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| | | | <p>Below is an email I sent to all board members, Michelle Simmons, Anita Huggins, Terri Nichols, and Dr. Gallien.</p> <p>Hello Trustees,</p> <p>I have only received one response to an email I sent to the board two weeks ago. I currently live in Calhoun's district, but I will be moving into the district that Leah Whatley represents in a couple months. To see such behavior and a lack of communication from someone who will supposedly be representing me soon is appalling.</p> <p>There are serious concerns regarding Whatley's threats to sue her fellow board members and her and Keith Grybowski's clear intentions regarding the removal of Dr. Gallien, who has only been with the district for a couple months. The screenshots I have clearly showed intention by both Whatley and Grybowski to remove the superintendent. These screenshots are from well before yesterday's board meeting.</p> <p>Even if you claim that these comments in the private Charleston County Moms for Liberty Facebook group were made regarding the supposed "complaint" that justified Dr. Gallien being put on administrative leave, the intent to dismiss Gallien based off of that "complaint" was not public knowledge, and Whatley had no place sharing potential consequences of that "complaint" with the Moms for Liberty supporters. However, public consensus is that Whatley and Grybowski both intended to get rid of Gallien from the start, prior to this supposed "complaint" and Whatley has made those intentions clear to her Moms for Liberty supporters.</p> <p>What Whatley lacks in transparency she makes up for in audacity. Monday night, the four non-Moms for Liberty-associated board members commended Michelle Simmons before the vote to hire the interim Chief Academic Officer. Whatley felt the need to not comment on Michelle Simmons' achievements but instead commend Terri Nichols, who is rumored to be the Moms for Liberty-approved replacement for the superintendent position. What a suspicious interjection she made there. While watching the meeting live, Whatley's comment seemed wildly out of place and completely inappropriate for that moment.</p> <p>Now there are rumors circulating that Terri Nichols herself launched the complaints against Dr. Gallien because Dr. Gallien wanted to transfer the Literacy Department to be under the purview of Michelle Simmons. As part of this rumor, Terri Nichols and the five Moms for Liberty-supported board members were accused of essentially colluding to concoct a false claim regarding hostile working conditions that were supposedly created by Dr. Gallien's leadership. And this alleged allegation is cited as the reason why Dr. Gallien was placed on administrative leave.</p> <p>Whatley's behavior, as well as that of the other four Moms for Liberty-supported board members, is suspicious at best and illegal at worst. I would say that I am eager to see your responses, but at this point, I do not expect responses. The five have set a trend with residents of the county to expect nothing but shady, disappointing behavior and a total lack of transparent communication from you five.</p> |
| Adrienne | Lett | Transparency from Moms for Liberty-backed board members | <p>Sincerely, Adrienne Lett</p> <p>Seeing very well qualified individuals fired from the Health Advisory Committee was awful and extremely disheartening. One (now previous) member of the committee had experience teaching sex education to middle schoolers and high schoolers and even had experience discussing sex education at post-secondary levels.</p> <p>The general public consensus is that these Health Advisory Committee members were fired because they do not conform to the Moms for Liberty-approved, ultra-conservative notions that sex should be saved for marriage, sex should only be between a man and a woman, and that gender can be multifaceted. People like this prior HAC member I mentioned above are so clearly qualified for the position. People like her are who we NEED on the HAC.</p> <p>Comprehensive sex education is very important. There are dozens if not hundreds of peer reviewed studies supporting the benefits of a comprehensive sex education. But some of you ("cough cough the five supported by Moms for Liberty") seem to not care about qualifications of committee members or what is actually factually proven to be best.</p> <p>In short: the constituents of Charleston County are not pleased with the conduct of those five board members. Although I clearly do not speak for all residents of the county, I share the views of a great many.</p> |
| Adrienne | Lett | Health Advisory Committee firings | <p>Please reconsider your actions.</p> <p>I and many others would like to express our support and sympathy for Dr. Gallien and Michelle Simmons. Great injustices have been done unto them, and residents across the county and even across the state acknowledge it and are outraged. We appreciate the work that they both do.</p> |
| Adrienne | Lett | Support for Dr. Gallien and Michelle Simmons | <p>The Moms for Liberty-backed board members who voted to put Superintendent Gallien on leave are out of line. There is no reason for doing this other than politics. He has been on the job less than four months. Moms for Liberty is a GOP front group that is doing this across the country for political reasons. Education and students are the ones suffering.</p> |
| Barry | Goodwin | Moms for Liberty-backed board members are out of line in firing superintendent | <p>The suspension of Dr. Gallien which has no direct motivation or released cause other than being funded by moms for liberty is not only unacceptable but outrageous. This community deserves quality education that is not defined by political landscapes. Dr. Gallien was determined to be an excellent candidate and this is nothing but a witch hunt at the expense of the students and educators of Charleston School District. The current landscape created by moms of liberty where the morality of the church is pressing into the state funded public school is not only unconstitutional it is not what I want for my children. My children are not religious, they have friend who are of different religions than Christianity and there is no room for one group to decide what moral codes define a public institution. Suspending a newly hired candidate without a motive is highly egregious and absolutely unacceptable. Diversity, inclusion, equity and tolerance deserve a place in our schools and you can not chase them out or silence those who want them. I will be at the meeting October 9th. Our children deserve better.</p> |
| Courtney | Sherritt | Dr. Eric Gallien | <p>Superintendent Admin Leave, Chief AO + Health Advisory Committee</p> |
| Madeline | Davis | | See previous answer |
| Kyndra | Luce | Public Comments at COW Meetings | <p>Please add Public Comments back to the COW meetings</p> |
| | | | <p>Board Members,</p> <p>Are you listening? The community of Charleston County is speaking at an unprecedented level. State leaders, principals, teachers, support staff, and community members are speaking out against recent board actions that have created unnecessary chaos and division. As more issues come to light, it is clear that trustees McKinney, Bailey, Grybowski, Kelley, and Whatley have not upheld their promises to conduct themselves in a professional, legal, and transparent manner as evidenced by the concerns listed below.</p> <p>Concern 1: Illegal Actions (FOIA) and Quorums - (most recent)</p> <p>July 17th Special Called meeting- The meeting was improperly noticed and 4 board members (trustees Tempel, Calhoun, Waters, and Roberson) were not given information. When they asked questions during the meeting, they were denied information or the ability to ask questions.</p> <p>September 11th Committee of the Whole- The meeting contained improperly noticed executive session items, no public background information, and some board members were denied information.</p> <p>September 25th Board of Trustees meeting- The meeting contained improperly noticed executive session items, no public background information, and some board members were denied information.</p> <p>October 3rd "Board Statement" - Without holding the required public meeting, board members McKinney, Bailey, Kelley, Grybowski, and Whatley issued a statement that attempted to defend their recent actions at the September 25th meeting. This further demonstrates an alleged illegal quorum out of the required public forum.</p> <p>Concern 2: Impediment of Superintendent Duties -</p> <p>Since his appointment, Dr. Gallien has been unable to proceed with his assigned duties and was recently placed on paid leave over the matter of an unclear human resources complaint. This type of action is generally reserved for extremely egregious behavior. The board members who voted for paid suspension have not provided adequate reasoning for such a large disruption to the CCSD community nor have they provided a timeline for resolution.</p> <p>Concerns 3: Failure to Approve Critical District Leadership -</p> <p>As an outside observer of board meetings, I have witnessed members of the board deny multiple requested staff appointments by the superintendent, Dr. Gallien, without sufficient explanation. This is a poor faith showing on behalf of the board and it is impeding his work/ability to make progress within the district. The most recent failure to appoint a vetted candidate, Michelle Simmons, demonstrates the board's inability to make objective and data-driven decisions. Mrs. Simmons has the requirements outlined in the position job posting in addition to time in the field and the recommendation of an outside vetting agency.</p> <p>Concern 4: Dismantling of the Health Advisory Committee (HAC) without Cause -</p> <p>The purposeful dismantling of the HAC mid-term also derails the board's mission of community diversity, transparency, and equitable access. Many members were given little to no warning that they would be dismissed. The newly appointed members were not properly screened before the full board and with adequate notice. Just because a committee serves, "at the pleasure of the board", does not mean that the board should dismiss its members without due cause. At the very least, this makes the board appear fickle and easily bought by outside political influencers.</p> <p>Once again, I urge the recipients of this comment to listen to the unprecedented outcry of the CCSD community. The people are speaking and they want answers, fairness, and (when needed) dismissal of trustees who have acted improperly and/or illegally in their duties.</p> |
| Jennie | Church | Board Member Conduct and Transparency | <p>CCSD teachers are anxiously awaiting updates regarding the approved teacher bonuses. Unfortunately, each update seems to move the distribution amount and date even further away. The most recent update, while appreciated, stated that the first half of the bonus would be distributed "before the winter holiday".</p> <p>To clarify, since the summer, the message has gone from "a 5K bonus in early fall" to "a 2.5K bonus sometime before December 22nd". Please stop jerking teachers around with promises of financial relief. We deserve concrete answers that the district should be capable of making by this point.</p> |
| Jennie | Church | Teacher Bonuses | <p>Stop forcing your personal beliefs not o the School system which is professionally trained and experienced to serve all students Stop micromanaging the Educational organization and stop your unprofessional actions in the Board to which you belong.</p> |
| Frank | Hardie | Stop Forcing Your Personal Biases and Beliefs onto the School Administration, Principles and Teachers | |

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| Mary | Scholten | Superintendent | Transparency in the procedure to censure the Superintendent is of paramount importance. Back door meetings that don't include the whole school board make any decision suspect. If we are concerned about what our students know about the Constitution and American Civics, then we ought to model the principles and ideals of our democratic government. |
| Bridget | Benson | Superintendent | As a parent/guardian of (3) CCSD students, I am very concerned over the current school board's choices and recent actions against Superintendent Gallien. We aim to teach our children fairness, respect and collaboration. We are asking for the same for Mr. Gallien and others who've been negatively impacted by recent CCSD Board majority votes. |
| Whitney | Windsor | Reinstate public comment | Please reinstate public comment. The voices of our community deserve to be heard. |
| | | | As a public school board, having public comments in person is necessary for community members to feel heard by the board and by the public. Emails serve as a form of communication but only allow communication between the sender and recipient, though a preset automated response negates that communication. We see the disdain and lack of respect some board members have for the public as they busy themselves with other task and make no effort to even appear engaged (usually the same 2 members). The community will keep showing up. |
| Patricia | Travis | Reinstate public comments | Allowing public comments serves as a bridge between the community and the board. That bridge is burning. The COW meetings should reinstate public comments. The school board is to be working toward the best interest of all students in CCSD and as a community we do not see that. If you truly want to rebuild trust this would be a small step toward that. |
| | | | As board members it is your responsibility to hire the superintendent not to micromanage the district. This board voted to hire the search firm and then to hire Dr. Gallien who signed a contract with you and moved his family to serve this district. As soon as Dr. Gallien began to make decisions necessary to meet the goals set forth by the board, he is suspended. I am horrified that the representative of my district, Keith Grybowski, along with Ed Kelly, Pamela McKinney, Leah Whalley, and Carolee Bailey made multiple improper moves to destroy the integrity of Charleston County School District's employment contract with Dr. Gallien. Rather than focusing on what is necessary for the district to support an excellent education of our all our children, this majority has decided that it wants to prioritize its time on adult nonsense - much of which demonstrates a complete lack of contract law, state law, and Roberts Rules of Order. Rather than looking for funds to cover teacher salaries and support services, it would rather waste tax dollars. Rather than demonstrating the importance of care and well being, it chooses to make it clear to students, administrators within and outside of the district, teachers, parents, and students that this district is toxic. My youngest son, a 2023 CCSD graduate, met his fellow dorm mates in the Clemson Honors program and was shocked at all of the resources they had received from their public schools compared to the opportunities offered to him. It is time for CCSD to focus on all the individuals within its system, starting at the top with its own Superintendent. If you cannot treat the one man you invited into your care with respect, how in the heck should anyone trust that you can safely be responsible for the thousands of students in your care. Do better!!! |
