

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Dennis	Bohac	<p>I recently moved to Mt. Pleasant from a school district just west of Houston, TX. The school district issued what they called a "gold card" in which senior citizens could attend regular season sports events and school plays for free. Does the school district have such a policy, and if not, would you consider it?</p> <p>Thanks for your time and consideration!</p> <p>Sincerely, Dennis Bohac</p> <p>gladysandbo1@gmail.com</p>	<p>I recently moved to Mt. Pleasant from a school district just west of Houston, TX. The school board there issued what they called a "gold card" to senior citizens, whereby they could attend regular season sporting events and school plays for free. Does the school district have such a policy, if not, would you consider it?</p> <p>Thanks for your time and consideration!</p> <p>Dennis Bohac</p>
Rev. Richard	Harkness	Call meeting on Superintendent contract	<p>I would like to know what is the justification of the review of the superintendent contract, given the time he's been in the position has not warranted a performance review. Why is there such a lack of transparency on the part of the board and board chair PamMcKinney, and the disrespect and disregard this express to the students and parents they are there to serve.</p>
Paul	McLaughlin	You Look Foolish	<p>Once again the Trustees look foolish. How many times will you burn through Superintendents? Each time it happens you make the District an uninviting place to work and with that, the pool of potential candidates for future hires is impacted. Would you want to be Superintendent based upon the record of the district? You see, the problem is not the people you hire, but a dysfunctional culture in the elected leadership. If the current Superintendent is not up to the task, that rests you, not him. Maybe, you should consider whether you are up to the job.</p>
Latoya	Bennett	2024-2025 Calendar	<p>Please recongize the popular votes and select calendar 3 for the 2024-2025 school year</p>
Melissa	Reese	Calendar	<p>Since calendars 1 and 3 are in the lead I would suggest we reopen the public vote to only options 1 and 3 to see which is the winner from the two. You are asking for teacher burn out by asking them to start school 3 weeks early when we are going into the second week of June this year.</p>

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Jamie	Meissner	Calendar plan if you vote option 3	<p>CCSD BOE,                      From the slides presented, it looks like the highest vote is for option 3 on the calendar choices.                      Before you vote for this option please ensure that                      -We have the funding for childcare during the non holiday breaks, such as October.                      Kalidescope leadership was not included in the planning or rollout of any of the options presented. As you are aware Kalidescope employees(many which are also CCSD educators), do not work extra hours normally . If and when an early release happens at school for example, you pay more for that service. So how will we handle staffing these unusual breaks during the school year.                      -Most families only have two maybe three weeks off for vacation a year. We must be prepared to help with food etc during unusual breaks.                      -Option 3 looks very similar to private schools, just an observation. That might become relevant with vouchers.</p> <p>For option 3 to truly benefit our families we must have a funding plan in place. It will take a couple years for organizations that normally have summer camps to be able to switch gears and help during random off weeks.</p> <p>Thank you,                      Jamie Meissner</p>

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Jennie	Church	School Calendar Option 3	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>As a teacher and parent of two children in CCSD schools (1 elementary and 1 middle), I support Calendar Option 3. After more than 30 years as both a student and teacher in the SC public school system, I feel that it is time to explore options beyond the "traditional" public school calendar. System-wide improvements need to begin at the very basic structures of our organization and utilizing a modification year-round is a great first step in giving student/teacher performance and mental health priority. Ultimately, I would like the district to consider moving to a full, year-round school calendar but I know that journey must begin with a smaller step.</p> <p>As a teacher, the addition of 2 weeks of break would be helpful for resetting physically and mentally before the next quarter. Teacher burnout is high during the year and allowing extra time for a pause would help both teacher and student success. Additionally, teacher (and student) illness and/or time off work due to family obligations could decrease as teachers would have a common date of break to plan for and less prolonged high stress. As I have discovered the hard way, there is no prize for pushing yourself beyond the limit time and time again without reprieve.</p> <p>As a parent, I am always searching for ways to enhance our family's budget and spend wisely. The inclusion of 2 additional breaks during "non-peak" tourist times would allow us (my husband and I) to give expanded travel opportunities to our children. This would also give our children additional motivators to work for as the school year progressed. I often feel that we must squish as much "fun" into each traditional break as possible but this is difficult when many other schools/families are trying to accomplish the same thing.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and service.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jennie Church</p>
JEREMY	RUTLEDGE	transparency	<p>Dear CCSD Board of Trustees, there is quite a lot of upset in the community about the board's use of executive session to conduct business out of public view. There is little to no transparency or accountability.</p> <p>With regard to our superintendent, for example, constituents need to know, understand, and be part of the conversation. We also need to know what board members think and how you vote.</p> <p>Please have your discussions in public. Bring counsel if you feel it necessary. Keeping us all in the dark is not good governance.</p>

