

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, November 9, 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, and Mr. Ray Toler. [Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Doug Gepford, sat in for the Superintendent and Executive Secretary, Dr. Nancy J. McGinley.](#) Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, 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 4:45 p.m. Mr. Fraser 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 Appeal
- 1.2: Contractual Matter
- 1.3: Appointment – Executive Director of Student Support Services
- 1.4: Student Expulsion Appeal
- 1.5: 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. Chair – Mrs. Toya Hampton-Green called the meeting to order and led the group in a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

##### **2.1: Election of Officers**

*In compliance with CCSD Board Policy BD – Organization of the School Board and statute 59-19-70 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), the Board of Trustees will elect officers at the first meeting in November of each calendar year.*

Chairperson Green opened the floor for nominations of Board Chair. The first nomination was made by Mrs. Oplinger, who nominated Mr. Fraser. Mr. Meyers seconded the motion.

The second nomination was made by Mr. Collins, who nominated Mrs. Jordan. Mr. Meyers seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Mrs. Jordan as chair of the CCSD Board of Trustees was approved 6-2 (Green and Oplinger opposed).

At this time, Mr. Meyers suggested the two Board Chair candidates to have a discussion about administrative continuity. He said the district has seen progress under Dr. McGinley's leadership, and he wants that improvement to continue. He is concerned about the message that would be sent to the superintendent and the community if the new Chairperson does not want the superintendent to remain in her post. In forty years, only one person has served as Superintendent for five years. He asked the Board Chair candidates if they would support a contract extension for the Superintendent. Dr. McGinley's contract expires in 2012, and she's slated to be evaluated soon. Mr. Collins said the evaluation should be the determining factor and although continuity in leadership is preferable, that doesn't always happen. The superintendent's record should be the reason she's able to stay in her position, regardless of who is the chairperson.

Mrs. Kandrac said board members, according to policy, aren't supposed to discuss how they will vote before an issue. She said the national average for a superintendent's tenure was between three and five years, and the board's chairperson doesn't necessarily need to support the superintendent. Mr. Ravenel said it was unfair to make the election about the Superintendent.

Mr. Fraser responded first, pointing out that that Superintendent has made progress. If he was elected as chair, he would extend the Superintendent's contract. Mrs. Jordan said she supported Dr. Goodloe-Johnson and Dr. McGinley. She said even though Dr. McGinley was hand-picked by some of her colleagues and although they chose not to go through the process to hire Dr. McGinley, she supports the Superintendent and does not feel this should be about the Superintendent and not about the children. Mrs. Jordan said she had not made a deal to get rid of Dr. McGinley. She promised to be fair and just to everyone—those who support and those who do not support the Superintendent. Mrs. Jordan went on to say that she has supported the Superintendent's initiatives—Charleston Achieving Excellence and other initiatives.

Mr. Fraser thanked Mrs. Green and Mr. Meyers for their services as chair and vice chair.

Chairperson Jordan thanked Board members who voted for her and those who didn't. After thanking Mrs. Green for her service as Board chair, Mrs. Jordan shared the following:

- *Now is the time to pull together as policy makers to continue to move the district forward by providing policies and a budget to educate all 44,000 students;*
- *It is necessary to continue providing choice, access, and opportunity, increase literacy and graduation, close the achievement gap, and prepare children for higher learning and a 21<sup>st</sup> Century work place and high paying job;*
- *She looks forward to working collaboratively with the Superintendent and Staff to support the Charleston Achieving Plan for Excellence and the upcoming Building Plan and is committed to being inclusive and transparent; and*
- *As policy makers, it is necessary for everyone to work together to create Board Goals and Objectives which aligns with District Goals because everyone has a stake in the success of CCSD.*

Chairperson Jordan opened the floor for nominations of vice chair. There were three nominations 1.) Mr. Ravenel nominated Mr. Toler. [Mr. Collins](#) seconded the motion. 2) Mrs. Oplinger nominated Mr. Fraser. However, Mr. Fraser declined. 3) Mrs. Green nominated Mr. Meyers. Mrs. Oplinger seconded the motion. The Board approved the nomination of Mr. Ray Toler for vice chair. The vote was 6-3 (Green, Meyers and Oplinger opposed). Since the nomination of Mr. Toler was approved, no vote was taken on the nomination for Mr. Meyers.

