

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, February 25, 2013, in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street with the following members of the Board present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats – Chair, Mr. Craig Ascue - Vice Chair, Mr. John Barter, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Tom Ducker, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mr. Todd Garrett, Mr. Michael Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly, and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent and Executive Secretary. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Lisa Herring, Dr. Brenda Nelson, and Mr. Padron were also in attendance.

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

At 4:00p.m., Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order. Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, to go in Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:35 p.m. Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, to adopt the amended February 25, 2013 agenda. The vote was 9-0.

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, to change agenda item 11.6 to an information item to allow staff two additional weeks to meet with community members to receive feedback prior to Board approval. Mr. Ascue said it was his understanding that the item was listed as an action item to get the Board's approval. The vote was 8-1.

Mrs. Moffly said changing the item to information only mean staff would continue to proceed with previous board approved action.

IV. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Erica Taylor – Executive Director of Strategy & Communications

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. McGinley briefed the Board on the following:

- Last Thursday Dr. McGinley attended the 50th Anniversary of the Desegregation Celebration. Three of the nine students involved in the desegregation case attended the event. Dr. McGinley personally apologized to those individuals on behalf of the district. She also spoke of efforts to change what happens in the future since there is no way to change the past.
- The Teacher Gala was held on Friday. Mrs. Coats did the champagne toast. Staff member Mrs. Anita Huggins and others who assisted, and business partners who donated gifts were commended for the success of the event which raises money for the Academic Fund at the Coastal Foundation. Over \$100,000 was raised to support the Education Symposium over the summer.
- Senator Tim Scott visited his "alma mater"—Stall HS where he spoke to students about growing up in their community and making wise choices. Principal Kim Wilson organized the event.
- Parents Anonymous held its annual conference at Stall. Over 80 students and 100 parents participated. The Title I Office was instrumental in making the event happen.
- There was no new information on the bus driver strike.
- Sequestration –The district is concerned about across the board cuts on federal budgets. Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title V, and Title VI, Special Education and Head start may be impacted.
- Apple Distinguished School award made a presentation to Drayton Hall ES for its leadership in technology, specifically the use of I Pads. Principal John Cobb and teachers of Drayton Hall ES were recognized by Mrs. Adair Caperton, the Education Development Executive with Apple Education, Apple Inc. Ms. Caperton shared information on the K-20 School wide program. Drayton is 1 of 87 schools selected as a k-12 school to receive the "Apple Distinguished School" award. The school was selected because of five factors--Visionary

leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success and flexible learning environment. Mr. Cobb received a book signed by Stephanie Corello, Vice President of Apple Computer and a banner that would be hung at the school. Also, last Tuesday, February 19th the "Apple Distinguished Educator" award was presented to teacher Ms. Kristi Meeuwse, a Drayton Hall Kindergarten teacher and author of *iTeachWithiPads* blog.

VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Mr. Ivan Campbell, a Lincoln HS student, expressed concerns about rumors about relocation/closing of Lincoln HS due to low student enrollment numbers.
2. Mr. Nathaniel Pinckney, a member of St. James Santee community, expressed concerns related to moving students to St. James Santee. He also shared a recommendation from an earlier community meeting about moving middle school students to another location and how it would get in the way of building a new school.
3. Mr. Samuel Campbell, a member of District 1, an un-incorporated area in Charleston, addressed the board about a meeting held at Lincoln HS in January and unanswered questions from that meeting about the future plans for Lincoln HS.
4. Ms. Patricia Miller, a Friends of Frierson representative, addressed the board in support of Frierson ES.
5. Ms. Jennie Leckie expressed concerns about the district's intent to move the sixth grade class from Jane Edwards ES.
6. Mr. E. M. Skidmore expressed concerns about the district's intent to move the sixth grade class from Jane Edwards ES. He said bussing students was not a good idea. He urged the board to reconsider their earlier decision.
7. Rev. Jimmy Jones addressed the board in support of Jane Edwards ES. He expressed concerns about relocating sixth graders and cited funds spent earlier to expand Jane Edwards ES. He also said additional students may enroll since the Edisto Beach School is closing.
8. Mr. Mohammed Idris addressed the board about Meeting Street Academy and the logic around building a new school that kids in the neighborhood can't attend.
NOTE: Dr. McGinley responded to Mr. Idris' comments stating that Meeting Street Academy was a private school built with private dollars and CCSD has no authority over that school.
9. Ms. Sonya Blake expressed concerns regarding relocation of students from district one. She insisted that students be educated in their own neighborhood.
10. Mr. Troy Strouther with Parents Anonymous addressed the Board to thank Dr. McGinley for her initiative and support to get parents involved. He also thanked Karen Williams, Margaret Cochrane, Kaleidescope and Community Education for helping with the Parent Anonymous annual conference.
11. Ms. Ayana Gaillard, a Lincoln HS student, expressed concerns about the future of Lincoln HS. She spoke of the school's success since the arrival of Dr. Yvonne Commodore.
12. Mr. John Fisher, a volunteer at Jane Edwards ES, addressed the board about the needs of students at the school. He said as a resident, they pay a lot of taxes out there and don't get a lot in return. He questioned the current scores of other students moved out earlier (7th & 8th) graders
13. Mayor Samuel Robinson with the Town of Awendaw, 1960 graduate of Lincoln, and a Lincoln HS volunteer, expressed concerns about the future of Lincoln HS. He commended Rev. Collins for amending the agenda to allow more time for input. He said it is important that the community receive from the Board a progressive school in Awendaw for which land is available.
14. Mr. Thomas Colleton, chair of the District 1 Constituent Board, expressed concerns about staff refusal to allow him to use ParentLink to get his message out. He said if it was purchased with public dollars, he should have been able to use it. He urged the board to build a mid size school for grades 6-12, not relocate students to St. James Santee, and return 7-8th grade students moved from McClellanville earlier. He reminded staff that students from the Awendaw Community should not be excluded from the Vision 2016 plans. He said Wando is overcrowded and could not accommodate additional students. Mr. Colleton said he was the first black to segregate McClellanville HS and experienced racism. He said history is repeating itself and racism continues.
15. Mr. Nick Lindsey addressed the board in support of Jane Edwards ES. He said rural areas should be provided an education like other areas and not have to be bused a long distance to attend schools. He said Jane Edwards ES test scores have gone up.
16. Ms. Eliza Keith expressed concerns about relocation of Lincoln HS students.
17. Ms. Erma Harrell, Vice Chair of District 1 Constituent Board, expressed concerns about relocating students from Lincoln HS.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

7.1: A. Open Session Minutes of February 11, 2013

- Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, approval of the Open Session minutes of February 11,

2013. The vote was 5-3-0 (Ascue, Ducker and Miller abstained).

B. Special Called Telephonic Meeting of February 14, 2013

Mrs. Moffly moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, approval of the Open Session minutes of the Special Called Telephonic Meeting of February 14, 2013. The vote was 8-1-0 (Miller abstained).

7.2: Executive Session Action Items of February 25, 2013

The Board voted on the following Executive Session items of February 25, 2013.

1.1: Personnel Matters

A. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, approval of a recommendation to change the title of the Director of Federal Programs to Executive Director of Federal Programs – Mrs. Michele English Watson. The vote was 9-0.

B. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to accept the recommendation with the exception of the increase being 4.5%, effective January 1, 2013 and 3.5 years and, if possible, paid with from the Capital budget. The vote was 9-0.

C. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, approval negotiations of the contract as written; with an effective January 1, 2003 end an expiration date of June 30th. The vote was 9-0.

1.2: Legal Update

The Board received a Legal Update in Executive Session.

1.3: Contractual Matters

A. Mr. Barter moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, to **deny** the request of the 5841 Rivers Avenue tenant to waive additional charges associated with the lease of the old Charlestowne Academy Building leased by the Healing Ministries Baptist Church. The vote was 6-1-2 (Collins abstained; Ducker and Moffly opposed).

Rev. Collins said he reviewed information on the church lease from 2010. The original lease was for six months and renewed for 90 days, unless there was a buyer interested in purchasing the property. He said the rent is higher at that time and the church paid \$1400 a month for approximately a year. After communicating with Mr. Troy Williams in the Division of Operations, the amount of time was reduced to 16 hours a month and they had access to the church for choir rehearsals, meetings, food bank, etc. He said during the first year the rate was based on service hours and there weren't any time restraints. Approximately 20+ hours is needed now for service, cleaning, setting alarm, and other things. Rev. Collins disputed the additional charges and concluded that district staff visits for service maintenance and other things should be taken into consideration. He urged the board to consider allowing additional time for cleaning, choir rehearsal and distribution of food to needy families since they are providing a public service.

