

Board of Education Summary

March 2, 2010

School Board Meeting

Chairman Fred Washington called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Washington called for the approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved

Pledge of Allegiance

Media properly notified

Invocation

Students from Hilton Head Island Middle School led the invocation with a poem and information about HHIMS.

Points of Celebration

As spoken by Dr. Truesdale –

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It has been a very busy time in our schools and we have many wonderful events, honors, and activities to report on this evening.

I begin this evening by honoring two very generous community partners. As you know, our community partners are so important to our schools and the Lollipop Shop of Beaufort is a shining example! It is my privilege to introduce you to Cindy and Glenn Jacobus who recently donated an eInstruction CPS and Mobi System to be used during training and meetings to our new District Training Lab at the District Educational Services Center. Cindy and Glenn, it is my honor to present you with this commendation of gratitude.

Tonight it is my privilege to also honor our school social workers who tirelessly serve the students and their families in our school communities. This is School Social Worker Week in South Carolina and our board joins the Governor in saluting these educational professionals. (Read Proclamation)

And now, let me share the wonderful news of our schools and students.....

It was a family celebration recently at Beaufort Middle School as Junior Scholars from across the county were honored for their academic performance at the Annual Junior Scholars Banquet. With 128 scholars and parents in attendance, it was a wonderfully crowded event!

Next week, the district will host its inaugural Senior Scholars Banquet at Hampton Hall in Bluffton. The 52 students named as Senior Scholars have met the following criteria: 3.5 or greater grade point average; B or greater in all Carnegie bearing high school courses; and rank in the top 10% of their graduating class. Congratulations to all of the students who have been chosen as Senior Scholars!

Students at Whale Branch Middle School have written a historical fiction book in Mrs. Rentz's Social Studies Class that is self-published and is being sold on line. The students wrote the book, created the illustrations, and raised funds so that each child could purchase a copy of the book. Kudos to our budding authors!

I hope that you will go on line to our District Website and read about the wonderful story of Jasmine Middleton, a student at Robert Smalls Middle School, who rallied her fellow classmates to help children in Afghanistan. With the help of her father who is stationed in Afghanistan, Jasmine has brought the students of Roberts Smalls together to learn more about the Afghan culture and plight of many school children who have very limited books and school supplies. Jasmine and her fellow classmates have produced a video and raised more than \$300 for supplies for Afghan children. Congratulations on this wonderful project!

This week students around the world are celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and our students are joining in the celebration!

At Okatie Elementary School, "Seussical, Jr.," a musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss was presented by 31 fifth grade students. The show was based on the works of Dr. Seuss and strings together several of his stories set to music. Stars of the show were Zack Hellstrom as Horton the Elephant, Sydney Turpin as Jojo, Chloe Thomas as the Sour Kangaroo and Zeke Greco as "Cat in the Hat".

Students at many of our elementary schools are enjoying read-a-thons of Dr. Seuss stories by community members and District Senior Staff this week. The read-a-thon events are in conjunction with the "Read Across America" initiative held each year around Dr. Seuss' birthday. In this picture, Dr. Cynthia Hayes is reading to kindergarten students at Shanklin Elementary.

The "Perfect Penguins" of Mrs. Prekop's first grade classroom at Mossy Oaks have built an "igloo" out of milk cartons. The igloo is part of Mrs. Prekop's positive behavior program in her class. Children who succeed as a "Perfect Penguin" are rewarded by "chilling out" in the igloo. The students' collecting of the plastic milk cartons was also woven into a lesson plan on the importance of recycling.

Members of Lady's Island Stacking took part in the Southeast Regional Sports Stacking Championships recently in Rome, GA. The group, including students from LIES and LIIS, set five potential state records and won a total of 24 awards, including five second places and seven first places. LIES students included Eli Smith, Molly Smith, Aaron Peterson, and Garrett Jepson. LIIS students were Anna Smith and Logan Riley.

Thursday, February 18, Broad River Elementary students were showcased in "Broad River's Got Talent!", an evening event sponsored by the PTO. With 25 acts, the 30 students shined as they performed talents to include singing, dancing, hula-hooping, karate, and poetry. Select students from grades K-5 were all represented. With over 200 guests in the audience and Mrs. Russ, BRES music teacher, as master of ceremonies, Broad River really showed they truly have talent!

Last week, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts students presented a colorful production of "Circle Unbroken" based on the children's book of the same name by award winning author, Margot Theis Raven. This wonderful event played to a standing room only audience!

Students from elementary, middle and high school dance classes recently participated in the district-wide, three-day dance festival. Students participated in dance workshops studying various forms of dance ranging from our state dance – The Shag – to dance movements from other countries. The event culminated in a joyous recital by the students. Many thank yous to our talented dance teachers and Teresa Baker who coordinated the event.

Hilton Head Island Middle School teachers Sherry Kahle and Kathy Cramer were recent presenters at the annual SC Middle School Conference. They shared the origin and outcomes of their innovative after-school program called Pottery Pals. This program, held in the fall, paired middle school special needs students with gifted and talented visual art students. Together they not only created works of art but also, and most important, they forged new friendships.

The Beaufort High School ensemble *Inner Voices* joined music groups from across the United States at the New York City Jazz Festival at Lincoln Center this past weekend. The festival featured clinics from top vocal and instrumental professionals and culminated in a performance by all participants.

Last week, I had the wonderful opportunity to “SKYPE” with some of our third grade students at the A.M.E.S. Academy. These students wanted to interview me and I thought it was a great opportunity to visit with them in their classroom. I was all set to visit their classroom when I was told that their visit was to be by SKYPE. We had a wonderful time!

