

**CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting**

November 27, 2017

75 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401

Minutes

A meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 27, 2017, in the board room at 75 Calhoun Street.

The following CCSD board members were present: Mrs. Kate Darby – Chair, Rev. Eric Mack – Vice Chair, Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats, Rev. Chris Collins, Mr. Todd Garrett, Mr. Kevin Hollinshead, Mrs. Priscilla Jeffery, Mr. Michael Miller, Mr. Chris Staubes, and Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Secretary.

The following staff members were present: Mrs. Cynthia Ambrose, Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Mrs. Natalie Ham, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mrs. Erica Taylor, Dr. Joseph Williams, and Mr. Kim Wilson.

The news media was duly notified of the meeting and representatives were present.

Mrs. Darby called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION
3:00**

I. Board Election of Officers

In compliance with CCSD Board Policy BD – Organization of the School Board and statute 59-19-70 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (1976), the CCSD Board of Trustees elected officers.

1.1: A. Board Chair

Mr. Garrett and Mrs. Coats nominated Mrs. Darby to serve as chair. The vote was 5-4 (Collins, Hollingshead, Mack, and Miller opposed).

Rev. Collins offered a friendly amendment, seconded by Mr. Hollinshead, to move the election of chair and vice chair to the 5:15 p.m. Open Session. Both Mr. Garrett and Mrs. Coats refused the amendment.

B. Vice Chair

Mr. Staubes and Mr. Garrett nominated Rev. Mack to serve as vice chair. The vote was 9-0.

Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to go into Executive Session at 3:10 p.m. to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
3:10 p.m.**

- II. 2.1 Action Items from Nov. 13 agenda**
- A. Property Matters**
- 1. District 1 Contractual Matter**
 - 2. District 9 Contractual Matter**
 - 3. Other Contractual Matters**
 - 4. Contractual Matters**
 - 5. Personnel Matter - Cost of Living Adjustment**
 - 6. Substitute Rate Changes**

- 2.2 Personnel Matter(s)
- 2.3 Student Transfer Appeal
- 2.4 Principal Appeal of Student Placement Decision

OPEN SESSION
Immediately following Executive Session
Approximately 5:15 p.m.

III. Call to Order/Moment of Silence

The board reconvened in Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Darby called the meeting to order, followed by a moment of silence.

IV. Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to adopt the agenda. The vote was 9-0.

Rev. Collins requested the James Island Bus Lot be pulled from the Consent Agenda. His request was supported by Mr. Hollinshead and Mr. Miller. The vote was 8-1 (Garrett opposed).

V. Approval of the Minutes

5.1 A. Open Session Minutes – October 23, 2017

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the October 23, 2017 minutes and financial impact statement. The vote was 8-0-1 (Jeffery abstained).

B. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Meeting – November 2, 2017

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the November 2, 2017 minutes and financial impact statement. The vote was 8-0-1 (Jeffery abstained).

C. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Meeting – November 13, 2017

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the November 13, 2017 minutes and financial impact statement. The vote was 8-0-1 (Jeffery abstained).

VI. APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

6.1 A. November 27 Executive Session Agenda Items

1. Personnel Matter(s)

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to accept the superintendent's "met" evaluation status. The vote was 9-0.

2. Student Transfer Appeal

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to overturn the Constituent Board's decision and approve a District 2 transfer request. The vote was 6-3 (Coats, Mack and Staubes opposed).

3. Student Placement Appeal

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to place the student at Turning Point Academy with all the necessary support, until the situation is resolved.
The vote was 9-0.

B. November 13 Executive Session Agenda Items

1. District 1 Contractual Matter

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct staff to negotiate the District 1 property purchase. The vote was 9-0.

2. District 9 Contractual Matter

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct staff to negotiate the District 9 to property purchase options. The vote was 7-2 (Garrett and Hollinshead opposed).

3. District 1 Contractual Matter

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct staff to negotiate the District 1 property purchase. The vote was 9-0.

4. District 9 Contractual Matter

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct staff to negotiate the District 9 to property purchase options. The vote was 7-2 (Garrett and Hollinshead opposed).

5. Other Contractual Matters

A. Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to direct staff to negotiate a contract to acquire cellular equipment leases. The vote was 7-2 (Collins and Mack opposed).

B. Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to authorize staff to execute a modification to the student transportation contract. The vote was 8-1 (Coats opposed).

6. Personnel Matter - Cost of Living Adjustment

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to apply the 1% COLA increase for administrators for the 2017-2018 salary schedule, retroactive to July 1, 2017, and implement changes December 1. The vote was 9-0.

7. Substitute Rate Changes

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the mid-year increase for substitute teachers and teacher assistant pay rates and change minimum for substitute teachers to a rate change @ \$12.50 per hour, effective December 1, 2017. The vote was 9-0.

VII. Special Recognitions

7.1 A. P-Card Rebate

Mr. Wayne Wilcher presented a Bank of America rebate check for the 2017 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$192,451.97, a \$28+K increase over the amount received last year.

B. Ron McWhirt/Mark Cobb Golf Tournament

Mr. Ron Kramps presented the Ron McWhirt/Mark Cobb Golf Tournament Check in the amount of almost \$16,000.

C. Other – Baptist Hill High School Football Team will play in the championship game on Friday at the Benedict College Campus. Tickets will be available at BHHS and CCSD Central Office.

VIII. Visitors/Public Comments*

1. Mr. John Snowden spoke about the gala held at Military Magnet Academy and a tour of the school.
2. Rev. Patricia Mitchell-Marzette expressed concerns about discrimination and African American teachers teaching in CCSD schools. She challenged the Department of Justice to investigate the dismissal of the teacher that was recently dismissed.
3. Mr. Roynell Barclay expressed concerns about the District 3 Bus Lot recommendation.
4. Ms. Hattie Brown shared concerns about the District 3 Bus Lot recommendation citing potential health concerns related to diesel fuel buses.
5. Rev. David Wallace, Interim Pastor at St. James Presbyterian, expressed concerns about the decision to place a bus lot in the African American community in District 3. He asked the board to reconsider the bus lot decision.
6. Mr. Eugene Frasier expressed concerns about the District 3 Bus Lot.
7. Mr. Edward Greene urged the board not to support the District 3 Bus Lot recommendation.
8. Councilwoman Anna Johnson asked the board to reconsider the recommendation not to place the District 3 Bus Lot on the James Island ES property and to consider placing the bus lot in an industrial zone or placing small amounts of bus lots on each lot and not to place the bus lot in a school zone.
9. Ms. Debra Barrett expressed concerns about the D3 Bus Lot. She urged the board to identify a lot outside their community.
10. Mr. Ron Ladson asked the board about its earlier discussion about placing the bus lot at James Island MS. He suggested the board vote to equally distribute the buses at various schools in the community if it is necessary to have the buses on James Island.
11. Ms. Cheryl Cromwell expressed concerns about the District 3 Bus Lot.

12. Ms. Melinda Hamilton with the League of Women Voters thanked board members for their service. She said the League of Women Voters is concerned about education in CCSD and surrounding districts. She mentioned the Abbeville decision. She mentioned the 2018 Board election and invited board members and individuals interested in running for the board or being an education advocate to attend a training session with Mr. Scott Price from the South Carolina.
13. Ms. Treva Williams her rendered time to a Charleston Area Justice Ministry member who spoke about the implementation of Restorative Practices in schools.
14. Elizabeth Singleton addressed the board about the D3 Bus Lot. She asked why two predominately black schools chosen over other locations.
15. Mr. Vince Matthews expressed concerns about the D3 Bus Lot proposal.
16. Mr. Griffin said he addressed the board months ago about his son being bullied at school. He spoke about a recent cyberbullying incident
17. Ms. Carol Jackson urged the board to request a waiver to place buses at multiple locations in District 3. She also asked the board to consider information she received from a biohazard expert. Finally she asked the board to come up with a temporary solution and bring a recommendation at a later time.
18. Ms. Jennifer Sheffield expressed concerns about the D3 Bus Lot.
19. Ms. Audrey Mack addressed the board on behalf of the Frierson ES SIC members, Friends of Frierson, and Wadmalaw Community, to say thanks for approving Montessori program at Frierson Elementary for one school year.

NOTE: Mr. Hollinshead left the meeting @ 5:34 p.m.

