

August 23, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, August 23, 2010 with the following members of the Board present: Chair – Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Vice Chair - Mr. Ray Toler, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mrs. Ann Oplinger, Mr. Arthur Ravenel and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mr. Gregg Meyers was absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Doug Gepford, Mrs. Audrey Lane, Mr. Bill Lewis, Dr. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Elliot Smalley were also in attendance.

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

Chair – Mrs. Ruth Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green, to convene into Executive Session to discuss agenda items listed below. The motion was unanimously approved.

Executive Session Agenda Items

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals
- 1.2: Superintendent's Evaluation
- 1.3: Contractual Matter
- 1.4: Legal Matter
- 1.5: Worker's Compensation Settlements

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Vice Chair – Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order followed by a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Recognition – Media Center Relocation Teams

The Board recognized Connie Dopierala, Team Associate for Media Services and Special Projects and media center specialists for relocating sixteen school media centers during the summer.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Staff worked throughout the summer to ensure a successful opening day. Media Center Relocation Teams were recognized this afternoon for doing a fantastic job. Teachers and employees were also thanked for their work to prepare schools for re-openings.
- The Parent Help Line received 470 calls. CCSD staff helped coordinate massive clothing and supply drives. A Transportation Hot Line was set up to run through September 3rd.
- Staff led a massive effort to open six brand new schools and relocate five campuses.
- CCSD's partners, Hootie and the Blowfish and a group of collaborators provided Back-to-School resources for more than 1,000 students from the four Promise Neighborhood schools.
- The City of Charleston and local community and business partners distributed backpacks and other essentials to families at the First Day Festival.
- The Hands of Christ Presbyterian Church group provided uniforms and supplies for nearly 3500 students.
- Over the past three weeks, the Low County Orphan Relief served approximately 600 children in need.
- The list of contributions is extensive. Dr. McGinley said as written in the commentary in Sunday's newspaper, she is grateful for generous partners.
- On Wednesday, 39,768 students were in class on the first day of school. This is more than the district has had four straight years. This does not reflect students in CD classes.

- Dr. McGinley is confident that students will continue to make great progress this year. She said the district has strong AYP data, exemplary principals and teachers, and a sound literacy plan that has already generated a return on investment.
- In closing, Dr. McGinley said the Chamber of Commerce took early steps toward a successful campaign for the new capital plan. Future updates will be provided as plans are made.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

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

VI. APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION BOARD MINUTES

6.1: Approval of Open Session Minutes of August 9, 2010

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of Open Session Minutes of August 9, 2010. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 23, 2010

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session:

1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – The Board approved student transfer appeals A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, and N; student transfer T was approved under the No Child Left Behind criteria; student transfer appeal S was approved, however, the request for transportation was denied; Student transfer R was approved for Laing instead of Moultrie; and student transfers O and P were denied. The motion was approved 7-1 (Jordan opposed).

1.2: Superintendent's Evaluation - The Board discussed the Superintendent's Evaluation in Executive Session. However, no action was taken.

1.3: Contractual Matter – The Board approved a request to amend the Charter Agreement for Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education (PACE) Charter that was approved August 13, 2009 which noted PACE will serve children Kindergarten through 9th grade, and will have three grade groupings. The amended application will read "a child that is 3 or 4 years of age who has multiple disabilities and is determined that a self contained program for kindergarten-2nd grade would provide that student a free, appropriate public education, then that 3 or 4 year old could attend PACE." The motion to approve the amended contract was approved 8-0.

1.4: Legal Matter – Mrs. Jordan announced that the Board heard a legal update on the King Street Gateway Redevelopment Project (T.I.F.). On June 14, 2010, the Superintendent on behalf of Charleston County School District, sent a letter to Mayor Riley stating "we understand and respect the purpose of the proposed amendment. The proposed project inclusive of the total upgrade and reconstruction of the Gaillard Center is commendable and certainly one that we hope to see through completion. However, this request reaches the School District at a critical juncture with respect to our financial condition. As you know, by virtue of this amendment, critical operating and capital funds will be adversely impacted." Therefore, Mrs. Jordan wished the City well in its future work and reaffirmed the Board's objection.

1.5: Workers' Compensation Settlements - The Board approved two Workers' Compensation Settlements. The vote was 8-0.

6.3: Financial Minutes of August 9, 2010

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of the financial minutes of August 9, 2010. The motion was approved 8-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Capital Project Report

Mr. Bobby said the Capital Project Report shows less than \$8 million is left as the district closes out this project. Mrs. Jordan said with all the district's Capital Projects, are funds available to upkeep facilities? Mr. Bobby said Capital funds must be sought out for upgrades, at least every ten years. Also, as new buildings come on, additional operating funds are needed for expenses incurred sustainability and operating. Mrs. Jordan also mentioned Garrett which opened 15 years ago, she asked about funds to sustain the school. Mr. Bobby said one option could be 8% Debt Funds, funds could be freed up to use for purpose mentioned. Rev. Collins asked about Air Conditioner mentioned earlier for Garrett Academy. Mr. Bobby said that project should be done by the end of the first semester.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Child Development Data

Mrs. Lerah Lee-Smith presented Child Development Data which follows:

- The goals of CCSD Preschool Programs are to "level" the playing field and to demonstrate a path to College Readiness for CCSD.
- If the district increases the number of 4K programs in CCSD, and effectively implement curriculum by providing developmentally appropriate practice in ways that match the way children develop and learn, address the individual needs, strengths, and interests of each child, and address the social and cultural context in which each child lives, then we will improve school readiness, thus reducing the need for remedial programs in CCSD.