Mr. Garrett said the district shouldn't be in the business of leasing buildings to the Board. He said the negotiations were done in fall and the tenant violated the lease.

B. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mrs. Moffly, approval of version 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Charleston County School District and Charleston Charter School for Math and Science, Inc. The vote was 9-0.

7.3: Financial Minutes

The Board received and voted on the following Financial Minutes.

A. January 14, 2013

The Board received the updated Financial Minutes of January 14, 2013 as information.

B. February 11, 2013

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, approval of the Financial Minutes of February 11, 2013. The vote was 7-2-0 (Ducker and Miller abstained).

C. Special Called Meeting of February 13, 2013

Mrs. Coats pulled this item from the agenda because the February 13, 2013 meeting was canceled.

D. Special Called Meeting of February 14, 2013

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, approval of the Special Called February 14, 2013 Financial Minutes of the. The vote was 7-2-0 (Ducker and Miller abstained).

VIII. CAE UPDATE

8.1: Educator Effectiveness – Dr. Nancy McGinley, Dr. Lisa Herring & Mrs. Audrey Lane

The Board received an update on Educator Effectiveness.

Dr. McGinley presented 2016 statement, mission, goals and Educator Effectiveness Cycle. "Vision 2016 starts with who we are and what we believe. This drives our strategies, our actions, and our culture."

- Rigorous Interview Process
- The District's mission: That every child will graduate from CCSD with the critical skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college and the 21st Century global workforce.
- The District's Goals are listed below.
 - Close the Achievement Gap
 - Elevate Achievement Overall
 - Raise the Graduation Rate
- Achievement Goals----Our Destination
- Four Strategic Goals---Our Road Map
 - Educator Effectiveness
 - Every school led by an effective principal
 - Every student taught by a highly effective teacher
 - Mrs. Audrey Lane highlighted specific information related to the Educator Effectiveness Cycle, Recruitment, Selection and On-Boarding initiatives.
 - Rigorous Interview Process
 - Expanding Teacher Pipeline e.g., Teach For America
 - Partnerships with HBCUs
 - Induction Program
 - Roll Out of the Red Carpet
 - Alignment of Performance Goals
 - Renaissance Schools
 - Professional Development linked to evaluation and results of classroom observation tool
 - Mentoring
 - Common Core Standards
 - Principals for Tomorrow and Aspire
 - Classroom Observation tool
 - State wide evaluation Systems for Principals and Teachers
 - Teacher Incentive Fund Evaluation based on Growth
 - Achieving Classroom excellence
 - Grants – SIG and TIF will award incentives to teachers and principals
 - Evening with the Stars
 - Principal Roundtable and Teacher Roundtable
 - Wellness Initiative
 - Career Ladders for Educators
 - Performance Conversations
 - Board Comments:
 - Mr. Barter said it's a wonderful program. He suggested the finding a way to accelerate hiring process.
 - Rev. Collins said he looked forward to setting new Vision 2016 goals and aligning them with staff to have favorable results.
 - Mrs. Moffly suggested working closely with higher education folks so new teachers coming on with the district wouldn't have to be retrained.
 - Mr. Miller asked about measuring teacher effectiveness and quality. Dr. McGinley said the district follows the statewide evaluation for teachers and principals. She said the District's process could be shared at a future board workshop. She spoke about the different levels of contracts for teachers and said principals and teachers have one year contracts and are evaluated annually. Mr. Miller said district should identify the teachers that are doing a good job and offer them positions at the Renaissance School. Dr. McGinley said at this time, the district does not have the sophisticated tools required to do a "teacher to teacher" comparison. However, the \$23 million grant would allow the district work on that process. The district has added some growth measurements to the state's evaluation system. Therefore, the staff could bring information back to share with the Board. The Renaissance Program will be discussed later during the meeting.
 - Mr. Fraser spoke about having a future conversation about setting expectations for new employees hired that are similar to the expectations on established for existing staff members.
 - Mr. Ducker said he wanted to focus on measuring how teacher performance is measured currently and how it would be done in the future utilizing the Race to the Top funds.

