

I. OPEN SESSION

A Special Called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, May 7, 2011, with the following members of the Board present: Mr. Chris Fraser – Chair, Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats, Mr. Craig Ascue, Rev. Chris Collins, Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly, Mrs. Ann Oplinger, and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent and Executive Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac and Mr. Bryan Thomas participated by phone. Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Lisa Herring, Mrs. Audrey Lane, and Mrs. Melissa Matarazzo also in attendance.

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

Chairman Fraser called Special Called meeting of May 7, 2012 to order at 4:06 p.m. Then he announced that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a single agenda item:

1.1: Revisiting Tuition Charge to Non-residents

Mr. Emerson said after the board adopted the Tuition Resolution at the last board meeting he received many calls and requests to delay or grandfather action for a year. A list of what other districts have done was included in the board packet. CCSD is not charging anyone tuition at this time. The purpose of bringing this agenda item back to the board is to receive input from the board and answer questions for families affected.

Mrs. Kandrac asked about statute 59-60-30 and said it stated that students should reside with a parent or guardian. Mr. Emerson said one way students could attend CCSD schools is if the student owned property assessed at \$300. Mrs. Kandrac asked Mr. Emerson if he received a newsletter from Columbia that said parents should reside with student on property owned in the district. Also, she said Mr. Emerson only provided a portion of the law. Mr. Emerson said parents aren't required to reside with students on the property they own in Charleston County. If that were the case, they would be considered residents of Charleston County. Mrs. Kandrac told Mr. Emerson the entire newsletter she mentioned earlier was all about tuition for out-of-county residents. Mr. Fraser said the information Mr. Emerson shared came from the law newsletter from Duff, Turner, and White Law Firm in Columbia and it is necessary to rely on what's written in the law book. Mr. Fraser went on to say that the real question is implementation of the action the board took on April 23, 2012. Mrs. Coats said the earlier board decision was not retroactive. Mr. Fraser said parents with children already enrolled in CCSD schools would not be affected. It only addresses new students enrolling. Rev. Collins read his notes then he said out of county students currently enrolled in CCSD schools would be exempted and grandfathered in. Mr. Fraser said his issue would be that the board hasn't provided staff enough information. Those students already enrolled, are in.

Mrs. Oplinger asked about children of employees. Mr. Fraser said it's a separate policy. Mrs. Coats asked what the policy addresses. Mr. Emerson said Policy JFAB addresses students from other counties and state law allows for charging of tuition. Mr. Emerson said it says "may charge tuition" and as a practice the district hasn't done so. Mrs. Coats asked the expectation. Then she said the expectation had always been there.

Mrs. Moffly suggested a method identifying what to charge. Mr. Emerson said the law doesn't say "may", it says "must". He read the law regarding owning real property in excess of \$300 or more. Then he said the policy was recently updated.

At this time, Mrs. Moffly suggested taking the policy back to the Policy Committee for review. Mr. Fraser said he supported the recommendation. However, people are waiting to know if they would be required to pay tuition. Mrs. Moffly suggested tuition be charged to out-of-county students the following year.

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue that District exempt from charging tuition to out of county students currently attending CCSD schools, effective spring 2013-14 to all newly admitted students. The motion was approved 5-3 (Coats, Kandrac and Thomas opposed).

Mr. Emerson said the tuition formula is included in the policy and the amount is approximately \$6000 depending on the property value. Mrs. Moffly suggested including that information in the policy.

Mrs. Coats was concerned about the decision and said it would only encourage parents to enroll their kids in CCSD schools now.

Dr. McGinley said the report only list four students owning property. Ms. Melissa Matarazzo suggested there may be more. When students were enrolled, they were only required to bring paperwork that said they owned property in Charleston. The system did not have a way for data clerks to record information about them owning property.

Mrs. Kandrac offered a second motion, seconded by Mrs. Coats to begin charging tuition to out of county students in the **2012-13** school year. The motion failed 3-5 (Ascue, Collins, Fraser, Moffly and Thomas opposed).

At this time, The board received comments from Mr. Henry Copeland. Mr. Copeland said information staff presented on the number of out-or-county students attending CCSD schools was grossly inadequate. He said it bothers him that staff provided AMHS when they had 15 earlier. He said the report shows there are three at School of the Arts (SOA); earlier SOA had sixteen students. Also the report says SOA has no employees whose children attend the school. He knows this is also inaccurate. He suggested that since the information provided in inadequate and this does not allow the board to make a fair decision. Mr. Copeland also suggested that this was first reading since it's a policy and there will be a second reading. Mr. Fraser said this is not a policy. Mr. Copeland also asked board to address schools with waiting list when they have out of county students are attending their schools.

Since there wasn't any other business to come before the board, at 4:37pm, Mr. Fraser the meeting was adjourned.