

February 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, February 9, 2009 with the following members of the Board present: Chair - Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Vice Chair - Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mr. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mrs. Ann Oplinger, 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, Audrey Lane, and Mr. Elliott Smalley were in attendance.

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

Chairperson Green called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel 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 5:25 p.m. Mrs. Green called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the Kaleidoscope After School Programs at Ashley River Elementary, Murray LaSaine Elementary, and Sullivan’s Island Elementary for receiving national accreditation from the National Community Education Association.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McGinley congratulated the Kaleidoscope programs recognized earlier during the meeting. Last week’s Literacy Summit brought community leaders together in the fight against illiteracy. Senator Fritz Hollings participated in the centennial celebration at Mitchell Elementary School. Jane Edwards and Memminger Elementary students were invited to MUSC’s School of Dentistry for x-rays, cleanings and restorative dental work, all free of charge. A crew from the NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams visited Midland Park Elementary. The school will be featured on an upcoming national broadcast for meeting the needs of Latino students and families. Wando High School was awarded the “top reading high school” statewide award during the No Book Left Unread 2008 Summer Reading Program. Today Ms. Stephanie Flock, a Social Studies teacher at West Ashley Middle School was named Teacher of the Month for raising funds to take eighty-five students to the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

The official 2008 State Report Card should be released within the next two weeks. CCSD projects an “Excellent” improvement rating for the first time in history.

As requested by the Board, CCSD staff will provide an update on the School Redesign transition process. Other steps taken includes reaching out to employees, parents, and working with community members to ensure that students know where to go, what to expect, and how to take advantage of new benefits this August.

This year’s budget favors nothing. The Superintendent said the district will get through this budget crisis and find innovative ways to do more with less. Every time one thing is pulled from the budget, it is replaced with another. As one principal described it, “its not being mean spirited, but lean spirited.”

At this time, Mrs. Kandrac asked how much was spent on the Literacy Summit and did the district split the cost with someone else. Mrs. Jordan questioned why Substitute Teachers was removed from the list of budget reductions. Dr. McGinley responded that it was done to finish out the school year strong without interruptions. Staff Development funds will be used to cover part of the cost. Other funding sources will be sought that may possibly include mid-year staff reductions.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Robbie Ledford asked Board members what they are doing to address Governor Sanford's denial of Federal funds which the governor said is not needed.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of January 26, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the open session and executive session minutes of January 26, 2009 with the following corrections—Agenda Item 9.3 – McClellanville decision, Mr. Collins and Mr. Toler opposed; Brentwood decision - Mrs. Kandrac opposed. Also Mrs. Kandrac and Mr. Collins changed their vote regarding the closure of Charlestowne Academy to an opposing vote. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of February 9, 2009

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on February 9, 2009:

- 1.1 Personnel Matters
 - A. The Board discussed personnel matters in Executive Session.
 - B. The Board approved a motion authorizing staff to prepare a scope of services required to perform logistics management support services to support the principals at new schools. The delivery order for these services shall be tailored to the size, phasing and special requirements of the new school. It is further recommended that the district procure these services through the CM firm managing the new school under the additional services clause of their contract as a fixed fee. Staff recommends that these services be funded from bond funds versus GOF since the service is directly related to the construction of the new school. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.2 Student Expulsion Appeal Ratifications – The Board approved the recommendation of the Board Committee which heard the appeals of three students which follows. The vote was 8-1 (Collins).
 - A. Uphold the expulsion of a Wando High student for the 2008-2009 school year and assign the student to the Summit Program.
 - B. Uphold the expulsion of a Baptist Hill High student and work with the Office of Student Placement to enroll student in the Adult Education Program.
 - C. Uphold the expulsion of a West Ashley High student and work with the Office of Student Placement to enroll student in the Adult Education Program.
- 1.3 Legal Updates –The Board received legal updates in Executive Session. No actions were taken.
- 1.4 Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing – The Board agreed to hear a student expulsion appeal on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
- 1.5 Worker's Compensation Judgment – The Board approved a motion authorizing General Counsel to settle a Worker's Compensation issue. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.6 Teacher Appeal Hearing – The Board agreed to hear a teacher appeal on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

6.3: Financial Minutes of January 26, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the financial minutes for January 26, 2009. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Redesign Update

Mrs. Lane provided an update on School Redesign highlighted the following from the School Redesign document included in the Board Agenda.

