

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: October 6, 2015

Vice Chairman Mary Cordray called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

After coming out of executive session Laura Bush made a motion to authorized settlement of Employee A for compensation up to \$30,000. Approved.

Laura Bush made a motion to approve the Superintendent's employment personnel report. Approved.

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session at the end of this meeting to continue discussion from previous executive session.

Motion to approve the amended agenda. Approved.

Orischak motioned to add discussion to remove Chairman Evans from the Board as a New Business item. Motion failed.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Rivers.

Performance

Vice Chair Mary Cordray introduced 3rd-5th grade students from Ms. Vargo's Mariners Choir of Port Royal Elementary School. The students performed "(America) My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Points of Celebration (as delivered by Superintendent Moss)

Sea Island Rotary donation

Our first honoree tonight is the Sea Island Rotary Club, which recently made a donation to be used to purchase school uniforms for elementary and middle school students in northern Beaufort County. And not just any donation – a five thousand dollar donation. I'd like to ask the representatives from the Sea Island Rotary Club to please come forward and be recognized.

Rotary Club of the Lowcountry

Beaufort High's drama students, under the leadership of Director Laraine Fess, are starting their fourth year of producing highly entertaining performances that carry strong anti-bullying messages to Beaufort County students. The collection of dramatic sketches is aimed at getting students to intervene or contact responsible adults when they witness their fellow students being bullied. The Beaufort High students' shows will again be co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of the Lowcountry, which has extended a generous donation of \$5,000. I'd like to ask the representatives of the Rotary Club of the Lowcountry to please come forward and be recognized.

Character Education Student of the Month

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts in developing good character in their children. School counselors identified a list of character words and definitions that focus on the attitudes and personal qualities that build a foundation for success in life and work. A student from each school is selected as their school's Character Education Student of the Month. They then move on to compete for Beaufort County's Character Education Student of the Month. The character word for

September was “acceptance” and is defined as *the action or process of being received as adequate or suitable, typically to be admitted into a group or received by others*. We are happy to announce our Character Education Student of the Month for September, Stefany Donjoun, 5th grade student at Whale Branch Middle School. After being nominated at her school, based on academic performance, leadership and overall achievement and her information being vetted by a panel of district administrators, she was selected for Northern Beaufort County. Shelia Ballard, a 5th grade student at M.C. Riley Elementary School is the winner for Southern Beaufort County School district and will be recognized at our next Board meeting. The local townships have also adopted these character traits and will be recognizing students at their council and chamber meetings each month. Their September selections are Georgia Peterson of Beaufort Elementary and Craig Stoddart of River Ridge Academy. Stefany Donjoun, would you please come forward to be recognized?

Outstanding Program Award

Christine Whiteleather has been the job coach at Battery Creek High for the past two and a half years, and she was a Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator at Battery Creek. She has done a phenomenal job with the career development and transition program for students with disabilities, and currently has the school’s special education students working in community job enclaves at seven different sites throughout the week. She does a vocational assessment with each and every special education student; she collaborates with Vocational Rehabilitation to conduct job shadowing and career education days; and she assists numerous special education students in applying and interviewing for jobs. She even uses her own money to assist students in purchasing specific clothing items needed for specific jobs. And she was awarded a grant to purchase polo shirts with Battery Creek colors for all special education students to wear when they go out on the job. Ms. Whiteleather’s energy, creativity and determination were recognized recently when the South Carolina Division on Career Development and Transition honored her and Battery Creek High School with the 2015 Outstanding Program Award. Christine, if you would please come forward.

New District Teacher of the Year

Cely Johnson teaches science, math and English language arts to fifth-graders at Beaufort Elementary School, and she’s certainly no stranger to our area because she attended district schools herself. Cely is a National Board-certified teacher who’s been in the classroom since 1995, and she believes that teachers are “part of the most noble and powerful profession.” Her principal, Melissa Holland, describes her as an exemplary educator nurtures the love of learning in her students. Those of you who were at Callawassie Island two weeks ago already know that Cely was announced as our new District Teacher of the Year. After the announcement, our corporate sponsor, Hilton Head Buick-GMC-Cadillac, offered Cely her choice of a \$5,000 cash prize or \$5,000 that she could apply toward a vehicle offered for sale at the dealer’s invoice price. In addition, the Foundation for Education Excellence announced an additional \$1,000 grant award for Cely to use to support innovative instructional opportunities for her students. The foundation created the grant in memory of Wayne Carbiener (car BEAN er), a former Board of Education member whose life and tenure on the Board reflected his support and admiration for teachers. At this time, I would invite everyone here to extend a warm welcome to our new Beaufort County School District Teacher of the Year, Cely Johnson as she comes forward. The Foundation for Educational Excellence would now like to present another award to our District Teacher of the Year.

