

Board of Education Summary

August 21, 2012

Public Session:

Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 6: PM

Approval of Agenda:

The Agenda was amended to reflect the removal of the consent agenda.

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Mr. Burnes gave the invocation.

The Board recognized the death of two members of the School District family, Mrs. Ida White a teacher from Whale Branch Elementary School and Mr. Chisolm, from the Seabrook Community, a former bus driver.

Points of Celebration (as spoken by Dr. Truesdale)

POINTS OF CELEBRATION

August 21, 2012

- **GRADUATIONS**

Proud students and their parents attended graduation ceremonies for Beaufort County high school seniors who completed their diploma requirements over the summer. Fifty-one “recovery graduates” received their diplomas during August 17 ceremonies at Battery Creek High School, and that’s a big increase from the 21 students who received diplomas in last year’s summer ceremonies. A job well done, not only by the determined students and their parents, but also by the staff at our high schools who stuck with these 51 students during the summer and made certain that they completed their diploma requirements successfully. In addition to the district students who graduated on August 17, 56 adult education students also received their diplomas.

- **We are part of Grad Nation and ON-TIME GRADUATION is our focus!** To kick-off this most important initiative is the **September 7th State of the Schools Breakfast** co-hosted by the Beaufort and Jasper County Boards of Education. Our speaker will be Dr. Betty Molina Morgan, Executive Director of Grad Nation. Our theme: Mission Possible: On-Time Graduation. Our Goal: to increase our graduation rate to 90% by 2020 with no school graduating less than 80%
- **Happy New Year!!!** (slides will run while you speak) Nearly 20,000 children started classes yesterday in our Beaufort County Schools. There were many, many happy faces and, well, a few not so happy, but I am delighted to report a very smooth start to the year on the school level. I had the privilege to visit several schools and the constant impression was how orderly and QUIET the schools were! Kudos to our school teams and GCA for preparing our schools for the new year.

- Last week was our Pre-New Year **Back-to-School Rally** at Bluffton High School. Many thanks to our student participants. The combined Color Guard, Bands, and Mrs. Wheeler's Strength Training Class were outstanding! Congratulations are also in order for our five **District Teacher of the Year Finalists**: Hollis Lambert, Angela Stewart, Jennifer Weitekammer, Amy Fallon and Erin Reichert. Our District Teacher of the Year will be named on September 21st.
- While we normally call these remarks our "Points of Celebration," tonight we offer a Point of Apology to the wonderful staff and Principal, Kim Bratt, at the Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center. At the Back-to-School Rally, the Childhood Center was not presented with a flag due to an embarrassing oversight. We gave flags for our Palmetto Silver and Gold winners and schools who are "Aspiring for Greatness." The Childhood Center did not fall within these parameters as they do not qualify for the Palmetto Silver and Gold awards and are not "Aspiring" – they have made it! A flag touting their accomplishments is soon to be delivered!
- We would like to thank our community partners, The Sea Island Rotary, for graciously donating \$1000 that will be earmarked for student uniforms at Beaufort Middle School.
- Our Business Education Partnership has produced a progress report that will be published in our local papers. The report will be in the Gazette and Packet on Sunday. Many thanks to our Business Partner GCA for sponsoring the report.
- Mr. Washington has three Certificates of Achievement and pins to present for Board members this evening. Mr. Washington.....for Mr. Burnes, Mr. Evans and Mrs. Bell

Public Conversation

A member from the community running for a school board seat talked about various ideas on education.

Showcase – Starbase

Mr. Robert Semmler, Director of STARBASE MCAS Beaufort

Mr. Semmler presented an update on the STARBASE Program at MCAS. This year's program will begin September 10th and go through May. Approximately 1000 students are scheduled to go to the STARBASE Program this year. Future plans include a STARBASE 2 Program for Middle School students. STARBASE emphasizes math, science, and engineering.

Committee Reports

Mr. Evans reminded the Board of the September 7 State of Our Schools Breakfast at ACE.

Superintendent's Report

Update on Student Achievement and Targeted Schools

- Percent of student on or above grade level for both READING and MATH has increased in all grades (k-8) since 2009.
- Percent of students passing End of Course exams in Algebra1, English, and U.S. History has increased since 2009. The percent of students passing Biology has increased since 2011, the first year the assessment was administered.
- The percent of students failing to meet standard on PASS has decreased in all grades (3-8) in Math, and grades 3,4,7,8 in ELA. Only grades 5 & 6 have increased since 2009.

- The per cent of students passing ELA and Math on the first attempt of High School Exit Exam (HSAP) has increased since 2009.

Targeted Schools with higher achievement gaps in reading and math from state levels: St. Helena, Broad River, Shanklin, Whale Branch Elementary, Whale Branch Middle. Recommendation to the Board to support the concept of targeting resources as listed below. There is no need to amend the budget, only to concur that there is a shift in resources to support the five schools more intensely.

Proposed Change to IS-43 Grading/Assessment Systems Administrative rule was presented to the Board for review. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. White presented a change to the Mileage Rate to be consistent with the standard mileage rate established by the State of South Carolina. The old rate was 44.5 cents and the new rate would be 55.5 cents. The Board approved the increase on a 9-1 vote.

Dr. Truesdale presented to the board as information enrollment comparisons 2010-2012. Nine schools have lost student while the remaining have gained. First day enrollment was 19,671 county-wide.

Board Business

Riverview Annual Report – tabled to next meeting.

The board approved a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$10,000,000 general obligation bonds.

The board approved a second resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$3,160,000 general obligation bonds.

The board approved a donation of \$1,000 from the Sea Island Rotary Club for school uniforms at Beaufort Middle School.

The Board Adjourned at 8:47 PM.