

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
4:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charleston County School District was held on Monday, November 26, 2012, in the Board Room at 75 Calhoun Street with the following members of the Board present: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats – Chair, Mr. Craig Ascue - Vice Chair, Mr. John Barter, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Tom Ducker, Mr. Chris Fraser, Mr. Todd Garrett, Mr. Michael Miller, and Dr. Nancy J. McGinley, Superintendent and Executive Secretary. Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly was absent. Staff members Mr. Michael Bobby, Mr. John Emerson, Dr. Lisa Herring, Mrs. Mr. Bill Lewis, Dr. Brenda Nelson, and Mrs. Erica Taylor were also in attendance.

At 4:05 p.m., Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, to go in Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The vote was unanimous.

- 1.1: North Charleston Creative Arts ES-Architectural Contract
- 1.2: James Island Charter HS-Architectural Contract for LS3P
- 1.3: Discussion of Lease Agreement re 5841 Rivers Avenue

**OPEN SESSION RECONVENED  
5:15 p.m.**

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:17pm with the same members present. Mrs. Coats called the meeting to order. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Coats announced the upcoming Board Workshop on Wednesday, November 28th at 12pm. Also, Mr. Lewis said board members were scheduled to tour the Rivers campus at 9am on Wednesday.

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, adoption of the November 26, 2012 agenda. The motion was approved 8-0.

Rev. Collins offered an amendment to the motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to change agenda item **11.2 - Murray LaSaine Montessori Pilot Program Proposal** to an information item. Mr. Fraser suggested the item remain as listed so the board would have the option of taking action. Rev. Collins said delaying action would allow additional time for community input. The vote was 4-4 (Barter, Coats, Fraser and Garrett opposed).

Dr. McGinley explained that the proposal was presented as information at an earlier meeting. Now it is listed as an action item to enable staff to make important decisions about the Murray LaSaine facility at this time and decisions about possible enrollment next school year. Rev. Collins requested more meetings in the James Island community to share information on the Montessori concept. Dr. McGinley said tonight staff will report information on the Neighborhood Planning process, various community meetings held, surveys, etc.

**IV. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS – Ms. Clara Heinsohn – Director of Public Affairs & Volunteers**

**4.1: A. Dunston Primary School**

Mrs. Karen Williams and Dr. James Winbush recognized Dunston Primary School principal Mrs. Janice Malone and staff for their 2012-2013 SC National Title I Distinguished School for Academic Progress accomplishments.

**B. National Mel Miller Award for 2013 National Social Studies Supervisor Award**

Dr. Jane Eason, President of the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies, presented the National Mel Miller Award for 2013 National Social Studies Supervisor Award to Mrs. Barbara Hairfield.

**V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. McGinley shared the following:

- Today State Superintendent Dr. Nick Zais and six state officials visited CCSD to exchange information about the District's Teacher Incentive Fund Grant and exchange information about adding student achievement to the evaluation of teachers. The District agreed to share ideas seeing that this is a work in progress.
- Tonight during the Charleston Achieving Excellence update, Mrs. Melissa Matarazzo, the Executive Director of Achievement and Accountability will provide an update on the District's state report card results. CCSD continues to improve on many levels. 50.5% of CCSD's students attend "EXCELLENT" rated schools. Graduation rate has increased from 72.2% to 75.5% and the number of "AT-RISK" schools is in the single digits. While encouraged by progress, there are still achievement gaps that exist between groups of students. The District will not be satisfied as long as there are "At-Risk" schools. However, Dr. McGinley said she was thankful for what the district has accomplished and it would not have been possible without the hard work of the entire community.
- Students, parents, teachers, school based staff, principals, administrators, and community partners were thanked for helping the district make progress in CCSD possible.
- Dr. McGinley said she was pleased with the countywide progress. However, four of the eight at-risk schools are in District 20 are still rated "At Risk". Staff will bring a plan to the board to address this issue beginning with the establishment of a Neighborhood Planning Team to study the issue on the peninsula and letters were sent to neighborhood planning groups before the holidays.

