
From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2019 10:32 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Subject: Re: Déjà vu

Just read this we are driving back from MB most of the morning if it is convenient plz give me a call I have a research project I'd like you to consider. Herb

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From: Orischak, Josephine A <josephine.orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2019 7:56 AM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: Fw: Déjà vu

FYI:

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Orischak, Josephine A
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2019 7:52:24 AM
To: Mike Gleason
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Fidrych, Patricia; Campbell, Earl; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Campbell, Melvin P; Striebinger, David R; Dowling, John R; Rachel Jones; Geier, Richard P; Fran Bisi; Richard Bisi; Joan Deery; Rick Caporale; Windrunnerstables Info; jerry at the beach
Subject: Re: Déjà vu

Mike,

Six to seven hours for board members and staff is probably correct, considering the number and weight of topics listed on Tuesday's agenda. The rest of the public has the luxury of watching at their leisure via the County Channel. I sure hope discussion isn't stifled (in the interest of time) on these very important topics.

The unintended outcome of limiting board discussion are NO votes and abstentions.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2019 10:50:12 PM

To: jerry at the beach

Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Fidrych, Patricia; Campbell, Earl; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Campbell, Melvin P; Striebinger, David R; Dowling, John R; Orischak, Josephine A; Rachel Jones; Geier, Richard P; Fran Bisi; Richard Bisi; Joan Deery; Rick Caporale; Windrunnerstables Info

Subject: Re: Déjà vu

WARNING: This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hold on Jerry! You might be jumping the gun on this. After all, we don't even know if the Board is going to erase the last \$255 million rubber stamp they put on Berg's record breaking operations budget leading to a record breaking tax increase. Lots of claims of "austerity" coming on that before it gets hurled to County Council. One would think this would have been vetted by a committee by now but the Board has been loafing on "Summer Hours" like the Admin. Staff with almost no meetings for the past 1 1/2 weeks. See Board calendar below:

<http://beaufortschools.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=170925&pageId=922001>

Don't expect any substantial cuts in the Mink Point Blvd. Puzzle Palace from our Advisory Board. And check out the almost 200 job vacancies now advertised. Morale in the ranks must be off the charts low. Those that listen know that.

<https://www.applitrack.com/beaufort/onlineapp/>

Dept. of No Transparency stuff: Meanwhile, nobody seems to know what the addendum to the MOA's that describes the action plans the Chair Lady committed to with the State and Feds. JoAnn valiantly found the agreements after driving to Beaufort to pick them up but it turns out the Board Secretary didn't have the addendums. Locked in a vault somewhere apparently. Imagine how betrayed parents of special education children must feel as we slide into State and Federal supervision in 25% of our schools in the 45th or worse ranking state in our nation. Simply throwing money at the problem isn't going to work, it requires accumulated elected leadership we don't have.

Berg is complicit in that disaster. Too busy playing silly games with a citizens referendum committee of which I am a member. Nobody voted on anything other than playing putting the stickers on the priorities Robert Oetting of FBI subpoena fame came up with. The numbers changed so many times it made heads spin. It's a shame and didn't need to be delegitimized as I saw a lot of schools that need a lot of improvement.

Jerry, be sure to show up on Tuesday to watch our loafing Board get back to work in another 6 hour marathon replete with an opaque Executive Session struggling again to take on over 1/2 billion in OPM spending. Those rich May River HS kids might get their new student parking lot and the Achievement Gap will have a complete road map and be eliminated within hours.

Thanks for your comments Jerry, I don't always agree with all of them, but I admire your persistence.

On Sat, Jun 8, 2019 at 4:09 PM jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> wrote:

Challenges ahead as Beaufort Co. school board considers \$300 million-plus projects list ???

<https://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article230935013.html>

There are several good reasons why a 2019 referendum will fail.

1. A new untested board.

2. A new untested Superintendent.
3. No general county election this November.
4. The new board has not demonstrated transparency within themselves let alone the constituency.
5. The new board has not even tried to reestablish trust with the electorate.
6. Until there is a forensic audit proving to taxpayers the money collected as school tax is being properly overseen and wisely spent...there will be no new money.

