

Chairman Bill Evans called the meeting to order at 5 p.m., and the Board went into executive session. The Board reconvened at 6 p.m. and acted on the following motions:

- To accept the superintendent's recommendation for the renewal of certified employees for the 2014-15 school year. Approved.
- To accept the superintendent's recommendation that the employment of five annual and continuing contract teachers (Employees "A," "B," "C," "D," and "E") not be renewed. Approved.

Motion to approve the agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Evans asked everyone to take a moment of silence on behalf of two Hilton Head Island High School students killed in last week's car accident, as well as their families. The moment of silence also was on behalf of two other students involved in the accident who remain hospitalized with serious injuries.

Mr. Evans introduced the "Coosa Chorale," Coosa students from grades 2-4 led by music teacher Anna Wheeler who sang "The Rainbow Connection" from "The Muppet Movie."

Points of Celebration (presented by Superintendent Jeff Moss)

Good Evening. I am proud to say that with less than 10 weeks left in the school year, our teachers and students are in high gear. And tonight we have a lot to celebrate.

[BCHS SCIENCE SCHOLAR] I would like to begin our Points of Celebration with a student from Battery Creek High School who was named one of two most promising young scientific leaders in the state of South Carolina. Because of that designation, Arionna Russell has been chosen to represent our state this summer at the National Youth Science Camp in Washington.

[ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AWARDS] Three of our athletic directors have received special awards. Joe Monmonier at Hilton Head Island High was named a Regional Athletic Director of the Year for Class 3A by the South Carolina Association of Athletic Administrators. He also just became a Certified Athletic Administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Beaufort High's athletic director, Jerry Linn, was named a Regional Athletic Director of the Year for Class 4A.

Finally we recognize Carlos Cave, athletic director at Whale Branch Early College High, who was named the State Athletic Director of the Year for Class 1A. Also, he has become a Certified Athletic Administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

[WBECHS ATHLETIC AWARDS] Tonight we recognize two sports at Whale Branch Early College High, and we will start with wrestling. Senior Max Ford won first place in the Bamberg tournament, St. Johns tournament, Dreher Blue Devil Invitational and Hilton Head Tournament. Then he repeated key victories from last year to become both the Lower State Champion and State Champion for his weight class. Max was also chosen for the North-South All-Star Classic with other top senior wrestlers. His season record was 44-2 and, he had 33 pins. Congratulations to Max, and we wish him continued success in his next chapter at college.

Now I would like to recognize the Whale Branch varsity boys basketball team, led by Coach Lyles. They had an impressive 25-3 season record and were Lower State Champions for the second consecutive year. Mr. Campbell did some research and found that the last time a Beaufort County team made it to the state playoffs was back in 1989. Now you have done it twice in two years. We're very proud of these players and coaches.

[BEAUFORT ELEMENTARY TAP AWARD] Another exciting award our district recently received was on a national stage. Beaufort Elementary School was awarded a TAP Ambassador Award from the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching at the TAP National Conference in Los Angeles. They were one of only four winning schools nationwide, and they were recognized for representing the TAP system's principles and assisting other schools across the state and across the nation. We recognize Principal Gary McCulloch and representatives of Beaufort Elementary.

[BEAUFORT HIGH GREEN TEAM] Next I'd like to focus on a district-wide academic competition. The World Affairs Council of Hilton Head worked with us to present the annual Academic WorldQuest, during which students were asked questions about cybersecurity, U.S. energy policy, global economic realignment, the Middle East, global environmental issues, U.S. education, current events, world geography and global health.

Teams from all five district high schools participated, and some schools fielded two teams. Beaufort High's "Green" team took first place, Hilton Head Island High's "Columbia" team took second place and Bluffton High School's "Black" team came in third. The Beaufort High Green team that will travel to Washington next month for the national competition includes Ciaran Cordial, Robert David Crumley Jr., Austin Mix and Michael Schwartz. Debi Kidd is the coach.

[SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCILS] It's vital to our mission to have engaged parents, and we're always grateful to parents who participate in school activities – especially those who serve on school improvement councils. I'm happy to report that two of our schools were finalists at the state level for the prestigious Dick and Tunkley Riley Award for school improvement council excellence.

Port Royal Elementary earned an honorable mention, and we thank them all for the commitment they've made to helping their school. Assistant Principal Marvin Fowler is here to accept this certificate of achievement.

The second finalist for the Riley Award was Okatie Elementary – and they won! Highlights of Okatie’s SIC work are:

- Enhancing communication with parents on school issues and decisions.
- Establishing Ladies and Gentlemen’s Club Mentoring Programs.
- Collaborating to provide the HOOT Bag food program.
- Working to improve procedures and safety of student car rider drop-off/pick-up.

