

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Chairperson 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. Michael Bobby, Dr. Doug Gepford, 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

Chair Hillery Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Engelman 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. Chair 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 September 8, 2008

The Board recognized the Facility Services Department for preparing CCSD schools and offices for the beginning of the new school year. Facility Services Department moved and renovated 16 mobile classrooms during the summer, completed multiple maintenance projects, and cleaned and maintained facilities on 1400 acres of property.

The Board recognized the Teacher Employment Office for its outstanding recruitment efforts. The 2008-2009 school year began with only 3 vacancies.

The Board recognized volunteers from Hands of Christ. Mr. Jim Frye, a volunteer from Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Sydney Davis, Pastor of Zion Olive Presbyterian Church helped the group distribute school supplies and uniforms to CCSD students.

The Board recognized Mrs. Karen Felder, principal of Jennie Moore Elementary School, and Ms. Ali Bradley, Jennie Moore parent, for receiving the 2008 South Carolina Healthy School Award.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Ms. Audrey Lane the new Broad intern welcomed.
- Dr. McGinley thanked parents, employees, and partners who helped with the preparation for Tropical Storm Hanna. The district operated closely with the county's Emergency Operations Center to make decisions. The preparation provided an opportunity to develop a system for future storms. Four CCSD school shelters were open at 6 p.m. on Thursday and closed on Saturday morning serving approximately 135 citizens. Principals and CCSD Facility Services staff and Emergency Preparedness who worked to assess and prepare our schools for re-opening were thanked.
- The visit of Deputy Secretary of Education was rescheduled because of the storm threat. and
- Dr. McGinley visited Columbia for a meeting with superintendents to discuss the state's recent budget cuts and their ramifications on our district. CCSD will release a brief video to staff that will discuss the cuts and drastic cost-cutting steps already taken. Charleston County is taking the biggest hit of any district across the state. The district is trying to figure out how to protect the instructional core between teacher and student—from a \$5-\$6 million dollar loss.

- The district's PACT scores will be released to the public at 10 A.M. Wednesday. CCSD will send scores to the Board and post on the website on Wednesday. Dr. McGinley looks forward to seeing improvements, implementing our new Charleston Achieving Excellence plan, and continuing the forward momentum, in spite of the budget situation.

At this time, Ms. Cook requested staff provide the following updates to the Board.

- Academic Magnet High School campus information;
- School of the Arts Stings Teacher information;
- Contractors employed with the District with details such as their names, how much they are paid, and the department they work for; and
- Proceedings about sensitive information leaked and allegations about who leaked information.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Larry Blasch addressed the Board about improvements taken at Sea Island YouthBuild and asked the Board not to revoke the charter.
2. Ms. Emily Chong shared information about upcoming events at Academic Magnet High School and thanked the Board for its continual support.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

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

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of August 11, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 25, 2008

1.1: Student Transfer Appeal – The Board acted on one student transfer appeal as follows. The Board approved a student transfer release. The motion was approved 9-0.

1.2: Property Matter – James Island Charter High School Land – The Board approved a recommendation to proceed with purchase of land identified on TMS#428-00-00-008 and TMS #428-00-00-009 for a total purchase price of \$2,372,197.65 plus closing costs. The funding for this purchase is included in the 2005-2009 Capital Building Program that the Board approved earlier.

The Board approved a recommendation to allow staff to proceed with the purchase of land for James Island Charter High School. The motion was approved 7-2 (Douglas and Jordan).

1.3: Change Order – Center for Arts and Academics – The Board approved a recommendation of Amendment #008 in the amount of \$244,696 to the Thomas & Denzinger Architects, Inc. agreement dated January 1, 2004 that is associated with the Owner requested addition and plan revisions to the Academic Magnet High School. The funding for this project requires additional funding which requires future reallocation from the Building Program Contingency (Bond Proceeds) in the amount of 4,806,463.

The Board approved the recommendation for change order for the Center of Arts and Academics – Amendment #008 in the amount of \$244,696. The motion was approved 8-1 (Toler).

1.4: Personnel Matter – The Board received information on a personnel matter. No action was taken.

1.5: Contractual Matter – The Board received information on a contractual matter. No action was taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of August 25, 2008

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

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Audit and Finance Committee Meeting Update

Ms. Kathleen Milne, Internal Auditor for the District provided an update to the Board on the Audit and Finance Committee meeting of August 21, 2008.

7.2: Budget Update

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer for the District presented an update to the Board on estimated budget cuts from the state listed below. Currently, student enrollment is down by 300. While the number of elementary students increased, the number of middle and high school students decreased.

