

Email Address	First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:	Which agenda item is your comment related to?
joanchard@comcast.net	Joan	Chard	Fwd: FW: I was at the supermarket and . . . . .	<p>----- Original Message -----                      From: george chard &lt;georgeehchard@gmail.com&gt;                      To: "cblamb305@gmail.com" &lt;cblamb305@gmail.com&gt;                      Date: 01/03/2023 10:12 AM                      Subject: FW: I was at the supermarket and . . . . .</p>	
joanchard@comcast.net	Joan	Chard	Fwd: Martin Luther King's Approach to "Non-Violent Protest."	<p>----- Original Message -----                      From: Joan Chard &lt;joanchard@comcast.net&gt;                      To: Henry Gomez &lt;hgomez5@aol.com&gt;, Kimberly Gomez &lt;gomez2teach4@aol.com&gt;                      Date: 01/16/2023 12:16 PM                      Subject: Martin Luther King's Approach to "Non-Violent Protest."</p> <p>(Post &amp; Courier's Commentary by Solomon Stevens, Constitutional Law Theory)</p> <p>Taking the mystery out of the term "Civil Disobedience,"                      Martin Luther King identified four steps in the process of a nonviolent campaign:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One must collect facts, and determine if there is a problem.</li> <li>2. The second step is negotiation.                      (Postpone direct action in order to give negotiation a chance to work.)</li> <li>3. One must purify oneself. (One must be trained to be nonviolent.)</li> <li>4. Finally, if all else fails, one must turn to direct action.                      Hopefully, nonviolent protests will touch the "conscience of the community."                      (A community that has refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.)</li> </ol> <p>King makes it clear that civility is never synonymous with mere "niceness,"                      and it is certainly not "passivity."</p> <p>Civility demands that citizens stand up for what they think is right,                      and be willing to go to the streets in protest for it.</p> <p>King reminds us that violence never strengthens a community,                      but violence makes negotiation less likely,                      and violence always undermines the law.</p> <p>King said that because his critics were "men of genuine good will,"                      he was willing to answer them "in patient and reasonable terms."</p>	
rachel.turbow@gmail.com	Rachel	Turbow		Do not waste public time or money on prayer amendment. People who want to pray can pray before or after the meeting.	Unrelated
robertebritt@gmail.com	Robert	Britt	Trustee Prayer	I am opposed to the proposed inclusion of a prayer to start board meetings. A prayer is not needed and the inclusion can only be devisive. Many people in Charleston county are either non-religious or are of diverse faiths and even a "non-denominational" prayer would be Christian-oriented and thus non-inclusive. If this path is taken I suspect there would end up being legal action taken. Does the school district have "extra" funding to defend this indefensible position? As the grandparent of a student I feel there are better things to focus on, like education.	Item 1
opossumtrap@gmail.com	k	valentine	policy changes	Visitaion of Board Members: As elected representatives for the parents Board should have the ability to visit schools. They should schedule within reason the time ofthe visit. I find teh scools to be restrictive to parent interaction and in general not wanted. As a parent I am concerned about CRT and gender ideology being taught. We have all seen social media posts about what is on bulletin boards and hallways that "doesn't exist and is not policy" School Board candidates were elected to verify and hold accountable the policies that are supposed to be in place.	Item 1

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mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC amendment	Part 1- I am writing today concerning an item coming up for first reading of the CCSD School Board's agenda for Monday January 23. This is policy BC adding opening Board meetings with a prayer. While I understand the Board's argument for using their first amendment right to exercise their freedom of speech, I am writing today to pass along legal rulings and requirements that make this not possible. The first is a ruling from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appels from the case of Coles Vs Cleveland Board of Education.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 2- The court "concluded that school board meetings should be governed by the same guidelines for religious activity that apply to in-school functions." Ergo, the Board is held to the same standards as a school property. The second is a publication from the US Department of Education dated January 16, 2020, entitled "Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools". This publication applies specifically to prayer in public school settings.