- School Redesign Teams have been assembled to include 50 plus CCSD personnel, including liaisons for each impacted schools. This group meets regularly.
- Project managers have been identified for the Elementary, Middle and High School zones.
- A detailed implementation plan to facilitate the proper level of details for a smooth transition for stakeholders is being created.
- The Chief Academic Officer and Associates have conducted face-to-face meetings with faculties at all closing schools.

- Letters have been distributed and calls were made to families of schools impacted by closures or modifications.
- Applications were created for partial magnet seats at Zucker Middle School
- Rezoning options were presented to the District 4 Constituent Board and a time to discuss this further has also been identified (February 18th).
- Discussed elementary school rezoning with the District 20 Constituent
- Families of students impacted by closures were called the day after the School Redesign vote.
- A second round of face-to-face meetings with faculties of schools identified for closure was held to answer questions. All comments were recorded.
- Weekly updates are planned for those schools impacted.
- All schools have had a facilitated roundtable meeting conducted by the HR Office for faculty (teachers and classified staff).
- The plan is to continue the level of engagement used during the Redesign Process. Staff has met with the District 20 Constituent Board to review redesign options approved by the Board of Trustees and to engage in specific dialogue regarding the student assignments of Fraser Elementary School and CPA.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 Children In Crisis – Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to nominate Mr. Collins to serve on the Children In Crisis Committee with Mr. Bobby and the Superintendent. The motion was approved 9-0
- 9.2 Second Reading of Board Policy JFABD – On behalf of the Policy Committee, Mr. Meyers motioned approval of the second reading of Board Policy JFABD. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.3 Approval of Lease to Purchase Procurement Option and Continue Allocation of Funds for Middle School Band Instruments – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation for the lease to purchase agreement option. The funding source is Fixed Cost of Ownership in the amount of \$150,000 over the next three years. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.4 Recommended Revision to January 12, 2009 Action to Curtail Per Diem Substitute Service for FY09 – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of Option A - the recommendation amending the January 12, 2009 action to curtail per diem for Substitute Service for FY09. The projected reduction in substitute service was \$500,000. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.5 Technology Equipment for Classrooms – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the recommendation to approve and purchase of technology equipment for classrooms. This purchase in the amount of \$71,795.58 is funded by a grant from the SC Department of Education. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.6 Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) Bulk Purchase – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser to approve a recommendation to enter into Contracts for the bulk purchase of FF&E with Wulburn Koval, Herald Systems, School Specialty, Alfred Williams and Wenger Corporation. The funding source is Capital Bond Funds. The amount will be determined based on the actual purchase of items from each group. The motion was approved 9-0
- 9.7 Personnel Strategies to balance the fiscal year 2010 General Operating Fund Budget: Class Size Allocation Formula - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel to approve the class size adjustment recommendation for elementary and middle schools. The motion was approved 9-0.

During discussion, Mr. Bobby stated that this recommendation is the result of a request from Mr. Ravenel to show the impact of increasing class size by one across the District. This is the second big piece of the puzzle

staff used to illustrate the budget situation. After stating that teacher contracts are issued on April 15th, Mr. Bobby went on to say that the district must be careful not to award contracts that could not be afforded.

- 9.8 Academic Magnet High School – Mr. Bill Lewis, Mrs. Judith Peterson, Mr. Murray Eicher (Science Department Chair) and Mr. Charlie Castner (School Improvement Council Chair) presented information to the Board. Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Castner expressed support of the move of the Academic Magnet High School facility with the new addition. Mr. Peterson also stated her concerns about taking an actual vote indicating that it would divide the community and interrupt the sports program, seniors who are focusing on their Senior Thesis, and other current events at the school. Mr. Meyers suggested that a letter from the AMHS administration and School Improvement Council would suffice. No action was taken by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:40 p.m., Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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