- Mr. Ascue asked staff not to over-complicate the whole process. He said staff should focus on “not over-measure and take care of the human part everyone is entitled to a bad day”.
- Mrs. Coats commented on the rigorous process is for elementary level teachers. Mrs. Lane said the staff started at the elementary level because that level is less complicated. Candidates spend 2-3 hours in the interview process. In spring, they will work on Early Childhood and Elementary. However, they are also looking at CTE and Math.
- Mrs. Anita Huggins responded to questions about professional development for induction teacher questions and about the state evaluation tool for principals. She said additional information would be covered in a future Board Workshop. Mrs. Lane said CCSD has incorporated student achievement data to align with the superintendent’s evaluation. The state evaluation is pulled in within the competency part of the evaluation.
- Mrs. Coats asked about CPN initiatives and requested a board update on the initiatives and the results.
- Mr. Miller asked about recruiting efforts and if the district’s focus was new teachers from colleges or seasoned teachers. Mrs. Lane said it’s a good balance.

IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)

9.1: Head Start and Early Head Start financial statements for the month of January – Dr. Lerah Lee

The Board received the Head Start and Early Head Start financial statements for the month of January 2013 as information.

- Mrs. Moffly asked about needs at Chicora. Dr. Lee said Chicora is a blend program of Head Start and CD students. She will bring details to the board in the future. Mrs. Moffly also asked what would happen to funds that have not been spent. Mr. Bobby said they could be reallocated based on need and requirements at other sites. Also he said funds could be carried over from year to year. Head start must manage its program within the cost provided. CCSD provides funds for indirect costs.
- Mr. Ascue asked about indirect costs. Mr. Bobby said there is a variety to include use of facility, custodial, transportation, food services, etc.
- Mr. Ducker requested an orientation for new board members on Head Start and its goals. Dr. Lee said she would be happy to present information at a future Board workshop.

X. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

10.1: Audit & Finance Committee – Mr. John Barter

A. Renaissance Project Plan : Professional Growth Trust Fund

Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, approval of the request for investment in the professional development of selected teachers and support staff at the four Renaissance Schools through a Professional Growth Trust Fund. The Renaissance Schools include Burns ES, Sanders Clyde ES/MS, North Charleston ES, and Memminger ES. The vote was 9-0.

Mr. Barter said the Audit and Finance Committee unanimously approved the recommendation at a meeting earlier today. The amount is \$243,000 a year and the funding sources are Title II funds and GOF funds. The four schools will serve as pilot schools.

Mrs. Coats asked if the District would lose money if funds weren’t used. Staff responded that teachers are required to use the funds the year it was allocated. Mrs. Coats also asked if there were teacher funds for continuing education. Mr. Bobby said there are funds for targeted groups based on needs. Dr. McGinley said Title II funds were used to supplement a portion of certification for a group of teachers in the area of reading. Dr. Herring said the district funded a portion of pay for a cohort of teachers to be certified in Literacy. Mrs. Coats asked if some teachers who benefited from previous efforts would possibly benefit from Renaissance Project. Also, she asked about retaining teachers at schools they were trained for. Dr. McGinley said the board could consider multiyear contracts. Also, she said she wouldn’t want to force teachers to stay at schools if they didn’t want to be there.

Mrs. Moffly said the district has the right, by state law, to require teachers to repay the district if participants decided to leave the District. Mr. Ducker said that should be a requirement. Dr. Herring said \$1000 would be available for professional growth. That would not cover the cost for a degree. Mr. Ducker said since other teachers may also want to take advantage of the program, teacher who leaves should be required to repay the district. Mr. John Barter suggested repayment if they left the district. However, he said it should not apply if they are just leaving one of the four schools identified.

Rev. Collins suggested changes in hiring process for teachers to ensure hiring of better teachers. Dr. McGinley said the rigorous interview process is a panel of principals and others that interview teachers. Rev. Collins asked if diversity is required in hiring. Dr. McGinley said it was required. Mr. Fraser said if teachers have Professional Development during the summer and they stay through the next year, that's a fair trade.

Mr. Miller asked what the \$1000 incentive would cover. Dr. Herring said teachers would have the opportunity to take advantage of a training, conference or seminar for professional development. He asked about efforts to retain individuals that receive the incentive. Mr. Ascue said since it's a pilot program, feedback could be gathered after program is completed.

Mr. Garrett said it's a small incentive for going into a difficult school, so it balances.

