

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, August 10, 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, Mr. Arthur Ravenel, Mr. Ray Toler and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mrs. [Ann Oplinger was absent](#). 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 also in attendance.

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

Chairperson Green called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser 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: Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing
- 1.3: Appointment – Principal – Lincoln High
- 1.4: Bid #1004 for Classroom Audio System Installation and Services for the 2005-2009 Building Program and FY10 Fixed Cost of Ownership Project
- 1.5: Personnel Matter
- 1.6: Business Presentation – AR, EK, CC, and RT

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. Chairperson Green asked the Board to remember board member Ann Oplinger who is mourning the loss of her mother.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3.1: Proclamation – First Day Festival – Ms. Jacquie Kennedy from the Mayor's Office for Children, Youth & Families read the following proclamation in recognition of the First Day Festival Initiative:

First Day of School Initiative

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the First Day Festival is a national celebration which began in 1997 that generates widespread community support for schools and excitement about the beginning of another school year; and

WHEREAS, the First Day Festival initiative encourages parents to attend with their children on the first scheduled day of school; and

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of First Day Festival is to celebrate education by hosting special activities and getting parents to come to school with their children on the first day of school each year; make parents feel welcome; encourage their continuing involvement; then reap the benefits as parents, schools, and communities team up to support their children's education; and

WHEREAS, the best way to connect to our schools is to be there from the beginning and focus attention on the importance of the schools in our community; and

WHEREAS, by having their parents attend the first day of school, the students feel more excited about the beginning of the school year; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the first day of school, Tuesday, August 18, the community will come together to celebrate education at the 7th Annual First Day Festival on Sunday, August 16, 2009 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Liberty Square at the SC Aquarium; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charleston County School Board fully supports and endorses the 2009 First Day of School Initiative.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this 10 day of August 2009.

3.2: FY 08-09 SCSBA Boardmanship Institute Recognition – The following board members were recognized for reaching one of the six levels in the South Carolina Boardmanship Institute.

- Toya Green
- Chris Collins
- Ruth Jordan
- Elizabeth Kandrak

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Principal Lucy Beckham from Wando was named one of three national finalists for Principal of the Year. She is traveling to Washington, D.C. for the final competition.
- This year’s Summer Leadership Institute focused on strategic priorities—improving literacy through teacher quality and extended time. Significant steps were taken in this direction with the summer Quick Start program which will continue throughout the year in 3rd, 6th and 9th grade academies.
- The District launched Literacy Clusters to improve collaboration across grade levels. For the first time, elementary, middle and high school administrators in the same geographic feeder patterns are coming together to share literacy data and effective practices, and embrace the concept of collective accountability. Ninth grade reading levels are everyone’s responsibility. High school principals facilitate the clusters, and each group is bringing back a plan for how their feeder pattern will work together to improve literacy throughout the year.
- School starts next Tuesday, August 18th and everyone is preparing for the opening day.
- The North Charleston’s “It’s Cool to be in School” event is scheduled for Saturday and Charleston’s “First Day Festival” is scheduled for Sunday, August 16th. Stall will interact with facilities and provide information, resources and supplies to students. The District’s partner, the Hands of Christ, has already served over 2100 children with free school supplies and will continue distributions all week.
- The District will use the Parentlink system to call parents with back-to-school information. A “Help Line” has also been created for parents. This Thursday, Friday and next Monday and Tuesday, parents can call 937-6366 from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. if they have questions and need quick, accurate answers.
- Last school year, the district had 1,000 more students in classrooms on the first day. It is hoped that even more students will report to school during the first week.
- Board members are scheduled to tour new school facilities on August 12th.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Stephen Cofer-Shabica expressed concerns regarding racial equity and funds being spent for seismic upgrade of the Rivers Middle School facility for use by the Charleston Math and Science Charter School.
2. Mrs. Beverly Gadson-Birch, a representative of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance addressed the Board about status of the Low County Technical School (High Tech High). Mrs. Birch also spoke of the challenge to find skilled craftsman in this area.

