

## **Board of Education Summary – September 20, 2011**

Board Chairman Fred S. Washington, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

The Board approved a settlement of \$2.65 million with the United National Insurance Co. and the S.C. School Boards Insurance Trust in a dispute with the carriers over settlement payments to victims of a former teacher convicted of child molestation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board approved the agenda.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Battery Creek High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Invocation – Mr. Burnes**

### **Statement of Media Notification**

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

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

Last Friday morning we were pleased to announce and honor our 2011-2012 District Teacher of the Year, Ms. Christine A. Gray from Hilton Head Island High School. Ms. Gray is an exemplary member of our staff and we are so grateful for her service to our students and district. Christine, please come forward. Please offer your congratulations to Christine Gray, 2011-2012 Beaufort County School District Teacher of the Year.

Tonight we have with us paraprofessionals who work with our Pre-K, kindergarten and exceptional children. They are here tonight to share their gratitude and praise our strong partnership with the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Thanks to a federal grant last year, these paraprofessionals have been able to stretch their learning through professional development courses at TCL. I would like to invite them to come forward and tell us their experience at TCL.

Our friends at Lowes in Bluffton have donated \$2,000 to build an outdoor classroom at Bluffton Middle School. The classroom can be used by all teachers. It is closest to the art rooms, so Dr. Rhodes expects it will get a lot of use as an outdoor studio! Thank you, Lowes, for being such a generous business partner!

Cory Tressler reports that **87%** of all BCSD Teachers, Coaches, and Specialists have achieved all components of the 2010-2011 BCSD Tech Proficiency Plan. The BCSD Technology Proficiency Plan was a rigorous program to push our teachers to be more comfortable with integrating technology into all aspects of their curriculum. Of those participating:

**99%** completed the SC Tech Assessment (82% scored an 80 or higher)

**98%** submitted technology-integrated lesson plans

**98%** created a School Fusion website

**90%** completed 30 or more hours of technology training

Cory applauds our teachers for their hard work with becoming more tech-savvy! We have made incredible gains over the past four years.

Okatie Elementary School is "Proud to be of Service." The fifth grade is coordinating a schoolwide project of donations to be sent to service men and women overseas. Each grade level has a specific donation category. Great job, students!

September 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> were observance days for Patriots Day on September 11. I was very impressed with the various programs our schools presented. Great dignity, respect and patriotism were reflected. Thank you to our students and members of the community for their contributions to these events.

In honor of National School Spirit Day, the Lady's Island Middle School cheerleaders collected school supplies for the Franciscan Center of St. Helena Island. The Franciscan Center is an outreach center staffed by approximately 60 volunteers that offers academic assistance, computer training, and adult English language classes to the community. Many of the students and their families at their school have benefited from the Franciscan Center. The cheerleaders were recognized for this event in the national cheerleading website, Varsity.

Thursday from 9 AM to 1:30 PM is our second annual College Fair at Bluffton High School. Nearly 80 colleges and universities from many sectors of the United States will be in attendance. Juniors and seniors from our high schools will have an opportunity to talk to college admissions counselors and gather information. This is a cooperative venture with the University of South Carolina, Jasper and Hampton Counties.

I want to remind you all that this Saturday is the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of Port Royal Elementary School. Please join us at 3 PM at the school for an afternoon of reminiscing about years gone by and enjoying birthday cake with our students, parents and community members.

Sgt. David Lee of the South Carolina Highway Patrol Troop 9 (MAIT) Team out of the Coastal Region (Charleston) office was a recent visitor to HE McCracken Middle School in Bluffton. Sgt. Lee demonstrated to the advanced 8<sup>th</sup>-grade science classes how the Highway Patrol officers apply Newton's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> laws in accident reconstruction. The presentations were warmly received by all students who were very enthusiastic and inquisitive. Thanks, SRO Creason, for making this presentation possible.

Battery Creek High School graduate Brent Evans has been named to the Sporting News Pre-Season Honorable Mention All-American team. Brent was named Co-Freshman of the Year in 2010-11 for the Carolinas Athletic Conference. He is the leading scorer and rebounder in BCHS History. Way-to-go, Brent!!

Mr. Washington apologized for not informing the public last meeting when the executive session went over the 6 PM regular meeting time.

**Public Conversation:**

Members of the public talked about the Mitchelville Project on Hilton Head Island, Strive to Excel, school closures and consolidations, and Port Royal 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

Mr. Washington apologized that at the last Board Meeting he failed to inform the public that the executive session was taken longer than expected and the regular Board Meeting did not begin until 20 minutes after 6 PM.

#### **Showcase:**

Community Partnerships at Work: **Whale Branch Early College High School, A year in Review** Dr. Truesdale introduced members of the Technical College of the Lowcountry administration, Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department, and Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health. These partners play an integral part in supporting the community surrounding the new Whale Branch Early College High School.

