

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: September 5, 2017**

Chair Earl Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion to direct the superintendent to seek an appraisal of the real property discussed in executive session (approved). Motion to exempt Student A from state physical education requirements (Code of Laws 59-29-80) because participating in physical education might jeopardize Student A's health and well-being (approved). Motion to approve the district's Personnel Ratification Report for the period August 1-31 (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda. Motion to delay discussion of an audit of district purchase cards until the Board's 11<sup>th</sup> member (one of the 11 seats is currently vacant) can be selected in a special election later in the fall. Motion failed. Vote on the original motion to approve the agenda passed.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation.

### **Character Ed Student of the Month** (Sawyer Blankenship, kindergarten, Port Royal Elementary)

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. School counselors identified a list of character words and definitions that focus on attitudes and personal qualities that build a foundation for success in life and work. A student from each school is selected as that school's Character Education Student of the Month. Then that student goes on to compete for Character Education Student of the Month for the entire school district.

Tonight we're celebrating the character traits of friendship and kindness. "Friendship" is defined as the emotions or conduct of friends; the state of being friends. "Kindness" is defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. Here to introduce our Character Education Student of the Month for northern Beaufort County is Port Royal Elementary School teacher Annie Hunter.

### **Public Comment**

A community member commented various aspects of a possible audit of district purchase cards and also advocated a wider audit of district finances. A community member advocated forensic auditing of a wider scope of district financial matters to include school construction costs.

### **Committee Reports**

Curriculum & Instruction – JoAnn Orischak said there is no committee meeting scheduled for September.

Finance – Bill Payne said the committee's next meeting would be September 14.

Legislative – Mary Cordray said the committee met on September 5 and reviewed last year’s legislative agenda. She said that the committee wanted to follow up on several items of interest before making specific legislative recommendations to the Board.

Policy – David Striebinger said the committee’s next meeting would be September 18.

Student Services – Evva Anderson said the committee’s next meeting would be September 26.

#### Superintendent’s Report

Knock-Out Drop-Out Update – Chief Auxiliary Services Office Gregory McCord previewed the district’s annual Knock-Out Drop-Out event on September 16, when staff members and community volunteers will visit the homes of students who did not return to school for the current school year and convince them to stay in school. In previous years, the event has resulted in students coming back to school rather than dropping out.

Transportation Update – Dr. McCord said that the Transportation Office is currently short only two or three drivers (an improvement over last year), and he anticipates that those positions will be filled. He added that some buses are overcrowded in the afternoons because more students ride home in the afternoons than ride to school in the mornings. Mechanical breakdowns continue to pose problems for older state-owned buses.

Start of School Update – Dr. Moss said the district’s total enrollment had increased by 318 students over the same date last year, with most of that increase occurring in Bluffton-area schools. In light of enrollment growth, he said the district is continually reviewing staffing issues to identify schools that need additional help. Dr. Moss answered Board members’ questions.

After-School Care Update – Dr. Moss said that school after-school care programs that charge parents for student participation have showed a range of financial results, with some schools losing money, some breaking even and a few earning some revenues. He said that there would be a district review of after-school program fee and funding structures. In response to a Board member’s question, he said he would bring the Board information about the potential price-tag of the district supporting after-school programs financial in order to reduce parents’ costs.

2017 Legislative Update – General Counsel Drew Davis briefed Board members on key legislation passed during the most recent session of the South Carolina General Assembly. Bills he discussed included those dealing with school accountability; student testing requirements; a longitudinal database to track students’ college and career readiness; state-level oversight and possible take-over of districts that are experiencing financial issues; revisions to the Freedom of Information Act; changes that would require school districts to increase their employee contributions in the South Carolina Retirement System; and changes to requirements for restrooms in new or renovated athletics stadiums. He also addressed an approved budget proviso setting the 2017-18 academic year as the final year for teachers to submit their initial applications for National Board certification and be eligible to receive state financial

supplements upon successful completion of the process. Mr. Davis answered Board members' questions.

Dr. Moss briefed Board members on the processes the district uses in preparing for potentially severe weather, particularly hurricanes.

He briefly discussed projections indicating that the district's on-time high school graduation rate would see an improvement for 2016-17 when results are made public statewide in November. An increased rate would mark seven consecutive years of improvement for the district.

#### Board Business Action

Donation – Motion to approve Covert Aire's donation of an air system for the press box at Hilton Head Island High School's football stadium.

Policy 4.1, Public Comment at Board of Education Meetings – Motion to approve Policy 4.1 on second reading (approved).

South Carolina School Boards Association contract – Motion to approve a \$2,000 contract with SCSBA for revisions to the Board's policy manual (approved).

Student performances under Points of Celebration – Board members discussed whether to continue the practice of inviting students to perform at Board meetings. No motion was made to discontinue student performances.

Additional auditing of purchase-card expenditures – Amended motion that "the Beaufort County School direct the Administration to follow appropriate procurement procedures to facilitate the Board's employment of a Certified Public Accounting firm not currently associated with BCSD to perform additional audit procedures of procurement card transactions for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2017. The results of these audit procedures will be presented directly to the Board in open session. The depth of the audit will be determined by the Certified Public Accounting Firm so as to issue a finding with certainty that P-card transactions are legal and adhere to generally accepted accounting principles." Motion approved.

Committee structure – Motion that the Board "delay the implementation of the 'Committee of the Whole' until all details of implementation are worked out and Board Policies are changed and approved and a video facility is implemented equivalent to the current Board meeting videos." Motion approved. Motion to hold a special called Board meeting to discuss the details of delaying implementation. Motion approved.

Security for Board meetings – Motion to continue having a law enforcement presence at Board meetings (approved).

Outside counsel for Superintendent's evaluation – Motion to employ attorney David Duff to advise the Board during the evaluation process for Dr. Moss. Motion failed. Motion to employ attorney Ken Childs to advise the Board during the evaluation process. Motion approved.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion approved.

Motion to hold a 4 p.m. Board meeting on September 12 (Hilton Head Island High) to discuss the "Committee of the Whole" restructuring (approved).

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

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