

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: October 20, 2015

Board Secretary Laura Bush called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

After coming out of executive session, two motions were approved: to offer a worker's compensation claim settlement of up to \$34,787.40 to Employee A, and to authorize the enrollment of Student A at Right Choice School for the 2015-2016 school year.

Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a dance performance by students from Whale Branch Middle School, under the direction of first-year teacher Anna DeMarco.

Agenda approved with the exception of the Board meeting minutes from October 6.

POINTS OF CELEBRATION

From Superintendent Moss:

"Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts in developing good character in their children. School counselors identified a list of character words and definitions that focus on the attitudes and personal qualities that build a foundation for success in life and work. A student from each school is selected as their school's Character Education Student of the Month. Then, they move on to compete for Beaufort County's Character Education Student of the Month. The character word for September was "acceptance" and is defined as the action or process of being received as adequate or suitable, typically to be admitted into a group or received by others. We are happy to announce our Character Education Student of the Month for September, Sheila Ballard, 5th grade student at Michael C. Riley Elementary School. After being nominated at her school, based on academic performance, leadership and overall achievement and her information being vetted by a panel of district administrators, she was selected for Southern Beaufort County. Sheila has much to smile about as she celebrates this award tonight and will celebrate her birthday tomorrow. Sheila, would you and your family please come forward to be recognized?"

Dr. Moss presented Board members with the district's newly received Champions for Children Award, presented in Greenville last week at a state awards banquet hosted by South Carolina's Institute for Child Success. The award recognized the school district's comprehensive efforts to expand its services for four-year-old children. Dr. Moss and Early Childhood Education Coordinator Ashley Hutchison represented the district at the award ceremonies. Over the last two years, the school district has added 13 prekindergarten classes and converted all classes for four-year-olds to a full day of instruction, whereas many previously had operated only on half-day schedules. About 140 additional four-year-olds are now being served, and waiting lists for the district's PreK programs have been reduced to about 25. Four additional PreK classrooms are currently under construction at Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center.

Public Comment

A representative of a Hilton Head Island company that manages fund-raising parties for schools expressed concerns about school district policies governing businesses such as his. Several community members criticized Dr. Moss and Board members for recent actions in the district. A parent expressed concerns about his child's placement at River Ridge Academy.

Chairman's Report

Secretary Bush reminded Board members about the State of the Schools Breakfast on Friday, October 23, at USC-Beaufort's New River campus. She noted that the recommendations of the ACE transition team will be presented at a special meeting with the Jasper County Board of Education on November 2 at 6:30 p.m. at ACE. The election of a new Board chair will be conducted at the Board's next meeting on November 3. Ms. Bush also encouraged Board members to submit ideas for agenda items to be discussed at the Board's two-day work session November 6-7. She requested a report from administration on the status of Gentleman's Clubs in district schools.

Committee Reports

ACE – Ms. Orischack said that the committee's next meeting would be Thursday, October 22, at 5:30 p.m. at ACE.

Legislative – Mr. Campbell reported on his recent work at a statewide SC Future Minds conference focused on building strong school-community partnerships. Mr. Campbell also encouraged district administration to develop partnerships with local chambers of commerce that might benefit students.

Curriculum and Instruction – Ms. Kinton reported that the Instructional Services Division staff had reviewed Erin's Law, which mandates that all state schools implement child sexual abuse prevention programs. ISD staff also reviewed the sex education program currently used in district middle schools, "It's You're Game, Make It Real." That pilot program has received positive reviews from students and teachers. Staff will evaluate the program before making any recommendations on programs that might be used in future years. The committee heard a review of the district's career and technical education programs. Committee members also received a presentation on English 1 honors courses being allowed for eighth-graders and discussed the district's 2017-18 calendar.

Finance and operations – Mr. Payne said that the committee had received a construction update on May River High School. He also noted two upcoming meetings. The first will be on Monday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m. in DESC Conference Room E for a discussion with the district's financial advisor (Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal) and bond counsel (Frannie Heizer, McNair Law Firm) regarding funding options for future capital projects. The second will be on Tuesday, December 1, at 4:30 p.m. in DESC Conference Room E for the presentation of the FY 2015 audit draft by the district's external auditors (Elliott Davis LLC).

Human Resources – Mr. Rivers said that the committee's next meeting would be Thursday, October 29.

Student Services – Ms. Anderson said that the committee's next meeting would be Tuesday, October 27.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Moss said that an in-depth review of the implementation of the district's employee salary study would be submitted as an agenda item on the Board's upcoming two-day work session November 6-7. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Orischak expressed concerns about the study and supported additional discussion. Ms. Bush encouraged Board members to submit their concerns to Dr. Moss in writing to assist in putting together the work session presentation on the issue.

Dr. Moss added that he would present a work session agenda item on district-wide financial savings resulting from attrition. He said that from the last fiscal year to this year, savings from attrition are projected to exceed \$490,000.

Career and Technology Education Coordinator Karen Gilbert presented a report on the district's CATE programs, including new CATE facilities construction at Battery Creek High School and the future May River High School. Ms. Gilbert and Dr. Moss answered Board members' questions about CATE programs.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads presented charts outlining MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) text scores over time for students in grades kindergarten through 8. Dr. Rhoads and Dr. Moss answered Board members questions about student assessments.

General Counsel Drew Davis reviewed revisions to administrative regulations that govern the use of district facilities by outside organizations. Mr. Davis and Dr. Moss answered Board members' questions about the changes.

The school district's bond attorney, Frannie Heizer, summarized two resolutions authorizing the issuance and sale of two general obligation bonds. The first bond issuance is not to exceed \$6,788,000 (Qualified Zone Academy Bonds). These bonds are extremely low-interest bonds with revenues designated solely for school renovation projects. Motion approved. The second bond issuance is not to exceed \$15,300,000 (FY2017 8 Percent Capital Projects). These bonds are also low-interest bonds with revenues that will be used on facilities renovation and maintenance projects during the summer months. Motion approved.

General Counsel Davis presented a resolution celebrating National School Bus Safety Week. Board members commended school transportation employees and stressed the importance of their mission to the school district. Motion approved.

Consent agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the October 6 meeting minutes. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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<http://www.bcgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>