

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: February 18, 2020

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion to approve the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute a Program manager contract with CBRE Heery for the overall management and execution of capital construction projects as listed in RFP #20-23 (approved). Motion that the Board of Education approve Burr Forman McNair to serve as the Board's lobbyist and authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Board (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda as presented (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence.

Student Performance

Port Royal Elementary X-Pression choir performed "We are the children of tomorrow" under the direction of Mrs. Lynda McLain.

Public Comments

Community member spoke regarding African American student achievement. Community members spoke about the lack of contracts awarded to African Americans. Community member spoke regarding employee grievances filed against a Board member.

Chair's Report

Chair Christina Gwozdz asked CTE staff members come forward as she read a proclamation designating February Career and Technical Education month, followed by a short video presentation highlighting CTE. This Thurs – Sun SBA conference on HH. Youth Leadership conference at BHS on 2/22. Next work session 2/28 and 2/29. TDAC for SCSBA is 3/4. Advise Robyn if prefer Kindle version or paperback book of governance book, The Art of Governing Coherently.

Academics Committee – Chair Tricia Fidrych Feb 10 had presentations by Campbell, Fallon, Henderson discussing P.E.s 1.2 – Professional Learning; 1.3 – Comprehensive Assessment; and 1.10 – Instructional Time. Motion to accept P.E. 1.2 (approved). Motion to accept P.E. 1.3. Board discussion. Chief Instructional Services Officer Dr. Mary Stratos addressed the Board's questions. Motion approved.

ACE – Earl Campbell – past Thursday had a meeting; audit was clean, Ms. Crosby gave quarterly budget update; gave an update of new students in each CTE course. Board discussion. Joint meeting in March.

Ad Hoc Coherent Governance Policy Manual Committee - Chair David Striebinger said the committee has met 7 times in the last 20 days reviewing the policy manual and handbook, and P.E.s. One more meeting scheduled before the February work session. Board discussion.

Operations Committee - Chair Mr. Striebinger gave an update regarding the survey sent out to district constituents regarding start times. Board member William Smith led a discussion on start time town halls. Director of Communications Jim Foster gave the Board advice on releasing dates for town hall meetings.

Motion to accept P.E.5.A.5.6 – Nepotism. Board discussion. Motion approved. Motion to accept P.E. 5.B.4 – Grievances. Board discussion. Chief Human Resources Officer Alice Walton addressed the Board’s questions. Motion to change last sentence on P.E. 5.B.4 Grievances, to state that there were eight grievances handled at the district level during the 2018-2019 school year. Board discussion. Motion approved. Motion to accept P.E. 5.B.4 (approved).

Motion to accept P.E. 7.9 – Review of Schools Boundaries, FY 2021-2030 10-Year Plan and Capital Budget. Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting and Planning Coordinator Carol Crutchfield answered Board member’s questions. Board discussion. Motion approved. Rachel Wisnefski moved that the Board chair create an ad hoc committee tasked with bringing in stakeholders from the Bluffton community to review all available data relating to population growth and report back to the Board. Board discussion. Motion to amend Dr. Wisnefski’s motion to include stakeholders from the entire county rather than focusing specifically on Bluffton. Motion failed. Original motion approved.

General Counsel Wendy Cartledge briefed Board members on changes to Administrative Regulation SS-50 regarding Suicide Awareness and Prevention.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

Chief Finance Officer Tonya Crosby presented the monthly Transparency Report, the Monthly \$100K Report and the Monthly Board Budget Report. Ms. Crosby answered a Board member’s question.

Other Matters

Dr. Rodriguez briefed Board members on ongoing referendum projects. He noted that the Citizen-Led Oversight Committee held its second meeting on March 5. Officers were elected (Chair Ted Barber and Vice Chair Mike McNally), and CLOC members discussed the committee’s first quarterly report to the Board and the public.

Dr. Rodriguez updated Board members on the status of an efficiency study commissioned by the school district.

Ms. Walton briefed Board members on the district's current methods of conducting background checks of prospective employees and school volunteers. More than 22,000 have been screened since 2014. Ms. Walton answered Board members' questions.

Board Business

John Dowling presented the topic of background checks being conducted on Board members. Motion that the Board's Ad Hoc Coherent Government Committee to formulate a policy prohibiting any investigation on a Board member being conducted by either the Board or district administration. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Board discussion about the potential release of employee grievances filed against William Smith. Motion that Board members be granted access to the grievances. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Future Agenda Topics

Mr. Smith asked for a discussion about high school graduation procedures. Ms. Orischak asked for a discussion about funding sources for the TCL culinary program. Col. Geier asked for a status report on school resource officers.

Motion to adjourn approved at 10:50 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.bcqgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>