

**December 8, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, December 8, 2008 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 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler 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 4:50 p.m. Mrs. Green called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board convened in Open Session at an earlier time to allow additional time to discuss Open Session items.

**III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**3.0: Special Recognition for December 8, 2008**

The Board recognized Senator Glen McConnell, in his absence, for exemplary leadership in obtaining funds for the Charleston County School District.

The Board recognized Representative Floyd Breeland, a former Charleston County School District Administrator, on his retirement from Legislative Delegation.

The Board recognized Representative Ben Hagood for his support for the Charleston County School District.

The Board recognized Mr. Lou Mellon, on behalf of the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club Happy Feet Program which gives free shoes to students

The Board recognized Michael Antoinelli, principal at Laurel Hill Elementary, on receiving National Association for Education of Young Children accreditation.

The Charleston County School District Staff presented a check in the amount of \$12,697.15 representing proceeds from the October 8, 2008 Annual Golf Tournament to the Coastal Community Foundation, the organization that manages the district's the Ronald McWhirt Scholarship funds.

The Board recognized Chaplain Rob Dewey for being a "Behind the Scenes Hero who goes beyond the call of duty to help staff, parents and students during crises. Although this is the first time the District has given this award, it will be done two times a year.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**4.1: Superintendent's Report**

Dr. McGinley announced that since the key agenda item --the Redesign Presentation-- is on tonight's agenda she would only mention a couple of highlights from last week. The fifth annual Principal for a Day breakfast was held last Thursday opening up school doors to local CEO's, Mayors, and community leaders. This initiative began four years ago, and since then it has grown to include 100% of the district's principals. Last Friday, the district learned that Academic Magnet High School, Wando High School and School of the Arts were ranked among the nation's best high schools in a new *U.S. News and World Report*. Wando earned a bronze rating, and the School of the Arts earned silver, placing them among the nation's elite. After stating that the details and background about School Redesign options will be presented later in the meeting, Dr.

McGinley sent a message to parents, students, staff, former students, and interested citizens that the community will help the district narrow and refine the options before they are brought back to the Board for a vote in January. She look forward to the conversation that will occur over the next few weeks. She went on to say that the district has communicated with pastors, community members, business leaders, and staff about this plan and know from these conversations that the issue is nothing, if not emotional. The options staff will bring to the Board will make the district a better and stronger and help to expand early childhood and Career Technical education options while creating a healthy infrastructure to boost teacher quality. Public input and involvement is appreciated.

## **V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5.1: Visitors, Public Communications**

1. Ms. Debra Green expressed concerns regarding the closure of schools in District 20.
2. Mr. E. M. Skidmore, Mr. James Murray, Mr. Albert Morrison, Mr. Nick Linds, Ms. Fran Caldwell, Ms. Elaine Freeman, Ms. Jacqueline Bowman, Mr. Jimmy Jones, and Mr. Maurice Brown expressed concerns regarding closure of Jane Edwards Elementary.
3. Ms. Nancy Todd expressed concerns regarding a personnel issue.
4. Mr. Paul Hines addressed the Board regarding charter schools.
5. Ms. Jenny Leckie urged the Board to do the job they were voted in office to do or move on and let someone else do it.
6. Mr. Russell Johnson expressed concerns regarding the position the County Board took regarding a West Ashley High School student expulsion.
7. Ms. Alexcia Johnson, Ms. Shanay Alston, Ms. Shanty Young and Ms. Ronta Turner German expressed concerns regarding closure of Charleston Progressive Academy.

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM**

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of November 24 2008**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the open session and executive session minutes of November 24, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0 with one revision. (Mrs. Green called the meeting to order.)

