

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD Strategic Planning Symposium Brings Together Over 700 Participants in the Community

Office of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
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Charleston, SC — On Saturday, January 28, 2017, over 700 individuals—community members, parents, teachers, students, and administrators alike—from across the greater Charleston County School District (CCSD) community gathered together to learn about and discuss next steps in the creation of the District's new strategic plan.

The event, which was held at Burke High School from 9:00 a.m. to noon, kicked off with a performance by the Springfield Elementary School Choir featuring students singing *A Song of Peace* while holding flags representing their native countries, and welcoming participants in many of the students' native tongues. Burke's award-winning JROTC cadets were on hand as well to greet participants as they entered the building, and perform the presentation of colors during the opening ceremony.

During the opening session, CCSD Board of Trustees Chair Kate Darby, welcomed symposium participants, and Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait gave a dynamic presentation about her vision and purpose for the future of the District. At the conclusion of the opening session, participants disbursed into focus area information sessions to continue discussion and engagement in a variety of subjects.

Featured information sessions and presenters during the symposium included:

Positive School Climate

Presenter: Jennifer Coker, Executive Director of Alternative Programs

Recruiting, Retaining and Rewarding Top Talent

Presenters: Jane Turner, CERRA, and Bill Briggman, Chief Human Resource Officer

Financial Stability

Presenter: Glenn Steigman, Chief Financial Officer

Town Hall

Presenters: CCSD Board of Trustees

Literacy with the Lastinger Institute

Presenters: Dr. Pamela Chalfant, Early Learning Initiatives Manager; Dr. Lourdes Santiago Poventud, Early Learning Course Production

Numeracy with Lastinger Institute

Presenter: Dr. Don Pemberton

Accelerating Student Achievement through Blended Learning

Presenter: Anthony Kim, Education Elements

Elementary Strategies with Meeting Street Academy

Presenter: Amy Mims, Executive Director of Meeting Street Schools

College and Career Readiness with the New Tech Network

Presenter: Alan Veach, New Tech Network

Fostering a Growth Mindset for K-12 Success through AVID

Presenter: Mervin Jenkins, AVID

College and Career Readiness through Expanded Opportunities in CTE

Presenter: Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer

College and Career Readiness through Internships and Apprenticeships

Presenter: Melissa Stowasser, Trident Technical College

At the conclusion of the breakout sessions, participants made their way back to the auditorium to a closing session where thoughts and ideas discussed during the breakouts were shared collectively with the group.

Next steps in the process include developing a series of ideas to be presented to the CCSD Board of Trustees that will support the strategic plan's framework, and the integration of those ideas into the folds of the strategic plan.

For photos, video highlights, resources, and additional information about the January 28, 2017 CCSD Strategic Planning Symposium, please visit http://www.ccsdschools.com/divisions/strat/strategic_planning_symposium.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.