Mr. Fraser said Dr. McGinley and staff should be applauded for the progress the district has made.

## **VI. VISITORS, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Rev. Alonzo Washington, the pastor at Wallingford Presbyterian Church downtown, addressed the board in support of Lowcountry Technical Academy (LCTA). Stakeholders have met for 10 years to plan the high tech vocational program at the Rivers site. He is pleased that the facility is about to be completed. Rev. Washington urged the board to be mindful of decisions and its impact on students given that the Charleston Charter School of Math and Science is a new concept that has gotten more than any other charter school in the district.
2. Mrs. Beverly Burch, vice chair of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) Education Committee, addressed the board in support of LCTA the 60/40% space allocation agreement for the Rivers site. She urged the board not to revisit the space allocation agreement. LCTA addresses disparity issues in the district. She shared a letter from Mayor Riley to former Board Chair, Toya H. Green in support of LCTA at Rivers.
3. Ms. Ethel Green, a member of IMA, urged the board to respect the decision of the previous CCSD school board and Dr. McGinley regarding LCTA. Mrs. Green said shortly after the Rivers facility was vacated, they petitioned the board to use the facility for technical education and technology. She urged the board not to rescind the decision of the previous board.
4. Rev. Edward McClain congratulated Dr. McGinley and staff for completion of the work at Rivers. He said this program that is scheduled to open on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Rivers campus will provide state of the art programs and allow students to gain exposure to technical programs. He urged the current board to go on record supporting the Superintendent and previous board's plan for LCTA.
5. Mr. Howie Comen, a private detective/part-time preacher and IMA member, addressed the board in support of LCTA. He said the program would prepare students across the county for high tech jobs available in Charleston County. He urged the board to keep the program at the original location as planned to serve students residing west of the Ashley and other lowcounty areas.
6. Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III, addressed the board in support of LCTA at the Rivers facility. He outlined reasons why the community does not trust the district. He urged the board to break tradition and honor the decision regarding LCTA.
7. Ms. Deborah Matthews, a Hursey ES parent, addressed the board regarding the Montessori Program at Hursey. She prefers a 50/50 program instead of a full Montessori program.
8. Mr. Robert Kennedy, Chair of IMA, addressed the board in support of the longstanding agreement to place LCTA at the Rivers facility. Last week IMA toured the renovated Rivers facility and they were impressed with the high tech on the cooling system, green school technology and IT there.

He said any decision to use the facility for other purposes would cost the district more to convert the classrooms to regular classrooms since they are not the same size as regular classrooms.

## VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

### 7.1: Open Session Minutes of November 12, 2012

Mr. Ducker moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of the Open Session Minutes of November 12, 2012. The motion was approved with a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Fraser suggested the name of persons who seconded the nominations during the Board Election be included in minutes.

Note: Mr. Fraser and Mr. Garrett excused themselves from room at 5:55pm during the discussion of Executive Session agenda item **1.1: North Charleston Creative Arts ES-Architectural Contract**. They returned at 6pm after the board voted on that item.

### 7.2: Motions of Executive Session of November 26, 2012

*The Board will vote on Executive Session motions of November 26, 2012.*

#### 1.1: North Charleston Creative Arts ES-Architectural Contract – Mr. Bill Lewis – Chief Operations Officer

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, approval of the recommendation authorizing staff to enter into a contract with Stubbs Muldrow Herin Architectural Services for North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School, in the amount of \$1,431,024.00. The funding source is the one (1) cent sales tax revenue. The motion was approved 6-0.

#### 1.2: James Island Charter HS-Architectural Contract for LS3P – Mr. Bill Lewis – Chief Operations Officer

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, approval of the recommendation authorizing staff to enter into a contract with LS3P Associates, Ltd. to provide architectural services for James Island Charter HS, in the amount of \$1,378,972.00. The funding source is the one (1) cent sales tax revenue. The motion was approved 8-0.

#### 1.3: Discussion of Lease Agreement re 5841 Rivers Avenue – Mr. John Emerson – General Counsel

The Board reviewed the lease associated with 5841 Rivers Avenue and approved the following motion:

Mr. Barter moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, that staff at the direction of the board, notify the Healing Ministries Baptist Church that its lease at 5841 Rivers Avenue will be terminated as of June 30, 2013. That it is subject to being terminated earlier unless all pertinent documents to the lease are in the possession of CCSD. Also, it will be required that the alarm system be armed at all times when the building is not occupied. And if the record of use of the alarm system indicates that the building has been used more than 16 hours in a month, each additional hour will be billed at \$41.50 an hour to the lessee. The motion was approved with a vote was 8-0.

Mr. Garrett asked staff if the current lease is costing the district more to operate than rent that is collected. Mr. Bobby said the district had a cooperative agreement that doesn't cover 100% of the cost. It was designed to work for both parties. However, he did not have the actual cost available at this time.

## OPEN SESSION RECONVENED

5:15 p.m.

### 7.3: Financial Minutes of November 12, 2012

The Board will vote on the Financial Minutes of November 12, 2012.

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, approval of the financial minutes of November 12, 2012. The vote was 8-0.

## VIII. CAE UPDATE

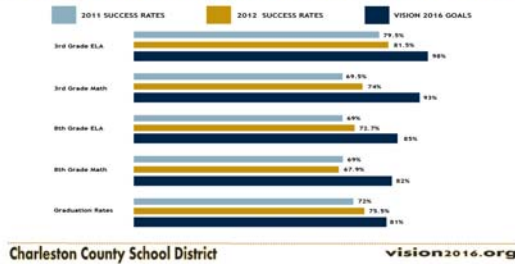
## 8.1

### **2012 State Report Card Results and Vision 2016 Update – Mrs. Melissa Matarazzo – Executive Director – Achievement and Accountability & Dr. Laura Donnelly – Director of Assessment and Evaluation**

Mrs. Melissa Matarazzo and Dr. Laura Donnelly provided an update on the 2012 State Report Card Results and Vision 2016 Goals with 2012 results. A summary of the update follows:

- Breaking news received at 4:45pm today, CCSD was named one of sixty one finalists nationwide for the **Race to the Top grant finalists** and the only one in SC. A decision should be made within the next month or so. Dr. Herring and staff were commended for preparing the application.
- **SC State Report Cards:** Annual accountability reports on every public school and district in SC, based on standardized test results and graduation rates.
- **PASS:** Palmetto Assessment of State Standards
  - Reading & Research and Math taken by every student, grades 3-8
  - Writing taken by grades 5 and 8 in 2012
  - Social Studies and Science: 1 of the 2 taken by every student
- **EOC:** End-of-Course exams in high school credit courses:
  - Algebra 1, English 1, Biology 1, and U.S. History & the Constitution
- **State Report Card Methodology**
  - **Elementary Schools:** PASS results
  - **Middle Schools:** PASS results, EOC results (if applicable)
  - **High Schools:** EOC, HSAP 1<sup>st</sup> Attempt, Longitudinal HSAP, On-time Graduation Rate, 5-yr Graduation Rate
  - **District:** PASS results, HSAP 1<sup>st</sup> Attempt, Longitudinal HSAP, On-time Graduation Rate, 5-yr Graduation Rate
- CCSD's 2012 Report Card Rating
  - Absolute **Index** of 3.32
  - Absolute **Rating** of Good
  - **Growth Rating** of Good was increased one level due to adjustment for improvement in performance of historically underachieving groups (HUGS)
  - **On-time Graduation Rate** of 75.5%
    - Mrs. Coats asked if Special Education students were included. Dr. Donnelly said yes.
    - Mr. Barter questioned why the district declined one notch. Dr. McGinley said the numerical index score requires the district to make progress each year. Last year the district made a big leap. This year it didn't.
    - Dr. Donnelly shared comparison information from 2007 through 2012. Dr. McGinley said in 2007 53% of CCSD's students were At Risk or Below Average. Now the number 22%. Mr. Fraser added that the requirements have increased over the years.
    - Mr. Miller asked how schools that were in existence in 2007 are still active schools in 2012 under the same school name. Dr. Donnelly said she did not have that information with her but would be happy to provide that information.
    - Mr. Ascue asked how many At Risk schools were Title I schools. Mrs. Matarazzo said all 8.
    - Mr. Fraser requested information on the percentage of students in At Risk and Excellent schools in 2007-2012. Mrs. Matarazzo said in response to Mr. Miller's earlier question that some At Risk schools have made growth. Significant improvement was made in schools the Innovation Zone, such as Dunston ES which was recognized earlier tonight. Sixteen schools went from one grading level to another.
    - Mrs. Coats requested a report on annual growth and visuals to show where district is with its Vision 2016 goals in the form of a graph. Dr. Herring said it would be discussed at the upcoming Board workshop.

## PROGRESS TOWARD VISION 2016



- Mr. Miller asked if there was a chart that show the gains individual schools are required to make and the district's implementation. Mrs. Matarazzo said that information is included in the annual School Renewal Plan that schools are required to submit to the state department. Also, principal evaluations have a set of targets to reach this year that are either linked all students or students that need to make improvements. Dr. McGinley added that the Absolute and Growth Rating information is sent to both the district and individual schools. Accountability meetings with Principals are scheduled to bring principals in to talk about progress levels, going deep into the data to determine if there is progress or not and why or why not. Also, the superintendent's evaluation is based on the annual growth targets the board adopted a year ago. She could share that on Wednesday.
- Mr. Garrett asked if that was why charter school results were excluded. Dr. McGinley said she does not oversee charter schools. Mrs. Matarazzo said the charter scores are listed, but not combined in the actual rate for Charleston County.
- Mr. Fraser said the numbers could be a little deceiving in terms of the number of folks that have to be successful for achievements. Sometimes it's a small number of students and in other cases may require a larger number of students to make gains.
- Mr. Miller inquired about graduation rate by ethnicity and said there is still a large gap in students who are Caucasian and other racial backgrounds.
- Dr. McGinley recognized Dr. Winbush for progress made in the Innovation Zone schools. She said three years ago Dr. Winbush was encouraged to accept the role after staff recognized that Stall and North Charleston were fed by schools that were At Risk or Below Average. Staff concluded that good leadership was needed to make a difference. She thanked the board for allowing her to create the position for Dr. Winbush. Of the fourteen schools under his supervision, nine have made progress. Mrs. Matarazzo and Dr. Winbush cited the biggest problem was keeping up with graduation rates for transient students that drop out in the ninth grade or tenth grade. Mrs. Matarazzo said the CCSD's fifth year graduation rate is higher than the state's average. She credited individuals who worked to track students.
- Mr. Fraser reminded staff of his earlier request to have score cards for individual schools posted in the board room now that the data has been provided.
- Rev. Collins asked how many students that did not graduate were expelled or incarcerated and if they were the ones that struggled with reading.. Mrs. Matarazzo said she would provide that information.
- Mr. Barter asked about SAT results in the board packet. He said the data by ethnicity show a tremendous gap. He asked if gap is caused by ethnicity or parental preparation. Dr. Winbush said that may be a logical explanation. However, principals can't do anything about what happens on the outside but must take responsibility for all students that walk through the doors. Mr.

Barter said “all means all” to him too. During his campaign he said he would listen to the educators. He came into office thinking more need to be done with early education. He is looking for data to answer questions related to putting more money into the k-4 program. Dr. Winbush said elementary schools are improving. He has a waiting list for early childhood in all his schools and there isn't enough room. Dr. McGinley said Early Childhood expansion and how it relates to the achievement gap will be discussed more. After viewing the data from Dr. Donnelly about the percentage of kindergarten students that attended pre-school during the holidays, this is definitely the direction she wants to go in.