And then we get the "sky is falling" approach (IE subjective input rather than objective data) from Geier and Mel Campbell.

"If we are on the roll like (board member Richard) Geier says, it's important that we move forward with this thing to improve the schools. We cannot afford to be late," board member Mel Campbell said. "I'm a believer in the public doing the right thing."

G.A. Smith
Well represented in Dist. 11.

Hats off to representatives Dowling and Smith who I believe are serving their respective constituents very well.

From: Gwozdz, Christina S <Christina.Gwozdz@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 4:01 PM
To: Cartledge, Wendy B; Berg, HerbertM
Subject: Fwd: FBI Board Update

I did not know the FBI gave updates on their investigations. What information, visits and subpoenas is Ms. Orischak referencing? Please explain.

Christina Gwozdz, M.D.
Chair, Beaufort Co. Board of Education
District 9 Representative
Bluffton/Pritchardville/Daufuskie Island
C. 843-636-8555

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 1:46 PM
To: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C
Cc: Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: FBI Board Update

Officers,

Please add a board **update** on the FBI probe into the BCSD's finances and operations for Tuesday's agenda. The board should be apprised of any/all information that district staff is privy to, including visits and subpoenas by agents.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Smith, William C
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

William,

Thank you for responding. If the local newspaper knows the investigation is "ongoing", then certainly the BoE should be equally informed.

I will give the officers the benefit of the doubt that this topic will be added to tomorrow's meeting as a board update. If this matter is not added, then I will ask at our meeting tomorrow WHY it was not added.

Thank you,

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 16, 2019, at 5:36 PM, Smith, William C <William.Smith2@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

Duly noted

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 16, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

Officers,

Please add a board **update** on the FBI probe into the BCSD's finances and operations for Tuesday's agenda. The board should be apprised of any/all information that district staff is privy to, including visits and subpoenas by agents.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Dowling, John R; Orischak, JosephineA
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine,Cathy G; Smith, William C; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

I will be calling John Simmons today seeking a status report Herb

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From: Dowling, John R
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:23:20 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

Officers: I support an update on the District's involvement in the ongoing FBI Probe. There is still time to add it to the agenda for tomorrow, so please do so.

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 16, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

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JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:45 PM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: Re: Request

Herb,

Yes, strange.

On another note, Oetting's explanation of Anthony Pernice's employment status is suspect at best. I'll be looking for Oetting's name on our June 25 employee ratification report. If missing, FBI questions will take high priority and rightfully so.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Berg, Herbert M
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 6:35:40 PM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Subject: Re: Request

Strange thx

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From: Orischak, Josephine A
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 4:06:35 PM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: Re: Request

The reasons for employee departures (resigned, terminated, retired) have been habitually redacted in response to IP/BG FOIA requests and posted to our website.

You'd have to ask Jennifer Staton or Drew Davis....

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 17, 2019, at 3:55 PM, Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

What why was it redacted in the first place?

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From: Orischak, Josephine A
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 2:34:45 PM
To: Walton, Alice W; Berg, Herbert M

Cc: Staton, Jennifer A

Subject: Request

Alice and Herb,

I would like to review the **unredacted** version of the attached document tomorrow evening. This document is located on our BCSD website per a FOIA request from the IP/BG last year.

Thank you,

JoAnn Orischak

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

<http://beaufortschools.net/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=15801457>

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 12:38 PM
To: BOEOnly
Subject: Re: 3rd Beaufort County schools employee gets FBI subpoena | Hilton Head Island Packet

I didn't mean to leave David Striebinger off the list of those who communicate with the newspaper. He deserves the credit along with Tina and John.

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 17, 2019, at 12:35 PM, Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

All,

Please read the attached article. According to the June 7, 2018 board meeting minutes, Anthony Pernice was announced as retired. I've asked Alice and Herb to answer the following question:

Question: Why was Anthony Pernice announced at our last board meeting among retirees, when he'd already been announced retired the year prior?

