

May 24, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, May 24, 2010 with the following members of the Board present: Chair – Mrs. Ruth Jordan, Vice Chair - Mr. Ray Toler, Rev. Chris Collins, Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green, Mrs. Elizabeth Kandrac, Mr. Gregg Meyers, Mrs. Ann Oplinger, Mr. Arthur Ravenel and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley – Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary. Mr. Chris Fraser was absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Dr. Doug Gepford, Mr. Bill Lewis, and Dr. Brenda Nelson, were also in attendance.

The news media was duly notified of the meeting and representatives were present.

Board Vice Chair – Mr. Ray Toler called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger 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 Expulsions
- 1.3: Legal Briefing
- 1.4: Qualified School Construction Bond Projects Update
- 1.5: Personnel Matters
- 1.6: Charter Schools Request for Funding to Pay for Leaser of Facilities and Transportation.
- 1.7: Contractual Matters

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m. Chairperson – Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order. Chaplain Eddie Driggers led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special Sport Champions

The Board recognized Academic Magnet Boy's Soccer Team, who won South Carolina Lower-State Championship; the Academic Magnet Golf Team who won the South Carolina State Championship; and the undefeated Wando Girl's Soccer Team, who brought home South Carolina State Championship and finished the season ranked number three in the entire country.

Charter Schools

The Board recognized Charleston Development Charter School teacher Georgia Brown who was recognized as the state's Charter School Teacher of the Year and principal Cecilia Rogers who was recognized as the state's Charter School Administrator of the Year. Both are staff members of Charleston Development Academy.

Behind the Scenes Hero Award

The Board recognized Chaplain Bob O'Connell and Chaplain Eddie Driggers for their continued work in assisting the district in crisis intervention and guidance.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1: Superintendent's Report

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Last week the public received an update on student results, the district's strategic vision, and key partners were thanked at the annual **State of the Schools** event. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan provided a videotaped message for the event. After sharing a short version of the Secretary's video clip commending the district on efforts to close the achievement gap, Dr. McGinley said Secretary Duncan's message is a sign that the District is headed in the

right direction. The District needs to improve the achievement gap, high school performance and the District is focusing on the right strategic priorities.

- When the Board meets again, students will be gone for the summer. In two weeks the Board will receive a full recap of the school year, and while reflecting on the 2010 school year and looking forward to next year, one major challenge will be the 2011 budget. Dr. McGinley said she could not stress how difficult this (2011) budget would be, with a possible \$30 million dollar deficit. Over the next five weeks, staff will work with the Board to pass a budget that will protect schools and students as much as possible.
- Whether on the general operating or capital fronts, staff will continue to invest in projects that ensure student achievement and safety first. Last week staff met with Charleston Progressive and Sullivan's Island parents to discuss seismic relocations and rebuilding plans. This week staff will meet with James Simons and Memminger parents. A meeting is also scheduled on June 7 to meet with Buist parents. The goal is to update parents on the relocation process, answer questions, and jot down suggestions and questions so that the district's project plan could be as clear as accommodating as possible.
- The Superintendent also reported that CCSD lost two members of its family last Sunday. Jaq'coy Garrett, a 14-year old student at Lincoln Middle-High School, and Mark Cobb, Executive Director of Facility Services, both lost their lives on Sunday in separate incidents. Jaq'coy's funeral was held this past Sunday. The District's crisis team and Dr. Commodore were thanked for their strong leadership at Lincoln during this difficult time. Mr. Cobb's funeral was held on Wednesday. He was an icon and his passing leaves a huge void. The District will honor Mark's legacy by remembering and learning from the 20-year example of excellence that he set. A memorial service will be held to remember Mr. Cobb on June 15th in conjunction with a state-wide facilities event. Additional information on how board members could participate will be provided in the near future. She closed by saying her thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of Mark Cobb and Jaq'coy Garrett.

V. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

5.1: Visitors, Public Communications

1. Lt. Michael A. Breedlove highlighted the ROTC Civil Air Patrol Unit at Gregg Mathis Charter School and its partnership with local aeronautics and construction programs.
2. Mr. Edwin Gardner expressed concerns about the Board's recent vote on seismic issues. Mr. Gardner said the geographic location most likely to be impacted by an earthquake in Charleston would probably be closer to the fault line that runs from Summerville to Hollywood. He suggested the Board adhere to FEMA guidelines and data outlined in the Virginia Tech report which shows which schools are likely to be most vulnerable.
3. Mr. Charles Boyd highlighted the Basketball Team at Gregg Mathis Charter School.
4. Ms. Audrey Mack, Ms. Ramona Allen, and Mr. James Robinson expressed concerns regarding relocation of 6th grade class and possibly some 5th grade students from Frierson Elementary to Haut Gap Middle and the negative impact it would have on a school already struggling with low enrollment. Ms. Allen also mentioned the Rural School Covenant which she said was designed to increase enrollment at Frierson Elementary.
5. Mr. Frank Dirks urged the Board to allow parents to be key stakeholders in the relocation/rebuilding efforts.
6. Ms. Leigh Brandenburg expressed concerns on behalf of a small group of Buist teachers. She read a letter questioning the relocation plans for Buist while Chicora and St. Andrews Elementary facilities are also seismically challenged. She suggested Buist teachers might be more willing to pack their classrooms if the District had a well-thought-out plan.

7. Ms. Julie Fenimore spoke on behalf of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Education Committee. She commended the Board for its continued support for the Music Education. She also announced the distribution of \$16,440 merit based scholarships to CCSD students.
8. Mr. Jack Richardson, a new Gregg Mathis Charter Board member, announced Gregg Mathis' recent achievement of its Youth Build Program status. He also shared information on graduates and the school's use of the Home Builder's curriculum and business partners.
9. Mr. Joseph Green, Leroy Connors and Rev. Alma Dungee urged the Board to support agenda items for Charleston Charter of Math & Science—Renovation of Rivers and request for mobile units at Rivers.
10. Ms. Rebecca McKee presented copies of a parent survey initiated by the School Improvement Council at Buist Academy which showed the majority of survey participants opposed the move to Wando South. She said distance is the main reason and a number of students would most likely transfer to another school.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEM

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of May 10, 2010. The motion was approved 8-0.

Mrs. Kandrac suggested the following revisions:

May 4, 2010 – Page 6.1-4A – Student Transfer discussion about the option not being a good solution – Mrs. Kandrac requested the video be reviewed to verify Mrs. Jordan's response to her comment about Mrs. Green abstaining from the vote which the minutes stated that Mrs. Jordan asked her to abstain from personal attacks and speak to the issue. She said what actually happened was that she was threatened. Also Mrs. Kandrac said the notes did not mention who seconded the motion for agenda item 6.1-5A, although she was uncertain if a second was required for Mr. Ravenel's request for unanimous consent. She further stated that while she didn't believe it was required, it should be included if required.

May 10, 2010 – Mrs. Kandrac referred to page #5 during the discussion of student transfer appeals. Mrs. Kandrac said what she actually said was that she voted to approve all transfer requests per the parent or guardian's request.

Mrs. Jordan requested Mrs. Kandrac notify Mrs. Stoney of corrections for the Board minutes in advance of the meeting.

6.2: Motions of Executive Session of May 24, 2010

The Board approved the following motions that were made in Executive Session:

1.1: Student Transfer Appeals – The Board approved student transfers A, D, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N; student transfer appeals B, C, & E were approved, pending availability of space; student transfer appeals O and P were denied. The vote was 8-0.

1.2: Student Expulsion Appeals – The Board approved two appeals heard earlier by a Board committee. They were heard Monday, May 17, 2010 as indicated below. The motion was approved 8-0.