### **III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**3.1: Teacher Presentations** - The Board recognized Matt Carney, Tracy Lowry, and Sandra Fitzgerald for their exemplary Social Studies teaching.

**3.2: Athletic Awards** – The Board recognized student athletes from Academic Magnet (Women's Tennis, Lower State Champions); Wando (Women's Cross-Country 4A State Champions, Women's Tennis (State Champions, 6th straight year!), James Island (Samantha Klutz, 3-Time State Champion in Women's 200 meter Freestyle, State Champion 2009 Women's 500 meter Freestyle) and North Charleston (football playoff victory) and Burke (football playoff victory) high schools were recognized for their excellence.

**3.3: School of the Arts** – The Board recognized Mr. Ben Moore, a high school visual arts teacher at School of the Arts, recently received national recognition for the high quality of his instruction. His student, Ms. Maddie Moore--a current Senior Visual Arts student--received an American Visions Award, which is comparable to a national "best in show award." In addition, last school year, three of Ben Moore's students scored five (the highest possible level) on their Advanced Placement portfolios and four other students achieved a four.

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **4.1: Superintendent's Report**

[Dr. Gepford](#) shared the following:

- He congratulated everyone recognized during special recognitions. He congratulated Wando High School's band, Girls' Cross-Country, and Girls' Tennis Teams all of which won state championships

this week. He said this is the band's fifth straight state championship, and they are on their way to the Grand Nationals in Indianapolis this week, so we wish them the best.

- He mentioned that Burke and North Charleston high school football teams won their first-round playoff games last Friday. These regional champs will play their second-round games this week.
- The Superintendent asked him to give a brief update on the planning for a Charleston Children's Zone, the district's approach to replicating the highly successful Harlem Children's Zone. In January, the federal government plans to release an RPF for a "Promise Neighborhoods" planning grant that would fund efforts in 20 cities nationwide. Today and tomorrow, the Superintendent and Mrs. Audrey Lane are at a national technical assistance conference with a team of Charleston and North Charleston representatives. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Mr. Arne Duncan and Geoffrey Canada, the CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone are leading the conference, which was designed to share the proven practices of the Harlem Children's Zone and help applicants prepare for the upcoming grant process. Staff looks forward to learning from this trip and applying these resources when the Superintendent returns.
- Dr. Gepford updated the Board on H1N1, or "swine flu" vaccinations, which are rolling out into the schools beginning this Friday. DHEC is administering the free shots, and plans to provide them for every student and staff member in our schools, beginning with elementary schools, followed by middle and high schools. This is a great opportunity for parents to protect their children from the swine flu and prevent extended absences and possible school delays-or even closures-from happening over the winter season. He closed by thanking DHEC and encouraging parents to take advantage of this opportunity.

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

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

No visitors registered to address the Board at this meeting.

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

### **6.1: Open and Executive Session Minutes of October 26, 2009**

Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the Open and Executive Session minutes of October 12, 2009. The motion was approved 8-1 (Kandrac opposed).

### **6.2: Motions of Executive Session of November 9, 2009**

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

**1.1: Student Transfer Appeal** – The Board approved a request to transfer a student from Lincoln High School to Wando High. The motion was approved 9-0.

**1.2: Contractual Matter** – The Board approved the request from Susan G. Boykin Academy to amend its charter agreement to change its mission statement . The vote was approved 9-0.