**IX. MANAGEMENT REPORT(S)**

**9.1: June 2012 Interim Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Mr. Michael Bobby – Chief of Finance and Operations**

The board received the General Operating Fund June 2012 Interim Financial Report as information.

Mrs. Coats said last year the board agreed that these reports would be included in the Friday Update. However, Mr. Bobby said this time he had good information to share with the board. Strategic decisions was made to direct the district's resources where the results would be the greatest. Mr. Bobby recognized Ms. Terri Shannon, Ex. Director of Finance and Mr. Allen Milburn, Director of Finance.

- Fiscal health of District continuing to improve
  - Improved Revenue picture – increased Ad Valorum taxes and additional revenue from the state due to retention of students
  - Improved Expenditure picture
  - Improved Fund Balance

**Fund Balance Analysis**

	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>% of Change from FY2011 to FY2012</u>
<b>Beginning Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 23,971,961</b>	<b>\$ 34,296,645</b>	
Revenues	\$ 322,145,305	\$ 343,293,291	6.56%
Expenditures	<u>311,820,621</u>	<u>328,480,975</u>	5.34%
Net Change	\$ 10,324,684	\$ 14,812,316	43.47%
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 34,296,645</b>	<b>\$ 49,108,961</b>	<b>43.19%</b>
<b>LESS RESERVES:</b>			
Encumbrances	\$ 1,190,019	\$ 1,614,375	35.66%
Inventory	338,492	466,451	37.80%
Designated - Subsequent year expenditures	<u>3,417,432</u>	<u>5,500,000</u>	60.94%
<b>Undesignated Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 29,350,702</b>	<b>\$ 41,528,135</b>	<b>41.49%</b>
<b>% of General Fund Budget</b>	<b>8.78%</b>	<b>11.63%</b>	

- Mr. Bobby said
  - Since the delinquent tax was pushed to the limit, next year it will probably be flat.
  - The district overspent temporary personnel and over time budgets. He said that is a reflection of staff cut and work that needs to be done.
    - Mrs. Coats asked if extra overtime was included in salaries. Mr. Bobby confirmed.
  - The district never budgeted 100% of salary and benefits and always has lapsed salary which is absorbed in other areas. If this weren't done, the district could probably grow its fund balance more.
  - \$2.5 million dollars was spent on a “Closing the Achievement Gap” challenge (incentive to staff). That amount was absorbed and did not impact the district negatively.

- The largest portion of the budget is staff. The second largest portion of the budget goes to charter schools.
- Fund balance analysis is at 11%. And, for this reason, the district has a "AA" rating.
- Dr. McGinley makes tough decisions and directs district funds where needed.
  - Dr. McGinley said Mr. Bobby hasn't heard her recommendation for fund balance.
  - Mr. Fraser said 5-6 years ago the district's fund balance was zero. The Board had to make tough calls and now it is doing well. He recognized staff for the good work.
- The district hasn't raised taxes on the Operating side for the past four years because of hard decisions the district has made. However, the district made a slight adjustment on the Revenue side.
  - Mr. Barter requested an update at a workshop on how the district is improving its processes. And, if no one else is interested, it could be done individually before budget time.
  - Mr. Ascue said it's very rewarding to receive good news such as this and the improvement in student scores.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

**10.1: Audit & Finance Committee – Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats**

**10.2: Policy Committee – Mrs. Elizabeth Moffly**

**XI. POTENTIAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**11.1: Buist Enrollment Expansion Plan – Mrs. Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent**

- Mr. Ascue urged staff to make sure there is proper staff to ensure excellent rating.
- Mr. Barter and Mr. Miller inquired about the student/teacher ratio.

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Barter, to pull this item for further discussion. The board approved by consensus.

After discussion, Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Barter, approval of the recommendation to increase the enrollment at Buist Academy. The cost is \$50,000.00 for an additional teacher for the 2013-14 school year. The funding source is General Operating Funds. The motion was approved 8-0.

Mrs. Terri Nichols shared details about the recommendation to increase individual class sizes at Buist. She said this would address the large waiting list and the lottery system would be used.

