

**January 12, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, January 12, 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 Mrs. Jordan 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 5:25 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**

### **3.0: Special Recognition for January 12, 2009**

The Board recognized Wando High School Environmental Science students for receiving the G.R.E.E.N.S. fund award sponsored by the Sustainability Institute and Lowcountry Earth Force. The group was presented a check in the amount of \$7,000.

Genesis, the musical group of students from Stall High sang an original composition entitled “The Way it is.”

## **IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **4.1: Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. McGinley wished everyone in attendance a Happy New Year. She assured the group that the district can overcome current budget challenges by working together and focusing on what’s best for all students. She reviewed the district’s accomplishments for 2008 and stated that the district’s projected “excellent” improvement rating and the highest PACT proficiency scores were the highest ever at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The graduation rate increased 11 point. The district’s enrollment is up by 200 and its’ rating exceeds the two neighboring districts. Dr. McGinley shared recent school achievements—Garrett Academy of Technology won the state’s award for Distinguished Title I School for Overall Achievement, five new partial magnet schools are finalizing their applications and recruiting new families for next school year, and Mitchell 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Shavonna Coakley was recently named CCSD’s Teacher of the Month.

Dr. McGinley announced that an update on School Redesign will be presented later in the meeting. A meeting will be held in District 3 to discuss the sale of property on Grimball Road. Mr. Bobby will share information on budget shortfall for this current school year. She also mentioned the agenda item which asks the Board for permission to look into the possible sale of the 75 Calhoun Street building. In closing, she stated there are no sacred cows in this process—anything that will generate significant savings, stabilize the district’s finances, and help schools become more efficient will be on the table. Although budget cuts will be emotional, all decisions will be made with two questions in mind: “Will this choice make things better or worse for the future of our students?” and “How will this option help us to achieve the Victory in the Classroom?”

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

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

1. Mrs. Rabiah Harris, Ms. Jacquie Stewart, Mr. Edward Jones, Mr. E.M. Seabrook, Mrs. Harriette Wilder, Mr. DeAngelo Montgomery, Mr. Henry Copeland, and Mr. Lonnie Hamilton expressed concerns in regards closure of District 20 Schools identified in the School Redesign proposal.

2. Ms. Jacqueline Bowman, Mr. Jimmy Jones, Rev, Charles Glover, Mr. Douglas Thomas, Ms. Ande Sherman, Mr. Archie Johnson, Ms. Anietra Harper, Ms. E.M. Skinner, Ms. Fran Caldwell, Mr. John Lambs expressed concerns in regards to closure of District 23 schools identified in the School Redesign proposal. They also urged the Board to support continuance of construction of the new E.B. Ellington.
3. Ms. Marna Stilley, Ms. Amy Dickerson, Ms. Bonnie Cleveland, and Ms. Lisa Bullard asked the Board to consider a larger facility for Charleston Montessori Community School.
4. Ms. Audrey Mack, Rev. Calvin Morris, Ms. Deborah Grant, Ms. Kim LaBoard, Mr. Carl McKnight, and Mr. Allen Mitchell expressed concerns in regards closure of District 9 Schools identified in the School Redesign proposal.
5. Mr. Edward Jones expressed concerns about the proposal to relocate Charleston Montessori Program to the current site of Charleston Progressive. Mr. Jones informed the Board of his intent to address this issue with Mayor Riley at the City Council meeting on Tuesday.
6. Ms. Jennie Lackey suggested the Board consider cutting administrators pay instead of closing schools.
7. Mr. Carlton Solomon urged the Board to sell the Boyd Elementary School property up for sale.

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

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of December 8, 2008**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the open session and executive session minutes of December 8, 2008. The motion was approved 9-0.

**Note:** Mr. Collins left the room after voting on agenda item 6.1 and returned to vote on agenda item 6.1.5. Therefore, he did not vote on 6.1-3 and 6.1-4.