Dr. Sean Alford presented a review of the successful first year of Whale Branch Early College High School. Accomplishments during this first year include:

- As of September 20, 2011, the projected enrollment was 464 and actual enrollment is 517
- Opening of the REAL Center, a technology classroom of the future
- On-to-one computing allows students to enhance technology skills while accessing content through a familiar conduit and the installation of Socrative software, which allows teachers to instantaneously gather feedback from students electronically.
- Tremendous increase in the number of students qualified and registered for TCL classes. In the fall of 2010, 13 students were qualified. In the fall of 2011, 76 students are qualified and taking two or more TCL classes. Two students are on target to graduate this year from Whale Branch with a high school degree and Associate Arts Degree from TCL.
- Establishment of the Marine Corp JROTC program in 2012-13.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

##### **For the Board's review, the Superintendent presented:**

- A protocol for unpaid student meals
- Quarterly Financial Statements (P.E. 4.7)

Jim Foster, Director of School and Community Services, presented Performance Expectation 9.1, 9.2 and 9.4. The Board commented on the importance of strong public and press relations. Mr. Foster noted in his report that while the Red Carpet program was eliminated by the State Department of Education, he and the Superintendent were investigating ways to re-introduce in the district. Red Carpet is an important blueprint for effective customer and family-friendly service in our schools.

Dr. Truesdale presented a report on the Strive to Excel Program and a Memorandum of Agreement between the school district and the Strive to Excel, Inc., the non-profit sponsor of the program. The Memorandum of Agreement detailed program expectations and responsibilities. The board also received a survey of students involved in Mentoring Programs throughout the district. Seventy-five percent of those responding to the survey were with the Strive to Excel program.

#### School Boundaries and Student Assignment 2012-2013:

Carol Crutchfield, District Planning Coordinator, detailed four alternative plans for school boundaries and student assignment for 2012-2013. The new alternative plans are a response to the August 5<sup>th</sup> Board action to close Shell Point Elementary School and failed motion on September 6<sup>th</sup> to move 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to Robert Smalls Middle School. Ms. Crutchfield presented the four alternatives.

Alternative A – Uses the same attendance zones used in planning since November 2010, uses a grade structure of PK-5 at the elementary level and 6-8 at the middle school level and ensures clean feeder lines. Under this plan, 249 students would be impacted, Robert Smalls would experience a capacity decrease in enrollment from 44 to 39 percent, Broad River percent capacity would be at 112%, and demographics would not change significantly.

Alternative B – New attendance lines would move students from Broad River to Shanklin and Broad River to Beaufort Elementary. The grade structure is as above, and the middle school attendance lines follow the elementary lines to form clean feeders. With this plan, 408 students would be impacted, Robert Smalls percent enrollment capacity decreases to 36% and jeopardizes its viability, and creates capacity issues for programs required to be on the 1st floor at Beaufort Elementary.

Alternative B2 – Impact is for the middle school level only. The Beaufort Elementary attendance area would be split to allow half of the students to go to Robert Smalls and half to Beaufort Middle. The plan would reverse earlier decisions about clean feeders, 349 students would be moved, Robert Smalls capacity percent would increase slightly, enrollments between RSMS and BMS would be balanced, but demographics would not be balanced.

Alternative C – This plan combines the elementary portion of Alternative A with the middle school portion of Alternative B2. There would not be clean feeder lines.

Board members expressed their concerns that Alternatives B2 and C would not be approved by the Office of Civil Rights. Mr. Washington asked that Board members who wished to provide further alternatives to please do so by contacting the administration. The next steps are Board action in October, providing notice to parents and community, submitting a plan to the Office of Civil Rights, establishing a transition team for student and staff assignments and redrawing transportation routes.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Washington informed the Board that he would bring a recommendation to them next meeting regarding the ROAR tax reform movement in South Carolina.

### **Board Business Action**

The Board approved a policy allowing members to video or audio conference into meetings should they be unable to attend due to illness or emergencies.

The Board approved a motion to share expenses of overages at the Academy for Career Excellence from recent renovations.

Mr. Washington made a motion not to sell surplus school facilities for five years. Following discussion, the motion failed to pass.

Mr. Washington made a motion to retain the JJ Davis name on the former elementary school building as long as the district owned the building. The motion was approved.

### **Consent Agenda:**

The Board approved the following Consent Agenda:

- September 6, 2011 Minutes
- Donation from Lowe's valued at \$2,000
- Semi-Annual Construction Updates
- Cleaning and Maintenance
- Minority/Women Owned Business Enterprise Report

The Board adjourned at 8:46 PM