

CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

March 27, 2017

75 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401

Minutes

A meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 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: Mr. Jeff Borowy, Mr. Bill Briggman, Mr. John Cobb, Mr. John Emerson, Mrs. Michele English-Watson, Dr. Valerie Harrison, Mrs. Terri Nichols, Mrs. Mary Runyon, Mr. Glenn Stiegman, 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 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following agenda items. The motion was approved by consensus.

**BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION
3:30 p.m.**

- I.**
 - 1.1 Legal Update**
 - **Employment Matters**
 - 1.2 Contractual Matters**
 - 1.3 Student Transfer Appeals**
 - 1.4 Personnel Update**
 - **Employment Matters**
 - 1.5 District 2 Constituent Board Vacancy Recommendation – Darby, Coats, Mack and Staubes**

**OPEN SESSION
5:15 p.m.**

- II. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE, & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Darby called the March 27, 2017 meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mrs. Jeffery, to adopt the March 27, 2017 agenda with the amendment listed below and approve Consent Agenda items in Section IX. The vote was 9-0.

 - Amendment – Pull agenda item **9.1G North Charleston Center for Advanced Studies Plan** off the agenda to allow more time for community input.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 A. Open Session Minutes – February 27, 2017

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes and financial impact statement. The vote was 9-0.

B. Open Session Minutes – March 13, 2017 Special Called Meeting

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the March 13, 2017 minutes and financial impact statement. The vote was 9-0.

4.2 Approval of Executive Session Items

1.1 Legal Update

- **Employment Matters** - General Counsel briefed the board on employment matters. No action was taken.

1.2 Contractual Matters - The board was briefed on contractual matters. No action was taken.

1.3 Student Transfer Appeals

Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to overturn the constituent board's decision and allow students to remain at their current schools. The vote was 9-0.

1.4 Personnel Update

- **Employment Matters**

The board was briefed on a Personnel Matter. No action was taken.

1.5 District 2 Constituent Board Vacancy Recommendation – Darby, Coats, Mack and Staubes

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to approve a recommendation to approve Chris Nickels to fill the vacant seat on the District 2 Constituent Board. The vote was 7-1-1 (Miller opposed; Staubes abstained).

V. Special Recognitions

5.1 A. State Wrestling Champion (Student - Garrett High School)

The board recognized Tyheim Wright, a Garrett High School student - State Wrestling Champ.

B. National STEM Middle School (Laing Middle School)

Laing Middle principal and staff were recognized for being a national STEM school.

C. AA State Basketball Champions (Burke High School)

Burke Boys Varsity Basketball Team AA State Basketball Champions were recognized.

VI. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Ms. Starr Jordan addressed the board in support of the Head Start program and the need to begin college to career efforts at an early age.
2. Ms. Nicole Myles addressed the board in support of the Head Start program. She urged the board to recognize and close the achievement gap.
3. Ms. Millicent Brown expressed concerns about the Burke/Allegro Partnership. She spoke about major technology needs to make New Tech successful. Also, she questioned the need to add another program at Burke.
4. Mr. John Hale expressed concerns about the Burke/Allegro Partnership. He said the proposal is not innovative and it would not address the major issue of Caucasian parents sending their children to the school. Both principals demanded their school maintain separate identities which will create segregation.
5. Dr. Kendell Deas expressed concerns about the Burke/Allegro Partnership. He stated that enrollment was a major issue at Burke and the proposed partnership would not address that issue. He suggested staff focus on the feeder schools for Burke and recruit Gifted and Talented students instead of supporting a partnership that would bring two diverse cultures together.