3. Ms. Ellen Smalls addressed the Board about bus stop issues in the area of Cosgrove Ave. Dr. McGinley referred Ms. Smalls to Katie McClure who supervises the district's Transportation Office.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of June 22, 2009. The motion was approved 8-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 10, 2009

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on August 10, 2009:

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeals** – The board approved student transfer appeals C and D. Student appeals A, B, E, and F was approved, pending availability of space. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.2: Student Expulsion Appeal** – The Board approved the recommendation of the committee that heard the appeal permitting the student to attend Fort Johnson Middle School on probation. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.3: Appointment – Principal – Lincoln High** - The Board approved a motion to appoint Yvonne Commodore to the position of principal at Lincoln High. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.4: Bid #1004 for Classroom Audio System Installation and Services for the 2005-2009 Building Program and Fixed Cost of Ownership Project** – This item was moved to open session. Please see Open Session item #9.9.
- 1.5: Personnel Matter** – The Board discussed a personnel mater in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.6: Business Presentation** - The Board received a business presentation in Executive Session. No action was taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of June 22, 2009

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the financial minutes Mr. Toler. The motion was approved 8-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Second Reading of Policy GCQF – Dismissal of Professional Staff – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the second reading of Policy CGQF – Dismissal of Professional Staff. The motion was approved 8-0.

Chairperson Green said Mrs. Oplinger requested the dismissal policy include a timeline in the regulations to ensure equity.

9.2: Early Childhood Program Curriculum - *A recommendation to approve the early childhood curriculum.* Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the recommendation to approve the purchase of Creative Curriculum for CCSD Early Childhood Program. The total cost is \$186,381.84. The funding source is EIA funds. The motion was approved 8-0.

Chairperson Green said Mrs. Oplinger supports a standardized curriculum. However, she had questions about the training. Dr. Gepford said all teachers would be trained with the Creative Curriculum at the start of the school year. The outcome is tied to teacher evaluation. The software provides immediate feedback. Dr. Gepford said he would also check to see if additional material would be provided for teachers.

9.3: Modification to Facilities Use Agreement for James Island Charter School – *A recommendation to review the modification to extend JICHS Facility Use Agreement through June 30, 2010.*

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation for modification to extend James Island Charter School Facility Use Agreement through June 30, 2010 and release James Island from the exclusive beverage requirements contained in the district's contract with Pepsi, at no cost to the district. It is the intent of the District to enact this modification to lease agreement by the end of August 2009. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.4: Modification to Facilities Use Agreement for Orange Grove Charter School – *A recommendation to approve the modification to change location of the premises from McNair Campus site to Orange Grove Campus site.*

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation for early release. The motion was approved 8-0

9.5: James Island Charter High School Land – *A recommendation to include land clearing costs for new land purchase adjacent to James Island Charter campus in program costs for future JICHS capital project in the 2010 building program.* Mr. Lewis responded to questions from Mrs. Jordan regarding costs associated with this item. Mr. Lewis responded that the District awarded a contract using funds from JICHS. The principal at JICHS sent a letter to Dr. McGinley asking the District to reimburse JICHS. Since there are no funds left in this project, it could be included in the next building project.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation to include land clearing costs for new land purchase adjacent to James Island Charter campus in program costs for future JICHS capital project in the 2010 building program. The funding source is Future Bond sales in the amount of \$250,000. The motion was approved 8-0

9.6: Temporary Town Hall – *A recommendation to approve a request from the Town of Sullivan's Island to use the new Moultrie Middle School campus.*

Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to approve the Mayor of the Town of Sullivan's Island request to use the new Moultrie Middle School campus as a temporary Town Hall in the event of devastation in the aftermath of a natural disaster, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.7: Rivers Campus Seismic Status – The Board discussed the current status of the seismic evaluation and design work for the Rivers campus. Mr. Lewis said the Request for Quotes for the seismic update for downtown schools is due to close late August, early September. The advanced designs Request for Quotes is out now. Rivers was discussed at the time of the project. The district knew of three problems from the start: seismic and utility upgrades and exterior moisture. The intent was to get engineering problems done until the Board determined the second phase (occupancy). The Board approved the second phase. However, the work has stopped because staff is seeking a directive from the Board to move forward with the seismic upgrade or not. Mr. Meyers said he didn't anticipate staff to stop working because of the Act 189 inquiry and it is in everyone's interest to fix the campus. However, he wants to address all needs when addressing seismic upgrades. Furthermore, spend money where needed the most. Chairperson Green said she didn't want the building to collapse. However, she wanted to keep it on the same cycle of other downtown schools. If prioritizing, select a school that already houses students. Mr. Collins agreed that the process should start with those schools already occupied. Mr. Lewis said upgrades done earlier resulted in schools being bull-dozered. However, the cost of preserving Rivers versus bull-dozing is substantial because education specs are different now. This would be the District's first major seismic upgrade. Mr. Lewis spoke of upgrades in 1930 versus 2009. South Carolina adopted a state building code in 2002. Now all school construction goes to the state level instead of the local level. Mr. Lewis said Californians have more experience because of the number of earthquakes they have. Mrs. Jordan questioned why spend funds when there is none and after five schools were closed and some new schools not being used. She suggested a comprehensive approach to getting all quotes and prioritizing upgrades. She went on to say that there wasn't enough money to address the Preservation Society's concerns and the district should start with the elementary schools first. Mr. Lewis said the objective is to do Best Practice with the seismic upgrade. Since the last building program list exceeds funds available, the highest needs would be addressed first. For now, he is just looking for an engineer to do

a study at Rivers to address the needs of the three areas identified earlier. Mr. Ravenel commented on remarks made earlier by Mrs. Jordan regarding education in the community and Mr. Meyers' remarks about Rivers capacity (800) stating that a nice mobile park was created for the Charleston Charter School of Math and Science. He also commented on the NAACP criticism of restoring Rivers. Since he has been on the Board, he has not heard that Low County Technical School (High Tech High) would be denied access to the building. That is a natural place for it and any other school looking for quarters. Access to Rivers, when renovated would be laid to rest, hopefully, when it's finished. Mr. Lewis said Sanders Clyde and Rivers were priority. He suggested a visit to the Rivers cafeteria. Mr. Fraser said the decision would come when there is a plan with amounts. A lot of planning must be done beforehand. Steps are needed to make informed decisions. In reference to Restoring Rivers, Mr. Fraser said if it's viable to the community it must be studied. All costs should be provided prior to decision making. Mr. Meyers said no decision has been made to do anything at this point. At this time it's necessary to look at what needs to be done. The Board would have an opportunity to prioritize. Mr. Meyers said he was sorry that staff stopped the work at Rivers. Dr. McGinley said in 2006 when she was the Chief Academic Officer she wrote a paper about housing both Low Country Tech and Charleston Charter School of Math and Science. In June 2007, because of proposed school closings, those plans ceased. Chairperson Green requested staff provide a Board Update on Low County Tech on August 24th.

9.8: Process on Surplus Property - *The Board discussed the process on surplus property.* Chairperson Green suggested staff define surplus property, to avoid receiving requests for unused properties which are being held for swing space. Mr. Meyers and Mrs. Jordan agreed. Mrs. Jordan and Mr. Fraser suggested the process be transparent. Mr. Fraser said the District should borrow a best practice and develop a policy to address surplus property. Mr. Ravenel said there were special requests, such as Pattison Academy which has 44 students with severe disabilities. Mr. Bobby said he needed 45-60 days to develop a transparent process for surplus property.

ADJOURNMENT

9.9: Bid #1004 for Classroom Audio System Installation and Services for the 2005-2009 Building Program and Fixed Cost of Ownership Project – The Board approved a recommendation for Bid #1004 for Classroom Audio System Installation and Services for the 2005-2009 Building Program and Fixed Cost of Ownership Project. The funding source is Fixed Cost of Ownership. (2004-2009 Building Program \$740,075 and \$679,213 Approved for FY20 Fixed Cost of Ownership Funding). The estimated 5-year cost is \$3,396,065. The motion was approved 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 6:50 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