

Thank you Dr. McGinley. Before we begin the public comments section of the agenda, I want to say a few words about the recent incident between members of the Board and Dr. McGinley.

By now most of you have heard about this. Although it happened in April, it wasn't made public until this week, and I think it's important, in this forum tonight, to set the record straight about our position—especially since there is still some ambiguity about what happened and what the response was. I have three key points.

First, there is no debate about *what* happened. The facts are well established and documented. We know that a Board member, in speaking openly to staff at district headquarters, used a demeaning and discriminatory term to describe the Superintendent. He did this not once, but twice. And he threatened the Superintendent's job, saying she'd be history if she didn't put something on the agenda.

This brings me to my second point. **In no way did these threats have *any* bearing on putting *anything* on the Board's agenda.** The irony is that the Superintendent *already* had the disputed item in place.

It's been suggested that these threats were somehow justified and effective. Nothing could be further from the truth. We do not push individual agendas, nor will we accept the usage of threats or profanities from anyone. It doesn't matter what the topic is, or how emotional people feel about it. We have rules and protocol, and work *together, not individually* to push this district forward. And we do it with respect.

That brings me to my third and final point, the most important one I'll make: We **absolutely reject this kind of threatening and discriminatory language.** It sets us back, not forward, and sends the wrong message--especially to women--about the importance of treating everyone with respect. We are all equal. And we are role models. We must demonstrate to children and the public at-large that things like hard work, creativity and achievement are rewarded—not power, money or possessions. And certainly not bullying.

Our students are watching our every move. So are educators from around the state and nation. As stewards of public education in Charleston county, we must always set positive examples.

I thank you for listening to me, and for joining me in ensuring that we maintain the culture of excellence we've worked so hard to build. Let's close the book on this issue and move forward, because our kids deserve it. It is time to be unified, and to close the year strong. Now onto public comments....