

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: March 3, 2020

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed in the February 1-29, 2020 Personnel Ratification Report (approved). Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations in the monthly Adult Education/Home School report for February 2020. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to approve the agenda (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence. Statement of media notification.

Student Performance

Lady's Island Elementary School Osprey Ovation choir performed "Fatou Yo" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" under the direction of John Bittner.

Points of Celebration

Tonight, we recognized a student who earned a perfect score in the Fall round of the WordsMasters Challenge. Beaufort Middle School Principal Alvilda Graham introduced her "perfect" WordMasters student, sixth grader Liam Gibbons.

Chair Christina Gwozdz read a proclamation recognizing School Social Work Week.

Public Comments

Community member spoke regarding what he perceives as the Board Chair's hypocrisy.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 4, 2020 Board meeting minutes. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Chair's Report

Chair Christina Gwozdz stated that the Board approved the creation of an Ad Hoc committee tasked with bringing in stakeholders from the Bluffton community to review all available data relating to population growth at the February 18 meeting. The committee is comprised of Dick Geier and Rachel Wisnefski, with Mrs. Wisnefski serving as Committee Chair. The Committee members should reach out to Bluffton officials for discussion and report back to the Board. Dr. Gwozdz also shared that five BOE members will be attending 2DAC to meet with the local legislative delegation on March 4.

Board member John Dowling called point of privilege to state that the Board still needs to take steps to be in compliance with FOIA. Motion that the Board require the Chair Report be index prior to posting and be posted prior as such. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Academics Committee – Chair Tricia Fidrych shared that the committee met on February 19 and reviewed ideas for the layout of the 2020-2021 academic calendar and a preliminary list of state approved text books. These items will be brought to the March 17 Board meeting. PE 1.1 and the tech plan will be discussed at next meeting on March 25.

Finance Committee – Chair Joann Orischak shared that the Finance Committee met on February 20 at the Hilton Head Library. The Committee reviewed PE 3.7; the FY 2020 quarter report; PE 4.5; and a revised timeline for an RFI for bond counsel. The Board discussed who is responsible for setting up a meeting with County Council to discuss impact fees. Future agenda topics for the next meeting will include finance policy development.

Motion to approve P.E. 4.5 Minority and Women Owned Business Report. Board discussion about the lack of local African American contractors being awarded contracts. Dr. Rodriguez advised the Board on proactive engagement the district has already done to attract certified minority and women owned businesses. Motion approved.

Motion to accept PE 3.7 Monitoring FY 2020 Second Quarter Financial Statements. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to accept the proposed Timeline for Informal Solicitation of Bond Counsel. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rodriguez introduced Roberts Vaux, who presented an update on TCL/MCIP and addressed the Board's questions.

Superintendent Frank Rodriguez provided an update on referendum projects. The next committee meeting is March 4 at River Ridge Academy and will be combined with a site visit. The Committee will make their first quarterly report at the next meeting on March 17. \$1.8M of \$8M has been spent so far, with \$838,000 spent at MRHS and \$990,000 at RRA.

Goal #1 Student Achievement and Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators
Dr. Stratos shared how and why the ISD team visits schools. Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Stratos addressed the Board's questions.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility – Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby provided a review of Bond Counsel scope of work and addressed the Board's questions.

Board Business

Grant Authorization – Motion that 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 Financial Officer to apply for, sign,

submit, and administer federal, state, local, and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Crosby addressed the Board's questions. Motion approved.

Mrs. Crosby presented on debt issuance planning for the 2019 Referendum. Mrs. Crosby and Frannie Heizer addressed the Board's questions. Motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$124,610,000 general obligation bonds, series 2020, or such other appropriate series designation, of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto (approved).

Mrs. Crosby presented PE. 2.D Debt Management and addressed the Board's questions. Motion to approve P.E.2.D Debt Management. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Future Agenda Topics

The 2020-2021 school calendar will be presented at the next meeting. Joann Orischak would like a follow-up on impact fees. William Smith would like to discuss graduation ceremonies. Earl Campbell would like to discuss STEP increases and school calendar.

Announcements

Cathy Robine shared that there will be an Academic WorldQuest Event on March 7 at 9:00am at Hilton Head High School in the small gym.

Motion to adjourn approved at 9:45 p.m.

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