

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, September 14, 2009 with the following members of the Board present: Board 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. Chair - Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green 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.

Mr. Meyers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Ravenel 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 Appeal Hearing
  - 1.3: Legal Matter
  - 1.4. Legal Briefing
  - 1.5: Personnel Matter
- 1.6: Funding for Content Filtering Solution Request for Proposal #P1006

**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.

**III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**3.1: Summer Reading Program** - The Board recognized volunteers from three churches—Grace Episcopal, Morris Street Baptist, and Secular Humanist. These volunteers helped students catch up on Reading and Math during the summer.

**3.2: Behind the Scenes Hero Award** – The Board recognized Ms. Frances Lynn Young as the Behind the Scenes Hero for donating school supplies and clothes to CCSD students.

**3.3: Community Events Coordinator for Select Health** – The Board recognized

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**4.1: Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- The September 2<sup>nd</sup> incident at North Charleston High resulted in 26 students being arrested by the North Charleston Police Department. This country is ruled by law and therefore, violent offenders are not allowed to go unpunished while the rights of the innocent go unprotected. These are the same principles we follow to keep our schools safe. Dr. McGinley said these comments were made to reassure North Charleston High School parents and out community that the district will not tolerate violence on school campuses. The fight in the cafeteria was sparked by an earlier community incident between the same to combatants. While CCSD cannot control what happens on weekends, and in the extended community, CCSD can and will assure all concerned parties that disrupting and violence on campuses will result in consequences. The majority of students at North Charleston High are there for the right reasons—to learn, get credits toward their high school graduation and go to college. The district receives extraordinary support from the North Charleston Police Department. Principal Juanita Middleton has met with community resource officers from three key North Charleston neighborhoods and efforts are in place to build stronger connections between the school, police and community. The community resource officers will also keep the school informed about future community incidents.

- Last Thursday the Superintendent met with the faculty and staff at North Charleston High and updated them on this incident. The school district has been active in securing additional supervisory personnel and two additional Student Concern Specialists will be added to NCHS, raising the total to eight. NCHS has four Assistant Principals, an experienced principal and eleven additional teachers over the formula and two full-time parent advocates. The district will also meet with community leaders to work cooperatively on a mentoring program.
- In response to concerns about possible overcrowding in the NCHS lunchroom, the school is adding an additional lunch period to reduce the number of students present in the lunchroom at any given time. While the enrollment at NCHS is lower than projected, mobile classrooms are being moved from Ashley River Elementary to the Brentwood campus within the next several weeks and the entire ninth grade academy, faculty and an Assistant Principal will be housed in a separate area of the campus to minimize the movement of 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- To further ensure safety at NCHS, staff was directed to tighten up on the use of cell phones. Phones in the high school are an ongoing problem. They cause rapid spread of rumors, possible threats and widespread participation in what could have been an isolated incident. Cell phone usage at NCHS will be restricted as it is on the other high school campuses. The “no tolerance” approach to violence will be taken. The district is confident that NCHS is instructionally sound with an environment that is positive, safe, and supportive of learning. Students who are expelled from the campus will not be denied their right to complete their high school diploma. They will be given a second chance. Transition Coordinators are in place to help these young adults get their lives back on track through online courses available in the Summit Program or through the Adult Education program.
- Twenty one schools participated in the Trident United Way’s annual “Day of Caring” last Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. All across the county, parents, employees, and community business members joined together to make a difference in their communities. We encourage this spirit of volunteerism all year long in schools with mentors and tutors helping students learn to read and write.
- The district held its first Parent Advisory group meeting for the year. Feedback received from parents all across the country will be shared with principals and administrators this week during the countywide meeting.
- On Tuesday, the majority of schools in Charleston County aired President Obama’s speech live. All other schools made the speech available before the end of the school week, and staff received the speech in the Friday Desk letter. The President’s message of hard work, character, and responsibility is something all students can benefit from hearing. The Superintendent said in the future, she will trust in the wisdom and integrity of the nation’s president and support high right, as our leader, to speak directly to all of America’s children. In addition, she said she hoped the Board of Trustees would support that decision as well

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

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

1. Ms. Elizabeth McCravy, Mr. Jack Scarborough, Ms. Lisa Lopez, Ms. Amy Dickson and Mr. Mitch Rubinstein requested a larger facility for the Montessori Community School of Charleston.
2. Mr. Rick Summons thanked the Board for the newly renovated Ashley River Creative Arts building. Mr. Summons was referred to Mr. Bill Lewis for answers to his questions regarding future plans for the old gymnasium.

