

Superintendent's Special Called Board Meeting Summary: June 18, 2019

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motions to accept the superintendent's recommendations to employ three people: Melissa Pender as principal of Coosa Elementary, Juliet White as Director of Special Education and Kimberly Hobley as Director of Alternative Programs. All three motions were approved.

Motion to amend the meeting agenda to add an executive session to discuss information relative to safety and security issues as they relate to a bond referendum (approved). Motion to approve the agenda as amended (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. statement of media notification.

Public Comment

Five community members expressed support for a bond referendum being considered for November 2019. A district instructional coach spoke against proposed budget reductions that would eliminate some instructional coaching positions and reassign those coaches to classroom teaching positions. A school nurse expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts to increase nurses' salaries. The president-elect of the Beaufort County Education Association requested that the Board survey district teachers about how state funding levels have affected educators' effectiveness. A school data clerk advocated for higher salaries for data clerks.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss information relative to safety and security issues as they relate to a bond referendum (approved). There was no action coming out of executive session.

Referendum

Interim Superintendent Berg thanked the members of the Community Project Review Committee (CPRC) who were in the audience; the CPRC devoted more than 900 man-hours to analyzing the district's facilities needs and recommending projects designed to address those needs. Dr. Berg reviewed his earlier recommendations to the Board in favor of a two-part referendum question for Beaufort County voters to consider in November. Board discussion. Dr. Berg and Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting answered Board members' questions.

Motion that the Board approve a bond referendum to be held sometime in 2020 (failed).

Motion that the Board approve a resolution for a bond referendum on November 5, 2019 (approved).

District Bond Counsel Frannie Heizer explained how a two-part question would appear on the ballot for voters to consider. With such a ballot, the first group of projects would have to be

approved by voters before the second group of projects could be approved. In other words, Question 2 could only be approved if Question 1 won approval.

Continuing Board discussion. Dr. Berg and Mr. Oetting answered additional questions from Board members. Involving the renovation of the gym at St. Helena Elementary, Dr. Berg recommended using 8 percent funds to do the work more quickly, as opposed to adding funds to the referendum.

Motion to add \$1.5 million to the referendum for the renovation of the gym at St. Helena Elementary (failed).

Motion to order a referendum not to exceed \$344,610,000 in general obligation bonds (approved).

Ms. Heizer reminded Board members that now that a referendum has been officially ordered, Board members and school district employees are prohibited from using district resources or work time to advocate on behalf of the referendum. Ms. Heizer said she would return to Beaufort County to distribute more specific “do’s and don’ts” for Board members and district employees.

FY2019-20 Budget Discussion

Chief Finance Officer Tonya Crosby briefed Board members on Monday’s Beaufort County Council discussions and actions on the district’s Board-certified FY2019-20 budget.

Motion to reconsider the Board’s previous elimination of 15 instructional coach positions that had the effect of reducing the FY2019-20 budget by about \$1.4 million, and to restore those positions to the budget. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to hold a special called meeting at 5 p.m. Friday, June 21, at the district office to review possible budget reductions (approved).

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

District staff seeking more detailed information about Board actions can view Board meetings in their entirety, at any time, on the County Channel. Archived meetings may be viewed at this link: <http://www.bcgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>