Harmless @ FY2008 level (\$10.4M) and NO mill increase

² Does NOT include additional Hold Harmless for reductions to State revenue in fringe benefits of \$3.9M

³ Includes use of Fund Balance for FY2009 budget of \$7.4M

The total Revenue and Expenditures for both budgets = \$326,461,538

- Budget highlights:

- Fortify Schools (Priority)
- Provide Strategic Support to all school levels and all school ratings
- The district recognizes the impact of using Fund Balance
- Board recognizes the link between Accelerated Academic Progress and Adequate Resources
- Budget reflects the input received from Board and community forums

- 74% of the District's budget is salaries & fringe benefits
- A millage increase of 3.4 has been used for Budget A
- The Board has expressed confidence in the ability of the Legislative Delegation to provide CCSD with the \$10.4 million "hold harmless" (Included in Budget A and B)
- Note: For FY09 the "hold harmless" should be \$15 million.

Projected Revenues and Expenditures:

REVENUES	FY2008 Budget	FY2009 Projected ¹	Variance
Local	\$ 219,451,642	\$ 229,851,369	\$ 10,399,727
State	94,372,245	92,108,482 ²	(2,263,763)
Federal	281,292	281,292	0
Other	7,049,779	4,220,395 ³	(2,829,384)
Total Revenues	\$ 321,154,958	\$326,461,538	\$ 5,306,580

¹ Includes Hold Harmless @ FY2008 level (\$10.4M) and 3.4 mill increase

² Does NOT include additional Hold Harmless for reductions to State revenue in fringe benefits of \$3.9M

³ Includes use of Fund Balance for FY2009 budget of \$1.7M

EXPENDITURES	FY2008 Budget	FY2009 Projected	Variance
Salaries & Fringe	\$ 236,732,277	\$ 246,282,981	\$ 9,550,704
Purchased Services	42,707,250	41,288,621	(1,418,629)
Supplies & Materials	13,199,975	16,943,744	3,743,769
Transfers & Other Exp	28,515,456	30,294,430	1,778,974
Total Expenditures	\$ 321,154,958	\$ 334,809,776	\$ 13,654,818

7.2: LowCountry Tech High Status Report

The Board received a report on LowCountry Tech High as information.

VIII: CHARLESTON PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

There were no Charleston Plan for Excellence items presented at this meeting.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Approval of Expenditures for Laura Brown Special Board Funds for 2007-2008

A recommendation to approve the Laura Brown Special Board Funds allocations for 2007-2008 at 58 % of \$84,449 (\$48,981 allocated; \$1,019 contingency).

Mr. Engelman motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation for allocation of the 2007-2008 Laura Brown Special Board Funds. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.2: Request to make Procurement Cards a Permanent Program

A recommendation to approve the removal of "Pilot" from the procurement card program and allow Procurement Services to expand the program to include additional Facility, Maintenance and school staff.

Mr. Frederick Feil responded to questions and concerns from staff regarding procurement cards indicating that the district is able to block vendors that are not approved by the district.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to approve the removal of "Pilot" from the procurement card program and allow Procurement Services to expand the program to include additional Facility, Maintenance and school staff. The motion was approved 5-4 (Cook, Engelman, Moody and Ravenel opposed).

9.3: Purchase of eSchoolMall Procurement Software

The Board will receive information on staff intent to request approval to purchase eSchoolMall procurement software.

The Board received information from staff on the intent to request approval for purchase of eSchoolMall procurement software. No action was taken.

9.4: Renaming Special Day School

A recommendation to approve renaming of Special Day School as required by Policy FF.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a recommendation to rename the new Special Day School Liberty Hill Academy. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.5: Facility Use Request - Burke High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use Burke High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for Burke High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.6: Facility Use Request - Burke High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use Burke High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for Burke High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.7: Facility Use Request - Burke High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use Burke High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for Burke High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.8: Facility Use Request - Burke High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use Burke High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for Burke High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.9: Facility Use Request – North Charleston High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use North Charleston High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for North Charleston High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.10: Facility Use Request – Wando High School

A recommendation to approve a request to use Wando High School Auditorium as required by policy KF-Community Use of School Facilities.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of a facility use request for Wando High School Auditorium. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.11: Facility Agreement for Rivers Campus

A recommendation to approve the proposed facility use agreement for the Rivers campus.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Moody to approve the proposed facility use agreement for the Rivers campus. The motion was approved 6-3 (Douglas, Green, and Jordan opposed). During discussion of the Facility Agreement for Rivers Campus, Mr. Bill Lewis identified two unresolved issues which requires board consideration since staff and general counsel could not reach an agreement during a conference call with Mr. Park Dougherty. The two issues related to startup funds the Math and Science Charter received and \$75,000 deductible amount for property insurance.