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of December 8, 2008**

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on November 24, 2008:

- 1.1 Student Appeal Hearing Ratification - The Board upheld a decision to assign a student to Jenkins Academy for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.2 North Charleston High School Addition and Renovation – Project Number 5655 – This item was moved to Open Session (Open Session agenda item #9.4).
- 1.3 Recommendation for Award of District-wide Custodial Services (RFP 9002) – The Board approved a recommendation to award multi contracts for district wide custodial services to SSC Service Solutions for Districts 1, 2, 9, 10 and 23; the Budd Group for District 4; and the GCA Services for District 20. The proposed total amount required for all contracts is \$7,019,008.32. The funding source is General Operating Funds. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 1.4: Contractual Matters:
  - A. The Board approved the recommendation authorizing a three day furlough for 12 month Administrators and Classified employees (December 22, 23, and January 2) with the provision that staff would have the opportunity to use personal or vacation days. The motion was approved 9-0.
  - B. The Board discussed a contractual matter in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.5: Student Transfer Appeal. The Board discussion a student transfer appeal in Executive Session, no action was taken.
- 1.6: Teacher Appeal Hearing – The Board identified a date to hear a teacher appeal.

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of November 24, 2008**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the financial minutes for November 24, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **7.1: FY2009 Financial Audit**

Mr. Michael Bobby presented highlights to the Board on district's Financial Audit indicating that fund balance has increased and the district is close to having 5% designated fund balance. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion, which is the best the district could receive. In General Operating Funds, the District should have 1-2% operating expense reserved for emergencies and major planned expenditures. It also helps the district get better interest rates. Mr. Bobby responded to issues identified in the audit and summarized how the district plans to address these issues, reiterating that the district received an "Unqualified" opinion.

## **VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE**

### **8.1 School Board Vision Discussion**

The Board opted not to have a discussion about its vision to allow more time for the School Redesign presentation.

### **8.2: How Technology in the Classroom is Impacting Student Outcomes**

Mrs. Emily Elliot, a teacher at Goodwin Elementary, presented information on Technology Integration at Goodwin Elementary. Through this innovative Technology strategy, the schools' PACT and MAP test scores will increase.

## **IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- 9.1 Funding for Cisco Networking Hardware System Bid for New and Existing Schools – School Volunteers - Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to approve funding for Cisco Networking Hardware System Bid for new and existing schools. The funding source is Capital Project Funds. The initial project – St. Andrews Middle School - \$135,678. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 9.2 Facility Use Request – North Charleston High School. The Board received information on a facility use request for North Charleston High School.
- 9.3 Oakland Elementary School – The Board approve a recommendation to award the contract for Oakland Elementary School for base bid and Alternate No 1 in the amount of \$12,584,480.00 to Martin Engineering. The motion was approve 8-0.

**Note: Chris Fraser left the room during discussion and voting of items 9.1 – 9.3.**

- 9.3 School Redesign Options – Staff presented an extensive report on school redesign options. The School Redesign Options were prompted after the June 2008 cycle presented the district with an economic climate in which inflation increased by four percent while the district's budget increased by less than one percent. The Charleston County Board of Trustees approved the general operating budget for 2008-2009 school year, and issued two directives to the Superintendent:
  1. Move forward with a plan to market and sell excess district property. Utilize the revenue from these property sales to replenish the district's "fund balance." It was also noted that the FY09 budget borrowed \$7 million from the fund balance.)
  2. Bring the Board a plan to consolidate underutilized, inefficient schools.

The rationale for redesign was outlined. The district is facing a potential \$15-\$20 million budget shortfall for 2009-2010 year. Without consolidation, this could mean drastic elimination of programs, services, and personnel, and/or significant increasing in class size. The School Redesign options are based on the following criterias:

1. Educational Quality
  - a. Adequate Yearly Progress (Federal)
  - b. Absolute Rating (State)
  - c. Improvement Rating (State)
  - d. Program Standards/Fidelity of Mission

2. Demographic Factors
  - a. Enrollment Decline
  - b. Enrollment vs Building Capacity
  - c. Population Trends
  - d. Per Pupil Cost
3. Facility Conditions
  - a. Building Condition
  - b. Campus Size
  - c. Time and Miles to Nearest School
  - d. Available Space in Nearest School

MAP data, Data Dashboard, Redesign Options were presented for each district followed by a question and answer session. The presentation concluded with the announcement of upcoming Community Forum meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 9:00 p.m., Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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