

Superintendent's Board of Education meeting summary
Two-day work session, August 11-12, 2017

Day 1 – August 11, 2017

Chair Earl Campbell convened the first day of the Board's two-day work session at 9:02 a.m.

The agenda was approved.

Pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Public Comment: A school bookkeeper briefed Board members on procurement procedures for the use of purchase cards at the school building level.

Superintendent Moss presented new "school snapshot" communication tools designed to give parents and community members statistical overviews of all district schools. From a district perspective, he noted that 3,460 students are attending school outside their zoned attendance areas through the district's school choice initiative. Currently the district serves 365 students who qualify as "homeless" under the federal criteria. Dr. Moss answered Board members' questions about individual school as well as district-wide data.

District Facilities, Planning and Construction Director Robert Oetting presented an overview of the district's facilities. The two biggest ongoing challenges are how to accommodate growth in student enrollment and how to deal with aging facilities. Those challenges are particularly acute in the Bluffton and Hilton Head Island communities. Oetting told Board members that the district is approaching a time when decisions need to be made on how to handle overcrowding – whether to build new facilities, install mobile classrooms or reassign students based on new attendance zones. Enrollment projections were presented, and Oetting and Planning Coordinator Carol Crutchfield answered Board members' questions. Board members discussed possible options, and several stated that redistricting should be considered prior to any consideration of spending money on new facilities. Dr. Moss said that district administration would develop a redistricting proposal aimed at reducing overcrowding.

Director of Network Operations Rob Confare briefed Board members on potential threats to the school district's computer and e-mail systems, along with the protective measures that the district has in place and how Board members can protect the integrity of their own e-mail systems. Mr. Confare answered Board members' questions.

Chief Finance and Operations Officer Tonya Crosby briefed Board members on various aspects of purchasing procedures and record-keeping. Ms. Crosby answered Board members' questions.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads briefed Board members on data from 2016-17 Measures of Academic Progress student assessments.

General Counsel Drew Davis reviewed state law related to mandatory child abuse reporting requirements that apply to school employees.

Moved to recess. Motion approved. Recessed at 3:02 p.m.

Day 2 – August 12

Vice Chair Geri Kinton reconvened the Board's two-day work session at 8:45 a.m.

Ms. Kinton asked Board members to look at their calendars for the second week of October to consider possible dates for superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Davis led a discussion among Board members about the district's voluntary desegregation plan, which since 1970 (amended in 2010) has required the district to seek approval from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights for changes to the racial composition of schools. Some districts have applied for, and have been granted, "unitary status" after successfully demonstrating to OCR that they have, to the extent practicable, eliminated intentional racial segregation in student assignment, faculty assignment, staff assignment, transportation, facilities and extracurricular activities. Being granted unitary status means that the district would no longer be under direct federal government oversight for such things as revising school attendance zones. Motion to direct staff to compile information for the Board to review about whether it wants to engage the community on the topic of applying for unitary status.

Dr. Moss informed Board members that Beaufort County is asking the Board of Education to determine whether school facility impact fees might be a viable funding mechanism to address student enrollment growth. Under such a program, for every new home built in the county, there would be a fee on that home that would be delivered to the school district for capital projects to help offset the costs of increasing student enrollment. County government is asking the Board to consider partnering with County Council to commission a school facility impact fee study (at an estimated cost of \$50,000) that would determine what such a fee structure might look like. County Council would make the ultimate decision on whether to institute an impact fee. Motion to add the topic to the Board's next regular meeting on August 15. Motion approved. Dr. Moss updated Board members on tax increment financing arrangements with the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Dr. Moss introduced a discussion about a proposal by the Technical College of the Lowcountry to create and build a 26,000-square-foot Lowcountry Culinary Institute at Buckwalter Place

Commerce Park in Bluffton. About 300 students would eventually be enrolled at the facility, which would cost an estimated \$11.5 million to build and equip. TCL President Richard Gough and Vice President Mary Lee Carns made a presentation on the culinary institute that focused on career education to serve Beaufort County's two largest industries: tourism and health care. Dr. Gough and Ms. Carns answered Board members' questions. TCL hopes to get a commitment from the school district for \$2.5 million (spread over a 20-year period at \$125,000 per year). Motion to add the topic to the Board's next regular meeting agenda on August 15. Motion approved.

Dr. Moss updated Board members on the current status of the working agreement between the Beaufort County School District and the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence.

Board members discussed various aspects of its operations, including committee structure, rules of order and Board training.

Motion approved to adjourn the two-day work session. The work session was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.