Mrs. Green reminded the board that there were three items on the agenda to be considered for the Charleston Math and Science Charter. Item 9.11 a request to approve the Facility Use Agreement for Rivers, 9.12 a request for Phase I Cafeteria and Kitchen Improvements which costs approximately \$1 million and 9.13 is a request to consider different options for the Rivers campus.

Mrs. Jordan questioned why the Memorandum of Agreement was written as if Charleston Math and Science Charter School was a conversion charter instead of a startup charter and suggested the occupants pay the deductible insurance amount.

Mr. Moody said he would support Mr. Ravenel's motion except for the part about operational expense which the charter school should provide.

Mr. Lewis also responded to concerns from Mr. Douglas regarding items from the board minutes related to the approval of the Math and Science Charter that were not included in the agreement such as the information addressing what would happen if diversity numbers are not reached. Mr. Lewis said the agreement covers facility lease and is not a contract about the operation aspect which the official board minutes would reflect and referred to findings from the state which prohibits rent charges. Mr. Douglas reminded staff that the state said the matter should be resolved in Charleston. Mr. Douglas went on to ask if Charleston County School District is prepared to offer the same privileges to all charter schools in the district. Dr. McGinley said a staff recommendation presented in August suggested charter being rent free if they provided mobiles for the first two years.

Mrs. Jordan reiterated that Charleston Math and Science Charter was not a converted charter and suggested the Memorandum of Agreement was prepared by staff under duress and threats, and would have a negative impact on the district's budget, adding \$1 million to the over \$1.2 million and waiving the \$75,000 insurance and free rent. She went on to say she was not against charter schools, however, she is concerned that none of the other startup charter schools were given the same privileges.

Mr. Douglas offered a second amendment to the original motion, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to do nothing, allowing the board to act on this item in 2010. The board did not vote on this item because of the approval of Mr. Ravenel's amendment.

Mr. Ravenel again suggested the Board approve his amendment and have the district absorb rent for the Charleston Math and Science Charter in accordance to Act 189. He further stated that Act 189 was introduced for James Island Charter School and Orange Grove Charter and read from the Attorney General's Opinion dated October 2007.

Mr. Ravenel motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman to amend the motion to strike the word "charter" and insert the word "district" in section #5g on page 9.11-7 (Repairs, Alterations and Improvements/Mobiles and Auxiliary Classrooms) changing a sentence in the Memorandum of Agreement to read "The district shall be responsible for the purchase, rental charges and all fees related to the installation or removal of all trailers and auxiliary classrooms necessary to house students". The motion was approved 5-4 (Douglas, Green, Jordan and Meyers opposed).

After approval, Mr. Lewis told the board that since item "6g"- Purchase and Rental is a major cost which includes setting up, preparing for computer use, security, sewer, and other costly items, that's why staff requested clarification on board intent for mobiles. Mr. Meyers reiterated that Mr. Ravenel's motion covers all.

Mr. Moody responded to statements made earlier by Mrs. Jordan indicating that the greatest hit is the \$300 million budget that doesn't work and pointed out that Charleston Math and Science may be a good addition to District 20. Mrs. Jordan final statements regarding this matter was that there are eight charters all trying to do the same thing and that the district should prepare to do the same for other charter schools and two new ones to be considered. She suggested the records reflect that staff members were threatened and put under duress because of the MOA for Charleston Math and Science Charter. The Board voted to approve the MOA. Now what's going to happen to other schools, will they be underserved?

9.12: Rivers Educational Center – Phase I Cafeteria and Kitchen Improvements

A recommendation to approve the Rivers Education Center Phase I Cafeteria and Kitchen Improvements construction contract.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve staff recommendation to approve the Rivers Educational Center Phase I Cafeteria and Kitchen Improvements construction contract to Metro Contracting

Inc. for the stipulated sum of \$913,126. The motion was approved 6-3 (Douglas, Green and Jordan abstained).

9.13: Rivers Campus Options

The Board will discuss and provide staff directions regarding potential options for the Rivers campus and approve funds needed to execute directions.

The Board received information on Rivers Campus Options. Chairperson Douglas requested the Board review and bring questions to the next meeting on April 28, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 9:30 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Ms. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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