- Mr. Ducker asked what would it take to increase enrollment and maintain the same class size. Mrs. Nichols said the school would not have the space to do it. Mr. Fraser said adding students would not require additional teachers and resources.
- Mrs. Coats asked why low class sizes weren't increased in all magnet schools to save money. Mrs. Nichols said while it was in the Buist charter, since classrooms were so small, no one questioned it.
- Mr. Barter asked if a good process was in place to ensure seats allocated for District 20 is used for students that reside in District 20. Dr. McGinley shared information about Address Verification the district uses. Dr. McGinley spoke about increasing class size and said the district would ensure quality of education.

**11.2: Murray LaSaine Montessori Pilot Program Proposal – Mrs. Ruth Taylor – Assistant Associate Superintendent, Mrs. LaDane Conroy, Montessori Liaison for Development, Support and Expansion, and Mr. James Reinhart - Principal**

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, approval of the Murray LaSaine Montessori Pilot Program Proposal. The cost is \$50,000.00 Capital/GOF to train staff and purchase additional

furniture. The motion was approved 5-2 (Collins and Ducker opposed).

Mrs. Ruth Taylor, Mr. James Reinhardt and Mrs. LaDene Conroy presented information on the Montessori Pilot program.

### **Why School Choice**

- Improve student achievement and educational equity.
- Increase parent support and involvement in schools.
- Decrease racial isolation.
- Provide alternative types of learning environments that may better match children's needs.
- Encourage the creativity of educators.
- Spur schools to match the needs of today's families through expanded services and extended hours.

Rev. Collins asked about the Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and for a copy of the survey sent to parents and the results. Mrs. Conroy said there were two surveys—school survey and the community survey. Mr. Reinhardt said students took the survey home in a blue folder they take home daily. It went home with a cover letter and a ParentLink call was made to parents to remind them to complete surveys. Then Rev. Collins asked for capacity information. Mr. Reinhardt said he didn't have current information. However, enrollment has been up to 400 at one point. Rev. Collins asked about attendance of parents at school meetings. Mrs. Taylor said attendance was not good at the February meeting. However, staff are confident and feel they had done due diligence in reaching families in the community. Rev. Collins asked if parents supported a dual program. Dr. McGinley said no child would be displaced from the school. However, the traditional program would be phased out. For many years, staff received requests for another option on James Island.

Mr. Fraser said the board previously spoke about a Montessori Program for each zone. There is a demand for Montessori Programs across the district. He knew folks that relocated from James Island because of demand for better schools. Dr. McGinley shared the zone map to show Montessori Programs in the other three zones.

Mr. Ducker said he didn't object the program. However, he was concerned about students that opt to stay in the traditional program. Mrs. Taylor said James Island ES is less than a mile away.

Mr. Barter said in 2020 what would be the option for those who require a traditional school. Mrs. Taylor said it would be readily available with transportation for those who don't require the Montessori program.

Mr. Miller asked if it was fair to displace parents who wanted a traditional program. Dr. McGinley said no child would be displaced. All students attending Murray LaSaine will be permitted to stay there. Murray LaSaine has always had fewer than 200 students. Mr. Reinhardt said the enrollment is 197 with CD students.

Mr. Ascue asked about the socio-economic make up of students zoned for the school. Mr. Reinhardt said he had 87% on free and reduced lunch. Mrs. Conroy said preference would be given to students zoned for Murray LaSaine ES first.

Mr. Ascue expressed concerns about the turnover of students at M. LaSaine. Mrs. Conroy said parents, like Rev. Collins' wife, have been instrumental in spreading the word to other parents about the Montessori program. Mr. Ascue asked about cost to have both programs



at M. LaSaine. Dr. McGinley said when the results were presented in September, the results were sent to all James Island parents. A second survey was sent to Murray LaSaine parents. Of the 101 parents that responded, 69 supported the Montessori Program. Mr. Reinhardt said a meeting was held in October for parents of students currently attending the school.

