

Board of Education Summary – March 20, 2012

Board Chairman Fred S. Washington, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Mrs. Bush made a motion to authorize the Administration to accept the offer from Mr. Isaiah Major to purchase the property located on Warsaw Island. Said property has been approved for sale by the Board and publicly advertised. Seconded by Mr. Campbell, unanimously approved.

Mr. Campbell moved to remove the minutes of the February 21, 2012, from the consent agenda. Seconded by Mr. Burnes, unanimous approval.

Approval of Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Students from Okatie Elementary sing and sign John Lennon's "Imagine"

Statement of Media Notification

Points of Celebration

As spoken by Dr. Truesdale:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen....there is much good news to celebrate this evening and some very special guests!

- From our Hilton Head location, I would like to introduce you to Hilton Head Island High School senior, Nick Zarra. Nick has been named a Presidential Scholar Candidate. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. **The US Presidential Scholars Program** is administered by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the U.S. Department of Education to recognize and provide leadership development opportunities for some of America's most outstanding graduating high school seniors. Each summer, the 141 Presidential Scholars travel to Washington, D.C. as guests of the program for National Recognition Weekend during which they partake in a broad range of educational, celebratory and fellowship activities. Mrs. O'Nan is with Nick tonight and will present him with a certificate of achievement.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to **Bob Masteller** and his wife, Lois. Bob is the owner of the Jazz Corner on Hilton Head and the founder of **the Junior Jazz Foundation**. The Junior Jazz Foundation was founded in 2006 to broaden the awareness of the original American art form of jazz in both our schools and the Greater Lowcountry community.

Since its inception, the Foundation has:

- \$10,000 of instruments purchased and distributed to schools
- Summer camps, clinics and workshops for middle school and high school students

- Annual scholarship program at High School
- Donated funds to Hilton Head High School for furthering jazz education
- Outreach concerts in private communities

It is our privilege tonight to honor Mr. Bob Masteller and the Junior Jazz Foundation for their generosity to the children of Beaufort County.

We have another wonderful community partner in our audience this evening – **Mr. Kurt Dimitrov and the Parker Hannifin Corporation**. Parker Hannifin is the leading supporter of our Robotics Programs at Beaufort High School and Battery Creek High School.

On the corporate level, Parker supports the First (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics and its goal to improve engineering education in the US. Parker supports us both financially and by providing various components in the kit of parts assembled for the teams. It is important to note that the kit of parts is not for building a one-design robot, but an array of supplies that can be used or not used as decided by the teams as they design a robot to play the specified game.

Parker Hannifin's plant in Beaufort has been a strong supporter of the First Teams: Beaufort High's Team 2092, BHS Robotics (BHS Robotics is pursuing the VEX Robotics Program); and Battery Creek High's, Team 3599. Numerous individuals from Parker Hannifin, have participated in the construction and design of the team's robots since started in 2007. This year from the Parker team, Gunner Klauck has been instrumental in helping build the FIRST robot, "GrimLOC".

It is my pleasure to present to you and Parker Hannifin this certificate of appreciation.

Bringing home the Gold and Silver! Kudos abound for our students, teachers and administrators as 27 Beaufort County schools have garnered 34 Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards. (Chart on screen) The district's 27 school recognitions were an improvement over last year's 15 winners and a dramatic increase from three winners in 2006-07. Only six South Carolina school districts had more schools to earn awards this year, and all six have larger student populations and more schools than Beaufort County.

Six schools earned Gold awards for general performance and 19 won Silver awards. One district school earned a Gold award for closing achievement gaps, while six won Silver awards for closing achievement gaps. The district's total awards won in both categories increased from 22 last year to 34 this year.

Seven schools were "double winners" recognized for general performance and closing achievement gaps: Bluffton Elementary, Coosa Elementary, Hilton Head Island International Baccalaureate Elementary, Hilton Head Island High, Michael C. Riley Elementary, Okatie Elementary and Red Cedar Elementary.

Four district schools were first-time winners: Bluffton Middle, Lady's Island Middle, Pritchardville Elementary and Riverview Charter.

Schools receive awards for general performance based on both their absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on state school report cards. These ratings are determined by PASS scores for elementary and middle schools. For high schools, ratings are based on Exit Exam results, graduation rates and percentages of students passing end-of-course tests.