Public Conversation (I’m sure all this can be narrowed down to about two lines.)

A community member expressed her concern about recent Board decisions and leadership.
A community member posed a question concerning the superintendent's wife's contract.
A community member, spokesman of C.A.R.E. expressed his concerns about the recent hiring of the superintendent's wife.
A community member of BC Education Association, on behalf of a teacher and para-educators about the 2 cent raise.
A community member expressed her concern about the superintendent's actions.
The President of Robert Smalls Association - is concerned with Robert Smalls' mascot.
Secretary of Robert Smalls Association – stars should be white and green should be Kelly green. She expressed that she is disappointed that the Board has not removed the Board Chair and Superintendent.
A community member and alumni voiced his concern about the RSMS mascot and stated that teachers should be given a stipend.
A community member discussed her concern about Board transparency.

Committee Reports

ACE: The committee met to discuss ways to move forward. The next meeting will be on the third Thursday of October.

Curriculum and Instruction: The committee will meet next Tuesday.

Community Outreach: Met and discussed dropout and recommendation that was sent to delegation

Finance and Operations: The committee will meet this coming Thursday to discuss future projects and proposals

Human Resources: The committee will meet on October 29.

Student Services: Met to discuss RSIA logo and mascot. They are waiting to hear back from Principal and SIC on mascot.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rhoads presented the following reports

- 2014-15 Advanced Placement results and statistics. He took questions from the Board.
- 2014-15 Graduating Senior SAT Results and Statistics
- 2014-15 ACT Work

Dr. Rhoads and Daniel Fallon took questions from the Board.

SC Metric Week Proclamation

Dr. Rhoads announced the SC Metric Week Proclamation for October 4-10, 2015 by Governor Haley.

Dr. Moss discussed a new superintendent television show titled, Our Schools, which airs on the County Channel.

Dr. Moss announced that our District is being honored and awarded the 2015 Champions for Children Award on October 15.

Dr. Gregory McCord provided a presentation covering the 2015 Knock Out Drop Out Walk, which took place on Saturday, September 26 to engage and re-enroll Beaufort County School District students who have dropped out of school or have not enrolled for the 2015-16 school year. Dr. McCord took questions from the Board.

National School Lunch Week

Phyllis White discussed National School Lunch Week

So willing to research it and pilot it and they do a tremendous job with Phyllis and Roberta. It truly is a wonderful partnership. And they are exploring every way possible to keep the fruits and vegetables in the body and not in the trash.

Board Business

Drew Davis – Approval of Resolution Celebration for National School Lunch Week Oct 11-17, 2015.

Motion to accept this resolution. Approved.

Drew Davis – Approval of resolution celebration for Anti-National Bulling Month. Motion to accept the resolution. Approved.

Motion to extend the meeting to 8:45. Approved.

The Board discussed Robert Smalls International Academy's logo and mascot.

Motion to extend the meeting to 9:00. Approved.

Motion to accept the logo with white stars and Kelly green in color and that the mascot will be the general with general uniform and design of uniform will be jointly agreed to by the alumni association, SIC and school principal. Approved.

Motion to amend the agenda to say logo instead of mascot.

Motion to accept the Right Choice logo. Approved.

Motion to extend the meeting to 9:30. Approved.

Motion to go into executive session. Approved.

Action Coming Out of Executive Session

Coming out of the second portion of executive session, Ms. Cordray announced that Board Chairman Bill Evans has resigned as the Board representative for District two and as chairman.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Complete video footage of Board of Education meetings can be found at
<http://www.co.beaufort.sc.us/departments/Community-Services/county-channel/index.php>.

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