

## **Board of Education Summary – November 15, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Invocation**

The Invocation was presented by the Whale Branch Early College High School Choir. The Choir performed the school's new Alma Mater. The song's words were by students Teenesia Drayton, Erica Simmons and Rachel Tankersly. Arranged by Whale Branch Early College High School Chorus under the direction of J. Anthony Gaskin and sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne.

### **Statement of Media Notification**

### **Points of Celebration (as spoken by Dr. Truesdale)**

Happy American Education Week! This week marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of public education in the United States. We celebrate our students, our teachers, our staff and their accomplishments! We also celebrate our parents and members of our community at large who support our efforts. Mr. Washington has a proclamation to read to declare this American Education Week in Beaufort County....

Parents and community members play a very large role supporting our schools, students and special projects. Tonight it is my privilege to honor Deborah Trevithick, a parent at Battery Creek High School, who was instrumental in securing the \$5000 Bi-Lo Grant to the Battery Creek Robotics Team. A *certificate was presented to Mrs. Trevithick.*

***2008-2011 School Report Card Absolute Ratings – Chart to go on screen.....Dr. Truesdale spoke about the latest ratings and congratulated all on consistent achievement improvements.***

Bluffton Elementary School Principal Christine Wright-Brown was named the recipient of the Tenenbaum Award at recent graduation ceremonies for the School Leadership Executive Institute. The Executive Institute is a one-year course operated by the South Carolina Department of Education that works with principals to development their management, communication and instructional skills. A peer-selected honor, The Tenenbaum Award recognizes one participant in each class who demonstrates superior leadership skills and dedication, and who, in the view of the class, was the individual who made the biggest difference in the group's overall learning experience. This is the third year in a row that a teacher from the Beaufort County Schools has received this award. Previous recent recipients include Mona Lise Dickson and Phillip Shaw.

Eleven Beaufort County Schools are the recipients of Project Unify Grants from Special Olympics. Each school will receive approximately \$1000. The Beaufort County School District led the way for the greatest number of grants awarded to a single district in South Carolina for the second year in a row. Project Unify is a joint initiative between Special Olympics North America and the US Department of Education to utilize existing state Special Olympics programs and initiatives in combination with

schools with a goal to activate communities where all young people are agents of change, who foster advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

Sixty-one community volunteers are giving of their time and talent this week as part of the Junior Achievement Global Entrepreneurship Week in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom across the district. Volunteers are teaching, leading discussion groups, and imparting their experiences as business owners and operators. Each volunteer is assigned to one class for the entire week spending an hour a day. Our thanks are extended to the volunteers and to Junior Achievement of Coastal South Carolina for making this very important learning experience a success for our students!

The MC Riley PTO held its Third Annual Riley Run on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a healthy way of fundraising. The event took place throughout the day with parents invited to cheer on over 770 student runners. Students collected pledges resulting in over \$12,500 in funds for the school. The sponsors of the event were Kidz Play, Palmetto State Bank, American Aire, Monster Pizza, Downtown Deli, Target, Palmetto Electric and Piggly Wiggly. Top pledge collectors were treated to lunch with Principal Adrienne Sutton at their school!

The Beaufort cluster held its Tri-Centennial Revue last Thursday evening and it was a GREAT event. Every cluster school participated and presented a vignette of Beaufort history – from the Yemassee massacres of the 1700's to present day Beaufort. Thank you to our talented students and hardworking teachers for presenting such an entertaining evening. A special thank you is also extended to Margaret Rushton and Jennifer Woods for coordinating the event. Monies raised from the event will go for a donation to the Tri-Centennial Memorial from the schools and the Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Talented Beaufort County athletes are being signed at colleges throughout the region. Recent signings include:

- Trevor Pike from Beaufort High School who signed a letter of intent to the University of South Carolina. Trevor has received an academic scholarship, but was also invited to join the Baseball Team
- Sammie Buchanan, outstanding golfer from Bluffton High School, has signed with the University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Lily Bartell, outstanding golfer and scholar from Hilton Head High School, has signed with Bowling Green State University
- Swimming for Florida State University next year will be Josie Cuda, Girls' Swim Team Captain at Hilton Head High School.
- Kevin Hickey, shortstop standout from Hilton Head High, will play baseball for Charleston Southern University

Congratulations to the Battery Creek Marine Corps JROTC drill team for their outstanding performance this past weekend at the annual Hilton Head Island High School Seahawk Classic Drill Meet. The Battery Creek Team won overall 1st place out of eight schools, winning one third place, one second place, and four first place event trophies.

Battery Creek High Schools SADD Club was showcased in the latest edition of the Kidsville Magazine! SADD Club members and parents in conjunction with Beaufort County Drug and Alcohol and the Highway Patrol will be serving free hot chocolate, coffee and hot tea to travelers at the I-95 rest stop in Hardeeville on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to midnight. Club members anticipate that they will serve more than 5,000 visitors during those two days. Thank you students for your service to travelers in our region!

HHHS seniors Jean White, Adrian Austin, and Jean-Luc McMurtry have been named to the 2012 High School Honors Choir for the Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. Comprised of eleven states, the Southern Division will hold its biannual conference in Winston-Salem, NC Feb 29-Mar 3, 2012. Thousands of audition tapes were submitted and these three students were chosen to participate. All three are members of the schools premier vocal group, *Out of the Blue*.