- Twenty-six seniors were honored at the third annual **Senior Scholars Banquet** last week in Bluffton. Seniors who receive this recognition have maintained a 3.5 grade-point average, are in the top 10 percent of their classes and have earned at least an 85 average in each quarter of all of their high school courses.
- Results are in for the **Sea Island Regional Science Fair**, and Beaufort County Schools did exceedingly well! In a breakdown, on the high school level our students took three of four places in the “Best of Show” category; in the individual high school category winners, Beaufort County students took three first place awards, 2 second place awards and 3 3rd place awards. Our middle school students did a phenomenal job! In best of show, our students took first and second place. In category winners, Beaufort County middle school students took 10 of 13 places! Great job all!!
- **Hilton Head Island Middle School and Hilton Head Island High School** have received official authorization for an **International Baccalaureate** program serving students ages 12-16, meaning that students can now participate in prestigious IB studies at Hilton Head schools from first grade through graduation. The new “middle years” authorization for Hilton Head Island Middle School covers grades 6 through 10 and creates a seamless IB program through elementary, middle and high school. Beaufort County is one of only four districts statewide to offer the complete IB experience. The Middle School new authorization is the culmination of four years of intensive work by the staff and parents at the middle and high schools.
- Community partners at Adams Outdoor Advertising are bringing real-work experiences to our **Pritchardville** classrooms. Cynthia Beilar, local head of Adams Outdoor Advertising, and Adams Creative Director Brandon Sweeney were behind the “I love to learn here” billboards across the county. Cynthia is also a Pritchardville parent and she and Brandon recently taught 5th Grade AMES students a lesson on advertising techniques and the design process. This lesson tied in perfectly with our study of pre-war advertising techniques in Social Studies and informational text in ELA. The students had an opportunity to design a billboard using the techniques that they had learned.
- It’s spring and birds abound! Our friends at the **The Fripp Audubon Club** had a birding day with students at Beaufort Elementary School to learn more about the birds of our area. The Audubon Club worked with students to learn how to identify birds and their habitats, build nests, and select food to eat. We offer many thanks to the Audubon Club for sharing their time and expertise with our students.
- In more birding news, our friends at the **Center for Birds of Prey** brought some of their feathered friends to both Beaufort Elementary and Coosa Elementary Schools recently. Students observed birds of prey up-close as the Birds of Prey educators use inquiry methods and hands-on objects to provide students with an interactive educational experience.

- **Broad River Elementary** picked a pretty lofty goal when they set out to raise \$ 3,000 for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart. They are happy to announce that not only did they meet their goal but they passed it with a grand total of \$5,001.29!
- **River of Words** is in its second year inspiring wonderful poetry and artwork from our students. This year, 16 schools volunteered to participate with 80 teachers involved and 2,400 2nd-12th grade students impacted. This national program places local watersheds at heart of study with poetry and art as outcomes and is a great opportunity for BCSD teachers -- science, language and art -- to work together to design and implement curriculum. Last Friday evening there was a wonderful student art show at ARTworks in Beaufort. I urge you to attend this showing which will run until the end of March.
- We have more wonderful art news! Hilton Head High School's Jessica Smith has been named a **National Silver Medal** winner in the 2012 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her Photography Portfolio. She will be recognized at the national awards reception at Carnegie Hall in NYC on Friday June 1st, 2012.
- Additionally, we have many winners from Hilton Head High School in the **University of South Carolina Emerging Artists Competition**. Please congratulate these winners (Names on Screen). All artists/finalists will receive \$500 renewable scholarship towards tuition & and three artists will be selected for the \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 renewable scholarship awards. Awards will be announced this Friday. Best of luck to these students!
- **Whale Branch Early College High School's** boys track and field team competed in the Bob Hayes Invitational in Jacksonville, Florida and placed 11th out of 47 plus teams. WBECHS boys track and field represented the school and community well.
- The following students from **Bluffton High School** recently participated in the 2012 North America National Invitational Tennis Championship for the Special Olympics. During the three day event, they participated in skills, singles and doubles. (Names on screen).
- In closing, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our Foundation for Educational Excellence's recent Jewels and Jeans event netted more than \$20,000! Kudos to our event committee headed by Susan Jacobsen with Jan Davis-Vater, Jan Williams, Nikki Mason and Peggy May, and all of our foundation members and helpers.

Public Conversation:

A community member commented on the Riverview Charter School.

A community member commented on handicap access at Port Royal Elementary School.

