

CCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

November 28, 2016

75 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29401

Minutes

A meeting of the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 28, 2016, in the board room at 75 Calhoun Street.

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

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, and Dr. Joseph Williams.

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

OPEN SESSION

3:30 p.m.

I.		Springfield Elementary School Choir <i>Springfield Elementary School Choir performed the two songs listed below:</i> • <i>Peace</i> • <i>Celebration</i>
II.		Call to Order, Moment of Silence followed by Pledge of Allegiance Mrs. Coats called the November 28, 2016 meeting to order at 3:49 p.m. Then she called for a Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
III.		Election of Board Chair /Vice Chair Mrs. Coats opened the floor for nominations for the position of chair and vice chair. Mrs. Coats nominated Mrs. Darby for the position of Board Chair. The vote was 6-2-1 (Collins and Miller opposed; Jeffery abstained). Rev. Collins nominated Mr. Miller for the position of Board Chair. However, since the previous motion was approved, the board did not vote on this nomination. Mrs. Darby opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Staubes nominated Rev. Mack for the position of Board Vice Chair. The vote was 9-0.
IV.		ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to adopt the November 28, 2016 agenda and approve the Consent Agenda Items listed in section X of the agenda with the amendments listed below. The vote was 9-0. • Move agenda item # 10.2 out of the Potential Consent Agenda section • Move agenda item #11.3 before the approval of the minutes Also, Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Mr. Staubes, to pull agenda item 10.1C - D23 Constituent Board agenda item to allow staff the opportunity to clarify the motion. The vote was 9-0.

	The board convened in Executive Session at 3:57 p.m. to discuss the following agenda items.	
EXECUTIVE SESSION		
V.	5.1:	Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson
	5.2:	Personnel Matters
	5.3:	Student Appeals (3)
OPEN SESSION RECONVENED		
	Mrs. Darby called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the same members present. Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to pull the Other Agenda items up on the agenda after the Approval of the Minutes. This item was approved by consensus.	
VI.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
	6.1:	A. Open Session Minutes – Board Meeting – October 24, 2016 Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the October 24, 2016 minutes, including financial impact statement. The vote was 9-0.
		B. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Board Meeting – November 9, 2016 Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes. The vote was 9-0.
		C. Open Session Minutes – Special Called Board Meeting – November 14, 2016 Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the November 14, 2016 minutes. The vote was 9-0.
	6.2:	Approval of Executive Session Items
		5.1: Legal Update – Mr. John Emerson General Counsel briefed the Board on legal matters. However, no action was taken.
		5.2: Personnel Matters The board discussed personnel matters. However, no action was taken.
		5.3: Student Appeals (3) Rev. Collins moved, seconded by Rev. Mack, to overturn the Constituent Board's decision allow the superintendent to come up with an alternative plan to address the academic needs of three students by offering them homebound services , effective tomorrow. Staff was further tasked with providing a permanent solution by next week. The vote was 9-0. Dr. Postlewait recommended the board consider deferring the ruling until Monday, December 5, 2016 directing the superintendent and staff to bring an alternative plan so the students aren't back out on the street.
VII.	Special Recognitions	
	7.1:	The Board recognized A. SC Military Department Honorees B. Athletic State Champions C. Wando Bands of America National Champions D. South Carolina School Boards Association Boardmanship Award – Rev. Eric Mack reached three of the six levels.

		- Former Board Chair Cindy Coats and Former Vice Chair Chris Staubes were recognized.
VIII.	VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS 1. Mr. Bud Southerland addressed the board about the revisiting of the Buist lottery as it relates to sibling preferences. 2. Ms. Annabelle Foggon expressed concerns about the Buist sibling list. 3. Ms. Carmen Nash spoke about discrepancies in CCSD magnet school policy across the district. 4. Mr. Joshua Chastin suggested the elimination of the sibling list would not address the issue. 5. Ms. Caitlyn Astle addressed the board in support of the Buist sibling list. 6. Ms. Helen O'Leary addressed the board in support of the Buist sibling list. 7. Ms. Beth Bailey expressed concerns about inconsistent policies. She said they will submit their policy revisions to staff to consider. 8. Mr. Rodney Knowles spoke of the positive benefits of having a sibling list. 9. Ms. Megan Farr spoke in support Buist sibling list. 10. Ms. Lee Fuller spoke about the benefits of the Buist sibling list. 11. Lionel Farr spoke in support Buist sibling list. 12. Ms. Chapel Barker, a Buist student, addressed the Board in support of the Buist sibling list. 13. Ms. Jodi Barker addressed the board in support of the Buist sibling list. 14. Mr. Scott Dutrow addressed the board in support of the Buist sibling list. 15. Ms. Ruth Barrow addressed the board in support of the Buist sibling list. 16. Mr. Kevin Stanley, a member of the St. Johns High School Stadium Naming Committee, addressed the board in support of renaming the St. Johns Stadium for Mr. Charlie Brown. He asked the board to consider allowing the board to reconsider the vote since some committee members were absent during the meeting when the voting took place. Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait asked Mrs. Mary Runyon to provide information in response to concerns expressed to include how other magnet schools work and clarify what is happening at this time. Mrs. Runyon said policy varies from school to school. The situation at Buist goes back a long way to the 90s. Last year staff discovered that there were 300 students on the waiting list. The board decided to expunge the waiting list and allow families to reapply to qualify. Mrs. Darby added that the sibling list would not go away but will be redone each year. She said staff would be willing to stay after the meeting to respond to questions from community members. Note: Mr. Garrett left the meeting at 5:30 p.m. before Special Recognitions, Visitors and the Superintendent's Report NOTE: Mr. Mack left the meeting at 7:09 p.m. before the Superintendent's Report.	
IX.	SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait – Superintendent of Schools	
	9.1:	A. Strategic Priorities ▪ Update regarding priorities, action teams ▪ January 28, 2017 convening – Strategic Plan B. Process for handling Constituent Concerns C. Process for handling Board Members' Questions Dr. Postlewait highlighted the following: • Issues in the system eats up staff time resulting in staff having less time to do the important work of the district. • The purpose of public education is that all students must succeed or live out their lives unemployed, underemployed or underpaid. Education opens doors. • Research shows that when the board and superintendent and district leaders work together, it impacts student achievement. • The characteristics of effective boards and effective superintendents. • The 2015-2018 Priorities document was reviewed. • The Four Primary Strategic Intents were identified: -Constituent Service – 24 hour response policy (Julia Erickson - customer service specialist)