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Sara	Rutledge	Focus on educating our kids; let the superintendent do his job	I was disappointed that the commendable student growth presented at the last meeting was completely overshadowed by the drama of the executive session meeting regarding the superintendent and his contract. The community needs the board to (1) focus on the education of our students and (2) meet in public because the community needs transparency, not behind doors secrecy. We are reading between the lines that many board members wanted to have a vote to remove the superintendent. Please let him do his job. The district and teachers do not need turmoil; they need support to build on student success.
Judy	Hammett	Board Transparency	As a constituent of CCSD and a retired educator it has become apparent that this Board is not willing to be transparent regarding the important business of educating the children of this county. By setting agendas in private, changing board agendas and having discussions in Executive Session you are denying constituents access to information. This needs to stop.
Nancy	Benjamin	Executive session to conduct public business	You cannot legally conduct public schools business in your executive session. Executive session is for personnel matters only.

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Kathryn	Martin	Transparency Needed Re: Executive Session	<p>Dear CCSD Board of Trustees,</p> <p>Many of you ran for your elected position on the promise of transparency. As a constituent and parent of CCSD students, I ask you to please uphold your promise especially in regard to agendas and executive session topics.</p> <p>It is important that agenda items are added with ample time for public response. It is critical that the general topics to be covered in executive be transparent even if you cannot share the specifics.</p> <p>With regard to our superintendent, for example, constituents need to know, understand, and be part of the conversation. This means welcoming public comment and enacting public voting as much as possible. As your constituents and as people impacted by your decisions, we need to know what board members think and how you vote.</p> <p>Please have your discussions in public. Bring counsel if you feel it necessary. Keeping us all in the dark is not good governance.</p> <p>In addition, we need you to be aware of major religious holidays and recognize that holding meetings on these days eliminates participation from any who celebrate or honor these holidays. For example, this board meeting is held on Yom Kippur, the most important Jewish holiday. Would you hold a meeting on Christmas Day? If not, I would hope you also would not do so on Yom Kippur.</p> <p>If you do not uphold your promise of transparency and your duty to inclusion, then community members will be unrepresented and students will suffer the consequences. If this continues to be the case, we will continue to speak up, organize, and ultimately vote you out.</p>
Lizabeth	Perez	Executive sessions	<p>Dear CCSD Board of Trustees,</p> <p>There is quite a lot of upset in the community about the board's use of executive session to conduct business out of public view. There is little to no transparency or accountability.</p> <p>With regard to our superintendent, for example, constituents need to know, understand, and be part of the conversation. We also need to know what board members think and how you vote.</p> <p>Please have your discussions in public. Bring counsel if you feel it necessary. Keeping us all in the dark is not good governance.</p>

