

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, April 27, 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, Mrs. Audrey Lane, 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. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers 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 5:30 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 State Writing Award Program and Regional SpellBound Spelling Bee participants.
2. A proclamation was read in recognition of National Volunteer Week.
3. The Board recognized Foster Grandparent, Sarah Sacrum.
4. The Board recognized the Morningside Middle School staff for receiving the Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award for 2009. This award is given to only one school SIC in South Carolina each year in recognition of the commitment and work of 15,000 SIC members who volunteer across the state.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley said the district hosted an Arts & Music Summit recently which was very successful and well attended. This initiative promotes arts in music in the district/county. The Arts Roundtable works to translate the ideas from the summit into action for students. This Wednesday at Trident Tech, the Teacher of the Year finalist will be narrowed down from five to one when the district announces the finalist at the annual Teacher of the Year banquet. The district continues to navigate the very difficult budget with over \$16 million in reductions. The district offices closed for a week of furlough during the month of April. This week the district will finalize the schedule and begin holding a series of community budget forums which will begin next week across the district in conjunction with constituent Board meetings to discuss the 2009-2010 budget. The district hosted hundreds of students and staff at the Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament. Some students, who also played tennis on their newly-formed team, were excited to get a first-hand look at professional tennis. The Superintendent's Tennis Cup Tournament will take place Saturday, May 2nd, involving over 300 teachers. The event will encourage teachers and students to pursue life-long sports and provide will kickoff National Teacher Appreciation Week. The district celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week last week and a groundbreaking celebration was at Oakland Elementary. Stall High School won the prestigious Jefferson Award for public service, a national recognition for student volunteers. CCSD held its annual State of the Schools breakfast at the Marriott Hotel on last Thursday. This year event was sponsored by AT&T. There were 300+ attendees at this event. However, the students stole the show. Dr. McGinley asked everyone to join her in remembering her colleague, Dr. Cindy Ellsbury, Superintendent in Horry County who is recovering from devastating fires.

Mrs. Green congratulated Elliot Smalley, the director of Communications who was selected as a Broad Resident.

At this time Mrs. Kandrac mentioned the April 16th groundbreaking at Stiles Point Elementary.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Bob Bohnstenghl, principal at James Island Charter High School and his daughter Laura Bohnstenghl addressed the Board in support of the TOPS program.
2. Deacon Frank Russell, a representative of the School Improvement Council at Morningside Middle School, informed the Board that Royal Missionary Baptist has adopted the school over four years ago and in his role as a volunteer he can see that the school is making progress.
3. Ms. Kristen Johnson addressed the Board in support of transition services for students (TOPS).
4. Rev. Nelson Rivers III, pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church addressed the Board in support of Morningside Middle School. Rev. Rivers mentioned Jim Collins' book about stability and pledged the support of Charity Missionary Baptist Church for teachers and staff at Morningside Middle.
5. Mr. Henry Copeland urged the Board to address an issue related to the district's violation of the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Copeland mentioned he would seek help to withhold district funds until the district responds to his request for information on transportation and budget.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

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

The minutes of March 23, 2009 was tabled. No action was taken.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of April 27, 2009

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on March 23, 2009:

1. **Appointment – Principal – St. Andrews School of Math and Science** – The Board approved the appointment of Mark Shae as principal at St. Andrews School of Math and Science. The motion was approved 9-0.
2. **Appointment – Program Coordinator – 6th Grade Academy** – The Board received information on the appointment of the 6th Grade Academy Program Coordinator.
3. **Student Transfer Appeals** – The Board approved student transfer appeals A, D and E. Student transfer appeals BCF and G were denied. The motion was approved 9-0.
4. **Expulsion Request** – The Board identified a date to hear a student expulsion appeal.
5. **Property Matter** – the Board discussed a property matter in Executive Session. No actions were taken.
6. **James Island Charter High School Expansion – Wetlands Fill and Grading** – The Board approved a landfill recommendation for James Island Charter, subject to a payment for services provided to James Island Charter High School students that transferred to Clark Academy. The motion was approved 9-0.
7. **Legal Briefing** – Legal Counsel briefed the Board on legal matters in Executive Session. The Board identified date to hear the appeal of Gregg Mathis Charter at 4pm on May 18th in the Board Room.
8. **Workers' Compensation Settlement** - The Board approved a Workers' Compensation Settlement. The motion was approved 9-0.
9. **Personnel Matters** – The Board discussed personnel matters in Executive Session. No actions were taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of March 23, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Collins approval of the financial minutes for March 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 pointing out that the spend rate will go up over \$20 million over the summer because Capital Building Program summer projects. Mr. Bobby also informed the Board that a CEEF meeting was held last week. A recommendation will come before the Board on May 11th for reallocation of projects and reallocation of advanced designs at seismic sites.

7.2: General Operating Fund Report

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer informed the Board that he anticipates enough tax collection to reduce the deficit and use less fund balance money.