| Julie | Hussey | Acting Superintendent | I write to you as a former policy analyst, a current educator, and as the Vice President of the Charleston County Educators Association. My career has taken me from the halls of Congress, to City Hall in New York city, to the offices of the president of a Fortune 500 company, and finally, to the classrooms of Charleston County. Through all of those venues, where I faced challenging decisions that impacted people of divergent backgrounds with competing interests, I have never experienced a group of people with such little regard for the ultimate good and with such hyper focused attention on their own personal agenda than the 5 majority Charleston County School Board members. At the same time, however, I have also never seen a community come together as clearly, loudly, and as unified as the Charleston County community in their response to the Board's recent actions. It's clear the teachers, administrators, students, and parents do not want our Board to behave this way. At the end of the day, our children bear the burden of this chaos, and they deserve better. I ask that you reinstate Dr. Gallien, reinstate the members of the Health Advisory Committee, and hire Ms. Michelle Simmons as Chief Academic Officer of Charleston County. And equally important, I ask that you remember, as many in the community have noted, our children are watching. They deserve a functioning Board that puts their needs over personal agendas. It really is that simple. Thank you. |
| Larissa | Bortz | Agenda item 4 | I am the parent of two high school students. I have one at Academic Magnet and the other at Lucy Beckham. I have been shocked by the behavior of the CCSD board, and I urge the State to please intervene and disband the board and take control, if possible. The superintendent has clearly been targeted by five individuals and has now filed suit. This is going to cost taxpayers tremendously. Furthermore, no one is ever going to want to come serve in this district again. Principals, teachers and parents are justifiably furious over this nonsense, and we beg for the State's assistance. Thank you for your help. Best, James Scott |
| James | Scott | | Submitted on previous screen |
| | | | I am deeply concerned and saddened by the recent actions of this body. There should not be an Acting Superintendent's Report. We should be hearing from our Superintendent who was dismissed without proper procedure. Your job is not to dictate school policies and fire people with whom you don't agree. The undemocratic, ideological, and fear-based actions of this body are terrifying to parents and teachers in CCSD who want our children, all children, to have access to education that is representative of this country and that prepares all children to flourish as citizens. Reinstate the superintendent and reinstate the committee members fired without explanation in the last meeting. |
| Elisa | Jones | Agenda item 4 | Please reinstate the Health Advisory Committee that Mr. Kelley disbanded at the last board meeting. Please follow precedent in how the Health Advisory Committee has been run and managed to date, allowing all committee members to finish their terms and please allow only 5 new members to join the committee (as per the 5 open seats). Please do not give Mr. Kelley the ability to disrupt the management and consistency of this non-partisan, diverse committee that has been doing excellent work for the district. The entire process of the last board meeting regarding this committee was a shocking abuse of Mr. Kelley's power and unraveling of the transparency, open discussion, and commitment to children that board members have claimed they support. Please reinstate the Superintendent and give him the power to name his team, carry out his duties, and stop interfering in the job you hired him to do. |
| Emily | Beck | Health Advisory Committee, Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer | Please name Michelle Simmons as Chief Academic Officer for the district is WIDELY supported by members of this community, teachers, staff, principals, outside consultants. Dear Board Members, I am a reading tutor, taxpayer, and extremely concerned resident of Charleston County. I have sat through hours and hours of school board meetings over the last few months, and have been appalled to witness the dysfunction, lack of transparency, apparent disregard for laws governing proper noticing of meetings, lack of decorum, and general disrespect for the community, the Superintendent, Dr. Eric Gallien, Acting Chief Academic Officer, Michelle Simmons, and members of the Health Advisory Committee. At every turn, I have witnessed the 5 Moms For Liberty-backed board members obstruct the ability of Dr. Gallien to do the job he was brought here to do. Because of those actions, our schools are in a state of limbo and unease, threatening to erase the hard-fought momentum in literacy gains, and the taxpayers are subjected to the expense of a lawsuit by Dr. Gallien. As evidenced by the outcry by community members, principals of high schools, middle schools and elementary schools, and teachers and staff of several schools, who spoke out courageously despite the fear of consequences, the vast majority of the community does not agree with the recent decisions by the 5 Board Members and are as appalled and outraged as I am. ALL of our kids, regardless of race, income level, zip code, gender identity, sexual orientation or ability deserve nothing less than a quality, equitable public school education in an environment that makes them feel safe and seen for who they are, and that equips them with the critical thinking and emotional skills they will need to prosper and thrive. Our community deserves that too. If we want to ensure that our community thrives and that we interrupt the cycle of poverty that disproportionately impacts the black and brown members of our community, we must ensure that our "public school system" is supported at every level, starting with the CCSD School Board. Here's what I would respectfully ask of the Board: 1) Reinstate Dr. Gallien, with the authority to do his job 2) Ensure the investigation into the complaint is expeditiously and fairly concluded. 3) Allow Dr. Gallien to promote Michelle Simmons, as is his right under his contracted job responsibilities 4) Invest Dr. Gallien with the authority to hire/fire and reassign job responsibilities of his staff, as outlined in his contract 5) Reinstate the removed members of the Health Advisory Committee 6) Reinstate public comments at the COW meetings 7) Commit to being transparent with the public going forward. Respectfully submitted, Karen Byko 2862 Middle Street Sullivan's Island, SC 29482 |
| Karen | Byko | Agenda Item 4 | Good afternoon, School Board. We have heard that the objective of history education is to prevent history from repeating itself. This means teaching the new citizens to know that human history is full of tragic mistakes, that they may see such mistakes, and do the right things for their country and the world. I am wearing this Plains People drum logo for Indigenous Peoples Day, which honors the First People of this land, who suffered vicious treatment at the hands of conquerors and fought to defend their homes and land. That story is a huge, tragic mistake. Our ancestors could have done better if they took Christian values to heart. The unfortunate fact about history teaching, probably everywhere, is the children are taught that their country was always on the right side in any conflict or conquest. Their country always advanced and gained its advantages fairly. They can trust their leaders to identify enemies and declare just wars. God picks sides, and God is always on their side. You may have heard about a political group, Moms For Liberty that is gaining influence. They arrange to ban books and pick school leaders to advance their agenda. They want to suppress people who are different in various ways, in order to keep people separate and promote unfairness and conflict. That political strategy is a grave, consequential mistake. Dear School Board, please listen to your community and rectify your mistaken votes of the last meeting. |
| Paul | Snyderwin e | Reinstate Dr. Gallien | Bring back public comments to the committee of the call |
| Abby | Merritt | Reinstate public comments!! | Please reinstate public comments to the committee of the call !!! |
| Maddie | Liebert | Public comments | Bring back public comments yo COW. |
| Heather | Hall | Bring back public comments to COW. | Reinstate health advisory committee |
| Heather | Hall | Reinstate health advisory committee | I urge the board to reopen public comment for the committee of the whole meetings, as was practice up until the spring. |
| Morgan | Koerner | Reopening public comment for COW meeting | |

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| Natalie Lindsey | Ireland Brown | School Board Members Access to Complete history | <p>The 5 majority school board members have been acting in their own benefit and the benefit of the political party they subscribe to rather than in the best interests of the district and the children they serve. Their backwards logic and secret agendas are attempting to undermine public education at its core by sowing discord and distrust within the educational system here in Charleston County. After an incredible win for the school board with their historic raise of teacher salaries, they used that cover to take several steps backward from progress and a fair and equitable school system. They should be ashamed that they are putting their own personal agendas ahead of that of the kids and they would do well to remember that they are public servants to the parents, community members, and students of this district. If they had a shred of human decency left they would consider resigning to make some sort of amends for their incredibly deceitful actions.</p> <p>Children should have access to books that represent the Global Majority - Black, Brown, indigenous, LGBTQIA.</p> <p>Dear CCSD Board,</p> <p>I received notice of the Special Called Board Meeting scheduled for 8 am tomorrow morning, when parents are dropping their kids off to school, teachers are teaching, and people are heading to work.</p> <p>I understand that this meeting has been necessitated following a ruling from the Attorney General's office that the previous actions taken by 5 board members were in violation of SC State FOIA laws. Yet, the agenda for tomorrow's meeting states this is a "renewal" of the previous action. Once again, the Board is being less than transparent with the public.</p> <p>Since the 5 Board Members took the violative actions on September 25, the Charleston County Legislative Delegation called and held a meeting on Monday, October 9 to look into the recent actions and issues surrounding compliance with applicable SC Law. Non of the 5 board members who voted for the actions in question saw fit to attend the meeting to address the legislative delegation or the public. This meeting lasted over 3 hours because so many members of the public showed up to voice their outrage at the recent decisions, as well as the lack of transparency.</p> <p>Since the 5 Board Members took the actions, dozens of high school principals, middle school principals, elementary school principals, teachers and school staff have spoken out, respectfully demanding a reversal.</p> <p>Since the 5 Board members took the actions, so many members of the public showed up dressed in green at the Monday, October CCSD School Board COW meeting that multiple overflow rooms had to be setup in a failed attempt to accommodate the members of the public who showed up to voice their support for Dr. Gallen, Michelle Simmons and the Health Advisory Committee, and against the blatant disregard for the public's right to expect transparency and respect from the Board.</p> <p>You have been given the opportunity in tomorrow's meeting to respond to the public, to whom you are accountable, by reversing your previous vote to place Dr. Gallen on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation. I hope you'll do so. I also hope you'll ensure a speedy outcome to that investigation.</p> <p>You have been given the opportunity to respond to the public, to whom you are accountable, by allowing the Superintendent the opportunity to do the job which you hired him to do, including promoting Michelle Simmons, and reinstating the members of the Health Advisory Committee who were removed — without any explanation or warning — before the expiration of their terms. I hope you'll do so.</p> <p>Thank you for making decisions that ensure that ALL of our kids, regardless of race, income level, zip code, gender identity, sexual orientation or ability receive a quality, equitable public school education in an environment that makes them feel safe and seen for who they are, and that equips them with the critical thinking and emotional skills they will need to prosper and thrive. That is, in fact, why you were elected.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Karen Byko Sullivan's Island</p> |
| Karen | Byko | An Opportunity to Make it Right | <p>I am deeply concerned about the recent actions of five school board members.</p> <p>I am troubled by the apparent influence of the Moms For Liberty organization.</p> <p>I am disappointed and saddened by the fact that the underlying board issues are related to racism.</p> <p>I am fundamentally opposed to the micromanagement of the CCSD staff.</p> <p>I believe the school board must focus on the needs of the students and community.</p> |
| Katherine Willette Scott | Houghton Ash | Superintendent | <p>CCSD board</p> <p>yes</p> |
| Julie Elvin | Hussey Speights | Spoken Comment about Item 1 Board Member conduct | <p>Banning books and making a big deal out of them is the best way to encourage kids to read them. Parents who are concerned about certain books should actually read those books with their children and explain their concerns.</p> <p>Board Member conduct</p> |
| Ronald | Malcom | Public dialogue and fiscal responsibility | <p>Public dialog</p> <p>My name is Bridget Benson and I have three students currently enrolled in the Charleston County School District. They are in 10th grade, 7th grade and Kindergarten, respectively. I'm writing today to express my concern about a proposed change to regulations about school and classroom library materials.</p> <p>As parents, we are grateful for our own life experiences - as well as free access to information; the ability to learn more via books, online resources and more. We want to share that with our children. We want to help our children learn what we've learned, but also give them the broader lens of understanding that is beyond us. Libraries provide channels of learning as well as safe gathering places to explore, ask questions and grow.</p> <p>I do value my responsibility to help my children choose reading content. But I do not have that responsibility nor right to decide for others' children. Part of my mission in writing you now is to ask that any proposed regulation changes will not adversely impact school librarians and their ability to provide age relevant materials to students.</p> <p>I have read and agree with the notions that young readers need access to a variety of books from which they can learn about different perspectives, gain an understanding of others' lives, and develop critical thinking skills. Likewise, students come from a variety of backgrounds and belief systems and libraries seek to meet the information needs of all children.</p> <p>Material selection policies should remain at the local level via district and school-approved policies. I am confident in the expertise of teachers and librarians in South Carolina and urge you to avoid burdening our educators with additional regulations that would add undue stress during an unprecedented teacher shortage.</p> <p>Thank you for your service and for taking my concerns into consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bridget Benson</p> |
