

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, March 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, 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 4:30 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser 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. 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

1. The Board recognized a Hunley Park Elementary student, Matthew Purchase, for raising funds for the MUSC “Have a Heart” campaign.
2. The Board recognized the James Island Charter High School Recycling Club members and teachers for their accomplishments in a National Jeans Fundraising effort.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McGinley announced that early childhood registration opened today. Flyers were sent home with students in an attempt to increase participation and close the achievement gap. PASS Test preparation documents are also being sent home with students. Ms. Maree Nichols, the visual arts teacher at School of the Arts, was recently named the Teacher of the Month. The district is looking at more teacher recognitions. Mrs. Lucy Beckham, principal at Wando High School, is being recognized in Columbia as South Carolina’s Secondary Principal of the Year. Last week the Literacy group discussed what it takes to create schools of promise. The “Harlem Model” is being considered for City of Charleston and North Charleston schools. Dr. McGinley said the district must close the achievement gap.

In closing, Dr. McGinley announced that the League of Women Voters conducted the election approving Academic Magnet High School’s move to the new campus. The results of the vote which approved the school’s move to the new campus are below:

- o 303 ballots were mailed to parents of AMHS students – of the 195 returned; 124 voted yes and 71 voted no;
- o 51 ballots were issued to AMHS staff members - 46 voted yes, 5 voted no

Also during discussion of AMHS, Mr. Meyers suggested the Board entertain a motion at the next board meeting to prohibit administration from combining School of the Arts with Academic Magnet High. Dr. McGinley stated for the record that she does not favor combining the two schools.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. George Freeman, Ms. Claudia Mazyck, Mrs. Jeannette Lee, Rev. Arthur Pinckney, Ms. Ann Owens, Ms. Carol Benson, and Mr. William Hamilton urged the board not to demolish the Jennie Moore property, but allow it to be used for a mini Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage museum/community/resource center as outlined in the Community Action Group for Encouragement’s proposal to preserve Jennie Moore Elementary.

2. Ms. McMahaun, Ms. Beatrice Whitten, Mr. Peter Smythe and Rev. Alma Dungee asked the Board to support the recommendation to allow Charleston Math and Science Charter School to remain at its present location and receive eight additional trailers.
3. Ms. Ellen Mathison and Ms. Bianca Swindler requested the Community Montessori School be allowed to expand to include the middle school level and relocate to the Berry campus.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the open session and executive session minutes of February 23, 2009 with the following corrections—Mr. Fraser seconded motion for adjournment. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of March 9, 2009

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

1. Student Transfer Appeal – The Board approved a student transfer appeal. The motion was approved 7-0-2 (Fraser and Jordan abstained).
2. Contractual Matter – The Board approved the Chicora Elementary School design contract for Goff D’Antonio & Associates for the sum of \$1,316,544. The vote was approved 9-0.
3. The Board approved the motion of the Board Committee which heard the appeal of a teacher on Monday March 2, 2009 as follows with a 9-0 vote:
 - Overturn the termination and reinstate the employee with the following conditions
 - a. Teacher must attend a Crisis Prevention Training
 - b. Teacher will not be allowed to work with the After-School program and not allowed to coach students for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.
4. Workers’ Compensation Settlements. The Board acted on four workers’ compensation settlements as follows.
 - a. The Board approved a motion authorizing the settlement of a workers’ compensation claim up to \$140,000. The motion was approved 9-0.
 - b. The Board approved a motion authorizing settlement of a workers’ compensation claim up to \$250,000. The motion was approved 9-0.
 - c. The Board approved a motion authorizing counsel to offer up to \$167,210.48 for a full and total settlement. The motion was approved 9-0.
 - d. The Board approved a motion authorizing payment up to \$125,000 to the estate of a former employee. The motion was approved 9-0.
5. Legal Briefing – The Board received a legal briefing in Executive Session. The Board approved a motion to put Gregg Mathis Charter on notice of intent to revoke its charter. The motion was approved 6-3 (Kandrac, Ravenel and Toler opposed)

6.3: Financial Minutes of February 23, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the financial minutes for February 23, 2009. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Budget Update

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer provided a budget update highlighting current pending legislation, the status of the budget and action forthcoming with the Capital budget. Mr. Bobby also mentioned there could be a possible 4% cut in EIA funds.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Redesign Update

Dr. Brenda Nelson, Director of Community Outreach, provided an update on the **School Redesign Transition** process, noting accomplishments and next steps.