10.2: Policy Committee – Mr. Chris Fraser

XI. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

11.1: Additional Professional Development Days for 2013-14 – Dr. Lisa Herring

Mr. Barter moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, approval of the request for four additional Professional Development days to the 2013-14 academic calendar. The purpose of the four additional days is to provide district wide professional learning to Core Area (Math, Science, Social Studies, and Science) and non-core area teachers. The Professional Learning is specifically designed to continue the ongoing training for Common Core State Standards implementation for the school district at large. The amount is \$4,700,000. The funding sources are General Operating and Special Revenue funds. The vote was 8-1 (Miller opposed)

Mr. Barter said the Audit and Finance Committee unanimously approved the motion. He said the program is four days of Professional for teachers. Non-core teachers will have 3 days of training of standards and full engagement on how to teach in a new environment with new materials and the blended learning styles. The core teachers will get the same and in-depth expose to their area and grade range. The total cost of the program is \$4 million. By 2015 district should be transitioned fully.

Mr. Ascue asked how the parents would be informed. Dr. Herring said information has been rolled out to parents on the Common Core mission via Principal Roundtable, District website, etc.

Mr. Miller asked if the four days had to be at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Barter said three days are during the summer, and one during the school year. Mr. Miller said he contacted principals and teachers for their input. He also contacted someone in Richland County about Common Core training to ask how their days were distributed and employees that were required to have the training. Dr. McGinley said she wanted to do the training for all because of Vision 2016 goals. The Task Force that was led by Dr. Herring agreed on the model. Mr. Miller said all principals he spoke with supported the Common Core training for all teachers.

Mr. Ascue asked how the District would want to monitor the effectiveness. Dr. Herring said the district evaluate training effectiveness after each training. All trainer vendors are required to go through a process prior to being selected to do the training. She said quality training will be provided.

Mrs. Coats said the best training takes place when students aren't in school. Her concerns about hiring outside vendors and purchasing training materials. She asked staff to provide a comprehensive plan available for board members to be able to see the total amount spent on this effort. Dr. Herring said those are two separate issues. One is the training that was approved earlier was for the training at the end of this school year for elementary ELA training to allow teachers to train teachers at their schools. The additional cost is for a larger Phase III training throughout the district. This training would be to unpack the shifts. A comprehensive report could be provided on unpacking the data.

Rev. Collins said he agreed with Mrs. Coats' concern about the total amount spent. He asked if materials were purchased for a one time use. Dr. Herring said the price of material varies, ELA and Math materials are more expensive, and materials purchased are designed for long-term use. Rev. Collins inquired about who did the training. Dr. McGinley said it's a combination of outside vendors and in house staff. The intent is to train in house staff to build capacity. Rev. Collins said he wanted

the best trainers at the best price. He inquired about a virtual program. Dr. Herring said the experts on staff made decisions based on training needed. Rev. Collins asked if grant money could be used to pay for training. Dr. Herring said not if it wasn't previously outlined in the grant. Mr. Barter said some funding would come from Title II funds.

Mrs. Moffly asked about common core standards. Dr. Herring said the district is integrating common core standards with the state curriculum. Mrs. Moffly said she hope the state standards would be adopted.

At this time Mr. Fraser called for the question.

11.2: School Calendar – Dr. Lisa Herring

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, approval of Option C of the 2013-14 school calendar. The vote was 8-1 (Moffly opposed).

Mrs. Moffly moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, to use Veteran's Day as a makeup day with no students attending and remove Nov. 27th as a makeup day. The vote failed 6-3 (Collins, Ducker and Moffly opposed).

Dr. Herring said the district has vetted the calendar. There are four options. Option C is recommended.

Mrs. Moffly asked the board to reconsider the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Miller said the calendar he saw earlier was different. Dr. Herring said the calendar is color coded and that Wednesday Nov 27th is also a possible make up day.

Mr. Ascue asked about the public survey. Dr. Herring said there were over 2,000 responses and 57% were employees, 39% parents, 8.2% students and the remainder was volunteers and others. Calendar A and Calendar C were the top choice.

Mr. Garrett asked about Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday breaks. Dr. Herring said that was correct.

Mr. Ducker asked impact of adding days to the T-Giving Holidays. Dr. Herring said it would offset the number of instructional days. She noted that the process originates in November. There were up to six options. The vetting process included taking it to the Principal Roundtable, Teacher Round Table, Administrators meeting and comparing with other districts.

Mrs. Moffly said she didn't like the idea of Nov. 27th being a makeup day and suggested that Veteran's Day would be a better make up day.