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 3- This publication states that "Section 8524(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act and codified at 20 U.S.C. § 7904(a), requires the Secretary to issue guidance to State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and the public on constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 4- . In addition, section 8524(b) requires that, as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, an LEA must certify in writing to its SEA that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as detailed in this updated guidance. The purpose of this updated guidance is to provide information on the current state of the law concerning religious expression in public schools."	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 5- Part II Section C entitled "Teachers, Administrators and other School employees" states "When acting in their official capacities as representatives of the State, teachers, school administrators, and other school employees are prohibited by the First Amendment from encouraging or discouraging prayer, and from actively participating in such activity with students." Since this meeting is conducted by employees of the Charleston County School District and it is reasonable that students may attend or be watching via the YouTube channel, the direction holds.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 6- Since this publication states any LEA and SEA is held to these guidelines when accepting ESEA funds, which the State of South Carolina and the County of Charleston do, it is easy to understand that the Charleston County School Board would be in violation of this rule and could be subject to losing all ESEA funding.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Policy BC	Part 7- The issue this Board is bringing to amend policy BC is in direct violation of the law. I ask the Board to have counsel review this policy and consider the implications of passing and participating in such actions. Losing Federal funding from the CCSD school system would currently cost approximately \$70,904,000. The people of Charleston County do not want to make up this loss nor do we wish to have students suffer the consequences of adult actions.	Item 9
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Public Comment limitations	I believe a public comment should be limited to what can be read in the same time as in person comments. 600 characters is too short.	Unrelated
nursemary@live.com	Mary	Regen	Prayers	Please use your time at board meetings to improve the education of CCSD students. Pray elsewhere; you have many options.	Item 9
tracii29@yahoo.com	Traci	Alter	VOTe NO This policy amendment adds the option for the Chairman to invite a community faith leader to open board meetings	Please vote no against policy to add religious pray before school board mtg. Separate church and State is in place for a reason. This is public school not private and not inclusive to all religions or atheists. This is a waste of time and money which needs to be focused on education NOT prayer	Item 8
vfisher703@gmail.com	Victoria	Fischer	Amendment to meeting protocol	I appreciate and support the proposed amendment to include prayer at the start of board meetings.	Item 9
katie574@gmail.com	Katie	Thygesen	Prayer before meetings	I am a CCSD parent and I am strongly opposed to codifying prayer before meetings. My family does not believe in a Christian God and we do not feed the board's actions represent us. Isn't the board supposed to represent all the constituents in their community? How can you make decisions in my children's best interests if you are deliberately exclusive? Please concentrate on spending your time to improve things for all students instead of opening the district up to a lawsuit.	Item 9
mwlyons5@gmail.com	Michael	Lyons	Support for proposal	I support the revised version of the provision for nonsectarian prayer. Although others have cited law from other jurisdictions claiming the proposal is unconstitutional, guiding law in this (4th) Federal Circuit does NOT prohibit prayer as allowed by this policy. I am an attorney with 40 years of practice and have researched the law on this at length.	Item 9

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ross@cofc.edu	Lisa	Ross	Prayers at BoT meetings are not appropriate	<p>I wish to voice my opposition to the Board of Trustees having a prayer before meetings. Your meetings begin with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance, which are sufficient to set the tone of your important work and appropriate as they include all.</p> <p>I presume the push is to have Christian prayers, but CCSD is a PUBLIC school district, not a Christian school district. We are not a Christian nation or school district. We are a nation and district of many Christians. However, there are many other believers in a higher power who are not Christians, as well as many non-believers. We are all blessed with freedom of religion but also freedom from religion.</p> <p>If this becomes a new policy, have you thought about logistics? Will you try to rotate who gives this prayer so all forms of religious belief, representing the wide variety of beliefs of all the families in this district, are made to feel welcome? What will happen when non-Christian faith leaders have their turn? What might happen if a nonbeliever takes a turn and offers a secular invocation – will we have a repeat of what happened in 2004 at a City Council meeting? You may or may not recall these details, but I will remind you that when Herb Silverman, who is an atheist, began delivering a secular invocation prior to a Charleston City Council meeting, several members of the Charleston City Council walked out. Is this the kind of division you wish to promote? And might this end up in a costly legal battle?