

Superintendent's Board of Education meeting summary: September 2, 2014

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and the Board went into executive session. The Board reconvened at 6:25 p.m. with no action coming out of executive session.

Motion to approve the agenda with removal of two consent agenda items: Student Services Committee meeting minutes from 7/14/14 and 8/8/14 and Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting minutes from 8/15/14. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence for Whale Branch Elementary School student James Mcdiffett Jr. and for the family of Ron Speaks, a former Board member.

Student Showcase by Port Royal Elementary fifth-graders in the Mariner's Chorus, led by music teacher Katie Vargo. Students performed the "Star Spangled Banner" in honor of the song's 200th Birthday.

Points of Celebration presented by Dr. Moss

[Delayed Start in the News] First, we hope everyone was able to see last week's story on Hilton Head Island High School that was broadcast on the NBC Nightly News. The story was based on a policy statement by the American Society of Pediatrics that later start times are preferred for high school students. As you know, Hilton Head Island High is piloting a new delayed-start schedule for our district. Their classes now begin at 8:35 a.m., which is 50 minutes later than last year. Before we watch the segment, I'd like to thank the staff, parents and students at Hilton Head Island High School for working to make the new schedule successful, so that we can help students get the most out of their learning day.

[College Colors Day] Our next Point of Celebration is last week's "College Colors Day." That's the day each year when students and staff are allowed flexibility with their uniform and dress code policies in order to promote the colleges of their choice. Thousands of participants across the district helped to make this day a success. It's part of our continuing effort to build excitement about post-graduation opportunities and to remind students that every day in the classroom helps prepare them for the future.

[Start of School Year] Highlights from the start of the 2014-15 school year: 21,340 students as of the 10th day of school, which is an increase of 626 over last year; TCL dual enrollment up 38 percent over last year; B³ scholarships have helped 55 students at an approximate cost to the endowment of \$25,000; The school district's new app for smartphones launches tomorrow.

Public Comment

A community member commented on school bus service on Lady's Island. A community member commented on policies related to the calculation of the minimum GPA

requirement for student athletes. County Councilman member Paul Sommerville commented on the district's participation in the Bailey Bill.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Evans reminded everyone that County Council meets on September 8 in Beaufort and on September 22 in Bluffton for the second and third readings to finalize the millage rate. Chairman Evans reported that he has planned a meeting on October 2 of County Council members, School Board members and representatives of other municipalities to discuss the effects of Act 388 and provide ideas to the legislative delegation. Chairman Evans said that he and Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White met with Senator Tom Davis last week to discuss the impact of Act 388. Senator Davis gave an update on their discussions on Act 388 and on other legislation pertaining to school district funding.

Committee Reports

ACE: No report.

Community Outreach and Legislative Advocacy: Mr. Campbell reminded the Board about upcoming webcasts and development opportunities.

Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. Kinton reported that the committee met today to discuss achievement gaps and ways to lessen them. They also discussed the relationship with Jasper County regarding ACE and stated that the Board will finalize their statement regarding ACE.

Finance and Operations: No report.

Human Resources: Mr. Beckert reported that there will be a meeting of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee meeting on September 9.

Student Services: Mr. Payne reported that at the last meeting, the committee reviewed the issue of maintaining a desirable menu of instructional choices for parents while keeping capacity issues in mind in school buildings.

Website and Communications: Ms. Cordray said that the committee would be scheduling a meeting in the near future, and she noted positive changes on the district's website, particularly regarding improved access to Board of Education matters.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Moss introduced Chief Instructional Service Officer Dereck Rhoads, who reported on the district's partnership with the World Affairs Council, including the Model United Nations program. Dr. Rhoads also reported on the International Baccalaureate Career-related Certificate (IBCC) program that has been applied for at Hilton Head Island High School, where the IB program is already in place.

Dr. Moss introduced Phyllis White, Chief Operational Services Officer, and Reggie Murphy, Director of Internal Controls, to report on PE 4.5 and the Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise Report for January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014. There were \$1.8 million expended to minority- or women-owned businesses for services rendered to the district during that time.

Dr. Moss gave an update on the FY2015 budget issues. County Council recently approved a millage rate of 103.5 for the upcoming year, which is not likely to generate the funds approved for the FY2015 budget. Dr. Moss recommended either maintaining our FY2015 budget with the possibility of using reserve funds or modifying the budget now in anticipation of less revenue.

Motion to extend the meeting until 8:45. Approved.

Board Business Action

Dr. Moss discussed estimated costs of building the new high school in Bluffton, which is a 238,000-square-foot facility with a cost of \$286 per square foot. Building costs are expected to be higher than initially expected, although the per-foot costs are in line with other school construction statewide. The superintendent asked for the authority to not exceed \$68 million in order to begin site work and procurement of contractors needed to begin construction. Motion approved.

Motion to extend the meeting for 30 minutes. Approved.

Dr. Moss asked for permission to negotiate an amount not to exceed \$8.3 million for renovations to the building currently being leased by Riverview Charter School. Motion approved.

New Business

Dr. Moss introduced Alice Walton, Chief Human Resources Officer, to give an update on staffing. Over the summer, more than 200 positions were filled, and 27 positions still remain unfilled. Human resources staff and schools are working to fill remaining positions.

Chairman Evans announced that the State of the Schools Breakfast will be on Thursday, October 23 at 8 a.m. in Pinckney Hall.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Summaries of Beaufort County Board of Education meetings are produced by the Superintendent's Office and are intended for school district employees. They are neither reviewed nor approved by the Board.