

Superintendent's Board Budget Meetings Summary: April 25-26, 2016

Chair Mary Cordray called the first day of the Beaufort County Board of Education's two-day budget meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Earl Campbell.

Superintendent Moss introduced the heads of Beaufort County's two higher-education institutions. Both institutions had been asked by the Beaufort County Board of Education to state whether they would be interested in participating in the school district's one-penny countywide education sales tax referendum in November.

University of South Carolina Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu told Board members that USCB is out of classroom, laboratory and faculty office space due to 12 percent annual growth in student enrollment, with that growth making USCB the state's fastest-growing four-year institution. The college will receive no additional facilities bond funding from the General Assembly for the 2016-17 academic year, and Dr. Panu said that USCB, if given the opportunity, would become part of the penny sales tax referendum.

Technical College of the Lowcountry President Richard Gough said that unlike many schools in South Carolina's technical college system, TCL continues to grow, particularly its health and CATE programs. Like USCB, TCL has also been told that it would receive no additional state bond funding for the 2016-17 academic year. TCL wants to move popular academic programs currently housed in unsatisfactory older facilities into new buildings. Dr. Gough said that TCL wants to be part of the penny sales tax referendum.

Chief Operations Officer Phyllis White summarized the budget development process, highlighted various state and federal budget mandates, summarized 2016-17 staffing changes across the district (including the effects of opening May River High School), and gave an overview of key budget data. Dr. Moss and Ms. White answered Board members' questions about budget numbers.

Motion to adjourn the first day's meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Day 2 (April 26, 2016)

Chair Mary Cordray reconvened the Board's two-day budget meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Motion to approve the meeting agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Rivers.

Dr. Moss asked if the formatting of budget documents presented by Ms. White was satisfactory, and Board members expressed no objections. Dr. Moss briefed the Board on how the budget would be presented to the public at the two upcoming community forums on Thursday, May 5 (Bluffton High media center, 6 p.m.) and on Monday, May 9 (Battery Creek High media center, 6 p.m.). Board members then engaged in a lengthy discussion on the budget process, and Dr. Moss answered Board members' questions.

Motion to accept the budget as presented to the Board of Education and to have it presented to community members at the May 5 and May 9 public forums. Approved.

Motion to adjourn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 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: <http://www.bcgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>