		-Board Members Questions will be brought to full board for consideration at upcoming meeting – Board members are to contact Robin Crowe or Julie Erickson if they have questions. • Mr. Stiegman and the Finance staff were commended for their work on the district's budget and audit findings.
X.	COMMITTEE REPORT(S)	
CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS		
The Consent Agenda items listed below were approved during the Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item III), with exception of 10.1C. The vote on those items are shown below.		
Operations Committee	10.1:	A. District 4/District 20 Boundary – Mr. Sean Hughes The board approved a recommendation to direct staff to present to the Charleston County Legislative Delegation supporting legislative action to move the District 4 / District 20 boundary to the proposed location.
Operations Committee		B. Lincoln Middle High Facility Use - Mr. Sean Hughes The board approved a recommendation to deny Oceanside's request and direct staff to tell Oceanside they will not negotiate until they have determined if the district has a need for that facility in the community.
Operations Committee		C. Constituent Board 23 Potential Action Items – Dr. Gerrita Postlewait & Mr. Jeff Borowy Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to uphold staff's decision not to continue the analysis of 1) donating CC Blaney Elementary and 2) reopening Schroder as a middle school. The vote was 8-0-1; (Rev. Mack abstained).
Policy and Personnel Committee	10.2:	A. Revise Policy BDE (Committee of the Whole) regarding Audit and Finance Committee Mr. Staubes moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve a recommendation to amend Policy BDE, Committee of the Whole, to reflect the changes to the charter of the Audit and Finance Committee, which was approved by the Board on September 26, 2016. The new provisions, among other things, state that the committee stands separate from the Committee of the Whole. The proposed amendment clarifies that officers are elected by the Audit & Finance Committee, and that the Audit & Finance Committee can advance items directly to the board. The vote was 9-0.
Audit & Finance Committee	10.3:	Appointment – Audit & Finance Committee Community Member The board approved a recommendation to appoint Mr. Kent Griffin to the Audit & Finance Committee.
OTHER AGENDA ITEMS		
XI. Policy and Personnel Committee	11.1:	Policy GCF – Professional Staff Hiring Mr. Garrett moved, seconded by Mrs. Coats, to approve the second reading of Policy GCF. The changes including expanding representation of community/school level interview team(s) and requiring Board approval for positions at the chief officer and deputy superintendent levels. The vote was 7-2 (Collins and Miller opposed).
Audit & Finance Committee	11.2:	West Ashley Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Mayor Tecklenburg spoke about a recent meeting he had with CCSD staff and Mr. Garrett to meet the district half way on the TIF. His council approved the district's revised proposal. Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Mr. Garrett, to approve the TIF as presented by the City with the district percentage of participation—45%. The vote was 6-1-2 (Collins opposed; Miller and Staubes recused themselves from voting on this item because of their ties to the City of Charleston--Miller serves on the West Ashley Revitalization Committee and Staubes performs legal work for the City of Charleston).
Audit & Finance Committee	11.3:	2015-2016 Audit Mrs. Coats moved, seconded by Rev. Collins, to accept the 2015-16 preliminary audit with understanding that it would be further discussed on December 12th. The vote was 9-0.

		Mr. William Early and Mr. Chris Kessler with Clifton, Larson and Allen LLP presented the 2015-2016 year-end audit to the board. Four reports were highlighted to include 1) Independent Audit, 2) Audit Control, 3) Single Audit Report, and 4) Governance Communications letter. The district received an unmodified opinion which is a clean report. The financial health of six charter schools--James Island Charter, Charleston School of Math and Science, Orange Grove Charter, Greg Mathis Charter, and Pattison Academy were highlighted. Greg Mathis and Pattison Academy had growing stability concerns from the auditors that audited their finances. Dr. Postlewait stated for the record that the 2015-16 Audit will come back before the board in two weeks for a final decision. Mr. Garrett said monthly reports would be forthcoming. In response to Mr. Garrett's inquiry about changes made since it was last reviewed, the board was told that the district has more reliable processes in place than it had in the past.
XII.		Upcoming Meetings • December 5, 2016 – Committee of the Whole Meeting • December 12, 2016 – Board of Trustees Meeting Dr. Postlewait shared a tentative agenda for the Dec. 5th COW meeting and said agenda items were due at noon on Tuesday, November 29th.
XIII.		Adjournment Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Hollinshead to adjourn at 7:48 p. m. The motion was approved by consensus.