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Lara	D'Eugenio	Transparency	<p>Dear CCSD Board of Trustees,                      You are elected officials who promised increased transparency, yet you continue to use executive sessions to conduct business out of public view. This allows for no accountability of the board members.                      What is the current concern regarding our new superintendent? What is the position of each board member and how are you each voting on matters discussed in executive session? A transparent board would share this information.                      Please have your discussions in public.</p>
Kim	Clark	Proud of CCSD faculty and staff!	<p>I am a Charleston Rise Advocate!                      I was glad to see the progress CCSD is making towards meeting it's goals. Faculty and Staff throughout CCSD who were tasked with implementing the ELA Curriculum should give themselves a pat on the back for their achievements and improvement. Knowing that Black and Hispanic students are seeing the most gains towards reading on grade level should be reassuring to faculty and staff. Their efforts are not in vain. I'm looking forward to seeing the results broken down by individual schools in the future.</p>
Towner	Magill	Board Transparency / Support of Media Specialists	<p>Board members - first off, thank you for your service to our schools. There has been a great deal more "drama" with the CCSD school board than its constituents deserve. There seems to be a consistent lack of transparency on many important topics, most recently the discussion surrounding Dr. Gallien's contract. Parents, our children, and our teachers, administrators, and staff all deserve better. Perhaps there can be fewer periods of executive session in an effort to increase transparency.</p> <p>On another note, my wife is a media specialist at a county high school. I'd have to be hiding under a rock to not realize that libraries and librarians are the target of many in our community, as organized groups are attempting to remove a number of books that have previously been approved for use within schools. Our own state superintendent has cut ties with the SC Association of School Librarians. I'd ask that our board publicly express support for these educators during this time, and help reassure parents that librarians, like all teachers, have their children's best interest at heart.</p>

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Jordan	Sandlin	Continued FOIA Violations by Board of Trustees	<p>I'm writing today to remind the Board of Trustees that they continue to violate the public's rights to open meetings under FOIA and the South Carolina Open Meetings Act. The BOT must comply to this policy in order to operate transparently. Parents, teachers, and staff deserve transparency from this board, especially in this case where executive sessions are conducted without listing the reasoning. Viable reasons according to the state code must be listed with 24 hours of advanced notice to the public before the BOT can meet in executive session. Please refer to Section 30-4-70 of the South Carolina state code which outline those reasons:</p> <p>SECTION 30-4-70 (a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:</p> <p>Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing. (The identity of the individual or entity being discussed is not required to be disclosed)</p> <p>Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.</p> <p>Section 30-4-70 (a) (3) Discussion regarding the development of security personnel or devices.</p> <p>Section 30-4-70 (a) (4) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.</p> <p>Section 30-4-70 (a) (5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body. (The identity of the individual or entity being discussed is not required to be disclosed.)</p>
Ann	Birdseye	Abuse of Executive Session	<p>I am dismayed at the transparent efforts of some members of the board to make critically important decisions away from public view. The rumor is that for the second meeting in a row this is your plan. You are operating in a way that destroys public trust.</p>

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9/25/2023 Joan	Chard	Fwd: Ltr. to Editor, CCSD Supt. Gallien's "100 days of looking"	<p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us 09/05/23 at 1:10 p.m.; entered into form by staff 09/25/23</p> <p>----- Original Message -----                      From: Joan Chard &lt;joanchard@comcast.net&gt;                      To: Editor-Editor At Post And Courier &lt;letters@postandcourier.com&gt;, Editor-Editor At Moultrie News &lt;editor@moultrienews.com&gt;                      Date: 09/05/2023 12:39 PM EDT                      Subject: Ltr. to Editor, CCSD Supt. Gallien's "100 days of looking"</p> <p>Ltr. to Editor, Post &amp; Courier      Ltr. to Editor, Moultrie News</p> <p>The adage, "Showing up for work is 90% of the job" proves true, only if the worker arrives with meaningful, specific plans to activate for improving the company's success ASAP.</p> <p>Charleston Country School District's new Superintendent Eric Gallien warned School board members he would just "look/listen" his first 100 days on the job."</p> <p>Since Gallien was a Wisconsin School District Superintendent, I expected him to be familiar with common educational problems resulting from Covid Loss of Learning, so he would immediately implement effective ways to battle Covid learning loss.</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS: Hire additional teachers, aides, and tutors. Recruit and retain accomplished teachers with higher pay and attractive perks. Make teaching a respected, appreciated profession again.</p> <p>Add teaching time after school, weekends and summers, drawing from \$1.3 billion federal funds. (See Post and Courier's Commentary "Afterschool Programs" by Amy Keely, Riley Institute, Furman University.)</p> <p>Use last semester test scores to determine which schools and which student groups require drastic help. Decide on highly productive materials to increase learning.</p> <p>Since Reading and Math suffered tremendous learning losses, use unspent ESSER Covid Funds to concentrate on those basic areas.</p> <p>Do not allow activist teachers to waste valuable teaching time with their Woke Theories and their emphasis on Gender/Sex issues.</p> <p>Select both tangible and intrinsic rewards to encourage students (and parents) to take advantage of learning opportunities.</p> <p>District Superintendent Gallien's One hundred days (3 1/3 Months) of just "watching" are "worthless," considering the extent and urgency of Student Learning Loss.</p> <p>Joan Chard</p>