1. The Board approved a motion to uphold District 10 Constituent Board's expulsion decision, allowing student to apply for re-admission in fall 2010 through the District 10 Constituent Board or Office of Student Placement.
2. The Board approved a motion to uphold District 4 Constituent Board's expulsion decision. The Office of Student Placement will determine if the student is to be placed at a school or Jenkins Academy during fall 2010.

1.3: Legal Briefing - General Counsel provided a legal briefing for the Board in Executive Session. No action was taken.

1.4: Qualified School Construction Bond Projects - The Board received information on Qualified School Bond Projects in Executive Session. No action was taken.

1.5: Personnel Matters - The Board discussed personnel matters in Executive Session. The Board approved a recommendation to allow an employee to run for public office. The motion was approved 7-1 (Kandrac opposed).

1.6: Charter School Request for Funding to Pay for Lease for Facilities and Transportation - The Board approved a recommendation to [not to approve additional funding](#) out of the District's General Operating Fund for the purpose of fulfilling requests from charter schools for lease cost for facilities as well as costs for student transportation. The motion was approved 6-2 (Kandrac and Ravenel opposed).

1.7: Contractual Matters

- A. Rivers Project #5648 – Charleston Charter School for Math and Science** – The Board approved a recommendation authorizing staff to proceed with installation of additional mobile classrooms for Charleston Charter School for Math and Science for the 2010-2011 school year, not to exceed \$450,000. The funding source is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Rivers School project #5648. The motion was approved 6-2 (Collins and Jordan opposed).
- B.** The Board approved a recommendation to award the Child & Family Development Center Project at the Mary Ford Campus to Internal Public Works. The funding source is BAN Funding which was approved by the Board March 22, 2010 in the amount of \$350,000.00.

6.3: Financial Minutes of May 10, 2010

Mr. Toler motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the financial minutes of May 10, 2010, 2010. The motion was approved 8-0.

VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT

7.1: SWMBE Quarterly Update

The Board received the 2010 SWMBE 3rd Quarter Report as information. Mr. Bobby said the district has a strong commitment to support action to include SWMBE as much as possible. The involvement of SWMBE for construction and non-construction projects is 30%.

7.2: Capital Projects Report

The Board received the 2010 Capital Projects Report as information. Mr. Bobby mentioned upcoming summer projects that will be funded by Qualified School Construction Bonds at Stall, Birney, Midland Park and Septima Clark Academy.

7.3: GOF Financial Report

The Board received the GOF Financial Report as information. Mr. Michael Bobby said the report reflects everything that has been done through March 2010. This year was different with over \$9 million in state cuts. The district managed to balance out most cuts with no new staff reductions and voluntary furlough for twelve (12) month staff (only), protecting programs and staff at building level. In regards to Revenues, Mr. Bobby said the Ad Valorem collections and valuation are declining at approximately \$4,100,000 less than budgeted. However, delinquent collections have been done and the total amount has increased by \$4,200,000 more than what was budgeted. In regards to Expenditures, Mr. Bobby shared the following:

- Salaries – Project savings of \$2,600,000 (reduced expenditures) - This is in addition to lapse salary reductions included in budget of 1.5%;
- Employee Benefits – Project savings of \$38,801;
- Purchased Services – Project savings of \$525,054;
- Supplies and Materials – Project added expenditures of \$24,208 (due to utilities);
- Capital – Project added expenditure of \$124,776 (due to Baxter Patrick, St. Johns Foundation buy-out);
- Other -Tax Anticipation Note interest savings - \$2,800,000 (Note: Interest earned on revenue side was decreased by \$575,000);
- Transfers – Charters - Reduction - \$3,200,000 (Due to EFA reductions); and
- Reserves – Personnel and program reserves depleted (final overage to be determined at year end).