</p> <p>Your public comments form requires that I mark which agenda item my comments pertain to. It isn't clear which agenda item this refers to. I am guessing it is #9 having to do with policies and board meeting protocol. I am unsure about this, though, because the word prayer is not on the agenda, which I interpret as a sneaky maneuver.</p> <p>Please reconsider prayer at BoT meetings. Please remember our nation's motto: E pluribus unum, which means "Out of many, one."</p> <p>Official prayer does not belong in public schools or public school district board meetings.</p>	Item 9
opossumtrap@gmail.com	Katherine	Valentine	prayer	<p>The ability to call upon a member of the community already exists within policy. Adding language to include a Board member should be added if the existing policy limits their ability to open with prayer or a moment of silence. a policy change requiring all meetings to open with prayer is problematic for future boards if not aligned with christian values. Chritain values need to be back in our schools but at this time the Board should be deciding policy regarding \$\$\$\$ and curriculum and failing schools. We need a new Supe. This is a stong board unified on many issues. I want a reckoning on the fiances addressing staff and expeditutres.</p>	Item 1
sshdoughty@hotmail.com	Shannon	Doughty	#9? Prayer before school board meetings	<p>CCSD is a public school district. People have different religious beliefs or none at all. Whose God will you pray to? If it's not everyone's (while also somehow accommodating the non-religious), then I don't see how you can do it. There is a moment of silence, is there not? That's when people can pray privately.</p> <p>It is time that South Carolinians stop talking about putting God in public schools as though we all worship the same. This is a PRIVATE matter and "others" those who are not Christians.</p>	Item 9
opossumtrap@gmail.com	Katherine	Valentine	General Counsel	<p>The Board should have the authority to seek guidance outside of general counsel if there is a question regarding counsels recomendations. The Supe has become a GATEKEEPER and stands in the way of information and has far more authority. Currently we have an interim operating outside of their area of expertise. CCSD for to long has hired within the ranks people not qualifed and not fired them for failure. General Counsel needs to be held accountabile for their recomendations and that has to come from outside the district.</p>	Item 2
opossumtrap@gmail.com	Katherine	Valentine	Information response	<p>Board requested info should go directly to the Dept with a reasonable response time if having a desk at Calhoun St. The supe should be part of the request to follow and present the info but the Supe is not the GATEKEEPER of info to the ELECTED board. There should be reprimand &amp; path to termination if the job isn't being done. I am tired of people holding gov jobs failing to do their duties without being terminated or demoted. I do think more time for info directly from schools is required Info requests regarding specific schools should go thru the principal/Supe and more time to respond. Any salaried employee working downtown and not in a classroom should be able to find info for their dept and not be allowed to evade answering probing questions. This Board was ELECTED to operate TAXPAYER MONEY and its a huge amount of money. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. Real world creates effecincey within operations and fires the inefficent whether for failure to produce requested info or failure to do the duties for which hired.</p>	Item 3

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amyhudock22@gmail.com	Amy	Hudock	Prayer before meetings	<p>Jesus taught, "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men ... but when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your father who is unseen."</p> <p>The council currently has an moment of silence to open meetings, which allows people to quietly pray or meditate. This is sufficient and in keeping with the Bible.</p>	Item 9
savannah.gignac@gmail.com	Savannah	Gignac	Public schools exist to educate, not to proselytize. Praying only Christian prayers would not be fair or just. Most of those advocating prayer in schools are advocating Christian prayer. If Christian prayer were to be allowed, then prayers of other religions (Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, etc.) would have to be allowed as well. They are citizens and pay taxes that build, operate, and maintain schools; therefore, they have equal rights. Our public schools are for all children, whether Catholic, Baptist, Quaker, atheist, Buddhist, Jewish, agnostic. The schools are supported by all taxpayers, and therefore should be free of religious observances and coercion. It is the sacred duty of parents and churches to instill religious beliefs, free from government dictation. Institutionalizing prayers in public schools usurps the rights of parents.	<p>Public schools exist to educate, not to proselytize.