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

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of August 24, 2009**

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of August 24, 2009. The motion was approved 8-0.

Also, at this time, Mrs. Kandrac pointed out that there was an error in the corrections she identified on August 24<sup>th</sup> for the July 20<sup>th</sup> Board minutes. The minutes should say the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Chris

Swetkie, principal at St. James Santee. Mrs. Kandrak also stated that Mr. Collins was not mentioned in the minutes. However, Mr. Meyers said it was not required because no action was taken on that item.

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of August 14, 2009**

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session on August 14, 2009:

- 1.1: Student Transfer Appeal** – The board approved student transfer C. Student appeals A and B were denied. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.2: Student Appeal Hearing** – The Board identified a date to hear the student appeal.
- 1.3: Legal Matter** - The Board approved the recommendation to accept the Wando HVAC settlement offer for \$375,000. The motion was approved 8-0.
- 1.4: Legal Briefing** – The Board received a legal briefing in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.5: Personal Matter** – The Board discussed a personnel matter in Executive Session. No action was taken.
- 1.6: Funding for Content Filtering Solution Request for Proposal #P1006** – The Board approved a motion for funding for Content Filtering Solution Request for Proposal #P1006. The total 5-year cost is \$162,025.00. The funding source is General Operating Funds. The motion was approved 8-0.

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of August 24, 2009**

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the financial minutes of August 24, 2009. The motion was approved 8-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT**

### **7.1: General Operating Fund Financial Report**

Mr. Bobby, Chief Financial Officer, presented information on the General Operating Fund pointing out that staff curbed expenditures and used \$7 million from Fund Balance to balance the 2009-2010 budget. Already this year, he is aware of one state cut that will amount to \$3.5 - \$4 million. The District fortunately is able to weather this first cut because of a better collection strategy (cost collection and tax control). He shared a Fund Balance Chronology beginning June 2007 and ending September 2009. In June 2007, Fund Balance was \$13,300,000 (3.2%). However, the current Fund Balance is \$17,732,764 (5.63%). Mr. Bobby said the Transfer of Accessible Interest has been significant. Cost Control worked and now the district is able to take advantage of growth. Mr. Bobby urged the Board not to allow Legislative Delegation to eliminate Accessible Interest. Mr. Bobby also mentioned the proposed Legislative bill which would help builders with homes that have not been sold. Mr. Bobby said he would follow up carefully on the proposed bill.

Mr. Ravenel said he is delighted with the report because he did not support a tax increase.

### **7.2: Board Conduct Policies**

Vice Chair, Gregg Meyers led the Board discussion on Board Conduct Policies. Mr. Meyers said the purpose is to see how well the Board is doing with complying with their own rules.

Mr. John Emerson, General Counsel for the District, provided a memorandum on Board Policy and identified several policies and violations which prohibit staff from performing their jobs.

- Board Policy BB – School Board Legal Status – All powers of the board lie in its action as a body. M Board members acting as individuals have no authority over personnel or school affairs.
- Board Policy BBA – School Board Powers and Duties – Board members should make official visits to the school only under board authorization and with the full knowledge of staff including the superintendent, principals, and other supervisors.
- Board Policy BCA – Board Members Code of Ethics – understanding the basic function of a school board is policymaking, not administration, and by accepting the responsibility of learning to discriminate intelligently between these two functions and referring all complaints to the superintendent and discussing them only at a regular meeting after failure of an operational solution.