\$321,322,883 – Adopted Budget for FY 2010

Revenue Reductions		Revenue Increases	
Ad Valorem taxes	\$4,128,286	Delinquent taxes	\$4,244,685
Interest on Investments	570,000	EIA Teacher Salary/Fringe	381,019
School bus driver salary	373,679		
Fringe benefit - employer	115,558		
Retiree insurance	219,058		
EFA Revenue	9,907,288		
Sales tax - Tier III	213,278		
		\$10,632,041 projected shortfall in revenue	

Expenditure Under Budget		Expenditure Over Budget	
Salaries	\$2,641,940	Supplement/Payout Salaries	\$170,773
Health premiums	159,571	Workers' comp - medical	146,250
Employee Retirement	232,303	Workers' comp - TTD	435,000
Social Security	135,027	Property insurance	144,045
Workers' Comp-legal settlements	181,250	Electric & gas	246,635
Instructional services	133,630	Improvements other than Bldgs	125,983
Supply accounts	123,870		
Interest expense	1,345,195		
Other Obj/Sequestered funds	1,356,842		
Charter schools	3,223,096		
		\$9,005,183 projected surplus in expenditures	

The district was able to weather the 2010 storm fairly well and the district has a good fund balance going into 2011 school year.

Mrs. Green and Mr. Ravenel commended staff on the proposed budget which does not increase taxes, GOF or Capital. Mr. Bobby responded to Mrs. Green’s comment about a step increase for teachers indicating that although the step increase is included on the assumption page, he was not sure the district would be able to maintain that going forward.

VIII: CHARLESTON ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

8.1: Burns Elementary School Reconstruction Plan – Dr. James Winbush

Dr. James Winbush presented information to the Board on the Reconstruction Plan for Burns Elementary. A summary of his presentation is shown below. He said there is no magic trick for improving student achievement at Burns. The plan requires hard work and commitment.

- April 2010, Dr. McGinley made decision to reconstitute Burns Elementary.
- Reconstitution based on school performance, AYP data, school report card
- All teachers and classified employees had to reapply for positions
- Burns Elementary placed in Charleston Innovative Learning Community (CILC)
- New principal hired
- Advertising campaign and recruiting event for hiring new teachers for Burns
- Support the new principal's vision and plan
- Provide extended resources:
 - Professional development
 - Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI)
 - Classroom Management
 - Single-Gender Strategies
 - Everyday Math
 - Classroom Data Analysis
 - Differentiation of Instruction
 - Thinking Maps

School Improvement Grant - Possible Initiatives:

- Single gender classrooms in grades 3 – 5
- Extended day/extended year
- Revised discipline plan
- Reduced class size
- Additional support (IRT's, parent advocate, etc.)

Dr. Winbush concluded his presentation by saying: "I believe that if these initiatives are implemented, we would definitely see an improved Burns Elementary School".

Rev. Collins commended Dr. Winbush on the work he did at Baptist Hill High. He urged staff to closely monitor progress at Burns Elementary and requested a copy of the Burns presentation. Rev. Collins asked Dr. Winbush to make every effort to encourage parental participation. Mr. Meyers also said he would like to see assessment info earlier so the Board could see the results of the program. Mrs. Jordan spoke of a recent CNN presentation featuring U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Chicago Schools in which school closure and reconstitution did not work. She said since Dr. Winbush will be working with schools that have collapsed, she too would like to see the data measured earlier. She said she expects results because students should be able to read when they graduate from Burns. She said the Board would support initiatives with policies.

Mrs. Kandrac commented that while students spend 7½ hours in school, the remainder of their time in their homes or wherever they are living and it could be in a car. However, the up-bringing and the child's family life background ultimately determines more than anything whether the child will be a success in school. Mrs. Kandrac went on to say a lot of the reasons why she would not support the 0-3 program and what's being done in the Harlem Children's Zone is because the more school districts or someone else take care of these kids, the worst it gets. She know families that have been through this don't need to do anything except stay home, smoke more crack and have more babies, and that's her experience coming from Newark.