| Bridget | Benson | Concern regarding proposed regulations on SC school libraries | <p>my name is Suzanne Mulvaney, and I am a retired educator. I am writing to ask you to protect classroom libraries. I support librarians, and the students freedom to read. My interaction with librarians has been so positive. I am impressed with their professionalism. They provide quiet, safe and collaborative spaces for academic support. I respect the right of parents to make decisions for their own children, but in a public space, they should not make decisions for other peoples children. Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| Suzanne | Mulvaney | protect classroom libraries | <p>I am writing to express my concern for our school librarians and classroom teachers who select appropriate materials for our students, K-12. Their role should not be diminished or micro-managed by the CCSD Board of Trustees. There are already parameters in place for this process that are reviewed by the professional educators on a regular basis. Let's let the professionals do their job and not presume that others without the training, the education, the certification, the experience and the expertise know better.</p> <p>I am a retired high school teacher and high school principal (36 years total), and I am concerned that we are not trusting our professional educators. We cannot allow a narrow, political minority dictate what is and is not to their liking. They can make those decisions for their own children, but they cannot and should not make these decisions for everyone else's children. We have professional educators who know what they are doing. We don't micro-manage other professionals do we (doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc.)?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> |
| Nancy | Benjamin | Support for School Librarians | <p>The safety of students and staff is currently at risk on CCSD school buses. Due to the driver shortage, many routes have been combined resulting in more students being transported than legally permitted and arriving to school late every day. The board must recognize this critical issue and promptly take action to find a solution.</p> |
| Jonny | Volkman | Bus Safety | <p>The recording of a board member making racist, anti-LGBTQIA+ comments about parents and students is clearly in violation of the Code of Ethics outlined in policy BAA. If one person's letter to the board can result in paid leave for the Superintendent, the public outcry about this board member needs to be addressed according to BCC, removal and/or censure.</p> |
| Kyndra | Luce | Please Review Board Member Conduct | |

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| | | | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 09/29/23 at 4:48 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>----- Original Message ----- From: Joan Chard <joanchard@comcast.net> To: Editor-Editor At Post And Courier <letters@postandcourier.com>, Editor-Editor At Moultrie News <editor@moultrienews.com> Date: 09/29/2023 4:35 PM EDT Subject: Ltr. to Editor, Making Sense of Divided Chas. Co. School Board</p> <p>Letters@postandcourier.com editor@moultrienews.com</p> <p>"Making Sense of Divided Charleston County School Board"</p> <p>Long story--short!! If you are having problems following the drama of Charleston County School District, the basic answer is the plethora of 5-4 votes by School Board members. The group of Five usually represents the conservative values of the "Moms for Liberty" organization, wanting parental rights of being informed about, and being in control of, what is being taught regarding race, gender, etc.; whereas The Group of Four usually represents the "Woke" group, that would prefer using time ordinarily devoted to teaching Reading, Math and Science to teaching race victimization and gender issues.</p> <p>Politically, in general, the Group of 5 would be Conservatives, ordinarily with Board Chair Pamela McKinney, Keith Grybowski, Edward Kelley, Leah Whalley and Carlotta Bailey in agreement; whereas The Group of 4 would be probably be considered Liberals, ordinarily with Daron Lee Galloway II, Darlene Dunmeyer Roberson, Carol Tempel and Courtney Walters in agreement.</p> <p>Interestingly, both the former School District Superintendent Don Kennedy and the current School District Superintendent Eric Gallien are Liberals in practice.</p> <p>Hopefully, this background information, much of which came from Post & Courier articles, plus Ch. 2, Ch. 4 and Ch. 5 T.V. News, helps clarify the players and their behavior in this ongoing weekly drama of frustration. It is hard to understand the intensity of the battle lines between former Superintendent Kennedy and Board member Grybowski (Chairman of Audit & Budget Committee), in their opposing views as to Kennedy's honesty and efficiency in Kennedy's handling of District money before Grybowski became responsible for planning the new budget. Their confrontations became public, with their strong personalities coming into play. Possibly, new information will settle this dispute.</p> <p>A recent incident developed involving current Superintendent Gallien when he sent what was described by some as an unclear, poorly-written email letter to CCSD's attorney, Alice Paylor, supposedly asking "the counsel to resign." Questions arose as to whether Gallien even had the authority to fire her, or was that up to the Board? A further question came up as to whether board meetings were "legal" if the attorney was not present.</p> <p>Complicating the issue was the lawsuit apparently filed by this attorney, Alice Paylor, against Superintendent Gallien for his email letter to her. Apparently, this scenario led to the Board's action of placing Superintendent Gallien on \$275,000, PAID leave until this matter could be investigated and resolved.</p> <p>Now we have over a dozen school principals signing a letter defending Superintendent Gallien, saying Gallien should not have been put on leave, even though PAID. Probably these principals lean Liberal, since they also disputed the Board's vote to deny Interim Chief Academic Officer, Michelle Simmons, from officially assuming that role.</p> <p>Liberal Board Members also condemned Ed Kelly ("Group of 5") for changing out some possibly liberal members on the Health Advisory Committee, plus filling some vacancies on that same committee, which seemingly decides on the content, etc., of Sex Education in the schools.</p> <p>I hope this information makes future events of CCSD easier to comprehend.</p> <p>Future School Board meetings are scheduled for October 9 and October 23.</p> |
| Joan | Chard | Fwd: Ltr. to Editor, Making Sense of Divided Chas. Co. School Board | <p>Joan Chard</p> <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/06/23 at 1:00 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Letter to Editor, Post & Courier Letter to Editor, Moultrie News "CCSD BOARD: Teeter-Toddler Balance of Power/Liberals & Conservatives"</p> <p>The balance of power on the Teeter-Toddler Seesaw of the Charleston County School District this year has switched from the Liberal 4 faction to the Conservative 5 faction, and the Liberals are squealing like stuck pigs. Under leadership of Liberal former District Supt. Don Kennedy, the old Liberal school board members' majority instituted Liberal Woke EL Curriculum that taught Race Victimization and advocated Sexual Change, when most parents simply wanted their children to learn Reading, Writing, Math and Science.</p> <p>Some activist teachers/administrators decided that they knew better than the children's own parents how to raise those children, so some teachers/administrators usurped the parents' role, refusing even to tell parents that Liberal activist teachers/administrators had persuaded some students to begin puberty blockers.</p> <p>Remember when former "Interim District Supt. Don Kennedy had mysteriously changed his job title from being top CCSD accountant to being "Interim" District Supt., on the pretext that he would go back to his Accounting position when the district hired a qualified Supt., To this day, nobody has explained the sudden, mysterious resignation of former District Supt. Gerrita Postlewait, despite paying her half-a-million dollars in a lawsuit. A credentialed, experienced District Superintendent was traded out for a Don Kennedy, who had never taken any college courses to become a school teacher or principal, let alone taken rigorous additional college courses to qualify for a Superintendent position.</p> <p>Recall how "Interim" District Supt. Don Kennedy badgered the school board to remove "Interim" from his title, so he could take on what he felt was the authority to demote Administrators who did not agree with his Woke views, and could promote Administrators who agreed with his Woke views, but always demanding that the term "Interim" be included in their official title, so they would know not to go against him if they wanted to keep their jobs at increased pay salaries.</p> <p>When an almost entirely new School Board (as a result of recent SC Law specifying that a candidate must live in the geographical district he/she represents), the new Board hired a search firm to help hire a new Supt. Then the two top candidates dropped out when their names became public before they told their current employers they were job-hunting. The ongoing feud between then Supt., Kennedy and Keith Grybowski (Board Chair of the Budget & Audit Committee) culminated with Kennedy's "Cease and Desist Order" against Grybowski, for describing Kennedy as unnecessarily uncooperative, and for questioning Kennedy's ability and honesty.</p> <p>Grybowski's frustration with Kennedy possibly caused the Board's hasty decision to hire Gallien, since Grybowski stated that he thought "he could work with Gallien." Both the public and the politicians urged Board Members "to reopen" the Supt. search, since Gallien had been the only candidate interviewed, but time was slipping away to prepare the school budget, so in a "Decide in haste, repent at leisure" move, the Board hired Gallien.</p> <p>Conservative Board Members "dropped the ball" in allowing Gallien to be hired, since he is a Liberal activist, who is currently accused of taking away one Administrator's duties regarding Curriculum, in spite of her degree and background in Curriculum & Instruction, besides her experience in a range of K-12 settings. Gallien preferred Woke Administrator Michelle Simmons, who lacked those credentials, and thus Simmons was not chosen by the Board. Both Gallien and Simmons favored the Woke EL Curriculum, even though that controversial EL Curriculum has now been forbidden by SC state law. Gallien's supposed unprofessional behavior in this incident is apparently the basis for a lawsuit against him, charging Gallien with "Creating a hostile work environment," and allowing Michelle Simmons to harass the Administrator with Simmons' "loud, condescending manner," and by Gallien letting Simmons wrongfully take credit for student literacy gains, while ignoring the litigant employee's role as a leader of literacy initiatives this past school year. The employee further claims in her lawsuit that Superintendent Gallien allowed "ongoing harassment of me via social media," including calls to her family's personal cellphones from a local pastor, and all without a response from Gallien. This harassment prompted the need for litigant's additional security measures (including police).</p> <p>Rebalancing the teeter-toddler in favor of Conservatives requires suspending a liberal Superintendent for good cause; requires not hiring the Interim Academic Officer Michelle Simmons, who promotes Woke EL Curriculum (with its over-emphasis on race and sex); and requires replacing "volunteer" Health Advisory Committee members who encourage sex change.</p> <p>Lately, Liberal activist principals have joined together in writing letters and holding press conferences to object to Board Member Ed Kelly's changing out volunteers (who serve at the pleasure of the Board) on the Health Care Advisory Committee, which Kelly did in order to bring Sexual Information Teachings more into conformity with Community Conservative Values.</p> <p>So what appears to be CCSD "Crazy Chaos" is better understood with the School Board as the political seesaw teeter-toddler, with 5 Conservative Board Members on one side and 4 Liberal Board Members plus a Liberal Supt. on the other side. In past Supt. Kennedy years, Liberals had pretty much all control, so now that Conservatives are attempting more control, Liberals are outraged at anything Conservatives do, and are purposely muddying the waters with false accusations and distracting arguments.</p> <p>Taxpayers need to recognize the purposely distorted information by some liberal newspaper writers and by some liberal T.V. journalists as they deny truth, and distract with "smoke and mirrors" regarding Liberals' actions/motivations. Taxpayers need to seek the truth, so they can choose correct actions to improve the educational and moral welfare of students.</p> |
| Joan | Chard | CCSD BOARD: Balance of Power Between Liberals & Conservatives | <p>Joan Chard</p> |