[OKATIE WINS PALMETTO’S FINEST] Last Wednesday, hundreds of us waited anxiously for a televised announcement in the school cafeteria. And when the announcer stated that Okatie Elementary had been named Palmetto’s Finest, the cheers and energy went through the roof!

It’s especially worth noting that Okatie became the first school in South Carolina to win all three major statewide awards in one year: National Blue Ribbon, Riley Award and Palmetto’s Finest. We congratulate the administrators, teachers, parents, and students at Okatie Elementary for receiving this designation. We’re proud of Principal Pinckney and everyone involved.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman Evans announced that Lynn Stokes Murray with McNair Law Firm would be in County Council’s executive meeting room for a joint meeting with the county Monday, April 7 at 4pm.

Mr. Evans also reminded everyone that April is the “Month of the Military Child” to recognize the sacrifices they make, and he encouraged everyone to wear purple on April 30 in their honor.

Mr. Evans also reported that the Board had a two-day board work session March 28-29 and thanked the Board members for their time and the discussions that took place.

Committee Reports

ACE: Mr. Rivers reported that the committee will meet next Wednesday, April 9 and are currently working on the budget.

Community Outreach and Legislative Advocacy: Mr. Campbell reported that the committee traveled to Columbia on March 26. He met with legislators and listened to candidates for State Superintendent of Education. Ms. Orischak reported that she, Ms. Cordray and Ms. Kinton met with Sen. Davis and Reps. Hodges, Herbkerman, Newton, Erickson and Patrick. Topics of discussion included the Common Core, expansion of prekindergarten programs, new state assessments, literacy programs, career and technology education, the relationship with Jasper County School District regarding ACE, and rezoning issues.

Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. Bush reported that the next committee meeting is May 6 after each school’s choice program is finalized.

Finance and Operations: Ms. Cordray reported that the committee met March 19 and discussed the Daufuskie leases, a potential property purchase and a facilities update. The committee also met briefly today and placed an item on the agenda for action by the Board.

Human Resources: Mr. Beckert reported that the next meeting is April 8. The Superintendent Evaluation Committee will start again soon after the district's strategic plan is submitted to the State Department of Education.

Student Services: Ms. Anderson reported that the committee met March 19 to discuss rezoning, then discussed the lines with the full Board during work session. The next meeting is April 21.

Website and Communications: Ms. Cushingberry introduced Molly Mercado to help her with secretarial duties. Ms. Cordray reported that a list of website needs have been compiled.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Moss asked Phyllis White to present the annual budget preparation (PE 3.0). Ms. White presented key factors of the preliminary budget for the 2014-2015 school year: loss of state and federal revenue; enrollment increases; increase in operational costs such as transportation, insurance, telecommunications and utility fees; and step increases for employees. Increases total \$10.4 million and are mostly mandated. There is \$.4m in decreases, which creates a net \$10m in anticipated increases. Items not yet included in budget considerations are PreK expansion, a salary study and cost-of-living increases. The school district has a preliminary total budget of \$192.9 million for the 2014-2015 year.

Ms. White also stated that expected revenues had declined for the current year due to property reassessment, and the Board will work with the county to offset this loss in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Upcoming public budget discussion meetings will be posted on the website.

Board Business Action

Dr. Moss presented the Student Assignment Proposal Plan with the two modifications voted on at the work session. Once the plan is approved by the Board, the next step will be approval by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, which monitors the district's compliance with its voluntary federal desegregation plan.

There was a motion to approve the plan as presented. After discussion, two amendments to the proposed plan were presented. Neither the first nor second amendment passed in voting. The original plan presented by Dr. Moss was voted on. Approved.

Chairman Evans outlined the plan for Bluffton schools in the next three years until the two new schools are in place, confirmed the new Bluffton High School will have its own extracurricular activities and athletics and asked two committees to conduct further reviews. The Student Services Committee will review grandfathering policies, and the Curriculum and Instruction committee will review the magnet/choice program transfer policies.

Motion to accept the grant from the World Affairs Council. Approved.

Motion to decline purchase of property next to Broad River Elementary . Approved.

Motion for approval of the letter drafted to County Council will be presented to County leaders at a meeting tomorrow. Approved.

New Business

Mr. Rivers asked the Human Resources committee to review the grievance policy for classified employees.

Ms. Bush shared concerns with the lunch program and is waiting to hear from staff on progress.

Mr. Campbell asked who administers free and reduced-price lunch application process and if that process can be reviewed. He also asked that schools get a copy of new USDA guidelines.

Ms. Anderson reminded everyone that the naming committee will meet soon to discuss the new PreK-8 school in Bluffton.

Mr. Campbell recommended that Board members compile which pieces of legislation they would like for the Legislative and Advocacy committee to focus on.

Consent Agenda

The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda. Chairman Evans reminded Board Members that unanimous decisions from committees are included in the consent agenda.

Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.