Mrs. Jordan said she disagreed with Mrs. Kandrac because she sees the results. She said she believes all children could be successful and learn. She further stated that she would not serve on a Board if she did not believe in public education, child development, head start, pre kindergarten or if

she didn't care about kids from the womb through high school education. She sees the hard work of teachers. Her goal is the success of 44,000 students. But she will not give up on those that may fall a little short. She said extra duty for extra pay covers initiatives to help students be successful.

Dr. McGinley also said she wanted to go on record refuting the following points:

- the district is making a difference, the number of schools making AYP has increased from 20 to 51 this year;
- There are more excellent schools;
- There are fewer at-risk schools;
- 47% of CCSD students attend schools that are rated Excellent
- If students in CCSD schools need help, efforts will be made to mobilize the community to give students the extra help that is needed;
- It is not believed that the vast majority of poor people are smoking crack or doing the types of things Mrs. Kandrac mentioned;
- Dr. McGinley said she totally refute that and there are many families struggling, working hourly jobs to keep their children in school and keep them on track and the district will do the best job it can providing expanded early childhood education so children will come to kindergarten on a level playing field because that's not what is happening right now.

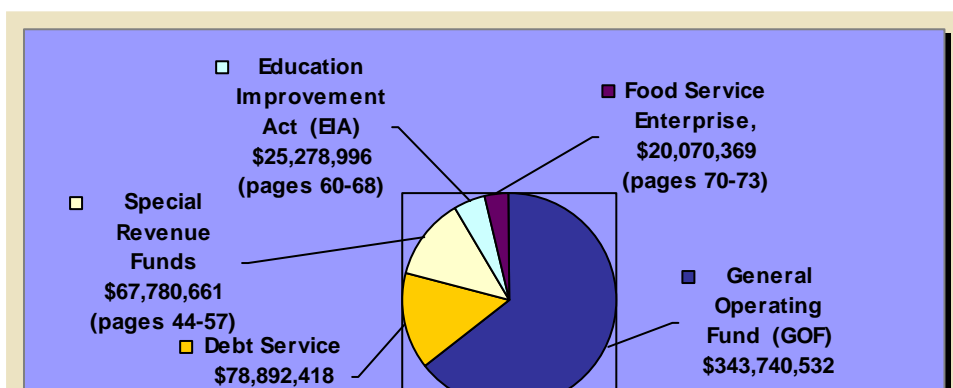
Mrs. Kandrac said she needed to clarify something, Dr. Janet Rose said twice, possibly on May 17th and it could also be verified by Dr. Jim Rex, state superintendent, that the standards have been lowered. That's why there are fewer No Child Left Behind schools, schools that are not failing and more students attending Excellent rated schools and everyone thinks the district is doing better. Also in October 2003, the previous Superintendent came in and said that all students in CCSD should be reading by 2006. The Federal Government said by 2014 all students should be reading at grade level. She added that the Federal Government revised that to say 2020.

IX. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

9.1: Approval of Expenditures for Laura Brown Special Board Funds for 2009-2010 – A recommendation to approve Laura Brown Special allocations. - Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers to approve allocations for the Laura Brown Special Board Funds for 2009-2010 shown below. The motion was approved 8-0.

- DECA (Stall) - \$1,475.00
 - DECA (Wando) - \$9,069.97
 - First Robotics - \$1,243.00
 - Skills USA - \$7,900.00
 - Scholastic Writing Awards (SOA) – \$11,400.00
 - National History Day (Moultrie) – \$3,400.00
- Total - \$35,487.97**

9.2: First Reading – FY2011 Budget – A recommendation to approve the First Reading of the FY2011 Budget – Mr. Bobby presented the FY2011 budget for approval. The purpose of the budget is to allocate resources to support goals, key strategies, and initiatives of the district. CCSD's budget is in five parts (GOF, EIA, Food Service, Debt Service and Special Revenue). One part impacts another. He urged the Board to consider local Legislation (bill) being discussed in Columbia which will determine if Capital funds could be used for General Operating funds for short term situations to help with operating expenses during difficult times.



