



Action Re-Cap

Thank you clergy, Network Members, Team Leaders, Volunteers, and guests who attended our 12th annual Nehemiah Action to help us press forward for change! Additionally, we had more than 1,100 people in attendance and that was made possible by your efforts to invite your three! The energy was high. The tone shifted from celebratory, to serious, to tense as applauded our officials but also worked to hold them accountable. We celebrated wins in restorative practices and housing, pressed for continued action around policing and environmental justice.

Our new Education Committee held our local school board and superintendent accountable. The board members and superintendent's late arrival was due to a newly scheduled "Special Called" board meeting planned many days after board members knew about the Nehemiah Action. Despite an apparent attempt to circumvent attending the Action, the board members and superintendent arrived and weren't let off the hook. Negotiators held them accountable and demanded solutions to the board's unethical governance.

See a summary below:

Board Chair Keith Grybowski was asked to champion the following requests:

- Support a motion for the board to conduct an audit of the current school board's compliance with policies and ethical governance performed by an outside entity.
 - Support a motion to change and/or add policy language to ensure audits of the board are continuous.
 - Increase required training for school board members around ethics, conduct, conflict resolutions, Robert's Rules of Order, and restorative practices.
 - Conduct a 360-degree evaluation of the superintendent's performance within 90 days, focusing on student priorities and management/engagement.
- Grybowski said "no" to each of them.

Concerning the question around increased training around Robert's Rules of Order, Penn Doucher reminded Grybowski that the question was based upon a research meeting the education steering committee held with Grybowski, when at the time, Grybowski gave the board a "D" letter grade on how well they had been following ethical principles from the state school board association. Grybowski also said in the meeting that he believed the board had not been properly trained. Grybowski changed his position before Monday's Nehemiah Action.

Superintendent Huggins was asked to support the following requests:

- Advocate for an assessment of the board's policy compliance and ethical governance within the next 90 days by an outside entity.
- Propose an independent audit of the district's HR, Finance and operations departments to begin within the next 90 days by an outside entity.
- Will you advocate that the board work to hire an outside firm to conduct a 360-degree evaluation of the superintendent's performance as superintendent

Superintendent Huggins said yes to the first, and no to the final two, adding that she wants to be held accountable by the community. Doucher responded, "When you say you want to be held accountable, we're giving you the opportunity to back that up with action."

Waters, Roberson, and Calhoun were asked:

- To support a motion for the district to conduct an audit of the board's compliance with its policies through an outside entity
- Ensure that the audit results are available to the community within 30 days of completion.
- Support allocating funding in the budget to ensure recommendations from the assessment are implemented.
- Support a motion to change and/or add policy language to ensure audits are continuous.
- Support changes in the board policy to increase training that board members are required to attend, specifically around ethics and conduct, conflict resolution, Robert's Rules of Order and Restorative Practices
- Support a motion for the board to work with CAJM and the community to hire an outside firm to conduct 360 evaluations of the superintendent's performance.