IX. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait – Superintendent of Schools

9.1 Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Postlewait said she is thankful for the opportunity to serve the children of CCSD.

Legislative Agenda – Mrs. Coats requested the items below be placed on the December agenda.

- Act 388
- Board Compensation
- Scholarship Fund
- State-Owned Buses
- Hearing Officer Certification

Financial Statement – October 31, 2017

The Financial Report was received as information.

X. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Audit & Finance Committee

10.1 Annual Financial Statement Audit

The board received the Annual Financial Statement Audit as information.

Ms. Cathy Milne introduced the representative from Clifton Lawson Allen, LLP who presented the financial statement audit.

- Two reports and a letter were included in the agenda
- **An “unmodified” opinion was issued to CCSD**
- Findings: Payroll and Information Technology issues were mentioned
- Fund Balance of \$42.1 million; Total Unassigned is \$38.1 million

Mrs. Kellie Meyer said it has been determined that approximately \$38 - \$40 million is needed in the district’s Reserve Fund. She also mentioned that tax revenues do not come in soon enough, and the district must issue Tax Anticipation Notes in order to cover expenses each fall.

Note: Garrett, Hollinshead, and Staubes left before or during the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

During the approval of agenda item #IV Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Consent Agenda Items, the board approved agenda items 11.1 – 11.4. Agenda item 11.5 was voted on later during the meeting.

- XI.** Strategic Education Committee
- 11.1 Frierson Montessori Proposal** – The board approved a recommendation to consider including the Frierson Montessori Proposal in the FY19 budget process, with the caveat that all students currently attending Frierson would have a seat.
- Policy & Personnel Committee
- 11.2 Policy IKA – Grading/Assessment Systems (first reading of revision)** – The board approved the first reading of Policy IKA.
- Operations Committee
- 11.3 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) Sales Tax – Capital Maintenance Budget Reallocation** - The board approved the recommendation to reallocate funds as shown on the attached resolution.
- Operations Committee
- 11.4 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) Sales Tax – Technology Replacements and Upgrades Six-Year Plan Update** – The board approved the 2017-2022 Capital Program (Phase IV) Sales Tax – Technology Replacement and Upgrades 6-year plan update.
- Operations Committee
- 11.5 District 3 Bus Lot – This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately after visitors addressed the board.**
- Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to direct staff to immediately construct a District 3 centralized bus lot between James Island Elementary School and the Gresham Meggett. The motion failed 4-4 (Collins, Jeffery, Mack and Miller opposed; Mr. Hollinshead left the meeting before the board voted on this item.

Other Business

- XII. 12.1 Superintendent’s Evaluation – Mack, Coats, Collins, Darby, and Staubes**
- Rev. Mack said due to issues encountered this year, a workshop should be held in January to look at evaluation goals to prepare for the superintendent’s November 2018 evaluation. Also, the goal is to reassess the goals midyear to see if changes are needed.
- Rev. Mack moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats to approve the recommendation to conduct a workshop during the January Committee of the Whole meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and if necessary meet again on January 22, 2018 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. for the board to create the Superintendent evaluation contents and format for the 2018-2019 school year. The board will also consider revising Board policy CBI - Evaluation of Superintendent, that addresses the Superintendent evaluation goals, contents, tools, and format in accordance with the superintendent's contract. This revision and evaluation tool will be finalized annually by the first board meeting in the fiscal year. The vote was 6-0.
- Mrs. Coats suggested Rev. Mack spearhead the effort and that goals for multiple years be considered. It was also suggested that districts outside of region be contacted for ideas prior to the January meeting.
- Mr. Garrett and Mr. Staubes left the meeting at 6:44 p.m. and Mr. Hollinshead left earlier. Therefore, they did not vote on this item.
- 12.2 Constituent District Annual Reports 2016-2017**
- Two versions of the 2016-2017 Constituent Boards Annual Reports were provided as information.
- XIII. 13.1 Upcoming Meetings**
- 12/11 Committee of the Whole/Board Meeting @ Stall HS
- Mrs. Darby announced that ROTC Color Guards have been invited to perform at future meetings.
- Mr. Miller requested that a school choir be invited come to sing holiday carols at the next board meeting. Mrs. Coats suggested the Stall HS choir.
- XIV. Adjournment**
- Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.