Eighteen Beaufort High School students were named to the South Carolina Music Educators' All-State Choir. (*Names were shown on the screen*). The South Carolina All-State Chorus program provides an intensive and demanding vocal experience, which fosters self-discipline and personal growth as well as musicianship.

Over a hundred students are in the Bluffton High School Performing Arts Center this evening participating in the annual All-County Band Concert. The students have spent countless hours practicing and reports from rehearsal indicate it is going to be a great performance! Thank you to the students and teachers for sharing their talent with our community.

Two of three Technology Innovative Program Awards given to South Carolina schools at the recent South Carolina Association for Educational Technology Conference were awarded to Beaufort County Schools! Bluffton Middle School's Computer Technology 6 Program and the District's Virtual Summer School Program were cited for excellence. Computer Technology 6 is a mandatory course that teaches students how to use word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, audio and visual media, Web 2.0 tools such as blogging and learning social networks to help them in their academic classes. Students also learn about cybersafety issues such as cyberbullying, identity theft, sexting, reputation defense, identity protection, and illegal file sharing.

The highly successful Virtual Summer School Program is a summer enrichment program designed for students in grades K-8. This instructional program provides students and parents with the opportunity to continue academic progress throughout the summer months via any computer with an internet connection. Virtual Summer School is provided free to all Beaufort County School District students.

Congratulations to our Technology Team providing these innovative programs!

Lady's Island Elementary School reports that the Holiday Inn of Beaufort has generously offered to support the school's PBIS Program! Members of the Holiday Inn management team, Philip Carroway and Nicki Williams, recently presented two students with a brand new bike during the school's first quarter Awards Assembly. The students, Fatima Alarcon and Detrell Freeman, purchased chances to win the bike using school 'Osprey Dollars' that they earned in school by showing good behavior. All students at Lady's Island Elementary are permitted to spend their Osprey Dollars each week at our school store, which include a wide variety of items and school privileges.

Dr. Truesdale added that Youth Leadership Ambassadors were seeking donations to purchase “uniforms” for its members. The uniforms consist of khaki pants, white shirt, blue blazer and tie. For questions and information, contact Dr. N’Kia Campbell.

Mr. Washington and Mr. Evans commended the faculty and students involved in the Tri-Centennial Revue.

### **Public Conversation**

A community member spoke about bullying, a personnel contractual subject and busing to Robert Small next year for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Washington addressed the bullying issue and how the district has been working on the problem for several years. He also clarified statements made about a district employee’s contract.

### **Showcase: Update on Teaching Respect and Responsibility: Anti Bullying Initiative**

Dr. Hayes and Dr. Truesdale reported on Anti-Bullying Initiatives. In recent weeks the Staff has shared information within the communities – Student Advisory Council and Ecumenical Partner Groups in south and north County, SICs, police departments. Board members commented on attendance at various meetings and urged that it becomes a community effort to involve all stakeholders -- that we do not tolerate certain actions and behaviors. It is not just a problem among students but among adults as well.

### **Chairman’s Report –**

- December 13 will be the one Board meeting in December.
- Ad hoc committee appointments: Energy Policy – Wilson, Burnes, Morello and Bush
- Entrepreneurship – Evans, Wilson, Rivers, Burnes
- Long Range – Committee of the whole
- Minority Women and Local Business – Evans, Campbell, Bush, Bell

Southern Planning Department Meeting – Mrs. Bush reported that she had met with Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. White recently to discuss planning in the southern sector of the county.

### **Superintendent’s Report:**

Dr. Truesdale introduced members of counseling staffs – who presented the six-step accountability program (MEASURE) for school counselors. Project leaders included Betty Jankowski and Meredith Fent (Beaufort Elementary - elementary schools), Deborah Black and Jessica Fleming (Beaufort Middle) and Geri Henderson, Jennifer Rook, Cynthia Bobian (Whale Branch Early College High School).

Excerpts from the six steps included:

- **Misson:** I will target these classes school wide with guidance lessons on motivation, career week including career day, study skills group, social skills group for those recommended.

- **Element:** What data element are you trying to positively impact? Report card data – grades, test scores, attendance, promotion rates, tec.
- **Analyze:** Analyze by aggregating and disaggregating the data to better understand which students are or are not meeting success
- **Stakeholders – Unite:** Develop strategies and set timelines for moving the data element.
- **Results:** Restate baseline data and determine where is data now and if goals are being met.
- **Educate:** Educate others as to your efforts to move data.

Mrs. Phyllis White reported on FY 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statements. According to Mrs. White, the biggest problem is revenue – collections – spending is pretty much on target.

Mrs. White also reported that for the 11th year in a row, independent financial auditors have reported “no findings” with the District’s financial records. This is an excellent track record.

Mr. Chris Poe presented to the Board the 2012-2017 5-year facilities project plan. Mr. Poe also reported to the board that all 55 previous projects have been successfully completed. As this was Mr. Poe’s last presentation to the Board, Board members commended Mr. Poe on his service to the children of Beaufort County through his outstanding work on new schools and renovation projects over the past 5 years.

#### **Board Business –**

The Board approved the selection of Thompson Turner Construction Company for Summer 2012 Projects.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

The Board approved minutes of the October 18 Board Meeting and October 28-29 Board Work Session.

The Board adjourned at 7:49 PM.