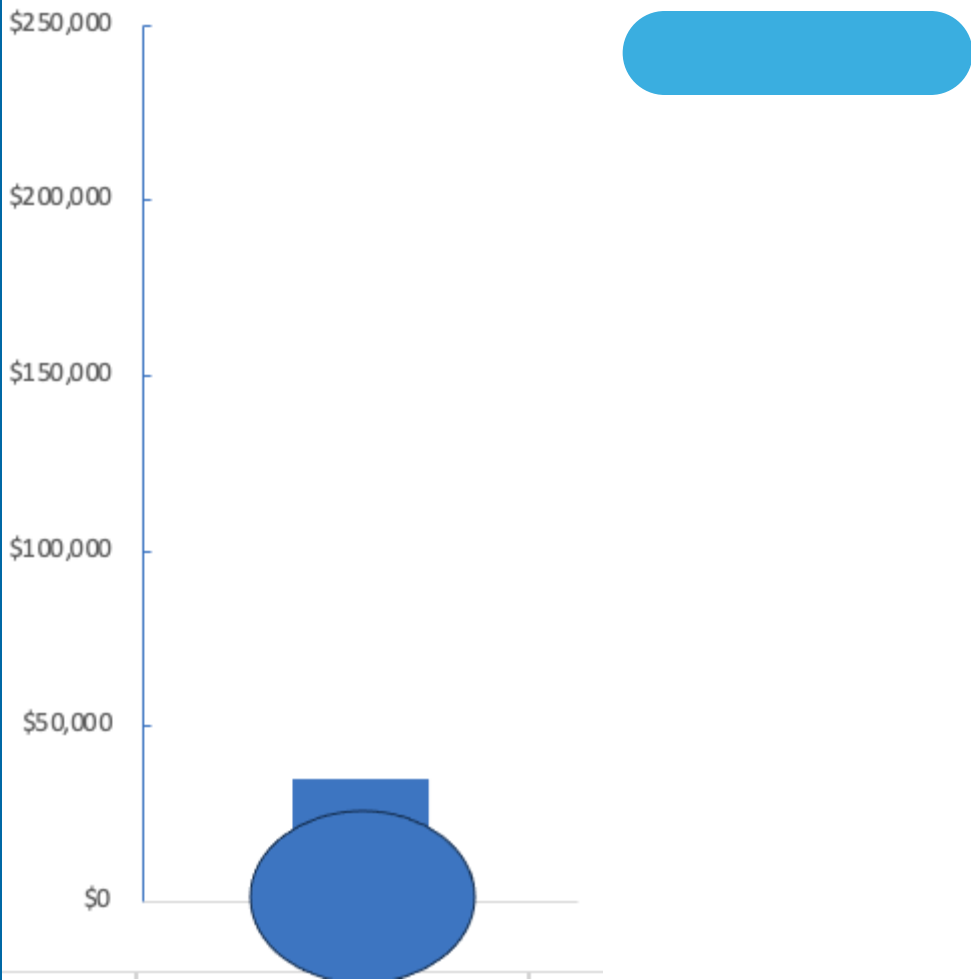
Waters, Roberson, and Calhoun answered yes to all five. Dr. Carol Tempel, a longtime CAJM member, wanted to be present but gracefully agreed not to attend this meeting in order to avoid any potential conflict with FOIA laws about a board quorum. Though she was not able to attend last night, we are grateful for her commitment to the process and the intentional work of Justice and equity for all students. Tempel issued a press release in support of all questions. The board members called on all in attendance to actively attend school board meetings held at 75 Calhoun Street.

Investment Update

In 2024, we've raised \$40,067.79 in Congregational Investments. Thank you for your contributions.

[Click here to invest](#)

Total Congregational Investments



Upcoming CAJM events and Research Visits



What: Corporate Visit sit-in with Landmark Construction
When: April 22, pre-meeting at 9 a.m., visit at 10 a.m.
Where: CAJM Office, 2021 Reynolds Avenue, A202, North Charleston
RSVP: [Click here](#)



What: Policing Full Committee Meeting
When: April 23, 6-7 p.m.
Where: Zoom

Community Events

CARE FOR GADSDEN CREEK EARTH DAY CLEAN UP



FROM SCERP

You are invited to join us on **Earth Day, Monday, April 22, from 3-4:30pm** to pick up litter along Hagood Avenue and [Gadsden Creek](#), one of the last remaining tidal creeks on the Charleston peninsula. Bring friends, co-workers, or family members to celebrate Earth Day by keeping litter out of our waterways! Please arrive a few minutes early to park and get checked in. We will meet at **Harmon Field, located at 210 President Street**. Be sure to wear closed-toe shoes or mud boots and bring a reusable water bottle. All clean-up materials will be provided

This event is part of Lowcountry Land Trust's [Lowcountry Earth Week](#) and we are grateful to be organizing the litter sweep alongside [Friends of Gadsden Creek](#) and the [South Carolina Aquarium](#).

This is a free event, but please [register beforehand](#) so we can plan accordingly. I hope to see you there!

Announcements

By Betty Nierman:

I am a member of the Board for African Education Outreach (AEO). This year is the 10th anniversary of AEO which was founded by Father John Bosco Ikemeh (recently appointed Administrator of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Charleston) to build a school for students in Abakaliki, Nigeria.

In celebration of the anniversary we are having a concert at Bishop England High School on May 4 to raise funds for the school. Please support.



An Evening with Charlton Singleton

to Benefit African
Education Outreach



Live at Bishop England High School
Performing Arts Center



4 May, 2024 | Doors open at 6
Concert begins at 7/ Bar open 6-7

Event Sponsored by
Joseph Bartone

2 Time
Grammy
Winning
Musician



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