*The mission of Susan G. Boykin Academy to utilize innovative teaching techniques to integrate the performing arts and community service into a challenging and comprehensive program of differentiated instruction and improve academic achievement for students who, due to socioeconomic factors, might be considered members of an "at risk" community and may not otherwise be afforded the opportunity to participate in the performing arts or become actively involved in their community.*

**1.3: Appointment – Executive Director of Student Support Services** – The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Lisa Herring as Executive Director of Student Support Services. The vote was 8-1 (Toler).

**1.4: Student Expulsion Appeal** – The Board approved a recommendation to permit a Burke High School student to return to Burke High School on Board probation for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school

year. If the student commits a Level 3 Offense, he will have to come back before the County Board. The vote was 9-0.

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

### **6.3: Financial Minutes of October 26, 2009**

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the financial minutes of October 26, 2009. The motion was approved 9-0.

## **VII: MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Board did not receive a management report at this meeting.

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

**8.1: AP Potential Program** – Ms. Virginia Reijners presented information to the Board on an AP Potential Program. This is a free web-based tool and service of the College Board. AP Potential correlates PSAT scores to an AP Potential formula to determine a pool of potential students eligible for AP subjects.

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

**9.1: North Charleston High School Project #5655 Building Program Bond Fund Reallocation** – A recommendation to approve the 2005 Building Program Bond Fund reallocation. The funding source is 2005 Program Reserve fund and the amount is \$830,000.

Mr. Meyers motioned, seconded by Mr. Fraser approval of the North Charleston High School Project #5655 Building Program Bond Fund Reallocation. The motion was approved 9-0.

**9.2: Wenger Acoustic Package for School of the Arts** – A recommendation approving the purchase of the Diva Acoustical Shell, Orchestra Pit Filler System and Platform for the School of the Art Theatre. The total Cost is \$250,000. The funding source is the budget approved for School of the Arts.

Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to purchase the Diva Acoustical Shell, Orchestra Pit Filler System and Platform for the School of the Art Theatre. The motion was approved 9-0.

**9.3: Second Reading – Board Policies** – GCQFA – Suspension Without Pay of Professional Staff, GDQDA – Suspension Without Pay of Classified Staff, GCOA – Teacher Evaluation, GCKAA – Voluntary Teacher Transfers and ILD - Educational Surveys and Research – A recommendation to approve the second reading of Board Policies listed above.

Mr. Fraser motioned on behalf of the Policy Committee approval of the second reading of Board Policies listed above. The Board voted individually on each one.

- A. GCQFA – Suspension Without Pay of Professional Staff – Two motions were offered: 1). Mr. Fraser motioned, seconded by Mrs. Kandrac approval of version #2. 2). Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mrs. Green approval of version #1. The motion to approve version #1 failed 3-6 (Green, Jordan and Oplinger voted in favor of the motion). The motion to approve the second reading of version #2 was approved with a vote of 6-3 (Green, Jordan and Oplinger opposed).
- B. GDQDA – Suspension Without Pay of Classified Staff - – The Board approved the second reading with a vote of 8-1(Kandrac opposed).
- C. GCOA – Teacher Evaluation – The Board approved the second reading with a vote of 8-1(Kandrac opposed).
- D. GCKAA – Voluntary Teacher Transfers - This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken on this item.
- E. ILD - Educational Surveys and Research – This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken on this item.

**9.4: CTE Furnishings for North Charleston HS and Stall HS.** – *A recommendation to enter into contracts with Southern Educational Systems, Wulbern Koval and Alfred Williams for Career Technical Education (CTE) furnishings purchase of Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E). The total Cost for CTE Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for North Charleston HS and R.B. Stall HS is \$183,598.30. The Funding source is FF&E funds from the Capital Project Budget approved earlier by the Board.* – Mrs. Oplinger motioned, seconded by Mr. Meyers approval of the recommendation to enter into contracts with Southern Educational Systems, Wulburn Koval, and Alfred Williams for Career Technical Education (CTE) Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment for Stall HS and North Charleston High. The motion was approved 8-1 (Kandrac opposed).

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 7:30p.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