6. Mrs. Beverly Gadson-Birch thanked the board for pulling the North Charleston Center of Advanced Studies (CAS) agenda item. She expressed concerns about the district educating all students equally. Ms. Gadson-Birch expressed her full support for the CAS, however, she said it should not be at the site proposed by staff.
7. Mr. Mark McDomick addressed the board in support of the Head Start program. He urged board members to visit the Head Start program sites.
8. Ms. Willette Wilkins shared concerns about race issues in the district and the lack of support for schools like Burke High and Garrett High.
9. Ms. Lillian Smalls addressed the board in support of Head Start programs. She urged the board to invest more money in the Head Start program.
10. Ms. Susan Ash shared the results of new initiatives and Montessori Program improvements at Hursey Elementary.
11. Mr. Walter Watts addressed the board in support of the Head Start program.
12. Ms. Michelle Melton thanked the board for pulling the North Charleston Center for Advanced Studies agenda item. She suggested the board consider increasing the number of trades taught at Garrett Academy.
13. Mr. Jesse Williams urged the board to consider the impact of closing Garrett Academy. He expressed concerns about rat infestation in schools. He urged the board to not merge Garrett students with North Charleston students because of the possibility of gang fights.
14. Mr. Muhuydin El Aminn Moya expressed concerns about police officers hired to work in schools. He urged the board to consider policies that would govern the actions of police officers in the classroom.
15. Ms. Sanicqua Smalls addressed the board in support of the Head Start program.
16. Mr. Jonathan Thrower spoke about implementing a Gun Violence curriculum he has worked on with Councilman Henry Darby. He urged the board to talk to students in classrooms about gun violence.
17. Mr. Jody Stallings, Director of Charleston Teacher Alliance, addressed the board about the efforts of the alliance to solve issues. He thanked Dr. Postlewait for promoting teacher involvement.
18. Mr. Mark Maddaloni, a Wando High School student and co news director, asked the board to support student journalism in schools.
19. Mr. Taylor Moses, a Wando High School student, shared her journalism experience.
20. Ms. Jenna Sulkowski, a Wando High School student and executive producer of the Wando newsletter, spoke about the benefits of having journalism. She urged the board to expand the opportunity at other schools.
21. Ms. Blake Ellis spoke in support of the student journalism program.
22. Mr. Sydney Register spoke in support of student journalists.
23. Ms. Jan Leonard, a member of the Quality Education Project addressed the board in support of Parent Advocates. She urged the board to restore funding for Parent Advocates.
24. Mr. George Hopkins, a retired educator, suggested that trained officers are needed in schools instead of police officers. He said School Resource Officers do not follow policies. He suggested that CCSD schools need more teachers of color. He commented on the recognition of Burke and Garrett students earlier during the meeting and efforts to merge both schools.
25. Mr. John Moelleur expressed concerns about the district's plan to build the Regional Stadium Carolina Park across from Wando HS. He mentioned the increased number of input received on the online survey after a community meeting was held.
26. Rev. Thomas Ravenel spoke about Gun Violence in South Carolina. He said a Gun Violence Conflict Resolution is needed to help address the number of guns found in student backpacks. He urged the board to develop a gun violence code for CCSD.
27. Ms. Kendra Middleton addressed the board in support of the Head Start program. She urged the board not to eliminate the program because of its success.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait – Superintendent of Schools

7.1 A. Correlating Instructional Programs and Student Outcomes

Dr. Postlewait highlighted page two of the document provided indicating that Lambs, Pinehurst and Pepperhill moved students from the bottom quartile to the top quartile, based on the information provided by the vendor.

B. Professional Personnel Contract Renewal Process

1. Principals

- Contract Renewal
 - Teacher performance

- Student Achievement

2. Teachers

- Contract Renewal
 - Contract Categories
 - Letter of Agreements
 - 200 teachers on contracts requiring stricter evaluations next year
 - Evaluators will be trained to work with these teachers
- Mr. Miller asked how principals evaluate teachers with no academic growth. Dr. Postlewait said principals were required to make judgment calls on one section of the evaluation. She shared additional details about assessments and the work of Dr. Harrison and Dr. Donnelly to tie pieces together.
- Dr. Postlewait spoke about evaluation conversations principals are having with their teachers.
- Mr. Miller expressed appreciation for staff drilling down the data. He asked about the parameters to move struggling students to the next level. He wants principals and teachers to meet expectations and deliver.
- Rev. Collins asked about support for first year teachers and/or new college graduates and passing grades for students attending CCSD schools. He spoke about the difficulty of screening teachers and how to reduce the number of induction teachers in Title I schools. Dr. Postlewait said 13 top talent schools were identified earlier. The district is working against state policy to not place new graduates in those schools. Rev. Collins asked about loan forgiveness for new teachers. Dr. Postlewait said that information would be provided at a later time.

C. Mid-Year Reading & Math Growth Indicators

- Dr. Postlewait said details to come at a later time.

D. Financial Report

Mr. Stiegman share the following

- 90% of taxes have been collected. This is a good year for revenues
- A good end-of-the-year report is expected
- Leftover funds would go to fund balance – \$12 million is expected this year

Mr. Miller suggested that funds go to Fund Balance, if Archer is sold. Mrs. Coats mentioned the policy the board approved earlier about fund balance.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Policy & Personnel Committee

8.1 Revised Finance (D) Policies

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the first reading of proposed Finance Policy revisions, subject to a workshop being held between now and April 24th to discuss the policies, prior to its approval. The vote was 9-0.

Mrs. Darby suggested revisions be sent directly to Mrs. Coats to include in the recommendation that would later come to the board for approval. Also, she asked board members to come prepared for the discussion when the meeting is scheduled to review the finance policies.