8.2: District Data Update

Dr. Janet Rose, Director of Assessment and Accountability, provided an update on the district's data highlighting the following:

- The district's report card ratings, and how are they calculated;
- How the district is doing on the outcomes—including PACT test scores, graduation rates, and other results—that drive the ratings, and
- How we doing against South Carolina's 2010 goals.

Dr. Rose concluded her presentation by stating that the 2008 Report Cards shows improvement and the district is moving in the right direction.

The Board spoke favorably of the positive results behind the rating, including the 11-point jump in graduation rate, the highest PACT scores in the history of the test, and increases in the HSAP. They thanked teachers, principals and other CCSD employees for their work in earning the district's first-ever "Excellent" improvement rating.

8.3: Interventions for At Risk Schools

Dr. Doug Gepford, Chief Academic Officer and Associate Superintendents on plans to improve persistently struggling schools. Dr. Vashti Washington shared the elementary level, Mrs. Yandle shared the middle level and Mr. Lou Martin shared high school interventions--including, in some cases, proposals to extend the school day/year and match proven teachers with low-performing students.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- 9.1 **First Reading of Policy Revisions - A. BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics, B. BEDB – Agenda, C. KF – Community Use of School Facilities and D. KCD – Donations/Gifts** – On behalf of the Policy Committee, Mrs. Jordan motioned approval of the first reading of the policies listed. As recommended by Mr. Toler, each item was voted on individually as indicated below:
- A. BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics** - The motion to approve the first reading of Policy BCA was approved 7-2 (Kandrac and Toler opposed).
- B. BEDB – Agenda** - The motion to approve the first reading of Policy BEDB was approved 9-0
- C. KF – Community Use of School Facilities** – This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.
- D. KCD – Donations/Gifts** - The motion to approve the first reading of Policy KCD was approved 9-0.
- 9.2 **Academic Calendar for 2009-2010** – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the 2009-2010 academic calendar recommended by staff. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.3 **E.B. Ellington Elementary School Municipal Sewer Access and Development Agreement between CCSD and the Town of Ravenel** – Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation authorizing the Superintendent to sign the Municipal Sewer Access and Development Agreement between the Charleston County School District and the Town of Ravenel. The funds (\$260,872.00) to reimburse the Town of Ravenel are included as part of the E.B. Ellington Elementary School project budget approved by the Board. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.4 **New District 4 Middle School – Project #5644 (Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science) Reallocation Resolution** – Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Reallocation Resolution for the New District 4 Middle School (Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science) in the amount of \$428,310 from the 2005-2009 Building Program Contingency (Bond Proceeds). The motion was approved 9-0.

- 9.5 **CCSD Land Process** – Mr. Collins motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation for proposed land sale process to sell stranded district properties to replenish the fund balance. The motion was approved 7-2 (Kandrac and Toler opposed).

Mr. Collins and Mr. Ravenel suggested the district look at ways to use stranded properties for ongoing profit instead of a one time sale.

- 9.6 **Charleston Charter School for Math and Science Temporary Facilities Plan** – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the Charleston Charter School for Math and Science request to revise the phasing of their temporary facilities plan at the Rivers campus. The funding (\$3,105,391) of this project is bond funds from the Rivers capital project. The motion was approved 9-0.

During discussion, Mr. Lewis responded to questions from Mrs. Jordan indicating that no additional funds were required. He also stated that it was brought before the Board since the original agreement was to complete the project in two phases instead of the three being proposed. Mr. Lewis also responded to Mrs. Oplinger indicating that other projects were not impacted. However, he stated if no changes were made, there may be an increase. Mr. Meyers suggested that it be placed on an agenda in the near future.

- 9.7 **Charleston Montessori at Springfield** – Dr. Nancy McGinley provided a brief update on Charleston Montessori at Springfield. No action was taken.

Dr. McGinley informed the Board of a request from Ms. Kim Hay to expand the Montessori Program to Pre Kindergarten – 8 grade students and relocate to the Berry Elementary facility. Dr. McGinley said Mayor Summey is interested in the Montessori Program serving North Charleston. The Montessori School Improvement Council is in agreements with becoming a partial magnet to accommodate the Mayor’s request with 50% of the seats for North Charleston residents. She went on to say that staff must also look at the impact of expanding the Montessori school to a K-8 student enrollment for 350 students would have on other schools in that area. Dr. McGinley said action should only be taken after exploration of the impact on other schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:30 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