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| Kristin | Adams | Saturday...10/7/23...#2...CCSD...School Board...Thank You to the Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members...Chief Academic Officer...Thanks! | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/07/23 at 3:37 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Saturday - 10/7/23 Charleston County School District - (CCSD) Written Notice - #2: CCSD - Board Of Trustees Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members - Thank You - Chief Academic Officer</p> <p>Dear South Carolina - State Politicians: South Carolina - State Superintendent of Education - Ellen Weaver: South Carolina - Governor - Henry McMaster: South Carolina - Attorney General - Alan Wilson: South Carolina - State Treasurer - Curtis Loftis:</p> <p>Dear South Carolina - Freedom Caucus Members: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Thomas Beach: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Mike Burns: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Bobby Cox: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - April Cromer: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Patrick Haddon: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Rob Harris: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Stewart Jones: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Jay Kilmartin: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Josiah Magnuson: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - RJ May: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Ryan McCabe: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - John McCravy: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Adam Morgan: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Alan Morgan: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Roger Nutt: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - David O'Neal: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Melissa Oremus: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Jordan Pace: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Ashley Trantham: South Carolina - Freedom Caucus - Joe White:</p> <p>Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, to the following CCSD Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members who voted to search for a Chief Academic Officer "...who possesses a degree and background in curriculum and instruction coupled with varied experience in K-12 settings: elementary, middle and high school...": - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Pamela McKinney - Board Chair - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Carlotta Bailey - Vice Chair - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Edward Kelley - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Leah Whalley - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Keith Grybowski</p> <p>As per the CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members' Written Statement: - "...Also, Policy GCF affords that 'Chief officer and deputy superintendent recommendations shall be brought to the board for approval...'." - "...Our district and its trustees have a long history of voting for or against the Superintendent's recommendation for Chief Officer and Deputy Superintendent positions..." - "...We will share that our recent vote regarding the Chief Academic Officer was based solely on our desire to hire a CAO who possesses a degree and background in curriculum and instruction coupled with varied experience in K-12 settings: elementary, middle and high school..." - "...Another factor of our vote was that the Superintendent should bring forth a Chief Officer recommendation to the board once he has interviewed candidates..." - https://www.counton2.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2023/10/Board-Members-Statement-1-1.png</p> <p>Our Family Thanks, Greatly Appreciates & Supports the: - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members: - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Pamela McKinney - Board Chair - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Carlotta Bailey - Vice Chair - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Edward Kelley - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Leah Whalley - CCSD - Board Of Trustees - Keith Grybowski</p> <p>Thanks So Very Much! Kristin Adams Parent of - 3 CCSD Students</p> <p>Board Of Trustees - Fabulous 5 / Parent Focused Board Members' Written Statement: https://www.counton2.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2023/10/Board-Members-Statement-1-1.png</p> <p>"...Debate, differences of opinion, and deliberation are a healthy part of any democratic process. Given the size of the Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the vast number of students and families it serves, we welcome and honor it. Regrettably, this board is fractured to such a degree that our differences of opinion, everyday occurrences in any governing body, are being used to villainize certain Charleston County Board of Trustees members falsely.</p> <p>We have remained largely silent in the past week, hoping our colleagues would come to conduct discussions that promote understanding and empathy rather than exacerbate divisions. Following yesterday's press conference and various social media posts over the last week, it is clear that they aim to continue the conversation in the public eye, so we are left with no choice but to do the same.</p> <p>The investigation of Dr. Gallen's actions, alleged by an employee complaint, will comply with district policy. Policy GBEB stipulates that 'employees shall not engage in unprofessional behavior toward other employees, students, parents, or others. Particularly, supervisors shall not treat employees under their supervision in a belittling, demeaning, or disrespectful manner, including verbal and/or written statements, especially within the hearing of students, other employees, or others. Such behavior is considered harassment and must be reported to the proper supervisory authority and the department of human resources.'</p> <p>In the case of the Superintendent, the proper supervisory authority is the Board of Trustees. There was a unanimous vote to open an investigation. The majority of the Board voted to place the superintendent on paid administrative leave for the duration of the investigation. The decision to do so was made to preserve the investigation's integrity. Our genuine desire to do so should be evidenced by the commitment to obtaining a firm only after consultation with Dr. Gallen's attorneys and should be further supported by our expediency in hiring the firm, which has already occurred.</p> <p>Also, Policy GCF affords that 'Chief officer and deputy superintendent recommendations shall be brought to the board for approval.' Our district and its trustees have a long history of voting for or against the Superintendent's recommendation for Chief Officer and Deputy Superintendent positions. We will share that our recent vote regarding the Chief Academic Officer was based solely on our desire to hire a CAO who possesses a degree and background in curriculum and instruction coupled with varied experience in K-12 settings: elementary, middle and high school. Another factor of our vote was that the Superintendent should bring forth a Chief Officer recommendation to the board once he has interviewed candidates.</p> <p>The decision to present a new slate of Health Advisory Committee members is not intended to be disruptive; however, the bylaws state clearly that terms of membership are 'at the pleasure of the Board.' While we recognize this board is largely split, the slate of members was approved by a majority of the board.</p> <p>Signed, Pam McKinney, Board Chair, District 3 Carlotta Bailey, Vice Chair, District 5 Keith Grybowski, District 1 Ed Kelley, District 2 Leah Whalley, District 7..."</p> <p>https://www.counton2.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2023/10/Board-Members-Statement-1-1.png</p> |

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| Joan | Chard | Ltr. to Editor, "Black CCSD Bd, member called 'racist' by liberal Bd, members" | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/11/23 at 12:52 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Ltr to Editor, Post & Courier Ltr to Editor, Moultrie News</p> <p>"Black CCSD Board member called 'racist' by liberal Board members"</p> <p>Everyone is an expert on Education! Nowhere is this more true than at Charleston County School Board, with Majority 5 Conservatives versus Minority 4 Liberals,</p> <p>Stunned that Conservatives are winning battles for Conservative leadership/teachings, Liberals attacked (Black) Board member Carlotta Bailey, who believes that Black students' academic struggles aren't caused by systemic racism, but partly by their families, when parents choose not to help children with homework. Darlene Roberson, fellow Board member, calls Bailey's Christian views "Racist."</p> <p>Bailey accused LGBTQ of "trying to make something that's personal into a civil right." (Black) Bailey believes that confused children "cannot make conscious decisions about what gender they are." One "Activist" cried, "Homophobic," per Post & Courier,</p> <p>Liberal Carol Tempel, fellow Board member, called (Black) Bailey's Christian views "Racist." Liberal Board member Darlene Roberson labelled (Black) Bailey's remarks "Offensive," further accusing (Black) Bailey of "placing herself as a moral judge, rather than doing the job she was elected to do of representing her constituents." Since Bailey makes abundantly clear her opinions, I am convinced that she is doing exactly what her voters expected her to do in representing their views.</p> <p>Liberals also dismiss the 5 Conservative Board members as "extremists who don't represent the majority of the Charleston community," conveniently ignoring the obvious fact that those conservatives were knowingly elected by the community.</p> <p>Numerous taxpayers agree with Bailey that "discussions about sexuality have no place in the classroom, which should be for teaching academic subjects."</p> <p>Joan Chard</p> |
| Joan | Chard | Ltr. to Editor, "How much Public School Sex Education is too much?" | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/13/23 at 3:21 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Editor of Post & Courier Editor of Moultrie News</p> <p>"How much Public School Sex Education is too much?"</p> <p>How much Public School Sex Education is too much? Answers range from "Abstinence Only" to "No Limits." Kayla Smith, a freshman at the University of Mississippi, claims the topic of sex in that state is "taboo," based on her one optional day of Sex Education in Middle School. Kyla wants information about healthy relationships and contraceptive options,</p> <p>Public School students need information, if the government survey is correct that teens and young adults make up half of all people with STD's. This figure seems to contradict the 2021 government survey which claims that fewer teens are sexually active,</p> <p>Closer to home, and according to a Post & Courier article by Hannah Fingerhut, South Carolina is among states shifting its approach to Sex Education with tighter regulations, possibly pushing to solidify parents' rights and to limit LGBTQ+ content in the classroom. Even closer to home is Charleston County School District's recent ousting of almost all members of their "Volunteer" Health Advisory Panel, which had enacted a new, Liberal Sex Curriculum during its tenure, claiming that the previous Conservative curriculum had favored "Heterosexuality" and "Abstinence," and had presented any other sexual behavior as "unusual."</p> <p>Chair of the "Volunteer" Health Advisory Committee, School Board Member Ed Kelly, recently shocked almost all of the volunteers by replacing them. Since their terms run for three years (with possible reappointment, but a limit of six years total), some members had apparently bonded into a close social group relationship which they did not want to end, so they fought the School Board's decision, feigning a lack of transparency on the Board's part as to why they had been replaced, when they knew full-well that the Board's Conservative Majority wanted a more Conservative Sex Curriculum.</p> <p>There appears to be much diversity on this "Volunteer" Health & Sex Committee, in that rules call for 3 clergy members, 2 parents, 2 medical professionals, 2 community members, 2 students and 2 teachers.</p> <p>Two questions are prominent in the sexual aspect of any Health Curriculum: how much information will be given, and at what age is such information appropriate? States differ in this regard, Arkansas teaches about sexual intercourse/sexual reproduction before 5th Grade, while Kentucky won't teach sexually transmitted diseases until 8th Grade. In many states, parents must approve having their children attend such classes. In Florida, School Sexual Materials must be approved by State Officials. Parents advocating for "Comprehensive Sex Education" (including sex between adults and children), complain that children need age-appropriate "Foundational Knowledge" to build on, starting with correct medical terms for body parts, "Learning body parts" sounds innocent enough, but as to the question of LGBTQ+ information, many parents have the fear that Activist Teachers will keep children's feelings secret from parents, as some Activist Teachers "groom" children for their own perverse motives.</p> <p>Most parents and educators agree that puberty for girls starts between 8 to 13 years, but 10 to 15 years for boys. The topic of "Gender Identity" is especially troubling, as some Liberals advocate that "biological sex is not an immutable (unchangeable) characteristic," (meaning a boy can become a girl, and a girl can become a boy).</p> <p>Since 28 states require Sex ED, again according to Post & Courier's Hannah Fingerhut's article, how can schools provide sufficient information to prevent pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases, but still protect students from surveys that invade students' privacy rights? This seemingly impossible task requires a degree of co-operation difficult to achieve at Charleston County School District.</p> <p>Joan Chard</p> |

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| Joan | Chard | Ltr. to Editor, SC Laws & CCSD Policies re: School Boards/Superintendents. | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/19/23 at 12:29 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Post and Courier Editor Moultrie News Editor</p> <p>"SC Laws & Charleston County School District Policies re: School Board/Superintendent"</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy BA Board Purpose: The Board is committed to . . . the employment, management, and support of a Superintendent . . . under whose leadership the school personnel shall carry out the policies of the board.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy BB Board Legal Status and Job Description: The legally constituted governing body of the school district is the board of trustees of the Charleston County School District. The board's powers are derived from the state constitution and acts of the general assembly, primarily set forth in Title 59 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. . . . This authority may be expressly stated or implied either in state law or in rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.</p> <p>Appraisal & Approval: The Board shall evaluate the effectiveness of its policies and how well they have been put into action and the results achieved by the Superintendent.</p> <p>Reviewing Action: The board has final authority within the law for the operation of schools. No section of these policies may be construed to limit the statutory powers of the board to exercise its own judgment with the input of the Superintendent.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy BDD Board-Superintendent Relationship: Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the board's legislation of policies and the execution of those policies by the Superintendent and staff. . . .</p> <p>The Superintendent's function is the execution of the (board's) policies and to serve as an educational advisor in all efforts of the board to fulfill its governance role.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy BG/BGD Board Policy Process: Purpose: . . . Policy Development is the Board's chief function.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy CBC Superintendent's Role and Responsibilities: The Superintendent shall be responsible for the operational organization of the district in all aspects. . . . to meet goals established by the board and within policy limits set by the board. . . . The Superintendent's specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following. . . . Recommend policies, guidelines and procedures for adoption by the board. Operate the district within the policies, guidelines and procedures . . .</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy CBD Superintendent's Contract: . . . The appointment of a Superintendent is a function of the board. That appointment shall be secured by an explicit contractual agreement which states the term of the contract, general responsibilities, compensation and other benefits, evaluations, leave arrangements and other conditions of employment. . . . The board considers the contract to be a public document as defined by the South Carolina FOIA.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy CBI Evaluation of Superintendent: . . . The Board shall conduct a formal evaluation of the Superintendent annually. . . . this evaluation shall assess the Superintendent's success in implementing and achieving the goals established by the board</p> <p>(SC) CCSD Policy CC Operational Organization: . . . The Charleston County School District exists to achieve the goals the board has set. Schools must effectively and efficiently carry out programs and meet goals established by the board.</p> <p>(SC) CCSD C - General School Administration: says, "INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK." (NO REASON GIVEN)</p> <p>(SC) CCSD G - PERSONNEL: says, "INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK." (NO REASON GIVEN)</p> <p>South Carolina Law Section 59-19-10 School District Management: Each school district shall be under the management and the control of the board of trustees provided for in this article, subject to the supervision and orders of the county board of education.</p> <p>South Carolina Law Section 59-19-80 Requirements as to Purchases and Teacher Employment: No teacher or other employee shall be employed or any purchase made except in a duly called meeting of the board . . .</p> <p>South Carolina Law Section 59-19-90 General Powers and Duties of school trustees: The board shall also: . . . (2) Employ and discharge teachers.</p> |

