

Two-day Board of Education work session (Day 1)

Friday, April 1, 2016

Chair Mary Cordray called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Motion to approve the agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Michael Rivers, Statement of Media Notification

Public comments

A community member said that Hilton Head Island Middle School students should have later start times. Ms. Cordray responded that the Board would consider a proposal later during the work session.

FY 2016-17 Budget Preparation

Beaufort County Auditor Jim Beckert briefed Board members on his office's efforts to ensure that all taxable property in the county was included in its annual tax collections. Beckert said his office has identified more than \$12 million in assets that has never been on the county rolls before, and those assets have the potential to generate more than \$100,000 in annual tax revenues. He said that his goal for the auditor's office is to ensure that tax billing is accurate, and also to ensure that all county residents pay their fair share of the overall tax burden.

Superintendent Jeff Moss and Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White presented the Board with information on the development of the school district's FY 2016-17 budget. Included in the presentation were anticipated increases in next year's budget, anticipated expenditure decreases, enrollment projections, projected revenues and millage calculations.

A pair of public forums have been scheduled for district parents and community members to get more information on next year's budget: May 5 in Bluffton High School's media center and May 9 in Battery Creek High School's media center. Other key dates in the process are:

- May 9, 2016 – County Council's first reading of the budget
- May 23, 2016 – County Council's second reading of budget
- June 13, 2016 – County Council's third and final reading of budget

Motion to go into executive session to discuss the negotiations incident to a contract regarding school bus transportation, receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. Approved.

Executive Session

Working Lunch

McNair Update

Lynn Stokes-Murray, a representative of the McNair law firm, discussed the Board's legislative agenda and the budget that has passed the South Carolina House of Representatives. For K-12 public education,

the House budget would increase the base student cost by \$130 to arrive at an estimated \$2,350 per pupil. The House-approved version of the budget includes a 2 percent teacher salary increase and a one-year step increase for all eligible certified teachers. Ms. Stokes-Murray took questions from the board. The full report presented can be found at www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/hupdate/lu3311.htm

Motion to go back into executive session. Approved.

Coming out of executive session, motion to reject Durham School Services' bid to continue providing school bus transportation services, and also for the school district to take over management of bus services effective July 1, 2016. Approved.

Motion to allow the district to acquire equipment including but not limited to school buses, with a cost not to exceed \$3.5 million. Approved.

Motion to table discussion on school start times until the April 5 Board meeting. Tie vote, motion failed.

Motion to accept the recommendation from the superintendent to change start times at Hilton Head Island schools to match start times at other district schools as approved by the Board on March 15. Elementary and PreK-8 schools would start about 8 a.m., and middle and high schools would start about 9 a.m. Approved.

Motion to rescind the Board's March 15 decision to change school start times. Motion failed.

Motion to recess. Approved.

Meeting recessed at 3:24.

Two-day Board of Education work session (Day 2)

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Chair Cordray reconvened the Board's two-day work session at 8:52 a.m.

Dr. Moss briefed Board members on projected growth in student enrollment and the Board's options on how to finance facilities construction to accommodate those additional students. Included in his presentation was a recap of previous discussions concerning a one-penny education sales tax referendum.

Dr. Moss said that if the Board were to approve placing a penny sales tax on the November 2016 general election ballot, he and Board members could share factual information about the school district's facilities needs and proposed capital improvements, but could not encourage voters to vote yes. Efforts to encourage voters to vote yes would be coordinated by an independent third-party organization not financed by the school district. Board members asked questions and engaged in extensive discussions about the potential merits and drawbacks of an educational capital sales tax.

Motion to approve placing a one-cent education capital sales tax, which would be effective for a period of 10 years, on the November 8, 2016 general election ballot. Approved.

The projects that would be funded with revenues from the sales tax referendum would be:

Projects to extend the life of existing facilities

Battery Creek High School – HVAC upgrade/replacement
Robert Smalls International Academy – Concessions/restroom/storage building at football field, HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Joseph Shanklin Elementary School – Roof replacement
Broad River Elementary School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Beaufort High School – Wrestling room addition
Beaufort Middle School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Coosa Elementary School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Lady's Island Middle School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Port Royal Elementary School – Roof replacement
Bluffton High School – Wrestling room addition, HVAC system upgrade/replacement
H.E. McCracken Middle School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement, roof replacement
Bluffton Elementary School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement, exterior walls waterproofing, roof replacement
River Ridge Academy – Concession building, parking & drive
Hilton Head High School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement, roof replacement
Hilton Head Middle School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement, roof replacement
Hilton Head International Baccalaureate Elementary – Roof replacement
Whale Branch Early College High School – Gym addition
Whale Branch Middle School – Roof replacement
Whale Branch Elementary School – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
District Educational Support Center – HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Maintenance building – Roof replacement, HVAC system upgrade/replacement
Right Choices School – Roof replacement

Project to accommodate increasing student enrollment

May River High School – Addition of new classrooms
River Ridge Academy – Addition of new classrooms
Hilton Head High School – Addition of new classrooms
Hilton Head Middle School – Addition of new classrooms
Two new elementary schools
New middle school
New early childhood center
Land for future school site

Ms. Cordray recused herself from chairing the Board work session during a discussion about whether to include Beaufort County's two postsecondary institutions (University of South Carolina Beaufort and the Technical College of the Lowcountry) as participants in the proposed one-cent education capital sales tax. Vice Chair Laura Bush took the gavel. Dr. Moss said that both USCB and TCL have expressed interest in participating in the sales tax ballot referendum, with their goals being to address their own facilities needs in accommodating increasing student enrollments. Board members discussed the issue. Motion to ask USCB and TCL if they might be interested in participating in the education sales tax referendum. Approved.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss a contract regarding the Beaufort-Jasper Academy of Career Excellence with the Jasper County School District, and the receipt of legal advice relating to a pending, threatened or potential claim or other matters covered by attorney-client privilege. Approved. The Board took no action after coming out of executive session.

The Board received a report from its Ad Hoc Committee on Board Commitments and Responsibilities from Committee Chair David Striebinger. Mr. Striebinger asked Board members to review the committee's proposed changes.

Ms. Cordray adjourned the work session at 2:03 p.m.