

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: June 11, 2019

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1-31, 2019 Personnel Ratification Report (approved). Motion to approve the Superintendent's monthly Adult Education/Home School report for June 2019 (approved). Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Brian Ryman as principal of River Ridge Academy (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Board discussion. Motion approved with the May 28 Special Called Board meeting minutes tabled until the next meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance. Statement of media notification. Moment of silence for Jonathan Beasley, a former principal in the district.

Points of Celebration (delivered by Interim Superintendent Herb Berg)

Retiree Recognition

Our school district's mission is to prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace. Tonight, we honor a group of professionals who have dedicated years of personal service to fulfill that mission. On behalf of the entire school district, our community, and the many lives you have touched, we say thank you. Thank you and congratulations to our Beaufort County School District retirees. I cannot express enough how much we appreciate your efforts.

When retiree names were called, based on years of service in descending order, they received a gift and remained at the front of the room for a photo. Total years of service might have involved several schools, either in our school district or in other South Carolina school districts.

Patricia Horton, retiring from Broad River Elementary with 41 years of service.

Jayne Richardson, retiring from Beaufort Elementary School with 38 years of service.

Mark Clifford, retiring from Beaufort High with 30 years of service.

Retiring with 29 years of service are Leah Roche, Bluffton High; Karen Culler, Hilton Head SCA; and Angela Allen, Mossy Oaks Elementary.

Retiring with 28 years of service are Kinsler Mack and Melissa Welch, both retiring from Beaufort High; Karen Harmon, Beaufort Middle; Sara Drew, Coosa Elementary; Sandra Amsler, District Office; and Sarah James, Transportation Department.

Retiring with 25 years of service are Marjorie Holland, Beaufort Middle; Florence Felts, Broad River Elementary; and Jane Fisher, Mossy Oaks Elementary.

Retiring with 23 years of service are Rhonda White, Battery Creek High; and Willa Simpson, Coosa Elementary.

Mary Clark, retiring from Shanklin Elementary with 22 years of service.

Retiring with 21 years of service are Joseph Fulgieri, Battery Creek High; Nettie Nelson, H.E. McCracken Middle; Cynthia Rodgers, Ladies Island Elementary; Brian Leff, Maintenance Department; Faye Waters, Robert Smalls International Academy; and Donna McCoy, St. Helena Elementary.

Retiring with 19 years of service are Debra Dabule, Hilton Head Island High School; and Francisco Gamez, Robert Smalls International Academy.

Retiring with 18 years of service are Cynthia Sprouse, Bluffton High; and Walter Capers, Lady's Island Middle.

Retiring with 17 years of service are Kenneth Hoffman, Battery Creek High; Margaret Borasky, Hilton Head SCA; Kathleen Smith, Islands Academy/Right Choices; Amy Whitman, Red Cedar Elementary; and Cynthia Wibel, Red Cedar Elementary.

Dana Alderman, retiring from Coosa Elementary with 16 years of service.

Maureen Kecmer, retiring from Hilton Head Island IB with 14 years of service.

Molly Kingma, retiring from Shanklin Elementary with 13 years of service.

Eileen Kolbe, retiring from M.C. Riley Elementary with 12 years of service.

Retiring with 11 years of service are Dianne Nightingale, Hilton Head ECC; and John Quindlen, Hilton Head Island High School.

Anthony Pernice, retiring from the District Office with 10 years of service.

Retiring with 9 years of service are Theodore Wagner, Right Choices; and Cicely Skinner, Whale Branch Middle School.

Donna Rombauer, retiring from Hilton Head Island IB with 8 years of service.

Patsy Truett, retiring from Hilton Head Island Middle with 7 years of service.

Character Education Student of the Month

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. Tonight, we celebrated the Character Ed students of the month for May, exhibiting the traits responsibility and cooperation.

“Responsibility” is defined as being accountable in word and deed. “Cooperation” is defined as the process of working together to the same end. We were happy to announce that our Character Education Student of the Month for May were from Robert Smalls International Academy and May River High School. Principals Jennifer Morillo and Joseph Bornscheuer introduced their students.

WordMasters Challenge

Several students from Broad River Elementary who earned perfect scores in the WordMasters Challenge national vocabulary competition were recognized. Principal Constance Goodwine-Lewis and Gifted and Talented teacher Patricia Horton introduced their students.

High School State Championships

We had two high school teams bring home state championship awards in their divisions. Battery Creek Principal Chad Cox introduced the girls’ softball team and championship win, followed by Beaufort High Athletic Director Linc Lyles introducing his boys’ track and field team.

Cinderella Fella Ball donations

Each year, the district hosts the Cinderella Fella Ball, a prom for Beaufort County students and adults with disabilities. From the caterers to the DJ to the photographer and more, this event couldn’t happen without strong community support. Event Coordinator Sheila Wiley introduced and thanked the donors.

Public Comment

A community member spoke about the possibility of a referendum. An assistant principal at Beaufort High gave a brief history of the high school and invited community members to visit a new history exhibit at the school. A community member spoke about the absence of data-driven governance. A community member advocated pay raises for data clerks.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May 16, 2019 Special Called Board meeting minutes (approved). Motion to approve the May 21, 2019 Board meeting minutes (approved). Motion to approve the May 23, 2019 Special Called Executive Session meeting minutes (approved).

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s Report Goal #1 Student Achievement – Terry Bennett, Director of Grants Management, presented on Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI) and MOAs in place for the six identified TSI schools (BES, BRES, JSES, OES, PVES, and WBES). Mr. Bennett addressed the Board’s questions. Motion to copy the Board on all communications between the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the district. Amended motion to copy the Board on all communication between SCDE and the Superintendent. Board discussion. Amended motion approved. Motion that local Board responsibilities and objectives of the MOAs be directed to the Academic Committee. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Whale Branch Middle Principal Freddie Lawton provided an update on the priority school MOA and addressed the Board's questions. The September 17 Board meeting will be the next update from both the Priority and TSI schools.

Board Business

FY2019-2020 Budget Re-Certification

Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby presented an update from County Council's first reading and an updated budget for recertification and presentation for County Council second reading on June 17. Dr. Berg shared that County Council will vote for a surcharge if the district splits it in two and comes back with a budget of \$254 million (cut of another \$1 million). Dr. Berg and Ms. Crosby addressed the Board's questions. Motion to certify the FY 2020 operating budget removing Line 20 (reduce 15 instructional coaches in the amount of \$1,394,539) for a total expenditure amount of \$254,297,442. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Discussion of Interim Superintendent and New Superintendent Contracts

Dr. Berg updated the Board on Dr. Rodriguez's recent visit to the District. The Board discussed Dr. Rodriguez's pre-employment services per his contract. Motion to approve 10 days for Dr. Rodriguez to visit the district before July 1. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Dr. Berg's last day will be June 30.

Public Comment

A district school principal spoke against budget cuts that would reassign instructional coaches as classroom teachers.

Announcements

There will be a special called meeting to discuss the referendum on June 18 at 6 p.m. at the district office. Board discussion.

There is an ACE Board meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

District staff seeking more detailed information about Board actions can view Board meetings in their entirety, at any time, on the County Channel. Archived meetings may be viewed at this link: <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/the-county-channel/>