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| Allan | Morris | Appalling behavior by the Board | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/19/23 at 2:39 p.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>To the 5 Moms For Liberty backed majority members of the board:</p> <p>You're no longer being transparent about your agenda, and where you're getting your marching orders from. All of you ran for board positions under the guise of transparency and looking out for parent's rights. After being elected, all you've done is make board actions less transparent.</p> <p>The September COW should have been a celebration of the historic improvement in SC Ready scores. Instead, you turned it into yet another circus. Instead of focusing on improving things for all students, you continue to focus on culture wars and politically motivated wedge issues.</p> <p>The majority of parents in this district do not share your ideas or values, and they are frustrated and appalled at the behavior of some on this board. I ask you to think about the children, and not follow your M4L puppet masters. It's not too late to prevent the destruction of public education in Charleston County by extremist groups hellbent on eroding trust in our system of education. We are watching, and we will not let you impede the progress made so far. No major district staff changes should be made during the school year without overwhelming justification. Our interim personnel are doing a phenomenal job and should be made permanent. Make sure you're transparent with us if you disagree.</p> <p>To the 4 board members on the minority: Thank you for doing the right thing. We appreciate you more than you know!</p> <p>At the September COW meeting, we celebrated the unprecedented and historic gains in ELA scores. 2 board members used their time to try and tear down and find fault with the numbers, in any way they could, only to be soundly proven wrong. New policy in play is nothing more than a continued effort to undermine our district staff and search for termination reasons.</p> <p>Why remove public comment from the COW? Why wouldn't you want to hear from the public when deciding what policies to bring forth during the Board meetings? It seems that you're purposefully suppressing the public's right to voice their agreement or opposition to policies.</p> <p>Why do you 5 continue to meet outside of the board meetings, and coordinate these ambushes on the 4 member minority? Do their opinions not matter? You say public comments were removed because they're "political". Is that because the majority of parents and teachers DON'T agree with you, therefore it must be political?</p> <p>Speaking of political..., is this considered political?</p> <p>How about this??</p> <p>How about THIS? Here's what you're trying to suspend Dr Gallien for, "Policy GBEB stipulates "employees shall not engage in unprofessional behavior....". By these rules Ms Whatley and Ms Bailey should also be put on leave pending an investigation. Ms Bailey is on recordings saying derogatory things towards the LGBTQ+ community and racially biased things about Black parents. This behavior is unconscionable and cannot be allowed to go unpunished.</p> <p>Stop trying to pin the overwhelmingly loud voices calling you out at every meeting. There's zero politics involved. The majority board members are in fact the political ones; backed by local and state government Republicans. Leah Whatley thinks we are all "leftists and marxists". Now that's being political.</p> <p>The results of the Charleston Forum/Charleston Shared Future meetings are out.</p> <p>The Most Immediate Issues that Require School Board Attention, and I quote</p> <p>"There was broad consensus in the room that our school boards today are not sufficiently focused on what children need from school to be successful but rather distract themselves with 'adult' issues (politics, meeting protocols) and with second-guessing educators on curriculum content and teacher responsibilities."</p> <p>"The achievement gap that separates child success on the basis of color and poverty and that has plagued our region for hundreds of years requires urgent attention,"</p> <p>SEL programs are needed in all high poverty neighborhood schools</p> <p>Restorative justice practices need to be implemented with fidelity</p> <p>Cultural competence training for teachers</p> <p>More mental health supports in schools</p> <p>Continued efforts to welcome and engage parents in school life</p> <p>"Across the room, there was a strong message that as early as middle school, children need greater exposure to what they will need for their own wellbeing and success in a changing world."</p> <p>That means DON'T BAN BOOKS that don't agree with your personal or religious ideology! That means that SEUEL Curriculum is absolutely critical for children's development, not the boogiemans pushed by extremists.</p> <p>Let's recap some of the wonderful choices you've made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A board member was censured and stripped of his Policy Liaison assignment by the board, only for some of those who voted for the censure to reinstate him. It's almost as if what happened didn't matter. It's clear that he is not fit to be making policy decisions and displays that ignorance during every meeting. Left unchecked, he is now unilaterally firing the HAC members and replacing them with the 5 majority hand picked members. One of the replacement clergy members is also part of the same church Ms Bailey and Ms Whatley attend. Coincidence? 2. The district staff and the Superintendent are the most qualified to assess and determine the best curriculum for our schools, not a group of politically motivated mostly non-educators. Most of you have zero qualifications to make the final decision. Attempting to roll back the policy is nothing more than a power grab, and a way to further the agenda of book bans, whitewashing history, and marginalizing members of the LGBTQ+ community. 3. When a board member thinks that focusing on deficiencies in African-American student outcomes is "the literal definition of racism", that not only painfully shows that member has no idea what racism means, but is another reason why we can't bridge the gap between our student populations. 4. What's going on with the superintendent? The majority of you voted him into the top three, and the majority of you voted to give him the job. Since then, you've done everything in your power to undermine him and prevent him from doing his job. I didn't agree with the entire hiring process, but he's our choice and should be given the chance to prove himself. What has prompted this ambush meeting about Dr Gallien's contract? If you fire him, you not only wasted taxpayer money, but you're making the working environment so toxic that any new candidate would stay far away from this district. 5. Every single board meeting is full of egregious violations of FOIA laws. It's so bad that the AG sent you a letter asking you to redo some of your actions from 9/25. <p>I'm going to reiterate what the majority of principals, teachers, and staff in CCSD, plus the vast majority of parents think you should do. Reinstate Dr Gallien, Make Michelle Simmons the permanent CAO, and reinstate the members of HAC whose terms are not up.</p> <p>The community will be at every meeting until then, making our voices loud and clear.</p> <p>Thanks, Allan Morris</p> |

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| Kristin | Adams | Friday...10/20/23...#19...CCSD...Book...Violates Federal & State Laws...Discrimination...REMOVE Book...“Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness”...By Anastasia Higginbotham...Thanks! | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/20/23 at 9:48 a.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Friday, October 20, 2023 Charleston County School District (CCSD) CCSD - #19 Request Book - "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" - By Anastasia Higginbotham Book is Racist; Discriminates; Shows Harassment; Intimidation; Bullying & Hatred Against the Race & Color of: White People * CCSD: REMOVE the Book from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries - Immediately *</p> <p>Dear South Carolina - SC: SC - State Board Of Education: Dear Charleston County School District - CCSD: CCSD - Interim Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins: CCSD - Superintendent of Schools - Eric Gallien: CCSD - Library Media Services Coordinator and District Textbook Coordinator - Christy James: CCSD - Interim Chief Academic Officer - Michelle Simmons: 203 Calendar Days & Waiting: - For CCSD Decision Makers to Email Yes -or- No: Concerning REMOVING (from ALL CCSD Schools) the Racist & Hate Filled Children's Picture Book that takes LESS than 8 Minutes to "Read" - 3/31/23: "CCSD Form - Policy IJAAA-R - Community Reconsideration of Instructional Materials - Filled Out" - Hand Delivered & Emailed to CCSD CCSD - Interim Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins, thank you for your Email dated 4/17/23 - Monday @ 7:43 AM (Screen Shot of Email below) in reference to the following Book that is currently at Multiple CCSD Schools (one school is CCSD - Elementary School - Belle Hall Elementary - where my Child attends): - Book: "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" - Written By: Anastasia Higginbotham - Book: Discriminates; Shows Harassment; Intimidation; Bullying & Hatred Against the Race & Color of: White People As per CCSD - Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins' Email dated 4/17/23 - Monday @ 7:43 AM: - "...Let us know if we can support you in that in any way..."</p> <p>CCSD - Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins, you can provide Support in the following way: - Take ACTION - HAVE the CCSD Decision Maker/s DO the following concerning the Book - "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" (Written By: Anastasia Higginbotham):</p> <p>1) GET the Book: - Located at 8 CCSD Schools</p> <p>2) READ the Book: - Takes LESS than 8 Total Minutes to "Read" the Children's PICTURE Book - Children's PICTURE Book - 62 Total Pages: After "Copyright Page" / "Publishing Details" Page - 48 Pages: Have 27 Words or LESS - 7 Pages: Have between 32 - 88 Words - 1 Page: Has 105 Words as it is the "Dedication Page" - 6 Pages: NO Words / JUST PICTURES</p> <p>3) EMAIL DECISION concerning REMOVING the Racist & Hate Filled Book from ALL CCSD Schools: - YES: CCSD will REMOVE the Book from ALL CCSD Schools by or before this DATE - OR - - NO: CCSD will INTENTIONALLY KEEP the Racist & Hate Filled Book in Multiple CCSD Schools (which creates an UNSAFE & HOSTILE School Environment)</p> <p>As per my 19 Emails: - My 19 Email Requests: ARE Requesting "...CCSD to REMOVE the Book from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries - Immediately..."</p> <p>The Book "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" (Written By: Anastasia Higginbotham) is WRONG & needs to be REMOVED immediately from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries based on the following: 1) VIOLATES - Federal Law: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Law Against Discrimination on the bases of Race & Color 2) VIOLATES - State Law: Title 59 > Education > Chapter 63 > Pupils Generally > Article 2 > Safe School Climate Act > Section 59-63-110 > "Safe School Climate Act" > Section 59-63-120: Law Against the Harassment; Intimidation & Bullying that Insults or Demeans a Student or Group of Students 3) Promotes RACISM: Toward White People 4) Promotes HATRED: Toward White People 5) Creates a HOSTILE School Environment: Toward White People 6) Creates an UNSAFE School Environment: Toward White People</p> <p>The Book "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" (Written By: Anastasia Higginbotham) is filled with RACISM; DISCRIMINATION; HARASSMENT; INTIMIDATION; BULLYING & HATRED toward the Race & Color of White People (Screen Shot below): - Title: "A Book About Whiteness" - "...WHITENESS IS A BAD DEAL...it always was..." - "...Dude, we can see your pointytail..." - "...Contract Binding YOU to WHITENESS you get: stolen land stolen riches special favors..." - "...WHITENESS gets: to mess endlessly with the lives of your friends, neighbors, loved ones, and all fellow humans of COLOR for the purpose of profit \$ your soul sign below: Land, riches, and favors may be revoked at any time, for any reason..." - "...In the United States of America, white people have committed outrageous crimes against Black people for four hundred years..." - "...Many white people did things that they never should have done..." such as "...Denied Opportunity..." ("...Bank Loan \$\$\$...DENIED") and "...Denied Housing..." ("...Notice of Eviction...") - "...Many other white people failed to see the problem with this..." such as "...exploited the love and labor of Black women..." - "...These choices put wealth and power into white hands, homes and neighborhoods..." - "...In stores, in cars, on sidewalks, at school -- your skin color affects the most ordinary daily experiences..." - "...White supremacy has been lying to kids for centuries..." - "...White supremacy is pretend But the consequences are real..."</p> <p>* CCSD: REMOVE the Book from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries - Immediately *</p> <p>Below are the Multiple REQUESTS to CCSD (including "CCSD Form - Policy IJAAA-R - Community Reconsideration of Instructional Materials - Filled Out") to REMOVE the Racist & Hate Filled Book - "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" - By Anastasia Higginbotham from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries - Immediately: 10/20/23 - Friday: Email #19 6/2/23 - Friday: Email #18 5/30/23 - Tuesday: Email #17 5/22/23 - Monday: Email #16 5/15/23 - Monday: Email #15 5/8/23 - Monday: Email #14 5/2/23 - Tuesday: Email #13 4/26/23 - Wednesday: Email #12 4/21/23 - Friday: Email #11 4/19/23 - Wednesday: Email #10 4/17/23 - Monday: Email #9 4/08/23 - 4/16/23: Spring Break 4/07/23 - Friday: Email #8 4/05/23 - Wednesday: Email #7 4/04/23 - Tuesday: Email #6 4/02/23 - Sunday: Email #5 4/01/23 - Saturday: Email #4 3/31/23 - Friday: Email #3 - "CCSD Form - Policy IJAAA-R - Community Reconsideration of Instructional Materials - Filled Out" 3/31/23 - Friday: Hand Delivered - "CCSD Form - Policy IJAAA-R - Community Reconsideration of Instructional Materials - Filled Out" 3/29/23 - Wednesday: Email #2 3/28/23 - Tuesday: Email #1</p> <p>As a Tax Payer & Parent of 3 Children at CCSD Schools I am HIGHLY CONCERNED that the Racist & Hate Filled Book - "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" - By Anastasia Higginbotham: - Creates a HOSTILE & UNSAFE School Environment</p> <p>CCSD, CCSD Administrative Executives & CCSD Decision Maker/s should ALSO be HIGHLY CONCERNED that the Racist & Hate Filled Book - "Not My Idea - A Book About Whiteness" - By Anastasia Higginbotham: - Creates a HOSTILE & UNSAFE School Environment</p> <p>* CCSD: REMOVE the Book from ALL of the CCSD School Libraries - Immediately *</p> <p>"As soon as you concern yourself with the 'good' and 'bad' of your fellows, you create an opening in your heart for maliciousness to enter, Testing, competing with, and criticizing others weakens and defeats you." ---- Morihei Ueshiba - Author - The Art of Peace</p> <p>Thanks So Very Much! Kristin Adams Parent of - 3 CCSD Students</p> |