First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Joan	Chard	<p>Fwd: Grandparents &amp; Everyone, "HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY" Sept. 10</p>	<p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us on 09/07/23 at 3:14 p.m.; entered into the form by staff on 09/25/23</p> <p>----- Original Message -----                      From: Joan Chard &lt;joanchard@comcast.net&gt;                      To: Family-Kristin J Adams &lt;KristinJAdams@comcast.net&gt;                      Date: 09/07/2023 2:53 PM EDT                      Subject: Grandparents &amp; Everyone, "HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY" Sept. 10</p> <p>At my age, I probably know more grandparents than I know parents, children and grandchildren!</p> <p>In checking out the assortment of Grandparents' Day greeting cards, I was intrigued with the variety. So many with brightly-colored flowers (roses, orchids and daisies) of yellow, purple and pink, even for grandfathers, although for grandfathers, the flowers were in a "manly pail," or were simply a row of trees with brilliantly-colored leaves.</p> <p>For animal-lovers. there was a card with two wolves. For the choosy, each card is available as flat, folded, foil, postcard or even magnet form. For the thrifty, senders could buy matching cards to send to both sets of grandparents, but I would advise against it!!</p> <p>The inside note might say something as simple as, "You know you are the best grandparents a person could hope for, right?" or "Like parents, but grander!" Another note said, "Hope your day is as wonderful as all of the moments we have shared!" Many cards left the inside blank, so that the sender could write personal remembrances of thanks to grandparents.</p> <p>My card to you would be their imprinted, "What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humor, comfort, lessons in life, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY--COOKIES!" "Happy Grandparents Day!"</p> <p>(from Joan Chard)</p>

First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
Joan	Chard	Ltr. to Editor, CCSD School Board, Does Don Kennedy have a new paid position with CCSD?	<p>Submitted to publiccomments@charleston.k12.sc.us on 09/23/23 at 6:29 p.m.; entered into the form by staff on 09/25/23</p> <p>"The word on the street" is that former Charleston County School District Superintendent Don Kennedy "has not left the premises," but has been given another paid position with CCSD by the Board, after Kennedy's being replaced as District Superintendent.</p> <p>Obviously, Kennedy's application bid to continue as CCSD Superintendent was refused when Board Members hired the only remaining candidate of the Board's top three candidates, when the other two candidates withdrew over privacy concerns, even before being interviewed. Since the hiring company had provided its top seven candidates out of 44 applicants, it would appear prudent to interview the other candidates, but the Board chose not to do so, but instead hired "left-over" Eric N. Gallien as Superintendent, possibly because Board member Keith Grybowski, Chairman of Audit &amp; Finance, stated publicly that he (Grybowski) felt that he could work with Gallien. (The following June letter to the School Board from Don Kennedy indicates that the Kennedy-Grybowski working relationship was "tense.")</p> <p>On June 1, 2023, Donald Kennedy wrote a letter to CCSD Board, regarding his concerns with "recent public statements, alleged 'private' conversations, and public social media posts made by various Board members." Kennedy continues, "I also find them defamatory, slanderous, and libelous." According to Kennedy, "The assertion, as made by Mr. Grybowski's Facebook response, "that the budget is a 'disaster' is defamatory and creates a hostile condition between staff and the Board." Kennedy further complains that Grybowski has asserted on Facebook, " ... that there has been no oversight in spending," and that the school district has "nothing to show for \$300,000,000." Kennedy calls this statement "blatantly false, and Kennedy continues, "... blaming the current budget situation on my work and the work of my staff is slanderous." Kennedy continues his letter, saying, "The multiple insinuations of insubordination, accusations of lying, and questions of qualifications of professional firms...are damaging and demeaning," and Kennedy concludes that "This has created a hostile work environment for many, and in particular, for our employees of color."</p> <p>An early September email to Don Kennedy automatically replied that he would be out of the office September 5th and 6th, 2023, and that the sender could contact Trina Haskell with any questions, so it seems apparent that Don Kennedy was still at CCSD after the new Superintendent Gallien was officially on the job. An explanation is overdue!</p> <p>So is the rumor of Don Kennedy's being hired by CCSD for a different job true? If so, why? Why hire an obviously disgruntled former employee, if not because the CCSD Board Members are fearful of being sued by this same former employee? Taxpayers deserve a little of the "transparency" they feel is so important when Board Members are spending taxpayers' money!</p>