8.2: Update on Student Outcomes – Re-Design Schools

Dr. Laura Donnelly presented data on the following REDESIGN School Board Update Student Outcomes

- 1,057 students were impacted by Redesign
- Greater opportunities in available in Career & Technology, arts courses, and Physical Education/Sports
- Attendance: average absence about 7 days both years
 - Over half (55%) had the same/fewer absences in 2009-10
- Discipline:
 - Small increase in ISS (in-school suspensions)
 - OSS (out-of-school suspensions) remained the same
 - For both ISS and OSS, over three-fourths of students had the same or fewer number in 2009-10
- MAP: reading improvement in 09-10; no change in math
- PASS: very little difference between the two years
- HSAP: some improvement compared to 08-09 HSAP at Charlestowne Academy
 - Grades: very little difference between the two years

Mrs. Jordan questioned why students weren't making more gains and the plan to continue to monitor academic gains for these students. Dr. McGinley said there were improvements in some areas--Reading and HSAP. She also said that the trauma of transitioning students may have played a part in low gains. It may take more than one year to show gains. She agreed that it was necessary to continue to track academic gains of these students.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Board Approval – First Reading – Board Policies

- A. JICFAA – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
- B. GBEBD – Acceptable Use of Technology

A recommendation to approve the first reading of Board Policies Listed above. – Mrs. Oplinger moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of the first reading of policies listed above. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.2: Home School Applications – *A recommendation to approve the home school applications.* Mrs. Oplinger moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of home school applications. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.3: Reallocation of Capital Program Funds – *A recommendation to approve a reallocation recommendation for capital funds from classroom modernization project to construction of the Head Start (ages 0-3) and a Parent Outreach Program (Abrazos) at Midland Park Primary campus. The recommended amount is not to exceed \$438,000.00.* – Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of the reallocation recommendation moving capital funds from classroom modernization project to construction for the 0-3 Head Start and a Parent Outreach Program at Midland Park Primary campus. The motion was approved 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

9.4: Bid Award #B1103 – Commvault – *A recommendation to award Bid #B1103 for Commvault to Dell Marketing, L.P. The funding source is K-5 Funding.* – Mr. Fraser moved, seconded Mrs. Oplinger, approval of awarding the bid for Commvault to Dell Marketing. The funding amount is \$93,329.00. The funding source is General Operating Funds as approved in the line item budget submitted annually. The motion was approved 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

9.5: Bid Award - #B1109 – Classroom Modernizations Sound Enhancements – *A recommendation to award Bid #B1109 for Classroom Modernization Sound Enhancement Pathway Project to five vendors for amounts listed below. The funding source is Supplemental Classroom Modernization funds not to exceed \$230,000.* Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger, approval of the recommendation to award Bid #B1109 for Classroom Modernization Sound Enhancement Pathway Project to the five vendors listed below. The motion was approved 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

9.6: Board Meeting Location Discussion – *The Board will discuss Board Meeting Locations.* – Mrs. Jordan led the discussion on relocating Board meetings to give community members an opportunity to sit in on Board meetings. While some board members supported the idea of relocating meetings, no action was taken.

9.7: Forensic Study – Mrs. Kandrac led the discussion mentioning that on August 9th she suggested having a third party look at saving district funds. She said in 2005, there was a \$500,000 savings from cell phones. Since she is always concerned about waste, a forensic study would be a positive thing especially since the board was seeking approval of a one cent sales tax. Mr. Fraser said an independent audit is done annually. However, he would support money saving efforts. In response to a question from Mrs. Kandrac regarding third party audits, Mr. Bobby said a single audit is done annually as required by law. Green, Finney and Horton have a five-year contract for the external audit. Mrs. Cathy Cox and staff are Internal Auditors. The Procurement Audit will soon be presented to the Board. Mr. Bobby also said in 2006, the savings from the Telephone Audit District was \$200,000. In 2000, KPMG audited the district's efficiency and effectiveness. As a result, a safety and security audit was also done. Mrs. Kandrac requested the KPMG Audit. However, Mr. Bobby said he did not have the KPMG Audit. At this time, Mrs. Kandrac suggested an audit of every single thing to reduce the amount of funds the district waste. Rev. Collins said at the National School Boards Association Audit class discouraged the use of the same auditors for more than two consecutive years.

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Ravenel moved, seconded by Mrs. Jordan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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