

June 23, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 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. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mr. Brian Moody participated by phone, listening and voting on a single agenda item— 9.11 – Approval of FY2009 Budget. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. Randolph Bynum, Mr. Bill Lewis, Dr. Brenda Nelson, Mr. John Emerson 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 Mrs. Green 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 May 27, 2008

1. Ms. Clara Heinsohn introduced Senator Chip Campsen and Representative Chip Limehouse who presented a resolution to Academic Magnet High for its performance after being ranked #7 in the country as named by Newsweek. The resolution mentioned Academic Magnet being the second highest academic rate in the state of South Carolina next to the Governor's School and the school's athletic record. The Concurrent Resolution was presented to Brian Blalock, Academic Magnet School Improvement Council chairman and Assistant Principal, Dr. Patrick Harrington.
2. Dr. Lynda Davis, Associate Superintendent for the East Cooper and Peninsula Learning Community was presented the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor, by Senator Chip Campsen and Representative Chip Limehouse. Dr. Davis said she was grateful to the Board for allowing her to serve students for 40 years and expressed her appreciation to the board for approving the new school for Stall HS. Dr. Davis also mentioned Dr. Tillie Dunston the former administrator who initially gave her the opportunity to work in the district. She urged the board to remain true to their integrity and always base decisions on what is best for the children.

Senator Campsen said he while he was not aware that James Island Charter Renewal was on the agenda, he is supportive of the charter renewal.

Mr. Douglas thanked Senator Campsen and Representative Limehouse for their efforts to support the district at the state level.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley reported the following:

- o Staff spent the week preparing for the second reading of the budget. A "public hearing" was held to discuss the budget with community members. Other steps were taken earlier to engage the public about the budget include countywide budget forums, a budget video, a designated e-mail

address for public feedback, and a web page. The budget being proposed tonight is comprehensive and was developed to maintain resources on the school level.

- o Dr. McGinley went on to share that this week CCSD took steps by offering 17 schools “earned autonomy.” Schools with “earned autonomy” status are those whose academic performance has earned them the right to operate with more independence and freedom, while also adhering to the basic accountability mandates required by the district and state.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Ms. Barbara Drake, Ms. Kathleen Allison, Mr. Raymond Wright, Mr. Bob Bohnstengl, Mr. David White Jr., Ms. Cynthia Jones, Rev. William Green, Ms. Jan Condon Ashcraft, Ms. Sarah Green , Rev. Alex White, Ms. Connie Hawkins, Mr. Park Dougherty, Ms. Kathleen Harrison addressed the Board in support of the renewal of the charter for James Island Charter High School.
2. Mrs. Helen Frasier, a parent advocate at North Charleston High, addressed the Board in support of a student who was accused of cheating and her mother who was banned from the school and later arrested for disorderly conduct. Ms. Frasier asked the Board to consider allowing the student to graduate from Summer School in June. Mr. Bynum, the Chief Academic Officer was asked to communicate with Ms. Frasier, the student and the parent.
3. Mrs. Gwen Bobo expressed concerns about negative comments made about the Superintendent by a Board Member. Mr. Douglas reminded Ms. Bobo about policy which prohibits an individual to address the Board about the same topic within a six month period.
4. Mrs. Beverly Birch, a representative of the Ministerial Alliance addressed the Board about High Tech High. She mentioned the Board speaking about shortage of money yet had no problem allocating money for a new charter school. Further, she questioned how board could approve money for charter and yet ignore High Tech High or an alternative high school for students in need. Mrs. Birch urged the board to place High Tech High back on agenda as “top priority”.
5. Rev. Ed. McClain – Urged the board to consider High Tech High as promised earlier at the Rivers Middle School site sharing building with Charleston Math and Science Charter. Rev. McClain questioned board’s intention regarding High Tech High program.
6. Rev. Robert Leeper questioned the Board’s effort to provide separate education for some at taxpayer’s expense. Rev. Leeper also suggested the burial with the “B” word.
7. Ms. Alice Abrams expressed concerns about James Island Charter High School and asked the Board to deny the renewal of the charter application.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of May 27, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of June 9, 2008. The motion was approved 8-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of June 23, 2008

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

1.1: Contractual Matter – District 4 Stall High School Construction Contract – Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award the contract for construction of the new District 4 Stall High School to MB Kahn in the amount of \$46, 372,075. The motion was approved 8-0.

1.2: Legal Matters

A. James Island Charter – The Board acted on two motions for the charter renewal for James Island Charter as follows:

- The motion approve charter in accordance with statute, provided the school develop a plan to address issues with the International Baccalaureate Program and AYP and report back to the Board in one year failed 4-4 (Cook, Engelman, Ravenel and Toler opposed).
- The motion to approve charter in accordance with statute failed with a 4-4 (Douglas, Green, Jordan and Meyers opposed).

B. Sea Island Charter Appeal Hearing – The Board identified a date for the Sea Island Charter Appeal at 5:15pm on Monday, July 14, 2008..

1.3: Student Expulsion Appeals – The Board scheduled the following student expulsion appeals.