Audit & Finance Committee

8.2 Capital Maintenance Funding

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to approve an additional \$10M in bonds be sold each year from 2017-18 going forward to address deferred capital maintenance needs in a timely manner. The vote was 7-2 (Collins and Staubes abstained).

Mr. Garrett said the intent is to raise funds to maintain air conditioners, roofs, and parking lots.

Other Agenda Items

8.3

Approval of Proposed FY18 Budget – First Reading – Glenn Stiegman

Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Ms. Jeffery, to approve the first reading of the proposed FY 2017-2018 budget. The vote was 6-2-1 (Collins and Miller opposed; Coats abstained).

Mr. Stiegman shared the following

- This is only the GOF budget.
- Page 10 – restored 111 teaching positions other support positions for schools; reduction in central positions
 - Rev. Collins asked for a list of successful and non-successful programs. Dr. Postlewait said the list was presented in the board workshop on February 27th. Ineffective curricula programs were eliminated. Rev. Collins asked about the cost to restore Parent Advocates. Mrs. Darby asked for an update on Parent Advocates.
 - Rev. Mack asked about Gifted and Talented teachers. Mr. Steigman said 5 were included in the budget. Additional budget revisions will be included in weekly updates provided to the board. Rev. Mack asked about hiring of staff to work with students in alternative programs. Ms. Coker spoke about cutting back contracts and said it is cheaper for the district to go out and hire its own teachers.
 - Mr. Staubes requested a full budget packet. Mr. Stiegman said only the General Operating Fund is presented at this time, three months earlier this year. Information is forthcoming.
 - Rev. Collins asked about substitute teachers. He suggested the district hire and train its own substitute teachers to avoid the lack of classroom work because substitutes are merely providing babysitting services. Mrs. Darby said weekly updates would include explanations.
 - Rev. Collins asked about the impact last year's shortfall had on staff. Mr. Stiegman said positions were reduced but no one was laid off. Mrs. Darby added that some individuals were moved and some opted to quit. Mr. Stiegman said the district redistributed positions because there were vacancies.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Note: The agenda items listed below were approved with the agenda item #III – Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Consent Agenda Items.

IX.

Strategic
Education
Committee

Strategic
Education
Committee

Policy &
Personnel
Committee

Operations
Committee

Operations
Committee

Operations
Committee

9.1

A. Textbook Adoption

The board approved new instructional materials recommended for use in Charleston County Schools.

B. New Elective Pilot Course Offerings

The board approved new elective pilot courses for implementation during the 2017-18 school year.

C. Policy FF – Naming of Facilities

The board approved the naming committee's recommendation to name the new combined middle school on James Island Camp Road Middle School.

D. Disposition of Underutilized Property – Sean Hughes

The board approved the property disposition action for the Henry P. Archer property and direct staff to negotiate an agreement for board approval.

E. Request for Use of McClellanville Middle School by a Charter School

The board approved a recommendation to direct staff to open negotiations on lease only of the former McClellanville Middle School to Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School.

F. Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union (HTFCU) R. B. Stall Branch MOU and Facility Modifications

The board approved the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with HTFCU and the expenditure of funds to modify R. B. Stall High School to support the banking CTE program.

G. North Charleston Center for Advanced Studies Plan

The board approved a recommendation to consolidate Garrett Academy with the new North Charleston Center for Advanced Studies and construct on the North Charleston High School campus, subject to a public hearing.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

X. 10.1 Upcoming Meetings

- April 4, 2017 – Audit and Finance Committee. An hour was added prior to the Finance Committee meeting to review the Finance Policies.
- April 10-14, 2017 – Spring Break – Schools Closed
- April 17, 2017 – Committee of the Whole
- April 24, 2017 – Board of Trustees Meeting

Rev. Mack spoke about National School Boards Association meeting he attended along with Rev. Collins and Mrs. Jeffery. They thanked the board for the opportunity to participate with other school districts. The attendees will compile a report with information on the sessions they attended.

XI. 11.1 Adjournment

Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Ms. Jeffery to adjourn the meeting 7:23 p.m. The motion was approved by consensus.

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Financial Attachments to Board Minutes for March 27, 2017

Item	Description	Impact on FY17	Impact on Future FY	Funding Source	Notes
VIII.8.2	Board approved recommendation that an additional bonds be sold each year beginning 2017-18 going forward to address deferred capital maintenance needs in a timely manner.		\$10M per year	Capital	
VIII.8.3	Board approved the First Reading of the FY18 budget as presented.		\$480,568,059	GOF	
IX.9.1E	Board approved to direct staff to open negotiations on lease only of the former McClellanville Middle School to Cape Romain Environmental Education Charter School.		TBD		
IX.9.1F	Board approved proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union and the expenditure of funds to modify R.B. Stall High School to support the banking CTE program		\$35,000	FCO	