NOTE: Mr. Fraser left the meeting at 8:34pm. Therefore, he did not vote on the remainder of items

11.3: E-Rate Resolution – Mr. Michael Bobby

Mr. Barter moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, approval of the E-Rate resolution which is required for application for funding per governing regulations. The amount is \$437,316. The funding source is General Operating Funds. The vote was 8-0.

11.4: Request to Amend the Lease Agreement with Unity Baptist Church

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, approval of the recommendation regarding extending the lease of the Woodland Hall property on Whipple Road in Mt. Pleasant. The vote was 8-0.

Mr. Barter asked about agreement for services from district. Mr. Bobby said the district is not bound to making a huge capital investment but would work with them to make minor repairs.

11.5: District 20 Neighborhood Planning Team – Middle Schools – Mr. Paul Padron

The Board received information on the District 20 Neighborhood Planning Team regarding Middle Schools. Mr. Pardon highlighted the following:

- NPT Organization – 42 were invited; 22 agreed to participate.
- NPT Objectives – To provide a recommendation to the Superintendent for improving academic achievement of middle school students on the Peninsula (February 1, 2013).
- Meeting dates and topics were reviewed.
- NPT Recommendations:
 - A "stand alone" middle school

- A program that promotes high academic achievement with accountability. i.e., IB or advanced studies program
- A program that encourages diversity
- There was no consensus on location. However the majority recommended the district investigate other options for housing the middle school other than converting one of the existing downtown elementary schools at this time.
- Next Steps – Establish a District 20 Task Force
 - The District 20 Community School Task Force will be established to gain more community input and to provide the Superintendent with recommendations regarding a future middle school on the peninsula.

Mr. Barter asked why the NPT felt a standalone middle school would make more sense than sharing space with Burke. Mr. Padron said they looked at the data, which has not been great for the middle school, and they felt a stand-alone middle school would provide students more options for exploratory prior to going to high school.

Mr. Miller asked if the NPT identified a location. Mr. Padron said they didn't. They looked at the key factors of what was needed. He asked if they wanted a school built. Mr. Padron said they looked at all facilities in District 20

Mr. Ascue thanked Mr. Padron and the NPT team for their work. He asked how diversity would be addressed. Mr. Padron said they looked at why folks left the district. He suggested high academic accountability.

Mr. Ducker said a standalone Middle School is a good idea, but what happens to Burke. Mr. Padron said they discussed what would be to strengthen the middle program in Charleston.

Mr. Miller asked the racial makeup of the NPT group. Mr. Padron said 70% African American; 30% Caucasian.

Mrs. Moffly commented on diverse communities and their needs. Mr. Miller asked what would happen if middle school students were pulled out. Mr. Padron said a Community Task Force would be established to talk about Burke. Mr. Miller said the NPT team must also discuss other levels.

Mr. Garrett said middle class students transferred to other schools seeking better educational opportunities.

Rev. Collins asked who facilitated the meetings. Mr. Padron said he did. He asked about the request for a standalone middle school and if it included students at Burke MS. Mr. Padron said they wanted one District 20 Middle School. Dr. McGinley said the request is for the School Community Task Force continue and bring recommendation forward. Rev. Collins said it's a good idea to have a high achieving school. He said the biggest challenge would be to implement diversity.

11.6: Reconsideration of Board decision to relocate classes in District 1 and District 23 – (Collins, Ascue, Ducker, Miller, and Moffly)

1) District 23 moving sixth grade

2) District 1 allowing St. James Santee to keep 7th grade

The Board discussed the decision approved by the Board earlier to relocate classes in District 1 and District 23. Rev. Collins asked that the date for community meetings be identified and that principals and community members be notified.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Padron who initiated the District 20 NPT meetings. Mr. Padron said recommendations were solicited from the District 20 Constituent Board and schools. Mrs. Coats reminded Mr. Miller that the Board approved a recommendation changing the Neighborhood Planning Team to the Community Task Force.

Dr. McGinley said she supports the recommendation the board approved on January 28th and has acted on it by sending out letters. No one on the school board has said anything about closure of Lincoln HS. However, Lincoln MS is at risk and parents are opting to transfer students out. Scores for Lincoln MS is going in the wrong direction. It is not in the best interest of children to keep middle school students there. She questioned why one would say Lincoln was the best choice for middle school

students based on its academic performance. Students at St. James Santee performed better prior to moving to Lincoln HS. She shared scores from 2010 – 2012.

