

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: May 4, 2021**

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

Coming out of executive session, motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #1 with M.B. Kahn Construction for an early steel and lab casework package at Battery Creek High School in the amount of \$935,509 (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with Jumper Carter Sease Architects which authorizes an amount of \$668,011 for Bluffton High School referendum projects (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #22 with M.B. Kahn Construction for the turf field at Bluffton High School which authorizes an amount of \$1,385,593 (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #20 with M.B. Kahn Construction for HVAC work at Bluffton High School in the amount of \$976,838 (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendments 11 & 12, which total \$552,717 with Contract Construction. Amendment 11 is for mechanical work associated with HVAC upgrades in the amount of \$299,777. Amendment 12 is for façade and electrical work associated with HVAC upgrades in the amount of \$252,940 (approved).

Motion to that the Board waive Board Policy GC-2.11.d.17 Adjournment and extend the meeting past 9:15 p.m. (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence. Statement of media notification.

**Student Performance:** Robert "Vince" Mathison, fourth-grader at Hilton Head Island Elementary School, reciting his poem titled "Where I'm From."

### **Points of Celebration**

**Continental Math League Competition** - Austin Fillmore, a fourth-grader at Bluffton Elementary School, earned a perfect score for each of the five Continental Math League competition events he participated in. In preparation for the competition, Fillmore's teacher Nikki Sparks provided practice math problems daily. Fillmore is the first student from SC to be recognized as a National Student Winner, and only one of eight students nationally.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN6ObuEkSHM>

Congratulations, Austin!

**WordMasters Challenge perfect scores** - Several district teams placed in this year's first WordMasters Challenge meet, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually.

Red Cedar fourth-graders and Okatie Elementary third-graders scored a perfect 200 points, both placing first in the nation. Other outstanding performances included an eighth-grade team from River Ridge Academy (team score of 198 points) and a fourth-grade team from Bluffton Elementary School that placed tenth in its division.

Red Cedar fifth-graders Giada Carge and Chelsea Salas each earned a perfect score of 20 in the second meet of the year. Nationally, only 39 fifth graders achieved this result. Coosa Elementary fourth-grader Ryan Allen also earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. Only 37 fourth-graders achieved this result nationally. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-qbADWngy4>

Congratulations to all students who participated in the WordMasters Challenge.

### **Staff Appreciation**

Dr. Rodriguez acknowledged and thanked staff, specifically principals, teachers, bus drivers, and nurses. This past Saturday, May 1, was Principal's Day. This week is Teacher's Appreciation Week. We also celebrate our bus drivers this week, and Wednesday, May 12 is School Nurse's Day.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked principals, teachers, nurses, and staff for their instrumental work in keeping schools safe and thanked the technology team for their support in instructional delivery. All of you have worked tirelessly to innovate and support our students.

He also mentioned this Friday, May 7, is School Communicators Day. Thanks to Dr. Bruder, our communications director, and her team whose expertise and value highlight the work of our schools' students and staff.

**HHIHS School Improvement Council Award of Merit** - Hilton Head Island High School's School Improvement Council was named the recipient of SC-SIC's fourth annual Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence during an online awards ceremony Saturday morning.

The Hilton Head Island High SIC previously ranked as one of the five finalists for SC-SIC's annual Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence in 2019 and 2018.

State statute requires that each SIC in South Carolina prepare and disseminate a Report to the Parents each spring to inform their school communities of the school's and SIC's work and progress toward established improvement goals.

Congratulations to Hilton Head High School's SIC!

**Public Comment**

Community members and parents spoke highly of a Hilton Head Island High School teacher Mr. Jonathan Johns.

Legislative Update – Lobbyist Lynn Stokes-Murray provided an update and addressed the Board’s questions.

**Committee Reports**

Academic Committee – Board member Cathy Robine shared that the committee met, and the Instructional Services staff presented updates to Administrative Regulations IS-30 Summer School and IS-48 Promotion, Retention, & Acceleration of Students.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Board member Richard Geier shared that the committee met with the Bluffton mayor. Carol Crutchfield presented information on growth in the Bluffton area.

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych shared that the committee met on 4/21 and HR discussed the idea of a compensation study. The committee met on 4/27. Ms. Wendy Cartledge presented OE.16 FOIA, which will be discussed under Board business. The committee met again, on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Rob Corbin, CBRE Heery Referendum Project Manager, presented an update on the referendum and 8% capital projects. The CLOC will meet on 5/5.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

Progress Monitoring/Performance Matters –Dr. Rodriguez and Daniel Fallon, Director of Data Services, presented on building a balanced assessment system and addressed the Board’s questions.

Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators – Karen McKenzie, representing the Professional Advocacy Council (PAC), presented the PAC’s two initiatives for the upcoming school year and addressed the Board’s questions.

Motion that the Board go into Executive Session to receive legal advice related to a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) (approved).

The Board adjourned to the second half of Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion that the Board retain Andrea White to advise the Board regarding a legal matter (approved).

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 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>*