</p> <p>Praying only Christian prayers would not be fair or just. Most of those advocating prayer in schools are advocating Christian prayer. If Christian prayer were to be allowed, then prayers of other religions (Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, etc.) would have to be allowed as well. They are citizens and pay taxes that build, operate, and maintain schools; therefore, they have equal rights.</p> <p>Our public schools are for all children, whether Catholic, Baptist, Quaker, atheist, Buddhist, Jewish, agnostic. The schools are supported by all taxpayers, and therefore should be free of religious observances and coercion. It is the sacred duty of parents and churches to instill religious beliefs, free from government dictation. Institutionalizing prayers in public schools usurps the rights of parents.</p>	Item 1, Item 2, Item 3, Item 4, Item 5, Item 6, Item 7, Item 8, Item 9, Item 10, Unrelated

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cristylandis07@comcast.net	Cristy	Landis	Public school board and prayer	<p>I wish to voice my opposition to the Board of Trustees having a prayer before meetings. Your meetings begin with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance, which are sufficient to set the tone of your important work and appropriate as they include all.</p> <p>I presume the push is to have Christian prayers, but CCSD is a PUBLIC school district, not a Christian school district. We are not a Christian nation or school district. We are a nation and district of many Christians. However, there are many other believers in a higher power who are not Christians, as well as many non-believers. We are all blessed with freedom of religion but also freedom from religion.</p> <p>If this becomes a new policy, have you thought about logistics? Will you try to rotate who gives this prayer so all forms of religious belief, representing the wide variety of beliefs of all the families in this district, are made to feel welcome? What will happen when non-Christian faith leaders have their turn? What might happen if a nonbeliever takes a turn and offers a secular invocation – will we have a repeat of what happened in 2004 at a City Council meeting? You may or may not recall these details, but I will remind you that when Herb Silverman, who is an atheist, began delivering a secular invocation prior to a Charleston City Council meeting, several members of the Charleston City Council walked out. Is this the kind of division you wish to promote? And might this end up in a costly legal battle?</p> <p>Your public comments form requires that I mark which agenda item my comments pertain to. It isn't clear which agenda item this refers to. I am guessing it is #9 having to do with policies and board meeting protocol. I am unsure about this, though, because the word prayer is not on the agenda, which I interpret as a sneaky maneuver.</p> <p>Please reconsider prayer at BoT meetings. Please remember our nation's motto: E pluribus unum, which means "Out of many, one."</p> <p>Official prayer does not belong in public schools or public school district board meetings. (Reinforcing this statement written so eloquently by Lisa Thomson Ross, who expressed my exact views).</p>	Item 9
lpcouvert@gmail.com	Lisa	Covert	Opening prayers	<p>I am writing to oppose having an opening prayer at CCSD board meetings. A moment of silence and reflection would be more appropriate for an institution charged with serving the entire public, including those like myself who do not subscribe to specific religious beliefs. Such a policy, even if implemented with the best of intentions, would inevitably exclude some. In my view that goes against the entire premise of public education. If you cannot possibly begin a meeting without a prayer, please just say it quietly to yourself during a moment of silence. Also, I am not entirely sure which is the appropriate time (This form should have descriptions), so I did my best to guess.</p>	Item 9
polispice@yahoo.com	Kathy	Moore	Prayer before meetings	<p>I oppose the proposed policy amendment that seeks to add prayer to the opening of CCSD board meetings. Board members who need guidance and blessing from God are free as individuals to seek it at any time, as guaranteed by our Constitution. But I do not wish the Board to impose their version of religion on me or my children, implicitly or explicitly (much as Board members would not want me to impose my religious views on their meetings). Starting CCSD Board meetings with publicly sanctioned prayer will lead to lawsuits from those who feel disenfranchised. Those suits will be rightly based on the Constitutionally mandated separation of church and state. Please do not waste CCSD's scant public funds on implementing a self aggrandizing display of faith that will certainly cost the district and its students in the long run.</p>	Item 9
amandataylor@dowdmail.com	Amanda	Dowd	Prayer during Board Meetings	<p>I strongly oppose prayer or any use of religion for school board meetings. Prayer does not belong in school. You can pray wherever else you want but it is in direct violation of the law to do so while conducting board meetings and with tax payer dollars. You're just begging for a lawsuit if you go forward with this waste of everyone's money and time. Pray wherever else you like but don't impose and force your beliefs on others. If education is truly your priority and why you're on the board, stop this nonsense and get to work for the teachers and children in this community.</p>	Item 9