Mr. Washington: Full public response at the next public meeting regarding PRES

Showcase:

Dr. Truesdale reported that Whale Branch Middle School recently was named by the California-based Milken Family Foundation as the national winner of the prestigious TAP Founder's Award, which includes a \$50,000 prize. The surprise announcement was made before more than 1,000 educators and policy leaders at the 12th National TAP Conference in Los Angeles. The award is presented annually to one school for distinction in the implementation of TAP's comprehensive system of career advancement, ongoing job-embedded professional development through weekly collaborative "cluster" meetings, rigorous teacher evaluation and accountability, and performance-based compensation. Principal Matthew Hunt and other members of his TAP Leadership Team accepted the award on the school's behalf. Whale Branch Middle School started TAP implementation in the 2004-2005 school year. During that time, the school was labeled by the state as "at-risk" and produced the highest percentage of dropouts in the county. Since then, improvements in student achievement improved the school's state report card rating by two levels to Average. In addition, Whale Branch Middle has received a "5" value-added growth score for the past three school years (2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11), signifying far above-average results compared to similar schools in South Carolina. The school also received a "good" growth rating from the state in the 2010-11 school year and, for the first time in its history, made AYP for the past two consecutive school years.

TAP has also helped to produce dramatic student achievement gains at other Beaufort County schools. According to the South Carolina Department of Education, all of Beaufort County's 15 participating schools in 2010-2011 received a school value-added score of at least a "3" on a five-point scale, indicating an expected one year's growth in academic achievement based on analysis of PASS test scores. Two schools – Broad River Elementary and Robert Smalls Middle – posted value-added scores of 4, indicating student achievement significantly above what was expected for the year. Four schools – Whale Branch Middle and Beaufort, St. Helena and Whale Branch elementary schools – posted value-added scores of 5 or better.

Beaufort Elementary and Whale Branch Middle, the state's top-achieving TAP schools for 2010-11, posted value-added score of 6.7 and 9.1, respectively.

Beaufort County's 15 TAP schools are the most of any district in the state.

Dr. Truesdale asked Whale Branch Middle School Principal Matthew Hunt, and former Principal Mona Lise Dickson, to come forward along with principals from other district schools with nationally recognized high performance under the TAP system: Beaufort Elementary School Principal Jennifer Morillo, Robert Smalls Middle School Principal Denise Smith, St. Helena Elementary School Principal Kay Keeler and Whale Branch Elementary School Principal Lynn Nelson.

Board members praised the TAP model as an effective method of teacher development and thanked the principals, teachers and staff at the TAP schools for their outstanding work.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Truesdale presented the staff recruitment plan submitted by Riverview Charter School. Mr. Washington said the Board would set aside time to consider the plan at its March 30 meeting.

Dr. Truesdale asked Board members to sign an invitation for Beaufort and Jasper county's legislative delegations to visit the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence (ACE) at 11 a.m. on April 27. Jasper County School Board members also will be asked to sign the invitation. Mr. Campbell said it was important for all delegation members to attend, and Mr. Speaks urged that legislators visit during school hours so that students and classrooms could be observed in action.

Jennifer Staton, the district's Risk Manager, presented highlights of the district's annual review of insurance coverage. A key increase (up to 25 percent) will be property coverage for catastrophic events. Ms. Staton said that nearly all school employees have received training in anti-bullying and other areas through on-line resources. Mr. Wilson commended Ms. Staton for her excellent management, which saves significant taxpayer dollars.

Phyllis White, the district's chief financial officer, briefed the board on the New River TIF discussions with County Council. She reported that Beaufort County Council's finance committee had agreed to change the methodology and passed a resolution to be sent on to the full County Council (for consideration on March 26) that would meet many of the district's key concerns about new revenue amounts included in the current year as a revenue source.

Informational items:

Business Action Items:

Mr. Terry Bennett, Director of Grants Management, presented the following resolution to authorize the Superintendent to apply for, sign, and administer grants:

The Board of Education of the Beaufort County School District authorizes the Superintendent or in the absence of the Superintendent, his/her designee, and/or the Chief Instructional Officer/Chief Operational Services Officer to apply for, sign, submit, and administer federal, state, local and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2012-2013 school year. The motion to accept this resolution was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Evans. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board voted unanimously to authorize the development of a new military academy at Robert Smalls Middle School for the 2012-13 school year. A motion was made by Mr. Burnes, seconded by Mr. Campbell.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Washington reminded Board members of the upcoming March 30 budget work session.

New Business

Mr. Rivers had asked for a presentation on the district's personnel policies for classified staff. Dr. Jacqueline Rosswurm, the district's human resources director, briefed the Board and answered questions posed by Mr. Rivers. A central issue in the discussion was the district's policies and procedures for handling formal grievances of classified staff. Dr. Rosswurm said that in a typical year, the district sees four or five grievances from its 2,000-plus classified staff.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Evans moved to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Wilson seconded, unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.