- A. West Ashley High School
- B. West Ashley High School
- C. Wando High
- D. Ft. Johnson Middle

1.4: Appointment – Principal – Jane Edwards Elementary – The Board approved a recommendation to appoint Susan Miles as principal at Jane Edwards Elementary. The motion was approved 8-0.

6.3: Financial Minutes of June 9, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green to approve the Financial Minutes of June 9, 2008. The motion was approved 8-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Management Reports to come before the Board at this meeting.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

There were no Charleston Achieving Excellence reports to come before the Board at this meeting.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Whiteside’s Elementary School – Early Site Work Package

A recommendation to award the contract for Whiteside’s Elementary School – Early Site Work Package.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award a contract to Sanders Brothers Construction for Whitesides Elementary School – Early Site Work Package in the amount of \$681,838.90. The funding source is within previously Board approved budget for all projects included in the bid package. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.2: Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials for Testing for Whitesides Elementary School – Mr. Lewis

A recommendation to award the Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing for Whitesides Elementary.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award the Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing for Whitesides Elementary School to Carolina Consulting Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$87,500.00. The funding for this project is within previously Board approved budget for all projects included in the bid package. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.3: Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing for Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Stiles Point Elementary and E.B. Ellington Elementary – Mr. Lewis

A recommendation to award the Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing for Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Stiles Point Elementary and E.B. Ellington Elementary.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award the Code Required Special Inspections and Construction Materials Testing for Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Stiles Point Elementary and E.B. Ellington Elementary School to Carolina Consulting Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$250,022.00. The funding for this project is within previously Board approved budget for all projects included in the bid package. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.4: Rivers Education Center – Charleston Charter School of Math and Science – Construction Contract Award – Mr. Lewis

A recommendation to approve the Rivers Education Center Charleston Charter School of Math and Science Site and Utilities Package construction contract.

Mr. Engelman motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of the Rivers Education Center-Charleston Charter School of Math and Science Site and Utilities Package construction contract to Metro Contracting, Inc. for the stipulated sum of \$175,175.00. The funding source for this project is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Rivers Education Center project. The current approved total budget, not including CM fees, for the Rivers Education Project is \$4,697,973. The motion was approved 6-2 (Douglas and Green opposed).

During discussion, Mr. Lewis responded to a question from Mrs. Jordan regarding the significant difference in amounts from contractors indicating that one contractor is currently onsite and could move from one project to the next. He went on to state that this is infrastructure only to support mobiles for water and lights and does not include mobiles. CCSD does not have staff to perform services so it's outsourced. Mr. Douglas asked how much more was needed to get set up. Bill Lewis said the total cost could be provided at a separate time.

9.5: Increase funding for High School Band Instruments – Mr. Bobby

A recommendation to increase previously requested funding for High School Band Instruments for the District.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to increase the previously requested funding for High School Band Instruments for the District. The funding source is Fixed Cost Ownership for 2007-2011. The increase this year is \$5,000; therefore, the first year is increased to \$120,000 and the four remaining years is \$124,202.71. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.6 Tax Anticipation Note Resolution – Mr. Bobby

A recommendation to approve the resolution for Tax Anticipation Note.

Mr. Douglas motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the resolution for Tax Anticipation Note in an amount not to exceed \$63.4 million. The funding source is customary TAN and issuance fees. Fees will be paid from interest earnings on the TAN. The motion was approved 5-3 (Engelman, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

9.7: Recommendation for approval of purchase of Emergency Radio Communications – Mr. Bobby

A recommendation to approve the purchase of new digital radios for Emergency Radio Communications.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of the recommendation to purchase new digital radios for Emergency Radio Communications. The funding source is FY09 GOF funds. The total amount of this purchase is \$88,055.22. The motion was approved 8-0

9.8: EFA/EIA Audit – Mr. Bobby

A recommendation to accept the audit as information and authorize two repayment items.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of the recommendation to accept the EFA/EIA audit as information and authorize the two repayment items. The funding sources are \$102,271 EFA over claim – General Operating Funds and \$160,647 for EIA claim – General Operating Funds. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.9: Approval of Certified Administrator Contracts for 2008-2009

A recommendation to approve contracts for certified administrators for 2008-2009.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of the recommendation for contracts for certified administrators for 2008-2009. Approved 8-0

9.10: Recommendation for approval - Resilient Tile Flooring Material for Charleston County School District and the District's Capital Building Program Bid #B8023 – Mr. Bobby

A recommendation for the Resilient Tile Flooring Material bid award – Bid #8023.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Ms. Cook approval of the recommendation to award the Resilient Tile Flooring Material for Charleston County School District's Capital Building Program Bid #8023 to Bonitz Flooring Group, Inc. The funding source is FY09 General Operating Funds, the annual Charleston County School District Maintenance Department amount is \$50,000. The motion was approved 8-0.

During discussion Mr. Feil responded to questions and concerns from Mrs. Jordan and Mr. Douglas about the four-year recommendation. They asked if it could be reduced to one year, if there was time to solicit other bids since almost \$1million and what was done to secure additional bids? It was determined that this item would be pulled to allow staff to further investigate how this item was advertised. Therefore, no action was taken.