lauramoses@yahoo.com	Laura	Moses	Please vote NO on Prayer at School Board Meetings	<p>I am a strong advocate of the separation of church and state, and feel that it is improper for business meetings to include prayer of any kind.</p> <p>As you may know, the First Amendment to the Constitution reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."</p> <p>Thank you for keeping school board meetings about school business and not about religion.</p>	Item 9
atonm@yahoo.com	Allan	Morris	Prayer Policy amendment		

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atonm@yahoo.com	Allan	Morris	600 character limit	Please increase the number of characters to way more than 600. The number of words that can be spoken in 2 minutes is much greater than this limit, and the board does not want to be seen as limiting public input.	Item 9
rrbyrne1@gmail.com	Ryan	Byrne	Policy BC	I am writing regarding the codifying of a formal prayer to God at the outset of Board meetings. Public schools were created as a secular education space for all. The separation of Church and State in schools has been repeatedly established by the US Government and Supreme Court. Please do not approve the proposed prayer policy, as this will ostracize individuals who do not practice monotheistic religion and will place CCSD at risk for costly law suits.	Item 9
honor@honormarks.com	Honor	Marks	school board prayer during public meetings	The problem with spoken prayer at school board meetings was clearly illustrated during the Committee of the Whole meeting when a board member projected an image of proposed policy that said "the US is founded on Christian ideals" and when district counsel made the comment, "You don't want somebody talking about Buddha and all of that stuff." Instead of enacting discriminatory policy changes that will open the district to lawsuits, please focus on serving students. Please vote no on item 9a.	Item 9
honor@honormarks.com	Honor	Marks	ESSER III funds conflict of interests	An organization whose executive director was a 2022 board member is receiving almost half a million dollars in ESSER III funds through the community based organizations distribution (#10 on today's Board Approval for Procurement Worksheet). I'm writing to ask that the board publish a list of the community based organizations that were approved to receive ESSER III distributions and the dollar amounts they were approved to receive. Thank you for your commitment to transparency.	Item 8
kellyfowler@gmail.com	Kelly	Fowler	Fwd: Congrats and Agenda Item 4b. Regarding The Name of Jesus (Policy Amendment BC Board Meeting Protocol)	<p>From: Kelly Fitzgerald Fowler &lt;kellyfowler@gmail.com&gt;  Date: January 22, 2023 at 9:02:41 PM EST  To: pamela_mckinney@charleston.k12.sc.us, carlotte_bailey@charleston.k12.sc.us, keith_grybowski@charleston.k12.sc.us, edward_kelley@charleston.k12.sc.us, darlene_roberson@charleston.k12.sc.us, carol_tempel@charleston.k12.sc.us, courtney_waters@charleston.k12.sc.us, leah_whatley@charleston.k12.sc.us  Subject: Congrats and Agenda Item 4b. Regarding The Name of Jesus (Policy Amendment BC Board Meeting Protocol)</p> <p>Dear CCSD Board,</p> <p>Congratulations on winning the election.</p> <p>I am writing as a concerned district community member about prayer by the board members for the board members before the beginning of official business. Prayers before meetings are happening at every level of government.</p> <p>We live in a free-speech country. The board members who hate Jesus cannot control speech just because they do not like Him. Board members still have freedom of speech as citizens of the United States of America. Just because you step into a room where a board meeting is held does not mean you leave your right to free speech outside.</p> <p>There is no reason to table this topic. It's time freedom of speech and prayer return to our schools. Thank you to all board members who will stand up to the community member who wants to squelch our freedoms. Please push back on this and stand up for freedom of speech to allow for prayer before official business begins at each board meeting.</p> <p>Thank you for voting to refer this policy amendment to the board; it is essential that we re-establish the Christian values and morals which anchor the founding of the USA. Please vote to pass this amendment so we can pray again at board meetings.</p> <p>May God bless you with wisdom and knowledge to follow His path in carrying out the duties of the CCSD Board of Trustees in the name of Jesus. Amen.</p> <p>Thank you,  Kelly Fowler</p>	
mams918@gmail.com	Maggie	Marlow	Policy BC	<p>Dear Members of the CCSD School Board,</p> <p>I am writing in favor of your proposed amendment to Policy BC and bringing opening prayer back to our school board meetings. Thank you for being the leaders we have prayed for over the past two years.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maggie Marlow</p>	

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kellyffowler@gmail.com	Kelly	Fowler	Fwd: Congrats and Agenda Item 4b. Regarding The Name of Jesus (Policy Amendment BC Board Meeting Protocol)	Thank you! Blessings!	