

Board of Education Summary

April 17, 2012

Public Session:

Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Actions from Executive Session

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the administration regarding an administrator appointment. The motion passed 9-1

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented with the exclusion of the March 20 and 30^h minutes

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Grade 4 and 55 students from Mossy Oaks Elementary School sang "Down by the Riverside."

Points of Celebration

- Palmetto's Finest presentation to Hilton Head Island High School Principal Amanda O'Nan and her SIC chair, Roberta Foss, and Beaufort Middle School Principal Carole Ingram and her SIC chair, Mitchell Pate, by Beaufort County Administrator Gary Kubic and Paul Sommerville, Vice-Chairman of Beaufort County Council.
- It is a pleasure to honor Mrs. Rose Fotia, founder of the Children's Relief Fund. Since 1991, the Children's Relief Fund has raised money to fund activities, equipment and needs of disabled children in the Hilton Head and Bluffton areas. The Cinderella Fella Ball, benefitting young adults in our communities, is the recipient of a recent \$1,200 donation from the Children's Relief Fund. (Certificate of Appreciation)
- Protecting our children against harm by others is an important, serious task. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. (Proclamation read by Mr. Washington)
- Many students didn't let spring break stop them from learning. "Lego robot day camps" during spring break week were made possible through a \$520,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Defense to help advance student achievement in three district schools heavily attended by children from military families – Broad River, Coosa and Shell Point Elementary. Critical MASS (Math And Science Success) provides students with high-quality STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) experiences as well as extended learning time beyond the normal school day. There is heavy use of robotics at these camps to teach hands-

on, real-world lessons that engage younger students in designing, building and problem-solving while enhancing their STEM knowledge. (VIDEO FROM COOSA)

- Congratulations to Morgan Taylor Bennett from Beaufort High School, who has been selected as a 2012 recipient of the South Carolina Dance Education Organization's *Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement* Award. The panel of adjudicators praised not only Morgan's individual achievement but the quality of the Beaufort High School program. Her application has been forwarded for consideration of a national dance award.
- Battery Creek High School senior Alexis Miller is the recipient of Palmetto Fellows and Winthrop Fellows scholarships. She also has received a Letter of Intent to become a member of Winthrop University's Cross Country and Track Teams. Alexis is currently ranked No. 7 in the Battery Creek senior Class with a GPA of 4.242. She is the SGA Vice-president, a Student Advisory Board Member, a Teacher Cadet assigned to Shell Point Elementary, National Honor Society Member, FBLA, SADD, and Interact Club member, and a BCHS Track Team distance runner standout. Congratulations, Alexis!
- Whale Branch Elementary School third-graders are learning about fruits, vegetables and how to grow them as part of their participation in a Farm-to-School Grant. Farm-to-School focuses on serving students fresh fruits and vegetables grown on local farms. South Carolina's program is a joint effort between the state's departments of Education, Agriculture and Health and Environment Control, as well as and Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute. Whale Branch is one of 52 schools in the South Carolina Farm-to-School Program and received a \$3,000 grant. They were also given tools to start a small garden. With the assistance of a local farmer from the Dale community, the crop is planted and growing. Third-grade teachers and students are using the curriculum "Agriculture in the Classroom," which shows how agriculture is connected to food, nutrition and health. The school showcases a fruit or vegetable of the month and prepares the item for third-graders to taste. This month's focus is on cabbage.
- Last week the South Carolina Energy Office honored the school district with its "Energy Reduction Milestone Achievement" award. The district's comprehensive energy management plan has resulted in considerably less energy use by school buildings and also considerable savings. For example, the district's 3.1 million square feet of building space in 2006 required 4.6 million kilowatt-hours of electricity to operate. Five years later in 2011, only 3.4 million kilowatt-hours was needed despite the addition of another million feet of building space. Those efficiency measures included improved heating and air-conditioning systems, occupancy sensors in rooms and hallways and more efficient and long-lasting light fixtures. After the district installed water conservation measures such as auto shut-off valves in sinks and other technology, water use declined from 43.8 million gallons in 2009 to 33.2 million gallons in 2011.

- Congratulations to Linda Waskow, media specialist at Beaufort Elementary, who has been named a Learning Commons Visionary for 2012 by the editors of Teacher Librarian: the Journal for School Library Professionals. She is one of 17 winners nationwide of the magazine's first annual Teacher Librarian Leadership Awards. Congratulations, Linda!
- An essay by Bluffton Middle School sixth-grader Ben Kelley will be published in the April 20 edition of Time for Kids, a national publication affiliated with Time magazine. Congratulations to Ben for this achievement!
- The Beaufort County School District's Traveling Pre-School Bus visited the Marine Corps Air Station today, bringing fun educational activities to young people at the base's Child Development Center. The boys and girls had a great time playing games, painting and playing. The bus will also visit the Department of Social Services, the YMCA in Port Royal, and the Gullah Festival in coming weeks.