9.11: Approval of FY2009 Budget

A recommendation to approve the budget for FY09.

At this time, attempts were made to reach Mr. Moody by phone to participate and vote on the FY2009 Budget.

NOTE: Brian Moody was reached by phone to listen to the budget prior to voting on same.

Mr. Bobby presented the Budget for FY2009, an integrated budget, indicating that a large amount was been shifted to Capital Plan. The five-part Budget follows:

1. The proposed budget is \$323 million; last year's budget \$321 million.
2. Special Revenue - \$51million (separate budgets are incorporated into this budget)
3. Education Improvement Act funding for FY2009 has decreased.
4. Food Service - \$20 million to maintain self-sufficient program. An increased amount will be charged for breakfast and lunch because of skyrocketing cost of food.
5. Debt Services – Challenged by opportunity to do things with long-standing impact. Additional 5.5 mills – Classroom modernization to balance technology throughout the district. Fixed cost of ownership – Safety upgrades, furniture, fixture, upgrade.

Earlier two budgets identified as budgets A and B were presented to the Board during a regular meeting and workshop. The difference in the two budgets was the Hold Harmless (\$10 million) which is now down to \$3 million. Because of the reduced Hold Harmless amount, a single budget is presented. Mr. Bobby also identified budget revisions since the initial budget was presented. The

amount thought of as additions weren't additions but re-purposed amounts = \$1 million. Furlough for 12 month administrators (6 days) was removed after discovering savings from leased computers. The budget was adjusted to remove the administrative furlough. The amount of fund balance was reduced to \$7.1 million. Mr. Bobby read proviso as follows:

During discussion, Mr. Toler requested the number administrative positions eliminated since there were a number classified positions eliminated. Mr. Bobby responded that 2 non certified 3 certificated and 44 classified school based were eliminated and 23.5 positions were reduced from 12 months to 10 months. Also, 65 teaching reassignments were and 35 teacher assistant reassignments made. Also in response to Mr. Toler's questions about salary adjustment for administrators, Mr. Bobby said that they were still in proposed budget. Mr. Toler went on to express concerns about never seeing the Palmer and Cay Salary Study. Dr. McGinley responded indicating that the Palmer and Cay Salary Recommendation was fully applied for classified and now for administrators.

Mr. Bobby also suggested fund balance be maintained. He has reviewed parcels and has a good idea which ones will be recommended for sale. Ms. Cook said the City of North Charleston is looking to buy property. She urged staff explore sale of N. Charleston property. Mr. Bobby said if the proposed proviso fully funded the district would receive 50% of Hold Harmless, and maybe a portion of another amount. Also in response to Ms. Cook's questions about how additional amount would be used if got more than expected. Mr. Bobby said he would consider putting it in the Reserve Fund. In response to Ms. Cook's question about the same level cost of living raise for all employees, Mr. Bobby response was that the district doesn't have authority to reduce teacher salary increase mandated by the state.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Douglas approval of the FY2009 Budget with seven qualifications as follows:

I move that we approve the budget as presented by the Superintendent in the amount of 323,469,577.00, with the following qualifications:

- o The \$7.1 million used from the fund balance for the FY 2009 budget shall be replenished in FY 2009 from future sales of CCSD real estate.
- o If real estate sales or state funding generate more than \$7.1 million, all additional proceeds from those sales or state funding shall be applied to the fund balance, to meet or exceed the Board policy of fund balance equal to not less than 5% of the total operating budget
- o That the administration certifies that the allocations for Memminger Elementary and North Charleston Elem remain the same as that for Buist Elementary, as approved in 2007.
- o That administration certify that the FY 2009 budget contains a sum sufficient for Hursey Elementary to offer a Montessori program, as approved in 2007.
- o That the administration certify that the approved annual band uniform allocation of \$60,000 is included in the FY 2009 budget
- o That in 120 days the Superintendent shall return a proposal for Board approval to enable teachers and staff, at no cost to the district, to donate unused sick leave to a colleague, and
- o During FY 2009 the Superintendent shall identify expenditures, equivalent to not less than 10% of the General Operating Fund budget, which the Superintendent deems to be the district's least effective expenditures, and the Superintendent shall recommend ways to improve the effectiveness of that spending, including whether to close or consolidate schools.

At this time Mr. Douglas stated that the FY2009 budget was the toughest budget he has seen in sixteen years. While he doesn't see where the district could get funds, he doesn't want to go backwards with un-kept schools or layoff teachers.

Mr. Engleman expressed concerns about Mr. Moody voting on this item by phone indicating that its not legal to have a phone in vote. Mr. Douglas (Board Chair) overruled that it was legal to vote by phone after listening to entire presentation and that he checked earlier with legal counsel on same matter.

After discussion, the budget was approved with a 5-4 vote (Cook, Engelman, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

Mrs. Green thanked staff for diligent work on budget. Ms. Cook asked Mr. Meyers to develop a policy that prohibits staff from adding new programs when there are budget constraints.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved:

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