Since the earthquake in Haiti, our students have continued to generously and creatively raise money and send donations to relief agencies on site in that devastated country. Two more shining examples are:

AVID students at Bluffton High School sold “hearts” for Haiti

And....In collaboration with a local relief agency, students and parents from Hilton Head Early Childhood Center, Hilton Head Island IB and Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts donated backpacks full of personal and educational items for children living in an orphanage in Bon Repos, Haiti. The schools’ PTOs seized this opportunity to assist children in Haiti, and worked tirelessly to compile the backpacks. Backpacks were more than filled with the following items ranging from toothpaste and toothbrushes to shoes, clothes and school supplies. I am so proud of these young people helping children in a country far away.

In closing, I’d like to offer hearty congratulations to all of the students across the district who participated recently in their schools’ annual science fairs. There is always a great deal of study and preparation that goes into a science fair project. Thank you all for doing such a great job!

Public Conversation

Several members of the community expressed concern over information provided regarding Riverview Charter School and concern for revisiting the student reassignments.

Comment Corrections

Chairman Washington, Board Member Jim Bequette and Board Member Bob Arundell addressed comments made by the public concerning the Riverview Charter School. Chairman Washington said he is not in favor of having an independent investigation into the data services protocol. He is in favor of appointing two liaisons to work between the Board of Education and the Riverview Charter School to improve communication. Chairman Washington is also calling for a joint meeting between the Legislative Delegation and County Council on March 19th in an open session to help education funding in the Beaufort County School District.

Committee Report

Board Member George Wilson recommended a motion to endorse a Resolution of the Beaufort County School District Board of Trustees encouraging parents and community members to contact their legislators to support public education. Motion passes.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, South Carolina is experiencing a severe economic crisis that is significantly impacting state revenue; and

WHEREAS, over the past two fiscal years South Carolina K–12 public schools have received General Fund budget cuts totaling \$484 million which equates to more than a 20 percent reduction; and

WHEREAS, these budget cuts have reduced the base student cost to \$1,764 per student, reflecting 1996–1997 funding levels; and

WHEREAS, Education Improvement Act funds have been reduced \$112 million over that same two-year period; and

WHEREAS, the most recent figures for the proposed 2010-2011 state budget include additional EIA cuts of \$9 million, and EFA cuts of \$85 million, reflecting a base student cost of \$1,630 (1995 funding level); and

WHEREAS, further cuts in revenue will harm the education of every child in South Carolina, threatening the State's decades-long effort to raise the levels of educational achievement and personal income of the people of our State; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts to educational achievement and personal income will significantly impair economic development efforts in our State; and

WHEREAS, Act 388 (property tax relief act of 2006) has severely hampered school districts' ability to raise local revenue to offset state funding shortfalls, and has had consequences that will, unless addressed legislatively, cause unintended shifts in the distribution of EFA funds; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly continues to give favorable consideration to legislation such as H.3272, the point-of-sale bill, and H.4243, the charter school bill, that will negatively impact local school district revenue; and

WHEREAS, it is apparent to this Board that the K-12 educational system is at risk of significant damage due to the failure to take any action, either immediate or long-term, to address our State's fiscal crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DOES HEREBY STRONGLY URGE the South Carolina General Assembly to support public schools during this economic crisis and prevent the loss of more teacher jobs by providing new revenue streams such as removing tax exemptions, enforcing online sales tax collections, and increasing the State's lowest-in-the-nation cigarette tax to the national average while directing a portion of the proceeds collected from the increase in the cigarette tax to K-12 public education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Carolina General Assembly place an immediate moratorium on the passage of any further laws that will grant additional tax exemptions, or increase school district financial obligations at the local level without adequate and recurring state funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Beaufort County School District Board of Trustees supports the immediate enactment by the General Assembly of maximum financial flexibility for local school districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Beaufort County School District Board of Trustees supports Legislative action this year to hold temporarily (for one year only) the Index of Taxpaying Ability published in February 2009 and use it for funding fiscal year 2010–2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be furnished to our members of the Legislative Delegation and communicated to our parents, businesses and school supporters.

APPROVED by the Beaufort County School District Board of Trustees at its March 2, 2010 Board Meeting.

Showcase

Director of Academic Initiatives, N’kia Campbell gave an overview on professional development and the work that is ongoing by teachers and administrators in the school district.

Superintendent’s Report

Chief Operational Services Officer, Phyllis White, gave an update on the Semi-Annual Cleaning Report.

Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford, gave a report on the district’s PASS test results. The students in Beaufort County School District exceeded the state average in the following grades and subjects:

- Writing – Exceeded state performance in Grades 5 and 7
- English/ Language Arts – Exceeded state performance in Grades 5 and 7
- Science – Exceed state performance in Grade 8
- Social Studies – Exceed state performance in Grades 6 and 7

This is an improvement over last year’s PACT results in which the district exceeded the state average in one of 24 performance areas. In 2009, Beaufort County Schools exceeded the state performance in seven areas.

Board Business Action

- Amend the approved FY 2011 8% projects amount from \$20,275,247 to \$20,575,247 to include the roof repairs at Bluffton High School. Any proceeds received through legal remedies will be applied against the borrowings (including floor repairs) **Passes**
- Motion to reconsider grandfathering provision of BES/BHS Student Assignment – **Motion fails**

Consent Agenda

Approved

Adjournment