Mr. Lewis said if staff did not find a way to increase enrollment, staff would have to bring a recommendation to close the school. The district could not continue to serve the small number of students at the current cost. He said it's the last hope to get enrollment up. Dr. McGinley said the current board has not given a directive to close schools yet.

Rev. Collins said the scare approach should not be used. He asked about the performance of the school. Mrs. Taylor said Average. Rev. Collins suggested the board consider a Math and Science program along with Montessori program. Then he said staff should evaluate the Montessori program at the school before considering a program expansion. Mrs. Taylor said history has shown that Montessori is the choice of the people.

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Ascue, to allow a Montessori pilot program for two years. After that time, bring the status forward for the board to review. The vote failed 5-2 (Ascue and Collins supported the motion).

Mr. Fraser said the district was not depriving students of a traditional program. If the Montessori program is not approved, it would deprive some students that desire a choice program. If the program doesn't work, he is sure the district would bring a recommendation to do something else.

Mrs. Coats said the motion for the two year trial program would impact the construction program. She asked on impact Rev. Collins' motion would have on remodeling the school. Mr. Padron, the Director of Choice Schools, said Montessori program allowed an inquiry based approach which is a great opportunity for kids. Mr. Lewis added that a Montessori class is at least 1,000 square foot and doesn't work in the 800 sq ft classroom. Murray LaSaine now has pods and two classrooms would have to be combined for a Montessori classroom. If the school is converted back to a traditional classroom, it could be costly. Having a clear plan for renovations is important for technology and air conditioning.

Mr. Barter said no one was challenging the efficacy of the Montessori program and the demand exceeds the supply. He asked if a Montessori program could be effective in a Title I neighborhood. Mrs. Conroy said research shows that testing rates were high in all areas.

**NOTE:** Mr. Miller left the meeting at 8:10pm. Therefore He did not vote on board agenda items 11.3 – 11.6.

**11.3: Refunding 2004 Installment Bonds – Mr. Michael Bobby – Chief of Finance and Operations**

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, approval of the Charleston Educational Excellence Financing Corporation's (CEEFC) recommendation to refund the 2004 Installment bonds through a bank loan and approve the Resolution and award the refunding as a bank loan to PNC Bank, based on their proposal for an interest rate of 1.16% resulting in present value savings of approximately \$4.5 million. The motion was approved 7-0.

**Note:** Mr. Barter left the room at 7:18pm and returned at 7:22pm. Since he was out of the room, he did not vote on this item.

**11.4: Wildcat Boulevard Connector Road Water System at West Ashley High School– Mr. Bill Lewis – Chief Operations Officer**

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Fraser, approval of the recommendation authorizing the

Superintendent to sign off on the Charleston Water System Easement for proposed water connection at West Ashley High School, at no cost to the district. The motion was approved 7-0.

Note: Mr. Barter left the room at 7:18pm and returned at 7:22pm. Since he was out of the room, he did not vote on this item.

**11.5: Creation of a Vision 2016 Board Committee**

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Barter, approval of a recommendation to create a “**CCSD Strategic Advisory Committee**” and bring to the board a mission statement and role of the committee. Board Committee required by Board Policy BDE – Board Committees. The motion was approved 7-0.

Mrs. Coats said a group of board members were needed to focus on the nuts and bolts of the district’s achievement plan. She proposed three board members Mr. Ascue, Mr. Collins and Mr. Miller to serve on a committee to create a committee and identify individuals that should serve on the committee.

Dr. McGinley asked the relationship between the proposed committee and existing committees in place. Mr. Fraser suggested that the committee be similar to the Audit and Finance Committee. Mr. Barter suggested an amendment, seconded by Mr. Fraser, to establish a Strategy Committee. Then Mr. Fraser suggested calling it the Strategic Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ducker suggested the committee write up a statement to describe their role. Then he asked the purpose of the committee. Mrs. Coats said the committee would be comprised of citizens and they would monitor the 2016 goals. Then, Rev. Collins suggested the name should be 2016 Advisory Committee. However, Mr. Fraser said he didn’t want to limit it to 2016.