- Education Finance Act Funds - \$200,000
- Education Improvement Act Funds - \$900,000
- Special Revenue Funds - \$200,000

Staff will continue with strategies to re-build fund balance and re-constitute operations. The full story on state reductions may not be known until mid to late September. Therefore, a plan will be developed to further curb expenditures, re-purpose from GOF to other sources and staff will continue to seek out revenue generation options.

7.3: Plan for School Consolidation & Public Engagement

Dr. McGinley presented information to the Board on school consolidation and public engagement in response to a request the Board made last spring. The goals, criterias, public engagement and decision making process in the Replicating Success: School Effectiveness and Efficiency Plan were outlined. After sharing the plan with impacted areas, staff will bring a recommendation to the Board on November 10, 2008 or January 12th 2009.

After the presentation, Dr. McGinley received input from the Board. The overall response from the Board was positive. Board input follows.

- Mrs. Jordan urged the Board to be mindful of the impact voluntary student transfers, authorized by the Board, could have on school consolidation decisions.
- Ms. Cook suggested the Board take an extensive look at consolidation before making decisions on property sales.
- Mr. Ravenel suggested that since a number of schools in the district that are half-full, consolidation should be considered to make room for charter schools with facility needs.
- Mr. Meyers encouraged staff to weigh in educational value over facility condition and said that Academic Magnet High enrollment is below 600 students by design, therefore, it should not be penalized.
- Mr. Douglas reminded staff that many things done were over the years impacted student enrollment such as relocation of upper grades at Dunston. He suggested the approach should be to make the District more efficient and stated that “the Board must decide if a moratorium was needed to put additional schools and programs on hold.” Mr. Douglas also requested information on additional funds required to fund all schools in Charleston County School District as charter schools.
- Mr. Moody suggested the plan be called “School Restructuring Criteria”. He went on to suggest that it was necessary to deliver better services for less money.
- Mrs. Green said it’s a business decision and necessary to look at consolidation evaluating objectively.
- Ms. Cook said students shouldn’t be trapped in failing schools referencing Frierson Elementary. She went on to say the District must stop bleeding schools that fail children.

Dr. McGinley ended the discussion by stating that she would bring the proposal back to the Board for approval.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Using MAP Data to Guide School-wide Change

Ms. Eve Conroy the literacy coach at Pepperhill Elementary presented information on Using MAP Data to Guide School-wide Change.

8.2: Summer Work Execution

Mr. Bill Lewis, Mr. Mark Cobb and Ms. Connie Britton presented information to the Board on summer work execution highlighting Capital Programs, Facility Services, Information Technology and Furniture Fixtures and Equipment projects they completed during the summer.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: First Reading – Revised Board Policy – BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics

A recommendation to approve the first reading of revised Board Policy BCA – Board member Code of ethics.

On behalf of the Policies Committee, Mr. Meyers motioned approval of the first reading of Board Policy BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics. The motion was approved 7-2 (Engelman and Toler).

9.2: Home School Applications

A recommendation to approve home school applications.

Ms. Cook motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of home school applications. The motion was approved 8-1 (Douglas opposed).

9.3: Proposed Revision to Audit Committee Charter

A recommendation to approve the revision to the Audit Committee Charter.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to revise the Audit and Finance Committee Charter, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.4: Internal Audit Charter

The Board received the Internal Audit Department Charter and Executive Endorsement as information.

9.5: 2009 Annual Audit Plan

The Board received the 2009 Annual Audit Plan as information.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to receive the 2009 Internal Audit Charter as information. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.6: Procurement Audit – July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2006

A recommendation to accept the audit report as issued with corrective actions listed by the District to address the audit findings.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to accept the audit report as issued with corrective actions listed by the District to address the audit findings. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.7: Public Easement for C.E. Williams

A recommendation to approve a public easement for public right of way for C.E. Williams Middle School, at no cost to the district.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to approve a public easement for public right of way for C.E. Williams Middle School. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.8: Bid Award – Haut Gap

A recommendation to award to Newton Builders, Inc. for Haut Gap Middle School in the amount of \$12,575,500.00. Funds for this project are within the Board approved budget, no additional funds are required.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to award the bid award for Haut Gap Middle School to Newton Builders in the amount of 12, 575,500.00. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.9: Sub Pay Increase – Information
The Board received information on Sub Pay Increase.

Mr. Moody motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to receive the Sub Pay Increase as information. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.10: Ratification of Sea Island YouthBuild Hearing Decision
A recommendation to revoke the charter of Sea Island YouthBuild Charter.

Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mr. Douglas to revoke the charter of Sea Island YouthBuild because the school has not met and is not meeting the requirements of state and federal law and is in material violation of its charter. The motion was approved 5-3-1 (Engelman, Ravenel and Toler opposed, Cook abstained).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:00 p.m., it was motioned by Mr. Meyers seconded by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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