

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: February 16, 2021**

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion that the Board approve the contract and authorize the Superintendent to execute an architectural design services contract with LS3P Associates, LTP, of Charleston for the renovation of Hilton Head Island Middle School as listed in RFQ# 21-022. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence for Gregg Embe, a teacher at Robert Smalls International Academy who recently passed away, and Jessica Hipp-Mercer Munyon a former Hilton Head Island teacher. Statement of media notification.

**Student Performance:** Beaufort High School Voices singing "Light of a Clear Blue Morning" under the direction of Forrest Star. To view the performance: [https://youtu.be/Vq\\_nGVYCCJ8](https://youtu.be/Vq_nGVYCCJ8)

### **Points of Celebration**

#### **Character Education Students of the Month of January**

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. Tonight, we celebrate the Character Ed students of the month of January.

January's character trait was "Perseverance". Perseverance is defined as pursuing worthy objectives with determination and patience while exhibiting fortitude when confronted with failure.

January's student of the month for north of the Broad is Wesley Hauff, eighth grade student at Lady's Island Middle School.

Wesley's nominating teacher shared that he has worked hard this year to keep on top of his work and learn strategies to improve his writing. She says that this year, he really listened to instructions about ways to improve his writing and sought feedback from his special education teacher and his general education teachers to make his assignments better. Even though he could get frustrated by writing tasks, he stuck with it and recently came off his IEP.

Wesley Hauff is the epitome of perseverance and dedication to his studies. She has witnessed this young man dedicate himself to his studies, especially Reading Plus, and make a huge dent in his upward learning curve. We are all very proud of Wesley and his perseverance and dedication to academics. It's awesome to see him shine!!!

For south of the Broad, the January student of the month is Amaud Jenkins, a sophomore at May River High School.

Amaud's teacher shared the following on his nomination form:

"Amaud is an amazing young man who has persevered through more challenges this past year than I can begin to explain. He is strong, kind, and respectful. Amaud and his family recently experienced the devastating loss of his brother, Aaron, who was also a student at May River High School. Amaud has continued to persevere through this loss without a single complaint. Although he may not say much, his humility and integrity speak volumes about his character. His brother, Aaron, won this award last year for his grit in his fight against brain cancer. Amaud was encouraging and persevering with his brother - fighting the battles with him - every step of the way. Amaud deserves this award, and I know it mean would so much to him and his family - including Aaron."

Congratulations Wesley and Amaud!

### **Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key Awards**

Several students from Bluffton High, Hilton Head Island High, and May River High schools have been honored in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. These awards are the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7–12. The district's ten top award-winners – Gold Key recipients – advance to judging at the national level. Silver Key works are judged to demonstrate exceptional ability, and Honorable Mention works are judged to show great skill and potential.

Gold Key winners were Bluffton High's Kelsey Buck for "Old Things" (Senior Art Portfolio); Bluffton High's Nathalia Roca for "Words Build Words" (Drawing and Illustration), "Self-imprisonment" (Drawing and Illustration), and "You Are What You Say" (Painting); Hilton Head High's Summer Carder for "Murky Skies" (Photography); Hilton Head High's Ellie Clarke for "Wild Dream" (Photography); Hilton Head High's Katharine Crosby for "War Paint" (Photography); Hilton Head High's Brittany Ramirez for "Untitled" (Mixed Media); and May River High's Eve Yakhasem for "Checkerboard" (Drawing and Illustration) and "Hoop" (Painting).

### **Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School**

Dr. Rodriguez announced that Pritchardville Elementary School has been named a 2021 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School. Based on the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence national assessment process, Pritchardville Elementary met the criteria for nine categories:

- Student Focus and Support
- School Organization and Culture
- Challenging Standards and Curriculum
- Active Teaching and Learning
- Technology and Integration
- Professional Community
- Leadership and Education Vitality

- School, Family, and Community Partnerships
- Indicators of Success

### **Chairman's Report**

Chair Gwozdz gave an update on the letter the Board sent to the Governor and State Superintendent regarding expediting vaccines for teachers.

Chair Gwozdz shared information on the upcoming South Carolina School Board Association annual conference.

### **Committee Reports**

ACE Committee – ACE Board Chair William Smith announced the new executive officers of the ACE Board and shared that ACE now has an EMS program. The next meeting will be in April.

Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee –Committee Chair Mel Campbell shared the outcome of the February 8 special called meeting where the Board discussed the self-evaluation results.

Finance Committee – Committee Chair Dick Geier gave a brief overview of the last Finance Committee meeting.

Motion that the Board accept the FY2020 Audited Financial Statements for Period ending June 30, 2020 in accordance with the following; PE 3.3. Receive, process, and disburse funds using controls consistent with generally accepted accounting procedures; PE 3.4. Maintain complete and accurate financial records; and PE 3.6. Ensure an annual external audit of all District and school funds and accounts by an independent auditing firm and present the results annually to the Board. Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby presented the comprehensive annual financial report. Motion approved.

Ms. Crosby presented the second quarter financial report. Motion that the full board accepts the FY2021 Second Quarter Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2020 in accordance with PE. 3.7 Monitoring which includes PE 2.B.1 and PE 3.1 and 3.7. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion that it is the Board's intent for the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: full-time teachers and other staff- \$1,000, part-time employees working 3 to 4 days per week -\$500.00 and part-time employees working 1 to 2 days per week - \$250. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,150,000.

Ms. Crosby presented information on the employee bonus. Board discussion.

Motion to adopt the following resolution... the BCSD BOE is resolved to recognizing the contributions of our dedicated employees during these exceptional times. It is the firm intention of this assembly to provide a one-time Recognition Bonus to both full and part time staff. The final details of this bonus will be discussed after the collection of tax revenue and no later than April 20th meeting. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Amended motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to all staff members from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: \$1,000. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,200,000. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Original motion approved.

Operations Committee – Committee Chair Tricia Fidrych introduced the other Operations Committee members and shared that the committee met on Feb 5 and 11.

Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting provided information on a request for a driveway easement on property adjacent to Battery Creek High School and addressed the Board's questions. Motion that the Board not accept the request for a driveway easement on Drafts Way at 54 Alexander Way. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Chief Human Resources Officers Alice Walton presented a comprehensive annual human resources report comprised of the following P.E.s: P.E. 5.A.1: Employee Recruitment Report; P.E.5.A.2.3: Employee Retention Report and Employee Retention Improvement Report; P.E.5.A.4: Employee Exit Interview Report; P.E.5.A.5.6: Nepotism; P.E.5.B.4: Employee Grievances; P.E.5.C.1.2: Evaluate All Staff; P.E.5.C.3: Recognize Excellence; P.E.5.C.4: Recognize Support Staff and Teacher of the Year. Human Resources staff addressed the Board's questions.

Motion to accept P.E.5.A.1 Employee recruitment Report (approved).

Motion to accept P.E.5.4.2.3 Employee Retention Report and Retention Improvement Report (approved).

The annual human resources report will continue tomorrow evening, February 17, at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

*District staff seeking more detailed information about Board actions can view Board meetings in their entirety, at any time, on the County Channel. Archived meetings may be viewed at this link: <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/the-county-channel/index.html>*