

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, October 12, 2009 with the following members of the Board present: 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.

Vice Chair – Mr. Gregg Meyers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan to convene into Executive Session to discuss agenda items listed below. The motion was unanimously approved.

Executive Session Agenda Items

- 1.1: Workers’ Compensation Settlement
- 1.2: Legal Briefing

II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. [Vice Chair – Mr. Gregg 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: Teacher Cadets – Wando High - The Board recognized Teacher Cadets from Wando High and Ms. Betsy Wilson, their instructor.

3.2: Spirit of Summer Sail Program – The Board recognized Mr. Matthew McDonald and Ms. Sarah Piwinski, South Carolina Maritime Foundation representatives, for educational opportunities provided to Title I students in Charleston County during the summer.

3.3: Presentation – Dr. Tony Johnson – The Citadel – The Board recognized Ms. Barbara Hairfield for receiving the “Wall of Fame” award from the Citadel for contributions to public education.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent’s Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Over the last two weeks, time was spent in the community talking about literacy initiatives, sharing data on reading levels, and outlining a capital plan that would create four zones of opportunity and choice across the district.
- Last Tuesday a Town Hall meeting was held in Mount Pleasant. Another Town Hall meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night on James Island. This is a great opportunity to hear feedback and showcase local schools and principals.
- Progress is being made in planning for a “Children’s Zone” which will provide programs and services to support children from zero-to-college. CCSD is looking at a zone that would cover the Chicora-Cherokee area of North Charleston down through the “Neck” and into the east side of downtown Charleston and include four elementary schools—Chicora, Mary Ford, James Simons and Sanders Clyde. A writing team is working on a business plan and there will be future discussions with groups in the proposed Zone about community assets, shared goals, and collaboration possibilities. This effort will be driven by a community-based organization.
- Wando High School came in second place as the “Top Reader Leader” school in the state’s summer reading program.

- Dr. McGinley participated in the annual “Walk to School” day at St. Andrews Math and Science Elementary School. Business and community partners joined parents and teachers all across the county walking to school and promoting healthy habits and exercise.
- Today, Mr. Braeden Kershner, a Stall High teacher, received the “Teacher of the Month” award for completely transforming the music program at Stall, creating an award-winning drum line, a mariachi band, and acapello group.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Rev. Edward McClain, Rev. Robert Kennedy and Mrs. Beverly G. Birch addressed the Board in support of the Charleston Career Technology Academy at Rivers campus. They suggested the Board provide necessary funding for a career tech at Rivers (Low Country Technical Academy) with Fire Safety, Technology I & II, Basic Math, Science, Reading, Information Technology, Aircraft Maintenance, Building Construction and Green Technology courses that would qualify students for entry level positions.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of September 28, 2009

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of September 28, 2009. *Mrs. Kandrac requested the following revisions--* agenda item #7.3, page 6.1-2 –should say “posting of invoices over \$100.00”, not \$1,000.00 and a comma is needed after the word “Small”. The amended motion was approved 8-0.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of October 12, 2009

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

1.1: Worker’s Compensation Settlement – The board approved a Workers’ Compensation Settlement. The vote was 8-0.

1.2: Legal Briefing - The Board received a legal briefing in Executive Session. No action was taken.

6.3: Financial Minutes of September 28, 2009

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the financial minutes of September 28, 2009. The motion was approved 8-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Management Reports to come before the board at this meeting.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Montessori Program at Hursey Elementary – Ms. LaDene Conroy presented information to the Board on the Montessori Program at Hursey Elementary. Mrs. Conroy, who has been trained on the Montessori model, is working on getting Montessori accreditation for her school.

8.2: School Redesign Update – *The Board received information on School Redesign.* - Mrs. Audrey Lane, Deputy for Organizational Advancement, updated the Board on school redesign, including the academic benefits of "recipient" schools and evaluation tools to track the performance of students involved in the redesign process. Ms. Christine Ryan spoke about the advantages displaced students have at their new schools. Dr. Rose shared the evaluation mechanism that will be used for students relocated to other schools because of School Redesign. Mr. Meyers suggested the Board receive an anonymous summary with details and no names. In response to a question from Mrs. Kandrac regarding similar information for students attending the Sixth Grade Academy, Dr. Rose said a separate program evaluation would be provided similar to the one done for MGAP and PGAP programs. Dr. McGinley added that students attending the Sixth Grade Academy were drawn from all schools, not Redesign

impacted schools. Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Kandrac requested the actual savings for School Redesign. Mr. Bobby said that final savings would be available when everything is finalized.