9.3: James Island Charter High School – LS3P Design Consultant Agreement - *A request to approve the Design Consultant fee of \$190,948. The funding source is FCO funds.* Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to approve the Design Consultant Fee for James Island Charter High School. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.4: New District 4 Stall High School – MB Kahn Construction Company Change Order #39 – Portable Stage – *A recommendation to approve Change Order #39.* - Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of Change Order #39 in the amount of \$101,083. The funding source is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement New District 4 Stall High School project. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.5: Renaming of Three CCSD Schools – *A recommendation to rename Alice Birney Middle School – Pinehurst Elementary (Grades 2-5); Old Stall High School – Northwoods Middle (Grades 6-8); and Midland Park Elementary – Midland Park Primary (grades CD-1).* – Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to rename the three schools shown above. The motion was approved 8-0.

During discussion, Mrs. Kandrak expressed concerns about the lack of community leaders on the committee and proposed names for two schools being renamed--Northwoods Middle and Pinehurst Elementary.

9.6: ROTC Instructors Work Schedule Change for 2010-2011 – The Board received the work schedule for ROTC Instructors as information. No action was taken

9.7: Purchase of Read Well Materials – *A recommendation to purchase Read Well materials for at-risk and below average schools in kindergarten and first grade.* The funding source is Title I Funds. The total amount is \$386,707. – Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to purchase Read Well materials. The motion was approved 8-0-1 (Mrs. Kandrak abstained).

During discussion, Mrs. Kandrak expressed concerns about voting for materials she has not seen.

9.8: Reallocation of Fixed Cost of Ownership and Classroom Modernization Funds from Current Fiscal Year 2010 – *A recommendation to approve re-allocation of current Fixed Cost of Ownership/Classroom Modernization Capital funds.* – Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation re-allocating current Fixed Cost of Ownership/Classroom Modernization Capital Funds in the amount of \$1,100,000 from Media Center Upgrades budget to various capital and equipment projects (exhibit B) as well as \$600,000 from Fixed Cost of Ownership to fund advanced design work (exhibit C). The funding source is Capital Budget and Fixed Cost of Ownership/Classroom Modernization Funds. The motion was approved 8-0.

9.9: Rivers Education Center – Project #5648 – *A recommendation to authorize staff to proceed with construction documents for the main project for seismic improvements, exterior restoration and core utilities.* – Mr. Ravenel motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation authorizing staff to proceed with construction documents for the Rivers Education

Center main project. The funding source is 2005-2009 Capital Improvement Rivers School Project #5648. The amount is estimated at \$5-6 million. The motion was approved 8-0.

In response to questions from Rev. Collins, Mr. Lewis said this project does not include interior up-fit work. Cost models are available to house two groups—Charleston Charter School for Math and Science and Low Country Tech. Rev. Collins said he would be happy if the Low County Tech curriculum was done and square footage required was known. Mr. Lewis said the work needs to be done and approving this project would be a wise move for taxpayers and allow the district more flexibility. Rev. Collins felt it was more important to fix buildings that currently house students first. Mr. Lewis said funds have already been allocated that could only be used for Sullivan's Island and Rivers projects. There is no gain in delaying those projects because the other four schools are being built from scratch. Therefore designs must be done first. He suggested it was more cost-effective to move forward with the Rivers project at this time. Mrs. Jordan said the Board made a decision to address the seismic issue and water intrusion at Rivers. Staff is only moving forward with what the Board requested in fall 2009. Rivers cannot be used until it is fixed. She voted not to move mobiles because there were other charter requests for facilities. The longer the facility remains unused, the more it would cost to fix it.

9.10: Facility Use Agreement – Haut Gap Middle – *A recommendation to approve a Facility Use Agreement for Haut Gap Middle.* - Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Facility Use Agreement for Haut Gap Middle at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 8-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mrs. Oplinger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.

Approved:

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