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| | | | <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/20/23 at 10:14 a.m.; entered into form by staff 10/20/23</p> <p>Friday - 10/20/23 Charleston County School District - (CCSD) Written Notice - #1: CCSD - NO SEX EDUCATION - Belle Hall Elementary</p> <p>NO Sex Education for: - CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds)</p> <p>Dear South Carolina - SC: SC - State Board Of Education:</p> <p>Dear Charleston County School District - CCSD: CCSD - Interim Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins: CCSD - Superintendent of Schools - Eric Gallien: CCSD - Interim Chief Academic Officer - Michelle Simmons:</p> <p>It has come to my attention that Belle Hall Elementary will be teaching: - Sex Education - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds)</p> <p>As a Parent I Request the following: 1) Sex Education Curriculum 2) Who at Charleston County School District (CCSD) made the decision to teach Sex Education at Belle Hall Elementary to the following?: - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds)</p> <p>Sex Education & CCSD: - Sex Education: Should NOT be taught to Elementary Children who are 9 Years Old & 10 Years Old - Sex Education: Should NOT be taught to Elementary Children in Grades 4th & 5th - CCSD: Is WRONG to teach Sex Ed to 9 Years Old & 10 Years Old - CCSD: Needs to let the Children be Children - CCSD: Needs to STOP the Sexualization of the Children</p> |
| Kristin | Adams | Friday..10/20/23...#1...CCSD...NO Sex Ed...Belle Hall Elementary...9 Year Olds & 10 Year Olds...4th & 5th Grade...Thanks! | <p>Thanks So Very Much!</p> <p>Kristin Adams CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary School Parent - For The Past 14 Years Continuously</p> |
| Kathryn | Martin | Agenda Item 3H, Request for update on investigation from Attorney Allan Holmes | <p>Hello CCSD Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing to thank the four board members who placed this item on the agenda and to urge the other 5 board members to act expediently and with great care to ensure that the results of said investigation are transparent to the public. The 5 school board members voting as a bloc have suspended our superintendent until this investigation is complete. Therefore it must be completely fair and efficiently so our district can get back to the critical work of educating children with our leader at the helm.</p> <p>Also, thank you to Ms. Roberson, Mr. Calhoun, Ms. Waters, and Dr. Temple for continuing to advocate on behalf of public education and our children. As a parent, I greatly appreciate the transparency you have provided the community, one small but important example of which is the details you include on board agendas under "Background" for items you originate. Your work is noticed and I am grateful.</p> <p>Kat Martin Mt. Pleasant, SC</p> |
| Whitney | Windsor | Concern over Ms. Bailey's comments | <p>I am extremely concerned about the videos I saw of Ms. Bailey and her inappropriate, offensive, and discriminatory remarks. This is now the second board member to target the LGBTQ community. This is unacceptable.</p> <p>Hello CCSD Board of Trustees,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to item 11C on the Monday, Oct 23 agenda. As a CCSD parent and concerned constituent in Mr. Kelley's district, I am writing to ask that you rescind the removal of active Health Advisory Committee members whose terms were not complete. These community members have done good work on behalf of our students and must be allowed to continue this work per policy.</p> <p>Serving "at the pleasure of the board" does not mean unilaterally removing them without notice or cause. Your actions directly contradicted written policy, as you have been notified.</p> <p>One of the greatest gifts of democracy is protecting the right of different ideas coming to the tables where decisions are made. As public leaders, it is your job to ensure public discourse continues. Please rescind previous removals and ensure these community members can continue their work advocating for medically accurate curriculum for our students.</p> <p>Kat Martin Mt. Pleasant, SC</p> |
| Kathryn | Martin | Rescind Removal of Active Health Advisory Committee Members | <p>I am writing to request that any State Board actions regarding library material selection be designed to ensure maximum availability for students to a wide variety of materials that are representative of student backgrounds and experiences in South Carolina schools.</p> <p>Any proposed library material regulation changes should not adversely impact school librarians and their ability to provide age relevant materials to students. School librarians are teachers who have specialized training in building library collections that meet the needs of their community and state curricula. This includes evaluating and purchasing materials and serving as an instructional partner. In SC, school librarians have a Master's degree in Library and Information Science and K-12 certification and the process of selecting materials is covered in depth in their coursework including supporting the curriculum, student interests, and community standards. School librarians then follow local board-approved policies when selecting age-appropriate materials. State regulations may create confusion in a process that already has clear guidelines.</p> <p>Young readers, including our own children, need access to a variety of books from which they can learn about different perspectives, gain an understanding of others' lives, and develop critical thinking skills. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and belief systems and libraries seek to meet the information needs of all children. Children respond to authentic texts. They are drawn to books that accurately depict their lives. If we are looking to develop readers and lifelong learners, we need to capitalize on their natural inclination toward books they enjoy reading. The people and groups that are working to limit the intellectual freedom of others are doing so to remove materials that do not fit into their own narrow worldview. One group should not be given the power to limit the intellectual freedom of others, individual parental oversight, and professional guidance of school librarians.</p> <p>I am confident in the expertise of teachers and librarians in CCSD. Thank you for your service and for taking my concerns into consideration.</p> |
| Rosie | Herold | Book selection | <p>It appears the Board has taken the position of interfering with the operations of the school district as opposed to its mission of establishing policy for the district. Even with policy items that I feel are at odds with the effective operation of the district and the district office, the Board appears to be taking a very "heavy handed" and intrusive application of its policies and duties. After going through the process of hiring a superintendent who the Board determined was well qualified to lead the district, you then suspend the superintendent for an alleged infraction apparently without getting any findings from HR. If HR gave a report that justified the suspension of the superintendent, it should have been made public. You did not have to share explicit details, however, some explanation should have been given. If HR provided some justification for suspension. If the Board did its due diligence, it should have known who it was hiring and what kind of manager the superintendent would be. To pay someone \$275,000 and then suspend them for an alleged infraction that should have been handled internally shows the Board is inept and clueless! You all need to take a real long and hard look at who you are and who you want to be for the students of Charleston County. You should not be wrapped up in a hidden agenda provided by people who do not understand our people nor our culture. We are not going to stand quietly by and see this atrocity fostered upon our children! Are you responsible enough as adults and elected officials to allow the professionals, like Dr. Gallien and Ms. Simmons to do the job they were hired to do? Expectations and goals for the superintendent should have been established at his hiring with reasonable time and resources, including personnel, to meet those expectations. Faculty, staff and students are looking closely at you. Please don't disappoint them, or us, the citizens of Charleston County.</p> |
| Carolyn | Lecque | Board Powers and Duties | <p>To the 5 majority: Your undemocratic, downright fascist, outright racist, homophobic and ignorant behavior is causing great upset and anger in Charleston County. And severely detracting and disrupting the quality education of our children. But clearly, the well being and education of our children is farthest from your focus.</p> <p>- Most of you know nothing about Education and Board member roles yet you try to run the operations, Everything you do actually harms our children.</p> <p>- Your role on the board is obviously all about you 5 and making the power grab to force your small minded, cruel and supremely unchristian views on all people in the county.</p> <p>- And most of you don't even have the courage or courtesy to show up in person and face the public at supposedly public board meetings.</p> <p>- Yeah, yeah, you pretend to "be Christians" and use that moniker in defense of your hateful views and actions. You obviously know nothing about who Christ was and how and who he loved to say and do the reprehensible things you do.</p> <p>- Shame, shame on you, You bring great Shame to all of Charleston county. You are a dis-service to our children, You are a threat to democracy.</p> |
| Buffy | Lebet | Board | <p>It's been said that "nothing unites people like a common enemy". You all have managed to bring we county residents together like never before.</p> <p>I guess we should thank you for that. Thank you for waking us to your evil tactics and attempts to rob our children of a good education and the ability to think critically. To waking us to appreciate how precious our freedoms and democracy are in this country. To waking us up to see how easily evil power mongers and autocratic people and organizations like you can seep into our communities and take our freedoms away so you can harken us back to the 19th century.</p> <p>If you want to live in a bygone world, bigoted and ignorant, you are free to do that. But you are not free to try to impose your world on us.</p> |
| Marie | Lebewitz | Item 3 | <p>So, thank you for mobilizing us to stomp out your autocratic voices and your unlawful actions. We will all enjoy working together to rid us of you and your influences.</p> |

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| Anne | Laport | Board | <p>You all have stepped into the abyss now. You think you can take over our schools and enforce your minority, fascist views on those of us who believe in the value of a democratic, educated society. You think you can silence educators who actually care that our children get a real education that prepares them to think for themselves and be informed by our history and diversity. Educated versus ignorant children and young adults. Well, as you can see, you have awakened the sleeping giant. We will defeat you. We will stamp out your vile views and words and actions. We will send you back home where you non education proponents belong. To your own ignorant space, where the county schools and families are not infected by your hateful poison. We are not going away. We are committed to making sure you do.</p> <p>It is shocking the district has let North Palm church and their ultra conservative ARISE religious program infiltrate our schools! They are indoctrinating our children on their warped view of religion and not the diversity of the community you are supposed to represent. They are using our children and our schools to proselytize their narrow and homophobic of religion and recruit to build their church. You can read that in their own annual report!!! They report:</p> <p>" the ARISE team is excited to share our victories... God's glory was truly revealed as our team went into the dark areas of our community, which invade our public schools on the Mountain of Education. Our team truly triumphed... ARISE was able to accompany 1,769 students ... on the ARISE adventure. Another amazing breakthrough... we were given our own classroom at CE Williams Academy. We were granted the keys ... We teach four classes a day, as students are brought to us as a part of their school experience. We have also witnessed the fruit of our labors as principals, students, and district officials have visited our North Palm services. Some have made our North Palm family their family. God is so faithful. ...</p> <p>Since when is our school system supposed to be a venue for religious fanatics recruitment?!! Stop this sham of separating church and state, and get focused in teaching our kids critical math, reading and thinking skills. And leave religion for our families to address according to each of our faith traditions.</p> <p>We have several board members with extreme and fascist views, and they are pushing these onto the entire district. They were not elected by a majority of us citizens; the majority does not want these extreme positions, and, in fact, find them OFFENSIVE and extremely DANGEROUS. For example:</p> <p>ED KELLY-A Moms for Liberty-affiliated member, who attended a Moms for Liberty meeting and publicly stated he would bring a GUN to the home of his child's teacher if the teacher came out as trans.</p> <p>We want this kind of violent nutcase on our school board, or near our kids??</p> <p>CARLOTTE BAILEY Publicly said:</p> <p>-There's no such thing as gay children; those children are confused about who they are...</p> <p>- she opposed Pride month and that people in the LGBTQ community are "trying to make something that's personal a civil right,"</p> <p>- Black children are behind academically because most Black families have a "different concept of the value of education."</p> <p>Can we allow a publicly exposed racist and homophobe to direct our children's education??</p> <p>PAMELA McKINNEY- Either doesn't know the rules for running the board according to policy or keeps herself ignorant so she can violate basic rules of fair play & courtesy to minority members, FOIA, and democratic vs. authoritarian tactics to run the board. It's hard to imagine this is America when seeing her railroad the board meetings, and her Mom's for Tyranny cohorts drive their extreme decisions.</p> <p>God Help Us,</p> |
