

November 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, November 10, 2008 with the following members of the Board present: Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. 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.

Mr. Meyers called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Jordan motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green 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. Mr. Meyers called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.1: Oath of Office

The Honorable Judge Deadra L. Jefferson administered the Oath of Office to one re-elected and four newly elected members. The oath follows.

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of this State, to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected (or appointed) and that I will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of this State and of the United States, so help me God.”

(S.C. Constitution, Article III, Section 26)

- Chris Collins (new) – North Charleston
- Chris Fraser (new) – West Ashley
- Toya Hampton-Green (re-elected) – Peninsula
- Ann Oplinger (new) – West Ashley
- Elizabeth Kandrac (new) – North Charleston

2.2: Election of Officers

Mr. Meyers, Acting Chair, opened the floor for election of officers. Mrs. Jordan nominated Mrs. Green for Chair, seconded by Mr. Ravenel. Mr. Meyers motioned the nomination be closed. This motion was approved unanimously. The motion to appoint Mrs. Green as Chair was approved 9-0.

Mrs. Green accepted the nomination, thanked Board members for their support, and took her seat as chair. Chairperson Green then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mrs. Jordan nominated Mr. Meyers as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fraser. The motion to appoint Mr. Meyers as Vice Chair was approved 9-0.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3.0: Special Recognition for Nov 10, 2008

There were no Special Recognition items to come before the Board at this meeting.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

- Dr. McGinley welcomed the four new Board members, Mr. Chris Collins, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, and Mrs. Ann Oplinger and re-elected member Mrs. Toya Green. She spoke about the work to be done, the importance of the district directly addressing challenges and the vital role public education plays locally and nationally. She mentioned the major budget crises and persistent achievement gap. She also stated that the district could become number one if it supports an agenda

that put students first, support teachers and parents and adopt the best, most proven practices in education.

- HSAP scores were released and the percentage of students passing both English and Math on the first attempt went up for the third straight year. Recently improvements were mirrored in other areas including the PACT test in grades three through eight, AP and ACT exams and most recently our 11% point graduation rate, which is the highest in four years.
- The Superintendent concluded her report by asking Veterans to stand to be recognized.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Mr. Jeremy Gilbert and Ms. Allison Bello requested the Board consider providing a larger facility for the Montessori Community School program.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of October 13, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of November 27, 2008. The motion was approved 7-0-2 (Fraser and Oplinger abstained).

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of November 10, 2008

1.1: Teacher Appeal Hearing – The Board voted on two motions. The first motion to grant a teacher appeal failed. The vote was 2-1-6 (Kandrac abstained; Ravenel and Toler voted in favor of the motion). The second motion to deny the teacher an appeal hearing was approved 8-0-1 (Kandrac abstained).

1.2: Student Appeal Hearing – The Board approved a motion to hear a student appeal on Monday, November 17, 2008 at 5:15pm. The motion was approved 9-0.

6.3: Financial Minutes of October 27, 2008

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler to approve the Financial Minutes of October 27, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: Report on the Budget – Mr. Bobby

Mr. Bobby provided an update on the current status of the Charleston County School District's budget. In spite of budget cuts, the district will not deter from educating students or taking resources from classrooms. He anticipates that next year's budget will be the same as this year. However, operational costs will not decrease. The district must stand firm with redesign and do more with less.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Sample Check Register Report for Posting on Website

Mr. Bobby presented information on posting the check register on the district's website. He cautioned that some things must be considered before this could be done and suggested it be limited to vendors only. No district personnel information would be posted.

Mr. Fraser shared his thoughts about posting the check register on the district's website pointing out that it was not meaningful and will make more work for the district when there's plenty work to be done.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Facility Use Request – St. Johns High

The recommendation to approve a facility use request for St. Johns High School as required by Board Policy KF.

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of the Facility Use Request for St. Johns High School. The motion was approved 9-0.

Also during discussion of this item, Mrs. Oplinger questioned why this request was presented to the board when there is a Board policy in place to address facility use. Mr. Bobby responded that it's been a district practice. However, he is willing to entertain a change. Mr. Meyers suggested the policy be changed to grant future facility use requests if they meet policy expectations.

9.2: Commissioning Services for Center of Arts and Academics

A recommendation to approve the contract for commissioning services for the Center of the Arts and Academics School project in the lump sum amount of \$158,000. The funding source is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement funds for School of the Arts project and 2006-2009 Capital Improvement Academic Magnet High School project funds.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation to award the contract for Commissioning Services for the Center of the Arts & Academics School project to System WorCx Building Commissioning Services (System WorCx) for the lump sum contract amount of \$158,000. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.3: Bid Award - Stiles Point Elementary School

A recommendation to approve the bid award for construction of Stiles Point Elementary School.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the recommendation to award the contract for construction of Stiles Point Elementary for base bid and Alternates to Metro Contracting 1 and 2 in the amount of \$10,976,556.00. The funding for this project is within previously Board approved Capital Improvement Plan budget for Stiles Point Elementary. The motion was approved 9-0.

9.4: CCSD Board Representative for South Carolina School Boards Association Board of Directors

A recommendation to appoint a board representative to serve on the South Carolina School Boards Association Board of Directors.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the recommendation to appoint Mrs. Jordan to the South Carolina School Boards Association Board of Directors. The motion was approved 9-0

9.5: Phase II – Community Engagement

An update on Phase II of the School Redesign Initiative.

The Board received information on Phase II of the School Redesign Initiative. No action was taken. The Board will discuss the Redesign Initiative at its upcoming Board Workshop on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. Mr. Meyers also requested the Superintendent provide an update on the twelve criterias for new Board members. Mrs. Oplinger also suggested the public receive an earlier meeting notice. The first meeting will be held on December 10th at Lincoln High School.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:00 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