

## **Board meeting summary, June 20, 2013**

The Board convened at 4:05 p.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Invocation by Rev. Rivers**

Chairman Evans explained that the meeting was intended to hear Board members' and public comments about possible changes to grade configurations at Lady's Island Elementary School for the 2013-14 school year.

Mr. Beckert moved (seconded by Rev. Rivers) to extend the time limit for speakers during public comments from three minutes to five minutes. After a brief discussion among the members, the Board voted to approve the motion by a vote of 6-2.

### **Public conversation**

Three people – Howard Mills, Ivie Szalai and Denise Bono – commented in favor of restoring the fifth grade to Lady's Island Elementary School. Ms. Szalai presented data from an online parent survey in which 138 respondents supported restoring the fifth grade, while no respondent opposed the change. Ms. Bono presented data breaking down the allocation of instructional minutes at the school.

Kim Burgess (Lady's Island Middle School Improvement Council chair) questioned why the Board was taking up the issue of restoring fifth grade at a single school.

### **Staff presentation**

District Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White and District Planner Carol Crutchfield gave a presentation on potential challenges and unintended consequences involved in restoring fifth grade to Lady's Island Elementary.

Lady's Island Elementary School Principal Marvelle Ulmer presented a timeline that explained how the issue evolved from conversations among School Improvement Council members to the proposal currently being discussed by the Board of Education. Principal Ulmer also explained the logistical and staffing changes that would have to occur if the fifth grade were to be restored at the school.

### **Board discussion**

Board members had an extended discussion about the feasibility of restoring the fifth grade to the school for the 2013-14 school year.

Mr. Beckert moved (seconded by Ms. Orischak) that parents of fourth-graders at Lady's Island Elementary be offered the opportunity to remain at the school for fifth grade during the 2013-14 school year.

Mr. Beckert accepted an amendment from Chairman Evans that fourth-graders be allowed to stay at Lady's Island Elementary and that the school be designated as a school of choice for the 2013-14 school year. But after a short discussion, Mr. Evans withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Beckert's original motion failed by a vote of 3-7.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.