I am passing this along to you as an FYI, because most of you were not on the board yet. If it were not for John's and Tina's support in making the subpoenas public and communicating with the newspaper, the public would have been left in the dark.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

<https://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/education/article201638459.html>

3rd Beaufort County School District employee subpoenaed in FBI investigation

February 22, 2018 05:30 PM, Updated February 22, 2018 06:31 PM

Two Beaufort County School District employees were served subpoenas in early January for an FBI investigation. School board members learned of the subpoenas Jan.16. Here's the timeline of events. By Ashley Jean Reese

A third Beaufort County School District employee has been served a federal subpoena in response to an [ongoing FBI investigation](#) related to the [construction of two Bluffton schools](#), according to three Beaufort County Board of Education members.

Board members learned of the federal subpoena, which they said was served to district project manager Anthony Pernice, at the tail end of a closed-door session of Tuesday's night school board meeting, according to board members John Dowling, David Striebinger and Christina Gwozdz.

Board members weren't told when federal authorities served the subpoena to Pernice nor were they told if the subpoena requested records or asked Pernice to testify to a federal grand jury.

Dowling requested to view the subpoena and was told by school district attorney Drew Davis in an email, "I do not possess it."

School district officials would not confirm a third subpoena was served and, instead, issued an emailed statement late Thursday that also does not deny a third subpoena's existence.

"Senior district administration has seen only two subpoenas issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office and has responded fully to both," district spokesman Jim Foster wrote in an email. "The district has not provided any records or documents in response to a third subpoena."

The statement continued: "We won't reveal the details of discussions that occur during executive session, but we can say that a third subpoena was not provided to Board members or shown to Board members using a projector. There was no discussion or back-and-forth among Board members."

Pernice works in the [district's facilities department](#), which is headed by facilities, planning and construction officer Robert Oetting.

Oetting and chief financial officer Tonya Crosby were served federal subpoenas sometime in early January for documents related to the building of May River High School and River Ridge Academy, the district's procurement process and the architect used in both projects — the only two schools built during superintendent Jeff Moss' tenure so far.

The architect, North Carolina-based Hite Associates, had previously worked with Moss on at least one project when he was superintendent in two North Carolina school districts. The Bluffton projects marked the firm's first time working for a South Carolina school district, according to [previous reporting by The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette](#).

On Jan. 16, board members learned of the subpoenas in a closed-door meeting that five of the 11 board members described as one in which [threats were lodged against them if they disclosed the subpoenas to the public](#). Davis and other board members deny this.

Dowling forced the issue by publicly disclosing the federal subpoenas at a Feb. 3 work session, prompting the board officers to issue a written statement.

"The District has been assured that it is not the target of the investigation, and is only being asked to produce information at this time," the statement read.

The district turned over documents to the FBI on Feb. 5, according to an email from Moss to board members.

Last week, the board held a special-called meeting that resulted in the board officers [denying multiple Freedom of Information Act requests for copies of the subpoenas](#), a decision they said was made to protect the integrity of the investigation.

Open-records experts, however, say the public has a right to see the subpoenas, especially in light of the \$76 million bond referendum in April that would, in part, fund the expansion of the two schools referenced in the subpoenas.

The only topic listed on the meeting agenda to go into executive session Tuesday was "discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for audit of BCSD procurement card purchases," which does not appear to be remotely related to the FBI investigation — a violation of FOIA.

"We were all heading for the door," Striebinger said. "It was one of those, 'Oh, by the way,' things."

Asked for a response to the appropriateness of the closed-door meeting that touched on a topic not voted on in public session, Foster instead issued the emailed statement, which did not include an answer to the question.



A rendering of May River High School that is one of two Bluffton schools related to an FBI investigation Submitted

FROM OUR ADVERTISING PARTNERS

Sent from my iPad

From: Striebinger, David R <David.Striebinger@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Berg, Herbert M; Dowling, John R; Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

"The board should be apprised of any/all information that district staff is privy to, including visits and subpoenas by agents."

Herb, I don't think you need to call anyone in order to tell the Board what the district staff is already privy to.

david striebinger
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 2 representative

From: Berg, Herbert M
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:27:43 AM
To: Dowling, John R; Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

I will be calling John Simmons today seeking a status report Herb

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From: Dowling, John R
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 9:23:20 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Smith, William C; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B; BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI Board Update

Officers: I support an update on the District's involvement in the ongoing FBI Probe. There is still time to add it to the agenda for tomorrow, so please do so.