Note: Mr. Fraser left the meeting at 6:30pm. Therefore, he did not vote on agenda items 9.1-9.6.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Home Instruction Application – *A recommendation to approve a Home Instruction Application.* Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of a home instruction application. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.2: CCSD Surplus Building Land Management Plan – The Board received the CCSD Surplus Building Land Management Plan as information. Mr. Bobby said the plan is a summary that outlines the process for marketing, communicating, receiving and evaluating proposals for surplus properties which will be offered for sale and/or lease. Mr. Bobby said Mr. Troy Williams gleaned information from plans of benchmarked districts. After responding to questions from Mr. Collins on appraisals for surplus properties and Mr. Toler's suggestion to delay the plan because the Act 189 lawsuit may require the district to provide property to charter schools, Mr. Bobby requested the Board review the Surplus Building Land Management Plan and provide input early for staff to include in the recommendation that will come before the Board for approval on October 26th. Mr. Meyers explained (1) the general state law that requires the district to identify surplus properties annually that are available for lease or sale and (2) the local Charleston law that says the district should give district property away. He suggested a timeline be added to the plan and there be a routine that satisfies the general charter law. Mr. Bobby said the plan would include opportunities to submit requests to lease buildings not being used by the district. The plan is to post the list of surplus property on the web for sale and/or lease.

Also during this discussion Mr. Ravenel requested information on Fund Balance. Mr. Bobby said the Fund Balance given during the last report was 5.63%. Although the amount exceeded the 5% Fund Balance Policy, the amount would probably drop below 5% because of state cuts. He also shared fund balance amounts of neighboring districts. Mrs. Kandrac suggested the board member serving on the Project Team recuse himself from voting on recommendations about property matters. Mr. Meyers said it was probably a good practice not to have Board members involved in making decisions about property matters they have to vote on. Mr. Bobby said in response to Mr. Ravenel's suggestion about how to handle proposals for surplus property, each proposal would be reviewed and evaluated. Mr. Collins suggested there be community representatives on the team.

9.3: Visiting International Faculty Invoice – *A recommendation to approve the VIF payment for services of 20 Visiting International Faculty teachers in 11 CCSD schools for the 2009-2010 school year.* Mr. Collins motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Visiting International Faculty Invoice in the amount of \$272,750 for services of 20 Visiting International Faculty teachers in 11 schools for the 2009-2010 school year. The motion was approved 6-1 (Kandrac opposed).

Mrs. Jordan requested an update since it was determined last year that the VIF program would be eliminated since there was not a teacher shortage. Dr. McGinley and Mrs. Holiday responded that the program was retained only to provide teachers in areas that are difficult to fill. Mrs. Jordan also asked how these teachers are evaluated. Mrs. Holiday said their progress and performance are evaluated the same as other teachers in the district.

9.4: 8% Bond Resolution – *A recommendation to approve the bond resolution authorizing the sale of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$56 million* – Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Carol Clark – Bond Counsel with Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd P.A., and other staff members responded to questions from board members regarding the 8% Bond Resolution proposal.

Mr. Toler motioned the 8% Bond Resolution be received as information, not action and that staff brings a recommendation back to the Board with necessary information since the amendment mentioned in the resolution outlining how the funds would be spent was not provided. Mr. Toler later withdrew the motion. Mr.

Bobby said the Board approved the Capital Budget for this fiscal year with the following: payment for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 debt service and payment for the Bond Anticipation Note of last spring which totals \$37-\$38 million and \$19 million for continuing fixed cost of ownership and technology related support. While action was taken earlier to do this, tonight's vote would allow issuance and sale of the bond to generate funds necessary to meet scheduled payments. A public sale is scheduled for October 22nd and closing on the sale on November 10th enabling the district to issue payment for the Bond Anticipation Note on November 12th and the Installment Payment on November 16th. The district is on schedule and acting on things previously discussed and approved. Mr. Bobby apologized for the missing addendum.

Mr. Bobby also responded to questions from Mrs. Jordan on Furniture, Fixture and Equipment pointing out that it included funds for band uniforms, technology, and other costs. He also responded to questions from Mrs. Jordan about the 8% Bond money and the district's bonding capacity up to \$100 million sharing how the district arrived at the amount requested. Mrs. Jordan asked if funds were available for the Low County Technical Academy at the Rivers campus, since this is the third year a career center has been requested. At this time, she proposed district staff bring to the Board the cost of implementing LCTA at the Rivers campus and the cost of repairing the Rivers facility. Dr. McGinley said instead of bringing a separate recommendation for LCTA program or the Rivers building, she would like the opportunity to bring a recommendation for career academies as part of a strategic package for concept of zones. Mrs. Jordan expressed concerns about the Career Academy Committee's intent to include only health related careers at LCTA. In response to Mrs. Jordan's request to include other career tracks for Low County Technical Academy, beyond Medical Science, Dr. McGinley said space issues would limit the number of career tracks at Rivers. The Career Academy Task Force is in agreement with careers mentioned earlier. However, they are not in agreement with where these careers can be physically accommodated. The program detail drives the cost of renovations. At the next Board meeting, staff will present recommendations from the Program Task Forces--Career Academy, Early Childhood, Middle Grades, Athletics and Community Learning Centers. Mrs. Jordan also asked Mr. Lewis when the Board could expect information regarding Seismic Upgrades. Mr. Lewis said approximately 60 days.

