

Superintendent's Board of Education meeting summary

Two-day work session, April 27-28, 2018

Day 1 – April 27, 2018

Chair Earl Campbell convened the first day of the Board's two-day work session at 8:43 a.m. Motion to approve the agenda (approved).

Pledge of allegiance and invocation. A moment of silence in memory of an elementary school teacher who passed away several days ago.

Chief Auxiliary Services Officer Gregory presented information on the school district's anti-bullying policies and procedures, including the "See Something, Say Something" mobile app that allows students or parents to anonymously report bullying incidents. Dr. McCord answered Board members' questions.

Chief Finance and Operations Officer Tonya Crosby and Facilities, Planning and Construction Officer Robert Oetting presented to Board members a list of possible FY2020 capital projects. Mr. Oetting answered Board members' questions. Board discussion.

Brian Nurick of Compass Municipal Advisers presented an overview of the school district's debt management program and answered Board members' questions.

Motion to approve the list (total of \$20.2 million) of proposed FY2020 capital projects. Motion approved.

District Bond Counsel Frannie Heizer of the McNair Law Firm presented a draft resolution for the issuance of bonds utilizing the school district's 8 percent borrowing capacity. Motion to authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$20.3 million in general obligation bonds, in one or more series, in one or more years, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. Motion approved.

Motion to accept the PE2D debt management report as presented by Mr. Nurick of Compass Municipal Advisers. Motion approved.

Director of Special Education Brenda Hunt updated Board members on the district's programs for children with special needs. Ms. Hunt answered Board members' questions.

Ms. Crosby led a discussion about the district's 2018-19 operating budget, including a review of overall goals recommended by district administration. Ms. Crosby answered Board members'

questions. Board discussion. Motion to add a 1 percent cost-of-living increase for all district employees (certified and classified). Motion approved.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads presented background information on 1-6 and 1-8 grade configurations at schools. Dr. Rhoads answered Board members' questions. Board discussion. Motion to form an ad hoc committee to look at K-8 and K-6 schools with the scope of educating the community and assessing interest. Motion approved.

Public Comments

A community member commented on the recent school construction bond referendum.

Day 1 of the two-day work session was recessed at 3:48 p.m.

Day 2 – April 28, 2018

Chair Campbell reconvened the work session at 8:35 a.m.

Motion to have the Board chair and the superintendent set agendas for Board meetings. Board discussion. Motion withdrawn.

Dr. Moss presented information previously discussed in November about possible options if the April 21 school construction referendum were not successful. Beaufort County voters did not approve the referendum. Possible options include rezoning students, purchasing of additional mobile classrooms, larger class sizes, reconfiguring grade levels at existing schools, eliminating school choice in the southern part of the district. Board discussion. Motion to hold a special called meeting (May 8, 4 p.m. at Battery Creek High) to address the superintendent's questions to the Board regarding enrollment growth. Motion approved.

Motion for the current Board officers to resign their positions. Board discussion. Motion failed. David Striebinger announced that he would step down as Board Secretary, effective immediately.

Board discussion about proposed Board policy revisions sent to the South Carolina School Boards Association for review and suggestions. Board members reviewed and discussed the SCSBA's suggestions, then considered and voted (first reading) on numerous motions to accept and incorporate those revisions to Board policies.

Board discussion about the process of developing draft agendas for meetings. Motion that draft agendas be circulated 11 days prior to regular Board meetings, and that all supporting documents be delivered to Board members one week prior to meetings. Motion approved.

Motion to direct the superintendent to develop a PE FOIA Report for quarterly reporting and annual compliance. Motion approved.

Motion to hold a special called meeting (May 17, 4:30 p.m. at the district office) for the purpose of updating the Results section of the Board's strategic governance policy. Motion approved.

Board members made comments reviewing the two-day work session.

Public Comments

Two community members urged Board members to consider the impacts of their decisions on schools and classroom teachers. A community member criticized what he said was the intentional spreading of misleading information about the district.

Motion to adjourn the work session was approved, and the work session was adjourned at 3:56 pm.

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>