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 16, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

Officers,

Please add a board **update** on the FBI probe into the BCSD's finances and operations for Tuesday's agenda. The board should be apprised of any/all information that district staff is privy to, including visits and subpoenas by agents.

JoAnn Orischak

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 2:56 PM
To: BOEOnly
Cc: Frank Rodriguez
Subject: FBI inquiry

Friends: Responding to the FBI question over the weekend; I've talked with John Simmons, the attorney, the Board met with on Aug 3 (which was my 3rd day). He is a former Federal Prosecutor. I have asked him to approach the Assistant US attorney (Rhett Dehart) and inquire as to the status of their investigation, he assured me he would. When he responds, I will get back with you. We, the District responded with subpoenaed documents on Sept 11, 2018 You have that subpoena. That was our last FBI contact. A retired employee (Ms. Amsler) did meet them in Jan or February....we have no information on that meeting. The US attorney works on their own calendar in a very methodical and thorough manner. I will let you know more when I know. Herb

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Walton, Alice W; Berg, Herbert M
Subject: June 7, 2018 Boar Meeting Minutes Draft.pdf
Attachments: June 7, 2018 Boar Meeting Minutes Draft.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Alice and Herb,

In the attached June 7, **2018** minutes, **Anthony Pernice** is listed as retiring after 10 years with the district. Not long after Anthony received a subpoena per the FBI investigation a year or so ago, he retired.

Question: Why was **Anthony Pernice's** name announced at our last board meeting as a retiree, when his name had already been announced a year prior?

Please advise,

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 6:44 PM
To: Walton, Alice W
Cc: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: Re: June 7, 2018 Boar Meeting Minutes Draft.pdf

Alice and Herb,

Per the attached 6/7/2018 board meeting minutes, the board was lead to believe Mr. Pernice had retired (upon this announcement) and would not be back for the 2018-2019 school year. This was somewhat expected given Mr. Pernice's FBI subpoena that the district's attorney (Drew Davis) said the district "did not possess".

Mr. Pernice's retirement was announced a *second time* at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Can you understand why I (and anyone) might question this???

<http://beaufortschools.net/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=15548567>

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 19, 2019, at 5:27 PM, Walton, Alice W <Alice.Walton@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

Hello JoAnn,

Anthony's official retirement date was August 10, 2018. Our usual practice is to announce all retiring employees at the end of the year in which they retire. Since Anthony retired in 2018, he was announced with all other retiring employees for the 2018-2019 school year. Let me know if I can answer any other question.

Best Regards,

Alice W. Walton
Chief Administrative and Human Resources Officer
Beaufort County School District
843-322-2419 | Office
843-812-8374 | Mobile

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: BOEOnly; Frank Rodriguez
Subject: Re: FBI inquiry

The only know contract during this year to my knowledge is the Amsler contact. H

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From: Orischak, Josephine A
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 8:09:00 AM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Cc: BOEOnly; Frank Rodriguez
Subject: Re: FBI inquiry

Thanks, Herb. Sandy Amsler was our previous head of Procurement. It is my understanding that Sandy was replaced by Kaylee Yinger, who was already in our Procurement Dept.

I'll look forward to hearing an update from John Simmons. If any more visits/interviews took place by the FBI, our board, Finance Committee, and Operations Committee should be apprised. The Finance Committee will be reviewing aspects of Procurement today at our meeting. If the FBI continues its probe into BCSD affairs a **half year** (or more) after Dr. Moss left, then there may be other individuals and/or areas of interest. (?)