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			<p>I am discouraged from the behaviors and attitudes and the misinformation and the rudeness and the unresponsive interactions I had with all levels of Administration. I am left feeling “I would not leave my kids with a sitter” who showed such mayhem that I witnessed. My expectations of my Children when I send them to learn is to be Respectful, motivated and ready to learn. I keep it simple as they are Children and need room to make mistake and learn accountability and making amends as needed.</p> <p>When it comes to Adults creating and navigating and implementing values that are visibly the opposite of my foundational lessons , I cringe. I become curious , I ask questions. I want answers.</p> <p>I feel like a criminal for making inquiries . I feel like an issue when I ask questions. I feel disconnected when I can not get responses of value. I feel used when some kind of Authority figure thinks their job is to intimidate and deflect me by default.</p> <p>Let’s me know Parents and Children are not appreciated and especially Black Parents. The stronger and supportive we are in raising scholars the more we are diffused by this constant of chaos.</p> <p>If you do not want to represent the Parents of Children you “serve” not govern, Then stay home. Please stop refusing to take the constructive criticism any team needs. Ask for help. We are here to help. Do No harm to Any Child! Do not hold Educational Opportunities hostage and away from these Parents in communities they already feel so distant in as there is always someone who thinks they know what’s best for us. Always portraying our want and right to have our Children included is deferred and caught up in policies and procedures that can be changed as quickly as we can change our votes! You were chosen to represent not make anything great. Be Leaders and Cheerleaders , Make it worth value to our Kids not your interpretation of the position.</p>
Trena	Walker	Expected Behavior	Do that, please.
Cheri	Simmons Lucas	Teachers Pay	<p>Good evening, my name is Cheri Simmons Lucas I am an advocate for Charleston RISE and the student of Charleston County. My comment today is about Teachers Pay. Recently on the news it was reported that about 43 teachers and assistants would have to wait 6 weeks before getting a paycheck because they are newly hired. How long must they wait to get paid? They have waited for a pay increase, they have waited for benefits changes and now you are saying it is policy that new hired have to wait before they are paid. I see why we have vacancies in our district, and you want the Superintendent to clean it up, this is not his mess, you won’t allow him to do his job. Our system need to be modified because no one can live paycheck to paycheck all the time.</p>

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			<p>I would like the board to consider a vote between the 2 most popular calendar options. It would give people who voted for the other options a chance to vote for the final calendar and be invested in the outcome. The margin was close too.</p> <p>If there is discussion that a timeline needs to be adhered to. I'd like to point out that I believe there is flexibility as we have seen in regards to the teacher bonus timeline and plan.</p> <p>Allowing another vote ensures all interested parties have a say between the final two options.</p>
Patricia	Travis	District Calendar Vote off	Have a good evening.
Meredith	Allyn	Calendar	I would like the board to consider a vote between the 2 most popular calendar options. It would give people who voted for the other options a chance to vote for the final calendar and be invested in the outcome. The margin was close. If there is discussion that a timeline needs to be adhered to. Allowing another vote ensures all interested parties to have a say between the final options.
Karen	Turner	Calendar vote	In total, 68.6% of voters did NOT select calendar 3. Should the families of the entire district be asked to make a dramatic schedule change based on only 31.4% of the vote? Calendars 1 and 2, which are almost the same, effectively split the vote for the most traditional start date. Please consider them as a whole. Thank you.