Mr. Barter asked if it's a normal pattern when compared to other schools. Dr. McGinley said she could not make the comparison because some parents opted to transfer students out after the sixth grade. Mr. Miller inquired further. Dr. McGinley said some parents were reasonably satisfied at St. James Santee and they are not satisfied with Lincoln. Mr. Ducker and Mr. Miller asked staff to track students that transferred to other schools to see what their grades were. Dr. McGinley said that could be done.

Dr. McGinley said, based on her opinion as a Superintendent and MS principal, students would be better served at St. James. She shared advantages of having a k-8 program there citing that students could be retained and exposed to exploratory at St. James Santee if they stayed from kindergarten to grade six would allow increased consistency for the students. Then she shared the total enrollment for middle school students at Lincoln -- 30 students in the 7th grade and 40 in the 8th grade.

Mr. Ascue asked about the socio-economic makeup of those students. Mr. Lou Martin said possibly 90%. Mr. Miller said something is drastically wrong with the number of students that did not meet requirements in 2010. Dr. McGinley said the school made progress in 2011. She is making the recommendation based on the fact that the school is academically better and it's the parent's choice. She recommends that Lincoln continue to focus on the academics. No recommendation was made to close Lincoln HS. However, she wants to bring something educationally sound and fiscally responsible. As elected officials, the board and superintendent must balance both. Three times the amount is being spent at some small schools. She wants Lincoln to maintain their academic progress and focus on academic subjects only. She asked that it become a core academic school and take advantage of the E. Cooper School opening soon that would have a state of the arts Career Academy. She said it's too costly to replicate a career academy in a small school. It's impossible to offer same programs in a school of 140 as done in a school for 3400. The district would purchase a coach bus to transport students to the advanced studies program. This would be a win/win situation for all. Her recommendation

- Allow St. James to become a K-8
- Allow Lincoln to grow into an academic School

Mrs. Moffly read the school board status ..."duty of the board to carry out the will of the community" as it relates to public involvement. She questioned if that it had been done. She suggested a community meeting. Mrs. Coats said the board agreed to the meetings two weeks ago. Mrs. Coats said she asked two weeks ago if a meeting at Lincoln was needed and suggested Mrs. Moffly arrange the meeting. Mr. Ascue said the board moved too fast on the District 1 agenda item. He asked Dr. McGinley to arrange a meeting to speak with the Mayor and Constituent Chair before arranging a public meeting. Mr. Ducker agreed and asked the timeline. Dr. McGinley said the deadline is upon us because allocation decisions are being made. Based on the Jan 28th decision, staff has been moving forward. St. James Santee has a 6th grade parent meeting planned soon. Parents have the right to say what they want first. Staff proceeded based on the earlier decision and her decision, based on her education and experience, is that the District 1 middle school has not been successful.

In District 23 the decision was to move 6th graders to Baptist Hill. One speaker said the district didn't have data to show 6th grade improved at BHHS. Data is available to show 6th grade data is better when in three year school.

Students do better when there are content certified teachers. Mr. Barter asked why couldn't there be one at an elementary school. Dr. McGinley said because this couldn't be done. It would mean bringing in 4 content teachers for 14 students. Mr. Ascue, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Moffly agreed that it is necessary to do innovative things. Mr. Miller said those who addressed the board today drove an hour to get to the meeting. He will always do what is best for all kids in the district. If schools are underachieving, staff must fix it. Dr. McGinley said staff knew what was wrong.

Mrs. Coats said it's the superintendent's job to bring her opinion. She said the board needs to decide if those grades would be moved St. James Santee and Jane Edwards.

Mr. Ducker said he would like to have a community engagement meeting in Districts 1 and 23 and bring back a recommendation.

Rev. Collins asked the Superintendent to establish a date. Mrs. Coats said Mr. Ascue said Superintendent should have a conversation with Mayor and Constituent Board beforehand. Then schedule a community meeting.

Mr. Barter said the District 1 community provided input at the meeting tonight. The board will have to come back and make decisions. He said must take the resources available and do the best for students. He said the board should consider staff, community input and the recommendation.

Mr. Ducker said the community did not hear Dr. McGinley's recommendation. Mr. Barter said since the 6th grade parent group is the biggest stakeholders; he suggested the board should attend that meeting. Dr. McGinley said she didn't want to hijack their meeting because then the focus would be changed.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Since there was no additional business to come before the Board, at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Ascue moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved by consensus.