7.3: Quarterly Minority Business Enterprise Report

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer shared information the Minority Business Enterprise indicating that the total minority business is close to 50%.

7.4: Child and Family Development Center

Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer said the district was looking at a universal program. To move at this time is premature. He went on to recommend that program stay at its current location and that the lease be renegotiated for one year (reassessed) at \$300,000 a year.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

No report at this meeting

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Note: Mr. Collins left the room and did not return until after the Board had voted on items 9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.6, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, and 9.11.

- 9.1 Second Reading of Policy Revisions - A recommendation to approve the second reading of policy revisions listed below.**
- A. BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics,
 - B. BEDB – Agenda,
 - C. KCD – Donations/Gifts
- Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the second reading of the policies listed above. The motion was approved 6-2 (Toler).
- 9.2 First Reading of Policy Revisions – A recommendation to approve the first reading of policy revisions listed below.**
- A. GCCAG – Family Medical Leave Act
 - B. GCFA – Clearance Standards for Classified Staff
 - C. GDFCB – Clearance Standards for Classified Staff
 - D. GBEB – Employee Conduct
 - E. GCQC – Resignation of Teachers
 - F. GCKB – Hiring of Principals/Assistant Principals
 - G. GCKAAA – Involuntary Teacher Transfers
 - H. GCKAA – Voluntary Teacher Transfers
 - I. GCKA – Teacher Assignments
 - J. GCKAAAA – Assignment of Master Teachers
- Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the first reading of policies listed above. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.3 Policy Regulations – The Board received the following policy regulations as information.**
- Policy Regulations
- A. GCCAG – Family Medical Leave Act
 - B. JFAAA – Residency Verification Procedures
- 9.4 Laura Brown Special Board Funds for 2008-2009 – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of a recommendation for allocation of Laura Brown Special Board Funds for 2008-2009. The**

grand total for individual amounts allocated at 50% of the total cost requested for competition travel expenses = \$46,228. . The motion was approved 8-0.

- 9.5 Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation of School Buildings (K-12)** – Mr. Ravenel briefed the Board on the earthquake of 1886 and shared information from the Davis and Floyd assessment of the Rivers building indicating that an earthquake 5% of the 1886 earthquake would ruin the Rivers building. Therefore schools downtown and on Sullivan’s’ Island would be affected. Mr. Ravenel went on to share information from the FEMA book on Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation which he shared with the Superintendent, the Board and Mr. Bill Lewis. He said FEMA got Virginia Tech to do the work and they wrote the book. Mr. Catoe’s essay warns the district about potential problems should an earthquake occur. He mentioned the letter Board Chair Toya Green wrote to the Superintendent requesting staff bring a recommendation to Board in May 2009. Mr. Ravenel suggested staff contact Virginia Tech to provide input on Seismic Rehabilitation to the district. He said if a Request for Proposal is done, and a decision is made, the work should be by design bid. Mr. Ravenel ended his discussion by suggesting a Study Team be formed with Mayor Riley, and others (some from African American communities) because this is a massive project.

Mr. Lewis responded to Mr. Ravenel’s briefing by sharing his historical background and experience with seismic zones stating that he witnessed firsthand a six point earthquake while he served as Chief Engineer in Europe. Because of this experience, he has shared his concerns of the urgency with the board four different times. Mr. Lewis said the window is open to proceed with speed. FEMA defined the risk elegantly in the manual provided. Staff is aware of the vulnerability of schools downtown which is on terrible soil. Not to mention, Rivers, which is on piles. Schools have very little variable strength impacted by winds. However, Mr. Lewis stated that the most fearful point is the aftershocks. He is checking with the Bond Counsel and Mr. Bobby about carryover/ancillary funds - \$7 million has been identified, and CEEF has given staff authorization to move forward with seismic designs. Mr. Lewis said lower seismic zones gives opportunity to do less seismic repairs. He referenced 75 Calhoun Street and replacement of dropped ceilings. Mr. Lewis said there are three story schools, two story schools and one story schools. The plan is to survey and fix category two schools.

- 9.6 E.B. Ellington Elementary New School Construction Recommendation** – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the E.B. Ellington Elementary New School Construction. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.7 Orange Grove Elementary Charter Change Order** - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the Orange Grove Elementary Charter Change Order recommendation. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.8 Facility Use Request – Buist Academy** - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the Buist Academy Facility Use Request. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.9 Facility Use Request – North Charleston High School** - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the North Charleston High School Facility Use Request. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.10 Facility Use Request – Burke High School** - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the Burke High School Facility Use Request. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.11 Home School Applications** - Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of Home School Applications. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.12 Neighborhood Planning Team Initiative** – Dr. Brenda Nelson briefed the Board about the possibility of funding three NPT schools in the 2010-2011. While staff is not sure if funding would be available, the request is being made to engage schools interested to allow them a year to plan. Staff requested permission from the Board to start the process at this time. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of staff’s request to begin the planning process. The motion was approved 9-0.

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