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 18, 2019, at 2:56 PM, Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

Friends: Responding to the FBI question over the weekend; I've talked with John Simmons, the attorney, the Board met with on Aug 3 (which was my 3rd day). He is a former Federal Prosecutor. I have asked him to approach the Assistant US attorney (Rhett Dehart) and inquire as to the status of their investigation, he assured me he would. When he responds, I will get back with you. We, the District responded with subpoenaed documents on Sept 11, 2018 You have that subpoena. That was our last FBI contact. A retired employee (Ms. Amsler) did meet them in Jan or February....we have no information on that meeting. The US attorney works on their own calendar in a very methodical and thorough manner. I will let you know more when I know. Herb

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 11:39 AM
To: Geier, Richard P; Striebinger, David R
Cc: Dowling, John R; BOEOnly; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B
Subject: Re: Criticism

Dick,

My concern is the PRESENT leadership. I agree the past is in the past.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Geier, Richard P
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 11:15:13 AM
To: Striebinger, David R
Cc: Dowling, John R; BOEOnly; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B
Subject: Re: Criticism

Agree totally David. I, for one, have a finite amount of energy. I have enough to spend a small amount of time considering the challenges of the past. I prefer to spend the vast majority of my energy on the challenges of the future.

Sent from my iPad
Colonel Richard P. Geier USA (Ret)
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 5 Representative
Beaufort/Burton/Spring Island/Callawassie Island

On Jun 25, 2019, at 10:59 AM, Striebinger, David R <David.Striebinger@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

we need to model the behavior we want elected officials to demonstrate.

david striebinger

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 2 representative

From: Dowling, John R
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 9:41:45 AM
To: BOEOnly; Berg, Herbert M; Cartledge, Wendy B
Subject: Criticism

ALL: Included is a statement made by Dr Gwozdz, in public, at the March 20, 2018 BOE Meeting. The statement criticized the Board Officers and included a Motion for each of them to resign their Office.

I'm sending this to offer the perspective that criticism of an Officer is nothing new and is not disrespectful or treasonous. Given the current thread surrounding "civility" and "respect" you may find that the recent criticisms of the Chair pale in comparison to some of the criticism offered in Public by Dr Gwozdz. This statement is also attached to the approved Minutes of the 20128 Meeting.

Here is the statement:

BOARD MEMBER CONDUCT – CSG 3/20/18 I asked for this item to be on tonight's agenda because as an elected official I feel compelled to bring to light what is happening on the 11 member Beaufort County Board of Education. After all, this past week was Sunshine Week, "a national, nonpartisan effort to highlight the critical role of open government and freedom of information at the local, state, and federal levels." (USA Today) Our role as a Board is to set policies governing the school district and direct our employee, the Superintendent, to carry out these policies. The entire Board makes policy, not the officers. There should be an open exchange of ideas by ALL Board members during the decision-making process. The problem the taxpayers of Beaufort County currently face is that certain Board members, those with the minority opinion, are being stiff-armed by some majority members with back-room tactics and unethical actions. This potentially puts the constituents of Districts 4, 6, 9, and 11 at a disadvantage. And worse yet, those majority members are seeking and allowing policy-making decisions by a nonelected community advocacy group called STAND. STAND has zero accountability to the public. Let me give you some examples: 1) The dollar amount of \$76 million for the referendum going to the voters in April, dropped from the sky seconds before the motion was made by Mary Cordray. STAND by their own admission was involved in its creation. I, as a School Board Trustee, was not. Up to that point, the referendum figures had been adjusted numerous times over the course of an entire year, from a high of \$217 million to a low of \$122 million. Who suddenly decided that the referendum projects could be drastically reduced and include new construction only, without asset preservation? Who decided the bulk of the referendum money should be a \$44 million undefined Bluffton school not needed for 5 years? 89.5% of the county-wide referendum money is earmarked for Bluffton. Hmmm. This was not a well thought out plan resulting from an open exchange of ideas by ALL Board members. 2) Earlier this month I attended a day long legislative program at the state capitol sponsored by the SCSBA. A highlight of the program is for school board members to meet with their respective legislators as a group and discuss legislative school issues. To my amazement, when Board Secretary David Striebinger and I arrived at the appointed time and place for the legislative meeting, it was in full-swing with Mary Cordray, Vice Chair Geri Kinton and Evva Anderson in attendance, along with three STAND members, Amanda Walrad, Buffy Snider and Rob Lanzone. Four legislators were in attendance, Jeff Bradley, Shannon Erickson, Wes Newton and Michael Rivers. These non-elected community members were present to advocate for the referendum. Valuable time was lost with the legislators discussing nonlegislative issues. After the meeting concluded, I consulted with the SCSBA asking if this was protocol for certain advocacy groups to be included in these meetings. No, it is not. If "guests" were to be included it would be a full board decision by board vote, I was told. No such Board discussion or vote took place. In addition, participating guests are required to pay a \$75 fee each and none of the STAND members paid. Clearly, Cordray, Kinton and Anderson are trying to run a parallel board which excludes over 1/3 (4 of 11) of the elected Board members. This is atrocious and the citizens of Beaufort County should be outraged. This is not how effective representative government works. Despite having high hopes for Board Chair Earl Campbell, elected unanimously, I have been very disappointed with his leadership. No good leader tells the troops they are the worst ever on the battlefield. A good leader brings out the best in people. No good leader tells his critics, and I will paraphrase, to go to "H-E- double hockey stick" and then apologize for other members' conduct but not his own. A good leader processes criticisms and