| Bertrand | Law | Religion in schools | <p>We have several board members with extreme and fascist views, and they are pushing these onto the entire district. They were not elected by a majority of us citizens; the majority does not want these extreme positions, and, in fact, find them OFFENSIVE and extremely DANGEROUS. For example:</p> <p>ED KELLY-A Moms for Liberty-affiliated member, who attended a Moms for Liberty meeting and publicly stated he would bring a GUN to the home of his child's teacher if the teacher came out as trans.</p> <p>We want this kind of violent nutcase on our school board, or near our kids??</p> <p>CARLOTTE BAILEY Publicly said:</p> <p>-There's no such thing as gay children; those children are confused about who they are...</p> <p>- she opposed Pride month and that people in the LGBTQ community are "trying to make something that's personal a civil right,"</p> <p>- Black children are behind academically because most Black families have a "different concept of the value of education."</p> <p>Can we allow a publicly exposed racist and homophobe to direct our children's education??</p> <p>PAMELA McKINNEY- Either doesn't know the rules for running the board according to policy or keeps herself ignorant so she can violate basic rules of fair play & courtesy to minority members, FOIA, and democratic vs. authoritarian tactics to run the board. It's hard to imagine this is America when seeing her railroad the board meetings, and her Mom's for Tyranny cohorts drive their extreme decisions.</p> <p>God Help Us,</p> |
| bt | moonface | Item 3 | Board Member Conduct |
| Lynz | Piper-Loomis | Statement of Support for Board Member Carlotta Bailey | <p>The Board did not properly act to investigate and suspend Dr. Gallien. You had to clean that up with a do-over vote. Unfortunately, your actions were part of a pattern of secrecy and contempt for the public.</p> <p>When you acted to remake the Health Advisory Committee your agenda only disclosed that you would consider appointments, and the vacancies were known and publicly posted. But you did much more than fill those vacancies. In secret, and without putting it on the agenda, you first fired most of the Committee. Firing people mid-term is not the same thing as appointing people. In crafting your agenda you opted for secrecy over your open meeting obligations.</p> <p>You also mishandled how you went about replacing the people you fired. Policy says new appointees will complete the terms of the people they replace, but you ignored policy and gave all your new appointees full 3-year terms.</p> |
| James | Gergen | Board Not Following Open Meeting Laws and Policies | <p>Please remember you are public servants. You cannot flout open meeting laws and policies. We demand more transparency and more competency.</p> <p>Request for update on investigation from Attorney Allan Holmes: I am disappointed that a recently hired superintendent has been delayed in leading the district. In fact, he has been stopped before he can demonstrate anything. This delay, with no understandable reason for the treatment of the superintendent or a quick resolution, does not bode well for the school system. It risks putting the district under a shadow for future hirings of excellence. Who would want to come here and be placed on leave immediately and no resolution in sight? Also, is not the Assistant Superintendent's record an excellent one? What is going on?</p> |
| Nancy Whitney | Moore Windsor | Report on Superintendent Board Member Conduct | I am very concerned about the recent comments by board member Bailey. This behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable. |
| Whitney | Windsor | CAO | The board needs to hire Michelle Simmons as the Chief Academic Officer. She has proven herself and has the support of the principals in the district. |
| Lou | Mello | Rotary Youth Exchange | <p>Rotary Youth Exchange</p> <p>I am the District Chair for Rotary Youth Exchange in the Eastern two thirds of South Carolina. Each year, we send 13 to 15 high school students abroad for the school year and have 13 to 15 Inbound students for the school year here in South Carolina.</p> <p>Each year I have to line up partnerships with schools and Rotary Clubs to host Inbound students from Europe, Scandinavia, South America and Asia. We usually have host families in each of the school districts so that the Inbound students can use school bussing. The challenge we face is that we need to know now in October whether or not we will be able to place a student in a particular school so we can get the appropriate host families in that school's geographic district. That is why I am asking the Board to approve two Inbound students for Lucy Beckham High School for the 2024-2025 school year. We are sending out three students from LBHS for the 2024-25 school year and we would like to have at least two students be able to attend LBHS.</p> <p>By knowing in advance that we can place students in LBHS, we can line up the proper Host Families as well as Rotary Clubs to sponsor and host these Inbounds. Anna Dassing, the Principal at LBHS, is a very strong supporter of the Rotary Youth Exchange program and has been for many years. It is my view and shared by Anna and other teachers at the school that the value of having Inbound foreign students in the school provides meaningful cultural and educational experiences for the Mt Pleasant students attending LBHS.</p> <p>In fact, the US Department of State regulates the Inbound Exchange Program in partnership with Rotary and they have sent letters to every school in the U.S. to encourage the district and schools to host international students for high school exchanges as a fundamental part of U.S. public diplomacy efforts.</p> <p>So I ask that the Board consider approving at least two Inbound students for LBHS for the 2024-25 school year and I will then provide detailed applications as required in April for the final approval of those specific students for LBHS.</p> |
| Fred | Palm | Honorable Trustees, The Acting As If We Had A Superintendent Report for October 23, 2023 focuses on aggregated student performance by school. Success has multiple progenitors that cannot flow from this newly elected board. You have inherited a portfolio of underperforming schools with well-performing children trapped therein. Can the trustees speak to what will be done with the schools not doing well and if there is an expectation of improved performance(s)? If improved performances are expected- in which schools, by what degree of change using what measure(s)? Longitudinal analysis of student performance using the workforce competency standards shows that early-grade underperformers perform poorly on these exit effectiveness criteria. What is the proposed action(s)? | <p>Honorable Trustees,</p> <p>The Acting As If We Had A Superintendent Report for October 23, 2023 focuses on aggregated student performance by school.</p> <p>Success has multiple progenitors that cannot flow from this newly elected board.</p> <p>You have inherited a portfolio of underperforming schools with well-performing children trapped therein.</p> <p>Can the trustees speak to what will be done with the schools not doing well and if there is an expectation of improved performance(s)?</p> <p>If improved performances are expected- in which schools, by what degree of change using what measure(s)?</p> <p>Longitudinal analysis of student performance using the workforce competency standards shows that early-grade underperformers perform poorly on these exit effectiveness criteria. What is the proposed action(s)?</p> |
| Josie | Abrams | Reinstate Health Advisory Committee members | <p>Regards, Fred Palm</p> <p>I am a small business owner and mother of two CCSD children – one is a recent high school graduate and one is currently in high school.</p> <p>I am also a citizen of South Carolina which has the 11th highest teen birth rate in the nation. In South Carolina teen pregnancy is a leading cause of high school drop-out. In fact, only 51% of young women who become mothers as teens get their high school degree by the age of 22 compared to 89% of young women who were not teen parents.</p> <p>Negative outcomes from teen childbearing also weigh on the child as children of teen mothers are less prepared to enter the school system and score lower on measures of school readiness. Plus, they are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, less likely to complete high school, and have lower performance on standardized tests.</p> <p>In South Carolina 13% of babies born to 15-17 year olds and 11% of babies born to 18-19 year olds are low birth weight. 15% of pregnant 18-19 year olds on Medicaid in 2006 were abused as children. 13% of pregnant 18-19 year olds on Medicaid in 2006 had high risk pregnancies. Children born as a result of an unplanned pregnancy in SC are more likely to experience adverse health and developmental consequences. Teen mothers are more likely to deliver pre-term and low birth weight babies, two factors which raise the probability of health problems for a child.</p> <p>In light of these startling facts, I request that the CCSD stop tampering with its Health Advisory Council. The health and sex education presented to my children in CCSD schools several years ago was woefully inadequate. I was very pleased when the HAC was established and when CCSD adopted a useful, science-based curriculum.</p> <p>The Board's actions to replace HAC members appear to be sneaky, heavy-handed and motivated by culture war fantasies.</p> |

| First Name: | Last Name: | Topic of Comment: | Public Comment: |
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| Hillary | Hutchinson | CCSD Finances: Waste of public money | <p>I am Hillary Hutchinson a taxpayer in Charleston County, and I am frustrated and concerned that there appears to be an ideologically driven agenda at the Charleston County School Board is wasting both time and money.</p> <p>Can we please return to the regular order of business? It appears that a certain faction of the school board does not understand that the primary function of ANY school board is a non-partisan development of an annual budget, and to create a vision for the education of all children. In this case, we are talking about roughly 49,000 students with 45.1% of them considered economically underprivileged. While I applaud the pay raise given to teachers in the district with the approval of the FY23 budget, housing still remains unattainable at a reasonable rate for our teachers throughout the metropolitan area, despite a total instruction budget in the CCSD of \$314,023,814 (slightly over \$314 hundred thousand).</p> <p>This is where the Board should be focused, not on finding ways to upend the management of the schools.</p> <p>Now, on top of paying Dr. Eric Gallien to sit at home for roughly \$23,000/month, you are facing a breach of contract by him. I have no idea how much money will be spent on lawsuits brought on by unnecessary actions by this Board. Please take this into account and consider the good of the whole, all students and teachers in the Charleston County School District.</p> <p>I am a small business owner and mother of two CCSD students.</p> |
| Josie | Abrams | Financial costs for mishandling Dr. Gallien's employment | <p>I am writing to express my deep disappointment and frustration with your unprofessional conduct at Board meetings and with your inept handling of matters related to key CCSD staff and leadership. Some of this behavior has evidently crossed into unlawful behavior with respect to FOIA.</p> <p>As a result, the majority leading our current CCSD Board has dragged our school system into unnecessary legal entanglements. Yet we taxpayers will be footing the bill for your legal fees, outside investigators and potential settlement costs.</p> <p>I propose that every CCSD Board meeting agenda must include a presentation of current and projected legal expenses that are resulting from your handling of employment matters. This is yet another level of transparency that the public deserves.</p> |
| Cava | Compton | Transparency | <p>I am writing in support of the 5-4 decision to suspend Dr. Gallien. As a taxpayer, I support a full investigation into Gallien's performance - and that a full (complete and accurate) report be provided to the tax payers (who are paying Mr. Gallien and who are funding the investigation). The media needs to stop lying to the parents and families. They need to provide facts about Gallien's performance - rather than just spreading lies and fictional narratives to slander those trying to get to the truth.</p> <p>We need transparency regarding every aspect of our schools. We need transparency regarding Dr. Gallien, we need transparency regarding what is being taught behind closed doors, we need transparency regarding who is pushing for Marxist propaganda in our school libraries, we need transparency regarding where data obtained from student "surveys" goes and what it is being used for, we need transparency regarding where our education tax payer money is being spent and why we don't see any improvements in our school system, we need transparency regarding collaboration between CCSD and the medical industrial complex to push vaccines on our children.</p> <p>TRANSPARENCY please. It's your job. You work for us!</p> |