**11.6: Health Advisory Committee - Community Member**

Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Mr. Ducker, approval of a recommendation to appoint Ms. Lisa Belton to serve as a community member on CCSD’s Health Advisory Committee. The motion was approved 4-3 (Ascue, Collins and Coats opposed).

**11.7: Hursey Neighborhood Planning Team (Collins, Ascue, Coats and Miller)**

The Board will receive information on the Neighborhood Planning Team for Hursey Elementary School.

Dr. Winbush said, at an earlier time, the decision to have a full Montessori was put on hold. The school cannot afford to continue with both the traditional and Montessori programs. Enrollment and traditional program teachers continue to decline while there is growth with the Montessori program.

Dr. Tim Schavel, Principal at Hursey, shared information on the Neighborhood Planning Team. He said 81% of students at Hursey live in that zone. He mentioned a parent survey and said he is waiting on the results.

Rev. Collins said he has had conversations with some parents about the Montessori survey. Then he expressed concerns about the recruitment efforts stating that it was only for the Montessori program, not the traditional program. Also he suggested that enrollment was lowered by design when an entire class was moved out of the school two or more years ago. Dr. Winbush confirmed that recruiting was done for Montessori and said the traditional program is for students in the zone. In response to Rev. Collins question about the number of students there, Dr. Schavel said 370. Dr. Winbush said next year Hursey’s funds would be lowered because they have improved and will no longer receive funding for low performing

schools. Rev. Collins suggested staff work to recruit on both sides.

Dr. McGinley said as the Montessori Program grows more classroom space would be needed. Many students opted not to attend the school earlier because of the low report card rates. Running a "dual program" is tasking for principals because they have to run two programs under one roof and it divides Montessori and Traditional parents.

Mr. Barter asked about the cost to operate a dual program for 300 students versus a single program. Then he asked about the plan to phase out the traditional program. Dr. Winbush said the cost would have to come from the District's Finance staff. Dr. Schavel added that there is a waiting list for some classes. Mr. Winbush said the district was able to fund both programs earlier because of funds received because the school was "At Risk". However, since those funds would no longer be available, funds would have to come from the regular General Operating budget.

Mr. Ascue said he also received calls from Hursey parents about keeping the traditional program. Dr. Schavel said 80% of his students at Hursey are enrolled in the Montessori program. Mr. Ascue said he would like to see breakdown of scores. He also requested expense information for a dual program (traditional and Montessori). Mr. Ascue asked Dr. Schavel to share the response received from Hursey parents. Dr. Schavel said the majority liked the program. Dr. Schavel spoke about support received from the NPT members. Dr. Winbush said while some parents want students to stay at traditional schools, many students from his district travel for more than an hour to attend another school. Dr. McGinley added that Hursey is the only Montessori program in the North Area.

Mr. Ducker asked staff to identify existing Montessori school problems. Dr. Schavel said the space required and materials. A full Montessori, would require classroom expansion. Mrs. Coats said a Montessori is needed somewhere in the north area to address equity issues. And, if it is not at Hursey, should a new school be built?

Mr. Ducker asked if it was the right thing to do. Rev. Collins said minority children shouldn't have to pay the price by being forced out. He asked how many years Mrs. Conroy was at the school. Mrs. Conroy said five years.

Mr. Ascue said Hursey ES was at risk for a long time, now it is making progress. Dr. Winbush said four years ago, the school was going Montessori but it stopped for growth purposes. Rev. Collins said the board didn't vote on it, the school did. Then he suggested that several Montessori schools could be in the West Ashley area.

At this time, Mrs. Coats said during the 20 minute discussion she heard the board mention proven sustainability, cost related to dual program, renovation versus building a new one.

Note: Mr. Fraser left the meeting at 8:58pm.

**11.8: Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing Dates**

Mrs. Coats asked board members to email Mrs. Stoney dates to hear Student Expulsion Appeals.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

At 9:07, Mrs. Coats motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by consensus.