Further, Mr. Emerson said that fifteen request for information are laboring; nine of which were Freedom of Information Act requests in fourteen different categories. My Meyers said feedback from staff on the Board complying with its own rules also allows staff to know the Board's authority lies within policymaking. Mrs. Jordan suggested the discussion of the Board Conduct Policies be continued at the upcoming September 21<sup>st</sup> Board Workshop. Mr. Meyers suggested it be added to the agenda of the workshop to allow the Board to receive feedback from staff. Mrs. Kandrac asked what was wrong with the Freedom of Information Act requests she submitted. She submitted FOIA requests to get information for her constituents. However, her FOIAs are rarely answered and she received a letter requesting that she stop submitting FOIA requests. Mr. Emerson responded that he keeps up the FOIAs and responds in a timely fashion. Mrs. Oplinger commented that it was healthy to evaluate the Board. Mr. Meyers suggested all requests should go directly to the Superintendent. Also, it makes it clear that she is the point of contact. This gives the Superintendent the authority to refuse the request unless it is requested by the majority of the Board.

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

**8.1: Quick Start Program Review** – Dr. Gepford spoke of an earlier meeting with the Mott Foundation and a nationwide effort to expand learning opportunities. Ms. Christine Ryan, Team Associate and other district representatives provided a summary of Quick Start program results for Voyager, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Academy, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, ESOL, and Extended, School Year program.

**8.2: PC Replacement Plan Update** – The Board received information on the PC Plan Update.

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

**9.1: Agreement for Services: Educational Services and Policies** – Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the agreement for Educational Services and Policies for various schools during 2009-2010 school year. The motion was approved 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

Staff responded to questions from Mrs. Kandrac regarding which schools would benefit from the agreement and future plans for services to be provided by staff. Dr. Gepford said this program was adopted by the state for all high schools. Dr. McGinley said schools are at different levels, some have new principals and some priority schools are monitored by the state. She also said progress is being made in High Schools and the funding source is Title I Funds.

**9.2: Agreement for Services: Blaney Elementary – Community Development Institute Head Start** – *A recommendation to approve the agreement to lease space at Blaney Elementary.* Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the recommendation to lease space at Blaney Elementary to Community Development Institute Head Start. The proposed period is September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The lease of classroom 509 (705 square feet) will be leased at \$3.00 per square foot. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.3: Agreement for Services** – *A recommendation to approve the agreement to acquire services of Communities in Schools during the 2009-2010 school year.* Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the agreement to acquire the services of Communities in Schools during the 2009-2010 school year. The services will be provided to Burke High, Septima Clark, Advance Studies Magnet-Haut Gap, Baptist Hill High, Lincoln High, North Charleston High, Sixth Grade Academy and St. Johns High. The Funding Source is Title I Funds in the amount of \$420,000. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.4: Classroom Technology Upgrade Procurement** – *A recommendation to approve the procurement of laptop computer equipment and portable carts for Classroom Modernization.* – Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the recommendation for procurement of laptop computer equipment and portable carts for Classroom Modernization Project using existing state contracts. The funding source is Classroom Technology Upgrades for Classroom Modernization Project - \$6,000,000. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.5: Media Center Technology Upgrade** –*A recommendation to approve the procurement of Media Center Technology equipment for the Classroom Modernization Project.* Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the procurement of Media Center Technology equipment for the Classroom Modernization Project for using existing state contracts. The funding source is Media Center Technology Upgrades for Classroom Modernization in the amount of \$2,200,000. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.6: Facility Use Request – Military Magnet Academy.** – *A recommendation to approve the facility use request for Military Magnet Academy.* Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of the facility use request for Military Magnet Academy gymnasium in accordance to Board Policy KF. The motion was approved 8-0.

**9.7: Agreement for Services: Fraser Elementary Parking Lot to Trident Technical College** – *A recommendation to approve the agreement to lease the parking lot at Fraser Elementary to Trident Technical College, September 2009 – January, 2010.* Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of a request to lease Trident Technical College the parking lot at Fraser Elementary September 1, 2009 – January 31, 2010, at the cost of \$1,000 per month. The motion was approved 8-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

---

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