At this time Mrs. Jordan motioned that the administration incorporate a program to house the Career Technology program at the Rivers campus and bring back to the Board, by early next year, to incorporate LCTA along with repairs and recommendations as it pertains to seismic upgrade by spring 2010. Mr. Meyers seconded the motion after Mrs. Jordan agreed to amend her original motion and ask the staff to reserve not less than \$20 million for repair of Rivers.

Mr. Ravenel expressed concerns about the way Charleston Math and Science has been treated and stated that the cost would be at least \$20 - \$25 million. He went on to suggest that the Bond Resolution amount be increased by that amount to renovate the Rivers facility because a referendum would be extremely difficult to get passed. Ms. Carol Clark responded indicating the recommendation was for a short term bond which will be paid off, in full, March 2010. Therefore, the full amount of debt payment has already been levied to make this payment because this obligation is just paying existing amounts due and make technology and classroom improvements that don't constitute a building program. This is just a short term bond to make payments and some improvements. She recommended a long-term bond be issued to do building projects such as Rivers renovations, and said adding a large amount to this short term bond would be a problem because the district would not have funds when due. Ms. Clark mentioned the impact it would have on the district's fund rating and future borrowing.

Mr. Collins commented that the Rivers facility would be renovated. However, tonight's discussion is not about that. Then Mr. Collins motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger approval of 8% Bond Resolution as presented. It's about the Bond Resolution. He said setting aside \$20 million at this point is not advisable since twice the amount identified may be required to accommodate desired programs. He suggested time be allowed to complete background work, determine programs to be housed at Rivers, and the cost. Mr. Ravenel urged the Bond Counsel and Mr. Bobby find a way to increase the Bond Issuance to include an additional \$25 million because he would not consider voting for a Bond Resolution that did not include funds to renovate the Rivers building. At this time, Mr. Ravenel motioned, seconded by Mr. Toler approval of the recommendation for the

8% Bond Resolution and directed staff to increase the 8% Bond Resolution to include sufficient funding to complete renovations for the Rivers building. Mr. Myers asked staff if the amount required to repair the Rivers facility was known at this time.

Mr. Meyers stated the motions on the floor. The first is Mr. Ravenel's motion to approve 8% Bond Resolution recommendation and instruct staff to increase the amount to include sufficient funding to complete renovations for the Rivers building. The motion failed 1-6 (Ravenel voted in favor of the motion).

The second is Mrs. Jordan's motion to approve the 8% Bond Resolution and direct staff to incorporate program planning for career technology and report back to the Board by early spring of next year on the program for LowCountry Tech and the repair recommendations for Rivers, reserving not less than \$25 million from the 2005-2006 contingency fund for Rivers and begin work as soon as practical. The motion was approved 6-1 (Collins opposed).

Since the second motion was approved, the Board did not vote on third motion made by Mr. Collins.

Mr. Meyers said this is just directing staff to reserve \$20 million to be used for Rivers. The amount would not be allocated or borrowed at this meeting. He then asked Mrs. Jordan to clarify if her motion included approval of the 8% Bond Resolution. She said it did. Mr. Bobby said there are multiple ways to fund projects such as renovations at Rivers. One is 8% capacity that would be available in the future. However, there is another way that would not have any tax consequences which will be available in spring. Those funds from existing building projects contingencies. Mrs. Jordan said the program must be funded in the budget if it is to be a program.

9.5: Signalized Intersection on Rifle Range Road for Whitesides Elementary School –*A recommendation to send a letter to SCDOT requesting the installation of the signalized intersection prior to the opening of school.* – Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Jordan approval of the recommendation to have the Board chair send a letter to SCDOT requesting the signalized intersection be approved to allow it to be installed prior to school opening, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 7-0.

9.6: Policy IKA – Grading/Assessment System – Mrs. Kandrac led the discussion on Policy IKA expressing teacher concerns about a minimum grading of 55. Dr. Gepford explained that the policy Mrs. Kandrac referenced #6155-R was an old policy which was replaced by the new policy #IKA. New CCSD policies mirror state policies. The district is in the process of vetting a new policy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Collins motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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