

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: August 4, 2015

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

After coming out of executive session, no actions were taken. Motion to adopt the agenda was approved. Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Rivers.

POINTS OF CELEBRATION

From Robert Oetting, Facilities, Planning and Construction Officer:

Mr. Oetting recognized Palmetto Clean Energy, a non-profit organization that provided grants to Bluffton High School and Whale Branch Early College High School for the installation of two solar panels. Each set of solar panels is capable of generating 25,000 watts of electricity. In addition to the energy production and the financial savings our district will achieve, an additional aspect of the installation is its instructional component. Students across the district can electronically access a computer system that monitors the energy in real time, as it is being produced. This provides a new opportunity for student learning. Palmetto Clean Energy presented two \$50,000 checks that will go toward funding this project.

From Gregory McCord, Chief Student Services Officer

Dr. McCord gave Board members an update on the second annual "Swinging with the Superintendent" golf tournament fund raiser. This year's event brought in an estimated \$70,000 to support the district's "Building a Better Beaufort" college scholarship program in partnership with the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Dr. McCord said that a tournament title sponsor for the 2016 event had already been secured.

From Chairman Evans

Mr. Evans presented three Board members with achievement plaques and pins from the South Carolina School Board Association. The awards recognize milestones in Board members' professional development. First-year Board member Joseph Dunkle was recognized at Level 1, while Mary Cordray and Bill Payne were recognized at Level 3.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Evans reported that retired teacher Annette Wright had passed away. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, August 7, at Mt. Cavalry Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island. Also a former special education student of Beaufort Elementary School, Bailey Jackson, passed away on August 1.

Mr. Evans reminded Board members about the Board's work sessions this Friday and Saturday, August 7-8; topping-out ceremonies at May River High School on August 13; ribbon-cutting ceremonies at River Ridge Academy on August 27; and the South Carolina School Boards Association's law conference in Myrtle Beach on August 29-30. Mr. Evans also briefed Board members on Day 1 of Summer Institute 2015, which drew nearly 1,000 teachers and school staff to professional development activities at Bluffton High School. He noted that Molly Spearman spoke to the educators and also announced the five finalists for 2015-16 District Teacher of the Year. The finalists are Nancy Altman, a special education teacher at Mossy Oaks Elementary School; Michelle Hartman, a ninth-grade teacher at Hilton Head Island High School; Aracely Johnson, a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Beaufort Elementary School; Kathleen Sanz, a sixth-grade science teacher at Bluffton Middle School; and Bradley Smith, a

science and health science teacher at Beaufort High School. The District Teacher of the Year will be announced in September.

Committee Reports

ACE: Mary Cordray reported that the ACE Board met in July and received several reports from Director Jerry Henderson. The Board also approved the hiring of an assistant director.

Finance and Operations: Bill Payne said that the committee's next meeting would be at 4 p.m. August 13 at the district office. Agenda items will include an update on the Island Recreation Center project, finalization of performance expectations and a discussion about installment revenue bonds that will include participation by a financial adviser.

Superintendent's Report

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads:

- Reported on AdvancEd's validation of the district's curriculum preparation work and noted how curriculum mapping delivers a clear set of expectations for teachers as they schedule and prepare classroom lessons during the year. Curriculum mapping information on the district's website also lets parents know what their children are learning at any point during the year. Dr. Rhoads answered Board members' questions about curriculum issues in the district.
- Previewed student report cards under the 4x4 class schedule being implemented at district high schools.
- Reported on the first weeks of operations at the district's welcome center, which provides registration assistance to families who do not speak English as their first languages.

Dr. McCord gave an overview of grade-point averages for district student athletes for the 2014-15 school year. Over three years, the average middle school athlete's GPA was 3.4 and the average high school athlete's GPA was 3.55. Three years ago, the Board of Education set a 2.0 minimum GPA for participation in interscholastic athletics. Only one other South Carolina school district (Richland District 1) has a similar rule. Dr. McCord also noted the participation of district athletics coaches at last week's 2015 Coaches Convocation. Chairman Evans said that he had received three telephone calls from coaches who complimented this year's convocation. Board members discussed the possibility of increasing the district's minimum GPA requirement from 2.0 to some higher number.

Consent agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.