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of January 12, 2009**

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on January 12, 2009:

- 1.1 Student Appeal Hearings –The Board identified a date to hear student appeals.
- 1.2 Legal Briefing. The Board received a legal briefing in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.3 District One Constituent Board Appointment – The Board approved the appointment of Juanita Middleton to the District 1 Constituent Board. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.4: Student Transfer Appeal – The Board approved a student transfer appeal from Laing Middle to Moultrie Middle. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.5: Contractual Matters - The Board discussed and acted on Executive Session items as follows:
  - A. The Board discussed a contractual matter in Executive Session; no action was taken
  - B. The Board discussed a contractual matter in Executive Session; no action was taken
  - C. The Board approved a motion to ask General Counsel to look at the bid for CCSD’s Cabling Project and make a recommendation to the Board. The motion was approved 8-1
  - D. The Board approved a recommendation for funding for cabling contract from the CCSD Building program.
  - E. The Board discussed a contractual matter in Executive Session; no action was taken

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of December 8, 2008**

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

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **7.1: Update on FY2009 Budget**

Mr. Michael Bobby updated the Board on the FY2009 Budget. He recommended Board approval of two resolutions—one urging legislative action to provide flexibility for school districts with respect to teacher contracts and teacher salaries and the other requesting permission to use unallocated funds incorporated in action with fund balance up to \$7 million to ease the financial gap the district is facing. He went on to say that the district has lost \$13,327,135 million due to state cuts. In June 2008 when the budget was adopted (\$323,469,577), the projected fund balance was \$7.1 million. Due to underestimated tax, an additional amount was received and moved to fund balance increased to \$7.6 million. Due to the tax shift, the district is limited to

raise local funds (Act 388). Assessed value grows more than millage rates. Several cost-saving efforts were shared starting with the furlough in December for 12 month employees. Other cost saving efforts mentioned were the offer for contract adjustments, freeze on non salary accounts by 20%, per diem substitutes, mid year layoff, more furlough, and roll back of cost of living.

During discussion, Mr. Ravenel asked how much could be saved if class size were increased by one student.

### **7.2: Preparation for Budget Process and Budget Development for 2010**

Mr. Michael Bobby presented information to the Board on Preparation for Budget Process and Budget Development for 2010. Mr. Bobby said the district faces less revenue (\$21,406,343) with an increased amount of expenditures (\$6,623,549), a total of \$28,029,893 Expenditures over Revenue.

During this discussion, Mr. Collins requested the amount of funds spent on athletics.

### **7.3: Update on School Redesign**

Dr. McGinley provided an update on School Redesign announcing that the final recommendation which will be available on January 19<sup>th</sup> will include closing a limited amount of schools and merging programs in schools. Mr. Collins expressed concerns about the limited time the Board would have to review the recommendation prior to taking action at the January 26, 2009 Board meeting.

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

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

- 9.1 A. Second Reading – Policy GBXXX – Sick Leave Bank – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the recommendation to approve the Second Reading of Policy GBXXX – Sick Leave Bank. The motion was approved 9-0
- B. First Reading – Policy JFAB – Admission of Homeless Students – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the recommendation to approve the first reading of Policy JFAB – Admission of Homeless Students. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.2 Revised Policy Regulation – Policy GBXXX – Sick Leave Bank – The Board received as information only.
- 9.3 Home School Application – Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of a Home School Application. The motion was approved 9-0.

It was also determined that the approval of home school applications will be referred to the Policy Committee to review.

- 9.4 Authorization to Investigate Sale of 75 Calhoun Street Building – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the motion authorizing the superintendent to investigate the sale of the 75 Calhoun Street building. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.5 Technology Equipment for Classrooms – The Board received information on Technology Equipment for Classrooms. No action was taken.
- 9.6 Laing Middle Campus – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of a motion authorizing the Superintendent market the Laing Campus property for sale and move Laing Middle School to the Wando South Swing campus until the new Laing Middle School is opened. Revenue from the sale of Laing campus would be used to increase the GOF fund balance. The cost to move Laing Middle to the swing campus and make Wando South ready for SY2009 will be funded as a project in the FY10 Fixed Cost of Operations Program. The motion was approved 5-4. (Collins, Kandrak, Ravenel and Toler opposed).

A second motion was offered by Mr. Toler, seconded by Mr. Ravenel to not sell the Laing Campus property at this time failed 4-5 (Fraser, Green, Meyers, Oplinger and Jordan opposed).

- 9.7 Resolution for Recommendation to urge State Legislature Action – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Resolution for Recommendation to Urge State Legislation Action. This will allow flexibility for school districts with respect to teacher contracts and teacher salaries. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.8 Update on FY2009 budget and recommended action to balance the budget by fiscal year end – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Action Plan Resolution to balance the Fiscal Year 2009 budget. The motion was approved 9-0.
- 9.9 Comprehensive and Remedial Tutoring Initiative at Various Schools – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the recommendation for Comprehensive and Remedial Tutoring Initiative at Various Schools. The total cost is \$580,314. The funding source is EIA Comprehensive Remedial Funds. The motion was approved 9-0.

#### **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:

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