

**Charleston County School District Board of Trustees
Committee of the Whole**

August 8, 2016

Observer: Barbara Griffin

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Note: Once again meeting materials were not available so some information is not clear. The following actions were taken:

- A. Teacher Appeal: Hearing officer recommendation upheld
- B. Lease Guarantee - Recommendation from Glen Stiegman approved - Option 2 allowing a one year extension.
- C. Voluntary Student Transfer Appeals - The Strategic Education Committee presented recommendations. Most appeals were not approved. Board approved actions.
- D. Disposition of Archer Property - Outcome of discussion not clear.
- E. Personnel Matters - Particulars not provided. Board approved.
- F. District 2 Stadium - No action

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Head Start/Early Head Start COLA Application - Mrs. Ruth Taylor. The Board approved the application to offset increased operating costs. COLA increase was 1.8% or \$135,000.
- B. SWMBE 2014-15 vs 2015-16 Comparisons - Mr. Wayne Wilcher - Progress with minority business outreach and participation has been made, moving from 1% in 2014/15 period to 8% thus var in 2016.
- C. General Obligation Bonds - Mr. Glenn Stiegman and Mrs. Carol Clark. Board approved an 8% Bond Resolution
- D. Audit Reports - Outcome of reports not clear from discussion. No Board action.

E. Proposed Changes in Audit and Finance Committee - Mr. Glenn Stiegman. Board approved with little discussion. Changes are designed to accommodate citizen members' participation.

F. Head Start/Early Head Start Financials - Mrs. Ruth Taylor. No action by Board with plan to take it up at August 23rd meeting

STRATEGIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A. Proposed Charleston County School District Early College High /School - General discussion regarding a proposed initiative that would support an early college preparation initiative to help prepare high school students for college or technical career certifications. This would not be targeted for gifted and advance students but instead for "next tier" students who could receive preparatory assistance for post-high school education and training. The initiative would begin in 9th grade. The Board expressed interest and requested the group return with a more detailed plan.

B. Using 2016 MAP Results - Dr. Valerie Harrison and Dr. Laura Donnelly - No action by Board.

OTHER

The Board was made aware of communications from a member of one district's constituent board. It was stated in the communications the member stated he was aware of issues involving potential criminal sexual and it was further alleged the member "threatened to make the allegations public if certain individuals were not hired."

The Board agreed to, in conjunction with the Board's attorney, refer the matter to law enforcement.

Subsequently, the individual was identified in the media as Tony Lewis, chairman of the downtown Constituent District 20 School Board. Later, it was reported he had resigned from that position. Copies of one of the news articles is attached.

CONSTITUENT DISTRICT BOARD PRESENTATIONS

The Board had requested Constituent District Boards make presentations regarding successes, concerns, and general information. About four members of each of the various boards attended. The presentations began about 4 PM and Observer was only able to stay until shortly after 5. There were no documents shared with the public so it was not known if all of the districts made presentations.

Although clearly the presentations were from members' perspective, in some instances, suggestions and concerns did not and likely could not reveal all aspects of each given issue (legal, performance, budget constraints, etc.) but again the reports provide insights.

Below are notes from the presentations that were observed (in order of presentations made):

District 1: Constituent Board expressed "disenchantment" stating there had been repeated instances over the years of promises not kept and the students being left behind. As an example District 1 stated the district had been promised a high school and learned at the meeting that there are two new ones planned and theirs was not in the planning stage or being discussed.

Bus schedules were described as unfair with students catching bus at 6:45 AM and not getting home until 5PM.

Urged CCSD to permit a name change because of perceived problems with students leaving the district.

46% of students are not ready for 1st grade with no early childhood education provided.

District 23: Would like to use the vacant Blaney Building as a community center since there are virtually no sports activities available.

Would like to return to 1967 Area Superintendents model to improve effective and efficient communication and problem resolution. Current model leaves the districts too far removed from the Charleston School District administration.

Would like a charter school

Concerns:

- a. Districts need legal counsel as they are often in a position of trying to operate on their own.
- b. Need clarity and support when it is necessary to ban people from schools
- c. Need an on-line transfer policy
- d. Inadequate vocational education program
- e. No copy of Constituent Board budget
- f. Student Registration Fees - Don't believe that is lawful.
- g. Need to be involved in personnel issues
- h. Keep Jane Edwards open No Montessori schools in district
- j. Need school bus monitors; drivers can't manage students and drive at same time
- k. Need Office of Student Placement

I. Silent Lunch Program - Currently providing bagged lunch and have had health emergencies. Need regular food from cafeteria.

District 20: District 20 had few issues.

a. Recommend increases in Early Childhood Education.

District 2: Believed district is working well with good outcomes. Here are some comments and suggestions:

a. Beckham High School is too small. Would be willing to work with District 1 to encourage attendance at Beckham vs Wando.

b. Would like to see a reduction in the CCSD over-rulings on student transfer appeals

c. Would like to return to 1967 model with District Superintendents.

NEXT MEETING: September 12, 2016