| Matilda | Seay | Foreign Exchange Student request LBHS | <p>Hello all,</p> <p>My name is Matilda Seay and I am the daughter of educator, Ronda Seay, and sister of future exchange student, Elsie Seay. As the premise around Rotary Youth Exchange has already been established, I wanted to write a written statement in favor of allowing two youth exchange students to attend Lucy Beckham.</p> <p>My family has been part of this program for the better part of a decade. Through this program, my family has had the joyous opportunity of allowing these students into our homes, and also letting them be apart of a great community and school system. My older sister and I both attended Wando, where we were able to provide bus and/or car transportation to exchange students Luiza, Bel Hannah, and Vera. When Lucy Beckham opened to accommodate for the growing Mount Pleasant youth, Elsie and my mother, were able to provide transportation for student, Louise, who fit right in at Lucy Beckham. She participated in Color Guard, the theater program, and created lasting relationships with the students and faculty there. Everyone I know who has interacted with these exchange students, whether that be at Wando, or Lucy Beckham, have created lasting memories and relationships due to the school permitting these students to attend.</p> <p>Although this was a great joy of ours to do, there is a convenience factor in accommodating these students in our homes. As it is a requirement of families of exchange students to find host families, it would be at the ease of my family, as well as many other willing mount pleasant families, in hosting a student that attends Lucy Beckham High School.</p> <p>And I want to leave on this note, Mount Pleasant, where there is an 8.8% diverse, non-white, population per the data produced on Census.gov, would benefit from the diverse population that the Rotary Youth Exchange brings to South Carolina. The Charleston County School District should be one to promote diversity of ethnicity, nationality, thought, and values - and the Rotary Youth Exchange Program does just that by exposing families and schools to these amazing students.</p> <p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 10/23/23 at 9:11 a.m.; entered into form by staff 10/23/23</p> <p>Monday - 10/23/23 Charleston County School District - (CCSD) Written Notice - #2: CCSD - NO SEX EDUCATION - Belle Hall Elementary - 9 Year Olds & 10 Year Olds</p> <p>NO Sex Education for: - CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds)</p> <p>Dear South Carolina - SC: SC - State Board Of Education:</p> <p>Dear Charleston County School District - CCSD: CCSD - Interim Superintendent of Schools - Anita Huggins: CCSD - Superintendent of Schools - Eric Gallien: CCSD - Interim Chief Academic Officer - Michelle Simmons: CCSD - District Instructional Specialist for Health & PE Curriculum & Instruction - Holly Kut:</p> <p>It has come to my attention that Belle Hall Elementary will be teaching: - Sex Education - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds) - Which is scheduled to be taught in a couple of weeks at CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary BEFORE Thanksgiving 2023</p> <p>As a Parent I Request the following: 1) Sex Education Curriculum 2) Who at Charleston County School District (CCSD) made the decision to teach Sex Education at Belle Hall Elementary to the following?: - 4th Grade - (9 Year Olds) - 5th Grade - (10 Year Olds)</p> <p>As per the below CCSD "Growth and Development: Scope and Sequence - 4th Grade - Topic: Puberty" (which is scheduled to be taught in a couple of weeks at CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary BEFORE Thanksgiving 2023): 1) This Sex Education grooms Children for Child Sexual Abuse: - G-4.3.1 Identify people in the family, school, or community who could provide valid health information about changes that occur during puberty. 2) This Sex Education has a Liberal Agenda - "Social and Emotional Learning": G-4.1.3 Identify examples of the physical, emotional, and social changes that occur in puberty and adolescence.</p> <p>As per the CCSD Board of Trustees the CCSD "Health Advisory Committee" was recently re-created with New Committee Members. 1) Is this Sex Education Curriculum approved by the New "Health Advisory Committee"? 2) Is this Sex Education Curriculum approved by the New "Health Advisory Committee" for 9 Year Olds & 10 Year Olds?</p> <p>These are 9 Year Olds (4th Grade) & 10 Year Olds (5th Grade). They do NOT need Sex Education.</p> <p>Thanks So Very Much! Kristin Adams CCSD - Belle Hall Elementary School Parent - For The Past 14 Years Continuously</p> |
| Kristin | Adams | Monday...10/23/23...#2...CCSD...NO Sex Ed...Belle Hall Elementary...9 Year Olds & 10 Year Olds...4th & 5th Grade...Thanks! | <p>The Bible tells us that when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. However, when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn. This is because the wicked do not care for the people, but only for themselves. They will make decisions that benefit themselves, rather than the people. As a result, the people will suffer under their rule. Our community is mourning not distracting. God requires this Charleston County Board of Trustees, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before God. Presently, this Board is in violation of what God says.</p> <p>1. Reinstate Dr. Gallien and allow him to move forward with his appointments to his cabinet and be the visionary for our children, administration, faculty, staff and community at-large.</p> <p>2. Reinstate the Health Advisory Committee members whose term has not expired and fill the five vacancies. I decree and declare that CCSD BOT's repent and begin educating all children in an unbiased well-rounded perspective that fosters critical thinking and tolerance.</p> |
| Willette Scott | Ash | BOT recent decisions/Community | |
| Sandra | Selvitelli | Board behavior | I am very concerned about comments made by members of this board that express racist and homophobic views. A school board is no place for partisan politics, discrimination or personal religious views. |
| Danielle | Lopez | Health Advisory Committee | Please reinstate the HAC as it was with members finishing out their term limits and only filling the empty seats. The HAC has done great work and it is a shame that the board is trying to disrupt their progress. |
| Danielle | Lopez | Board Member Misconduct | A board member has been recorded saying appalling things about black families and LGBTQ+ students. This is harmful and unfair. Board members are supposed to work in the best interest of EVERY student. Something must be done. |
| Danielle | Lopez | Lack of Board Transparency | It is clear the board is lacking full transparency. Several board members were elected based on promises to be transparent. Instead, they are violating FOIA laws and wasting tax payer money. WE NEED FULL TRANSPARENCY. |
| Danielle | Lopez | Caring about ALL students | It is clear certain members of the board are not acting in the best interest of the students and families. What have they done to protect children? What have they done to help teachers and administration? All they have done is wreck havoc and angered the public. What a shame! |
| Danielle | Lopez | Reinstate Michelle Simmons | Reinstate Michelle Simmons. |

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| Christine | Magnarella Ray | Breaking FOIA Laws | I am very concerned about the Board's closed executive sessions, the decisions that are being made during those sessions and the lack of information about those actions. I believe some of the subsequent Board actions, beyond putting the superintendent on leave, violate the Freedom of Information Act. |
| Danielle | Lopez | Let Dr. Gallien do his job! | The investigation into Dr. Gallien was not necessary. It needs to end and he needs to get back to being the superintendent. We are wasting tax payer's money! |
| | | | Dear CCSD Board, It has been 4 weeks since you placed Dr. Gallien on paid administrative leave because of a complaint received from a single district employee. At last week's special called meeting, several Trustees asked why District HR protocol for investigating employee complaints was not followed in this case. Has an explanation been provided by HR? And, will the public be updated? Will the public be updated on the status of the investigation in today's meeting? We are extremely confused as to why this has not been concluded already. Has it even begun? It's also been 4 weeks since members of the Health Advisory Committee were removed before their terms expired, without any explanation. Because, like so many decisions made by the 5 majority board members, this decision was allegedly made in violation of FOIA and Board policy, the CCSD Board and the District is (once again) subject to a lawsuit, 4 weeks and 2 lawsuits to be paid for by the taxpayers, because of the vindictive actions of the 5 majority board members. This is money that should be going towards ensuring every one of our children receive a quality, equitable public school education, and that our teachers are fairly paid. What a shameful waste of resources. Our children and our community deserve a CCSD Board that is transparent, accountable to all members of the public it serves, and adheres to the law and Board policy. When can we expect that to commence? Respectfully submitted, Karen Byko Sullivan's Island |
| Karen | Byko | Board Actions | This is related to Item 11B & C. Why were the Health Advisory Committee members removed before their terms expired? Why is the Board not following established bylaws of the Health Advisory Committee? It seems like the majority of the Board wants to bulldoze anything they don't like regardless of the rules. What example is this setting for our children? |
| Christine | Magnarella Ray | Health Advisory Committee | Dismantling the HAC was not done following policy or transparency laws. I would like to see the group of dedicated and qualified volunteers who were released early be reinstated. |
| Sandra | Selvitelli | Dismantling of the Health Advisory Council | Librarians have the training to decide which books are appropriate for children of different ages. You don't. |
| Nancy | Groh | No book bans! | Agenda Item 11: Some members of the Board acted secretly and unjustly when they removed the members of the Health Advisory Committee. Please stop using politics and reinstate the removed members who have made strides in providing an up to date, thorough and essential health education to our very important children in Charleston County. |
| Jessica | Ervin | Electronic | Please reinstate Dr. Gallien as superintendent. He has been unjustly put on suspension by an nefarious vote of a part of the board. |
| Priscilla | Shumway | Reinstate Dr. Gallien | Reinstate the Health Advisory Council members who were removed prior to their term end. What are the qualifications of the new members selected by Ed Kelly? This is crazy to remove WELL qualified members. |
| Priscilla | Shumway | Health Advisory board | STOP book bans. Let educators and librarians do their job. they know more than non-educator board members. Teachers are NOT indoctrinating students. |
| Priscilla | Shumway | Book Bans | I was the president of the Beaufort High School chapter of DAYLO (Diversity Awareness Youth Literacy Organization). I am now a freshman at The College of Charleston. I am sure you can imagine that, as a college freshman, this is not how I would like to be spending my Monday evening – in fact, I just left my last class of the day from the Honors College to be here – but I am here because it is important to me to be here. Almost exactly a year ago, 97 books were banned in Beaufort County, making it the largest book ban in the state. The three DAYLO chapters in my community banded together from that moment on to advocate for the books wrongfully taken from our shelves and to advocate for the stories that people wanted to hide from us. And so, a year later, I am here once again to ask that this school board does not silence these stories. These voices. These people. I was once that gay kid without a story. Without a connection to herself and her community. And books were how I connected to an integral part of myself. I ask the board to consider this when they think about banning books from school shelves. Because there are other kids like me. Other kids who need and deserve stories that represent them. As a board, it is your responsibility to serve every student in this district: gay, straight, white, black, brown, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, atheist. I also bring words of caution to the board. Although you may think that taking books off of school shelves and denying comprehensive sex education will protect children and offer parents more choice, it actually offers the opposite. Not every student has the ability to receive books, knowledge and support at home. Not every parent is able to provide what their child needs. That is why we have public school. To provide knowledge and skills to every student so that they may go out in the world as well-informed individuals. How can we do this if we deny them access to knowledge? Furthermore, know that taking away education will further divide this community. Charleston does not need to be further divided. Charleston needs to focus on literacy rates, teacher retention, making our students feel safe, and ensuring an equitable public school system that addresses the existing divides of both race and class. Thank you for your time. |
| Emily | Bennett | Book Bans | Jesus the Christ would crack a whip to clear a building. However, Christ would not commit or condone acts of violence against others. Jesus Christ was dear to their followers that accepting the unconditional love of God through Them. They knew true faith, acceptance and unconditional love would make loved ones, even blood relatives, uncomfortable. At best there are Board of Trustee members misusing religion and abusing board policy to intimidate the most important people in the district families, faculty, and staff of CCSD for some political agenda. Faculty, staff and students are currently seeing historic improvements in key areas that will improve the futures and outcomes of CCSD graduates. The actions of Board of Trustee members which undermine the Code of Conduct set a poor example of leadership to families, students, faculty and staff of CCSD. Ultimately, inappropriate actions of Board of Trustee members compromises the efforts as well as accomplishments of the district. This is further proof that derailing positive changes and outcomes is the ultimate goal of the Moms for Liberty backed Trustee Members. |
| Kim | Clark | Board Members Code of Conduct | I agree with Mrs. Robertson that the board minutes should have more content. The content in the minutes is just about the absolute minimum that is required. It does not give the public a true representation as to what occurred in the meetings. I agree there should be content in the minutes. |
| Conrad | Wells | Board Minutes | I support Board Member Carlotta Bailey as she helps to defend, protect, and preserve the barbaric acts of domestic terrorism against our children. I support her shutting down the sexual groomers, sexual grooming, and the access the children have to pornography in CCSD. I support her shutting down any access our children have to socialism indoctrination in our schools. Great work Mrs. Bailey. |
| Lynz | Piper-Loomis | In support of Board Member Carlotta Bailey | Please investigate the recent videos of a board member publicly disparaging Black and LGBTQIA students and parents. If we are to believe that each email warrants a full investigation of a person's behavior, this clear violation of our children's Civil Rights and a Title IX violation. |
| Kyndra | Luce | Board Conduct | Why is Michelle Simmons being tied to this one professional complaint when a national review, 71 principals and over 2300 community members have asked for her appointment to the CAO? It is not the job of the board to gatekeep this appointment. |
| Kyndra | Luce | Michelle Simmons permanent position | The changes to the teacher contracts and GCEC are a clear and unnecessary power grab by the board from the superintendent. Please focus on our children. There has not been a single educational initiative passed in a year. |
| Kyndra | Luce | Board policies | |
| John | Klintonworth | Reinstate the Health Advisory Committee members you removed Sept 25 | Reinstate Health Advisory Committee |
| Jackie | McGee | Health Advisory Committee | Reinstate the HAC members removed 9/25 without cause—agenda item 11B |
| Kathleen | King | Fiscal Responsibility | As an educator of 35 years in Charleston County, I am very concerned about the financial consequence which will negatively impact our community by the Board's decisions. We need to have board members represent the culture of our community and not personal or political agendas. It is time to change course and allow our Superintendent to do his job. |