

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: June 23 and 24, 2020**

Chair Christina Gwozdz recessed the executive session and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion that the Board decline the offer to purchase the Bluffton property in the amount of \$885,000 (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda (approved). Pledge of Allegiance. Statement of media notification.

### **Public Comment**

Community member spoke regarding bond counsel.

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz recognized and thanked Communication Director Jim Foster for his service to the district and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the June 9, 2020 Board meeting minutes. (approved).

Motion to approve the June 16 Special Called executive session meeting minutes (approved).

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **CLOC Update**

Citizen-Led Oversight Committee Chair Ted Barber presented the second-quarter update on referendum projects and addressed the Board's questions.

### **Debt Millage Discussion**

Beaufort County Auditor Jim Beckert presented on debt millage, and he and Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby addressed the Board's questions. Motion that the Board seek a forensic audit using a Certified Forensics Accountant (CFE) or a Certified Financial Forensics Accountant to investigate unaccounted funds per the Beaufort County Auditor's presentation. The audit should include a review of all debt service revenue and expense accounts for the Beaufort County School District and accounting for all tax revenue and all state reimbursements for FY 2019-2020, FY 2018-2019, and FY 2017-2018. Board discussion. Amended motion that the Board seek a forensic audit using a Certified Forensics Accountant (CFE) or a Certified Financial Forensics Accountant to investigate unaccounted funds per the Beaufort County Auditor's presentation. The audit should include a review of all debt service revenue and expense accounts for the district and accounting for all tax revenue and all state reimbursements for FY 2019-2020, FY 2018-2019, and FY 2017-2018, for an audit cost not to exceed \$15,000. Board discussion. Motion carried. Motion that the Board request that Ms. Crosby, Dr. Rodriguez, Frannie Heizer, and Chad Cowan of Hilltop Securities meet with Mr. Beckert to address the numbers in question. Amended motion that the Board requests that Dr. Rodriguez meet with Mr. Beckert to address the numbers in question tonight. Board discussion. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports**

Academic Committee – Chair Tricia Fidrych said the committee met on June 17 to continue discussions on the committee’s scope of work and to review all current P.E.s. Motion that the Academic Committee's current scope of work (curriculum and instruction, CTE, K-8, alternative education, special education, 504 plans, Performance Expectations, Administrative Regulations and other topics assigned by the Board) be revised to focus on Performance Expectations; PE 1, PE 5A.1.2.3 in conjunction with the Operations Committee, PE 6, PE 7.5 conjunction with the Operations Committee, PE 8.11 and other topics as assigned by the Chair or Board. Board discussion. Motion withdrawn.

Meeting recessed at 9:01 p.m.

Chair Christina Gwozdz reconvened the Board meeting on June 24 at 6 p.m.

ACE Committee – Chair Earl Campbell said the committee met on June 11 and received a financial update from Ms. Crosby and an enrollment update from the ACE director. Mr. Campbell addressed the Board’s questions.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Growth Committee – Chair Rachel Wisnefski said the committee, which had not met since the last Board meeting, will meet again on June 25 at 4 p.m. to discuss information about the cost to copy and distribute the Capital Improvement Projects book.

Ad Hoc Coherence Governance Committee – Chair David Striebinger presented the Draft Coherent Governance Manual. Motion that the Board accept the document that the Ad Hoc Coherent Governance Policy had completed. Board discussion. Amended motion that the Ad Hoc Coherent Governance Policy had completed its task and is now dissolved. Board discussion. Amended motion that the Ad Hoc Coherent Governance Policy committee has completed its task and submits its final work product to the standing Policy Committee. Therefore, the Ad Hoc Coherent Governance Policy committee is dissolved. Board discussion. Motion approved. Mr. Striebinger expressed appreciation to Ms. Cushingberry for her assistance in keeping track of the document’s changes.

Finance Committee – Chair JoAnn Orischak said the committee met to discuss reviewing three PEs. The three PEs will become Operational Expectations under Coherent Governance. The committee is missing a PE for food service and administrative technology. The committee will review those two PEs on July 7. The committee will bring all the PEs to the full Board for approval. The committee would like guidance from the Board on their scope in establishing finance policy. Board discussion. Motion that proposed policies be brought to the full Board for approval by the appropriate committee. Board discussion. Amended motion that policy proposals be brought to the Board for approval by the appropriate committee in the form of a motion for the standing Policy Committee to legally vet and insert into the policy manual. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Operations Committee – Vice Chair William Smith said the committee received a construction update at its last meeting. Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting introduced Rob Corbin, Bond Referendum Program Manager, who shared the construction update with the full Board. Mr. Oetting presented draft CBRE Heery performance review criteria. Mr. Corbin and Mr. Oetting addressed the Board's questions. Board member Richard Geier requested that CLOC reports, public opinion and operations committee opinions be placed in one document and presented to the full Board as part of the evaluation. Motion that the Board direct the Superintendent have the staff bring back to the Operations Committee an evaluation tool. Board discussion. Amended motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to have the staff bring back to the Operations Committee an evaluation tool for quantifying construction management performance. Board discussion. Motion approved.

### **Superintendent's Report Continued**

#### **Goal #1 Student Achievement**

Chief Instructional Services Officer Mary Stratos presented updates on Priority and TSI schools and addressed the Board's questions.

#### **Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility**

Ms. Crosby presented the monthly \$100K report. Mr. Oetting advised the Board of costs related to referendum and 8% funding projects and addressed the Board's questions. Ms. Crosby presented the Board's monthly budget and the monthly transparency report.

#### **Other Matters**

Dr. Rodriguez provided a COVID-19 update, including plans for summer reading camps. Board members provided feedback for safety protocols. Dr. Rodriguez shared preliminary results from a parent survey and asked for the Board's perspective on reopening plans for the fall.

Motion to postpone two Board business agenda items (Discussion of Length of Board Meetings and Discussion of Board Parliamentarian) until the July Board meeting (approved).

### **Future Agenda Topics**

Cathy Robine reminded that the Board is waiting on the Town of Port Royal to discuss its TIF.

Board resumed Executive Session.

Coming out of Executive Session, motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Dr. Celestine LaVan as principal of Robert Smalls International Academy. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn approved at 11:02 p.m.

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