Public Conversation

A member of the community spoke about "grade flooring." Another member of the community spoke in regard to Lady's Island Middle School. A member of the Beaufort Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority spoke to the Board about the work of their organization.

Comment Corrections

Superintendent Truesdale said that the Board of Education does not have a district-wide policy regarding minimum grades. Each school develops its own procedures on individual student grades based on a consensus of its faculty.

Mona Dickson, principal of Lady's Island Middle School, addressed erroneous information regarding cameras in classrooms.

Superintendent's Report

HHIHS IB Programme

Amanda O'Nan, principal at Hilton Head High School, and Michelle Hartman, IB Diploma Program Coordinator at HHIHS, addressed the Board regarding the school's International Baccalaureate Program. In 2011, the school applied for Middle Years Programme authorization. In March 2011, it received a site visit from an IB team. Following that visit and before the school could receive authorization, two areas needed to be addressed: schedule and horizontal/vertical planning. Authorization was received from the International Baccalaureate Organization in March 2012. With this authorization, the IB Programme on Hilton Head Island includes elementary, middle and high school levels.

New to the program is an MYP Personal Project. Every student must complete a personal project in Grade 10 that is the student's own initiative and creativity. The project includes a 1,500-word research

document. In addition, Hilton Head High has advertised its program highlighting various IB students. The school also has established a four-goal resolution that includes increased enrollment in IB Diploma Program classes; an improved demographic profile of the IB Programme that better reflects the school's population; an increased percentage of IB exam scores of 4 or higher; and an increased number of IB Diploma Conferrals.

Board members asked if students from other schools could transfer in to expand the program. Principal O'Nan said that a number of students from the Bluffton area do attend HHHS to be part of the IB Program.

BCSD Financing Program Update

Brian Nurick of Southwest Securities Group addressed the Board regarding bond rating and activity. He reviewed the last three years of bond activity and emphasized the considerable savings to taxpayers in terms of millions of dollars. The success of bond sales directly relates to the district's high credit rating. The District's credit rating is No. 2 in the state, with Greenville being the highest. That credit rating could be jeopardized, however if the district continues dipping into its fund balance in order to fund the annual budget. Standard and Poors noted the borrowing activity in its latest summary. The language used in the summary was consistent with a "warning," Nurick said.

Property Sales

Chief financial officer Phyllis White reported that a property on Alston Road had sold. The district will release the purchase price after the property closes. Ms. White showed the Board a chart of all District-owned properties that have recently sold or are still for sale.

Information Items

Jackie Rosswurm reviewed the District's Summer Hours Program. The Mink Point building and all schools will be closed on Fridays for five weeks this summer beginning the week of June 25. Summer office hours during four-day work weeks will be 7 a.m. through 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Rosswurm presented the employee holiday calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

Showcase

Career and Technology Choices Program

Ralph Lataille addressed the Board about the "Choices" decision-making workshop that empowers teens to achieve academic success in pursuit of their career and life aspirations. In two 50-minute sessions, business and community volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management, and goal-setting. The Sea Island Rotary Club funded the program for Grade 8 students in four Beaufort middle schools: Beaufort, Lady's Island, Robert Smalls and Whale Branch. Nearly 600 students participated.

Board Business

The Board unanimously approved a \$1,500 donation from Parker Hannifin Corporation earmarked for the Beaufort High School Robotics Program.

Mr. Larry Wilson from Sodexo presented to the board mandatory meal prices for next year. In 2013, meal prices in elementary schools will go to \$1.50 and in 2014 to \$1.55. In secondary schools, prices are set at \$2.00 in 2013 and \$2.05 in 2014. Members of the Board asked about the money taken in from free and reduced-price meals as the USDA reimburses money above the Sodexo cost of a meal. Mr. Wilson explained that it was directed to a self-sustaining fund and reinvested into equipment and the program. The State monitors the program. Mr. Campbell wondered if there was a sliding fee scale for free lunches because he felt that parents could pay something.

Dr. Rosswurm went over the lottery system for student enrollment at Riverview Charter School. The new system had been recommended by the Office of Civil Rights. The Board unanimously approved using the new lottery system.

Consent Agenda

The Board unanimously approved minutes from the March 6 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.