builds upon them to improve the situation, rather than cast them aside and ignore them. Chair Campbell would not allow a full Board discussion in Executive Session about the FBI subpoenas, because board member John Dowling would not recuse himself. Campbell bought into attorney Davis' argument that Dowling was "a potential litigant" based solely on the fact Dowling had submitted a FOIA for the subpoenas. Every citizen of Beaufort County is a potential litigant. Board members should not be required to file FOIAs to get information. That is absurd. Who is in charge here? We are the governing body of the district. Since the start of 2018, the board officers, Campbell, Kinton and Striebinger, have approved three Board of Education press releases, without full Board input and/or approval. These releases were on hiring a facilitator, an apology for the insensitive picture on social media of a student dressed as Hitler and engaging in a Nazi salute, and the acknowledgement of the existence of 2 FBI subpoenas served upon the district. The only press release the Board approved was the subpoena one, but the rank and file members had zero input into the content. And ultimately, the 3 officers made the decision to deny FOIA requests for the FBI subpoenas without Board approval. The officers are not given the power or authority to act independently of the Board as a whole. All of the officers are guilty of serious abuse of their power and their authority. They have been explicitly involved in, or have been complicit with, actions which subvert the democratic process and seriously impact the School District in a profoundly negative way. It is in the best interest of the BoE, the District staff and students, and the citizens of Beaufort County if the Board's three officers step down. I hereby move that the Officers be required to resign their positions, effective immediately

JOHN DOWLING

DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: Re: FBI

Thank you, Herb.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Berg, Herbert M
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:32:41 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI

JO: I do not..HMB

From: "Orischak, Josephine A" <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 11:28 AM
To: "Berg, Herbert M" <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: BOEOnly <BOEOnly@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Re: FBI

Thanks, Herb. Your recent email to the board stated that Sandy Amsler, our recently retired/resigned head of Procurement, was last visited by the FBI in the December/January timeframe.

Other than visits to Sandy, Robert, Tonya and Anthony Pernice, do you have knowledge of any other visits and/or subpoenas delivered?

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Berg, Herbert M
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:08:45 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A
Cc: BOEOnly
Subject: Re: FBI

All: I have not heard anything since my last report. Herb

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Dowling, John R
Subject: Re: FBI

None...c @ 5

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From: Dowling, John R
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 1:22:31 PM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Subject: FBI

Herb,

Any word from Columbia on the FBI probe?

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

From: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2019 7:27 AM
To: Crosby, Tonya V; BOEOnly
Cc: Robinson, Christine T; Berg, Herbert M; Almond, Bonnie N
Subject: BCSD Tech Plan 2016-2019.pdf
Attachments: BCSD Tech Plan 2016-2019.pdf; ATT00001.htm

All,

The attached BCSD Technology Plan ends this month. It is entirely appropriate for the board to review the OUTCOMES section with district staff.

Additionally, given the FBI's scrutiny of our previous superintendent's relationships with various EdTech companies and ERDI, I believe a thorough review of the specific outcomes of this plan are warranted.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737