

## **Special Called Board of Education summary: March 31, 2015**

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. Agenda approved. Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Rivers.

### **Public Comment**

A Beaufort High School parent requested that the district revisit and reconsider any district policy that requires applicants for high school athletic director positions to have state administrative certificates. The government affairs director for the Hilton Head Association of Realtors said that she was attending today's meeting to represent Realtors as the Board of Education begins budget discussions for the 2015-16 fiscal year. She also mentioned and endorsed, on behalf of the association, House Bill 3562, which would allow a one-cent local option sales tax to provide credits against county property taxes levied for school operations.

### **Presentation of 2015-16 Preliminary Budget**

Superintendent Moss asked Chief Operations Officer Phyllis White to give an overview of the school district's preliminary 2015-16 budget.

Ms. White told Board members that the largest anticipated budget increases relate to the increase in students served as well as the August 2015 opening of River Ridge Academy in Bluffton. Other budget challenges for next year include:

- Higher state-mandated costs (increases in teacher "step" pay and benefits).
- Absorbed costs due to losses in state funding (moving programs into General Fund due to loss in funding)
- Expanded programs in prekindergarten and Career and Technology Education (CATE).
- Operational cost increases related to the new Bluffton school and to increases in general.
- "Step" pay increases for non-certified staff.

A new budget item proposed for 2015-16 is the development of a Welcome Center to assist parents who move into the district with school-age children. Bilingual staff would be able to help parents with enrollment and registration issues.

Board members asked questions and made comments about budgetary priorities and needs.

To review the PowerPoint presentation delivered by Ms. White to Board members, click here: [http://www.beaufort.k12.sc.us/files/\\_CfEEY\\_/ecc00ccb02e2b0923745a49013852ec4/3-31-2015\\_FY\\_16\\_Budget\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.beaufort.k12.sc.us/files/_CfEEY_/ecc00ccb02e2b0923745a49013852ec4/3-31-2015_FY_16_Budget_Presentation.pdf)

Motion not to send official budget information to Beaufort County Council until after the next scheduled Board of Education budget discussion. Approved.

Motion to extend the meeting until 7:15 p.m. Approved.

Chairman Evans introduced Drew Davis, the district's general counsel, who introduced a resolution in support of House Bill 3562, which would allow a one-cent local option sales tax, revenues from which could be used to provide credits against county property taxes levied for school operations. Motion to accept the resolution. Approved.

Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.