

Board of Education Summary
April 23, 2010
Board Work Session

Vice Chairman Bob Arundell called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Vice Chairman Arundell called for the approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved

Pledge of Allegiance

Media properly notified

Invocation

Invocation given by Board Member, Herbert Burnes

Points of Celebration

Dr. Valerie Truesdale shared that the student voter registration contest has been successful. A total of 229 new students have now registered to vote at the four high schools.

Also following the request for permission to use some PE minutes for dance, an amendment was introduced to Rep. Shannon Erickson. The amendment was passed in K-12 subcommittee and bypassed the House Education Committee. The change will be debated over the next week. The amendment is as follows:

“In schools ~~having~~ that have dance education specialists, instruction based on the South Carolina dance curriculum standards and the dance components of the South Carolina physical education standards may be used to satisfy one-fourth of the required physical education minutes. School districts that want to implement an innovative program in physical education may request a waiver of the limitations specified in this requirement. Upon review of the curriculum, the State Department of Education may grant a waiver of the time allocation requirements.”

High School Dress Code Implementation Plan

Dr. Cynthia Hayes, Student Services Officer, presented an update on dress code implementation plan for the high schools. A handout was provided with all high schools listed with their specific colors and uniform expectations. Full implementation is expected to begin with the 2010-2011 school year.

Update on Right Choices Alternative Program

Dr. Cynthia Hayes, Student Services Officer, presented an update on the Right Choices Alternative Program.

Update on SAFE-T State Teacher Evaluation System

Alice Walton, Director of Certified Personnel, presented an update on SAFE-T State Teacher Evaluation System. This evaluation system was replaced to the former evaluation system used,

ADEPT. Percentages and results were given on teachers that went through SAFE-T this past year.

Update on Whale Branch Early College High School Implementation Plan

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, presented an update on the implementation plan of technology at WBECHS. Students will use “net books” instead of using the traditional textbook. The purpose is to create a 21st Century learning environment at WBECHS that will allow students access to digital resources and to promote an “anywhere, anytime learning environment.” Some textbooks will be transferred from other high schools with students; as well net books will provide students and teachers access to instructional materials and resources in order to improve student achievement.

Jim Finger, Instructional Technology Officer, presented features of the mini notebook (net-book).

Student Athlete Insurance Update

Jennifer Staton, Risk Manager, presented an update on the student athlete insurance. A graph was presented describing the information on costs of injuries in school sports. The graph shows the frequent and severe injuries that occur in school sports. Football has significantly the most injuries. Because of this, the Board asked all athletic directors to take a look at what can be done for injury prevention, especially during practice. An action plan will be developed to reduce student injuries from athletics by Ms. Stanton and Mr. Evans.

Achievement Gap Report Timeline

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, indicated he had received this report today and a presentation will be provided on May 4th.

School Report Card/Accelerated Schools Update

Principals, Mona Lise Dickson, Kay Keeler, and Don Doggett, presented to the board their progress as Accelerated Schools. Each school indicated specific goals and how they are being addressed and shared successes over the past school year.

Pre-Kindergarten Evaluation Update

Kay Newsome, Director of Readiness, presented a study comparing 2007-2008 Beaufort County School District students and non-Pre-K students as they are tracked through completion of Kindergarten (2008-2009) and first grade (2009-2010). Primary MAP is administered to all Kindergarten and first grade students in November and again during the end of April and the beginning of May. The data reflect average RIT scores and average growth scores for Math and Reading.

Budget Presentation 2010-2011

Phyllis White, Chief Operations Services Officer, presented a budget overview and discussion for 2010-2011. An historical overview was provided. The district minimized the FY 2011 operating budget by reducing staff at the district office (11) and school level (32) positions; decreasing district level departments budgets (\$840K), adjusting work calendars (\$77K) and

closing of schools and district office during the winter break (\$27K). These reductions of \$3.1M helped to minimize the 2010 - 2011 operating budget proposed at \$175.3M.

Included in the 2010 – 2011 budget are provisions to open three new schools (Whale Branch Early College High School, Bluffton Middle School and Pritchardville Elementary School). Overall staffing for the district will decrease by 15 positions despite the opening of three new schools. With the exception of hiring a few key staff, positions will be shifted from other schools. With the addition to the 74 positions eliminated during the FY 2010 budget, the total staffing reductions in two years is 106 positions.

Increases for 2010 – 2011 associated with opening of new schools totals \$3.8M. The overall 2010 - 2011 operating budget as proposed will increase \$3.8M from the current year (\$171.4M) which is a 2.2% increase. The majority of the increase is due to mandated certified staff step increase and contractual items (charter school, utilities, service contracts).

Three schools successfully opened in FY 2010 with no tax increase. Three more are scheduled to open in FY 2011 with an overall operating budget mill (tax) increase of 2%. For non-resident property owners, this equates to approximately \$2.25 per month on an average home of \$250,000. Resident homeowners do not pay taxes to support operating expenses for schools.

Extended Learning Times (ELT) Results

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, and Dr. Melissa Sheppard, Academic Improvement Officer, presented an update on results from Extended Learning Time (ELT). ELT is intended to provide time for strengthening skills in reading and math for students who have not yet met grade level or standards on the States' accountability tests. Students are given additional time to prepare for these basic skills by attending twenty additional learning days which are in addition to the regular school year. To date 8307 have been served during ELT. There will be another update in June.

2010 – 2011 Calendar Ratification

2011 – 2012 Calendar Consideration

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, presented the 2010-2011 calendar and the 2011-2012 calendar for consideration.

Expectations for Seniors Participating in Graduation and Plans for Summer Graduation 2011

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, presented a recommendation from high school principals that students in 2011 participate in graduation exercises only if they have completed all requirements for a high school diploma. An additional district wide graduation would be held in July for those students that did not complete all requirements by the June graduation but who finish all requirements by the proposed July graduation.

Jim Bequette made a motion to hold a district wide graduation in July for students completing requirements after the June graduation. Joan Deery then made an amendment that all students participating in the July graduation must have met all requirements to include passing all subparts of the HSAP. Motion passed.

Elementary Report Cards

Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, presented to the board the new elementary report card template which, beginning in the Fall of 2010, will be the same for all elementary schools in Beaufort County and will be distributed at the same time.

Motions:

George Wilson made a motion to allow flexibility to adjust budgeted expenditures from the current year budget within the total appropriated amount to achieve the necessary instructional and operating goals of the district, similar to a state proviso on flexibility. Motion passed.

Jim Bequette made a motion to authorize the administration to utilize the 2% allowed under Act 388 in order to support the budget for 2010-2011. Motion passed.

Jim Bequette made a motion to table the discussion of Tier III line items for budget cuts. Motion failed. The school board then discussed items in the Tier III category and their impact on the budget.

Jim Bequette made a motion that anyone who was already National Board Certified or in the process of pursuing National Board Certification be exempt from the possibility of losing the stipend for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion passed.

George Wilson made a motion that anyone who has not already applied for National Board Certification will not be guaranteed to receive the stipend in future years, should they earn National Board Certification. Motion Passed.

Ron Speaks made a motion to table executive session until the Tuesday, May 4, 2010 school board meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned