

Board of Education Summary
November 2, 2010
School Board Meeting

Chairman Fred Washington called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Chairman Washington made a public statement regarding the annual evaluation of Superintendent Valerie Truesdale.

**PUBLIC STATEMENT
November 2, 2010**

Today, the Board of Education met to evaluate the performance of its Superintendent, Valerie Truesdale, during the past year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Specifically, when the Board employed Dr. Truesdale in 2007, it agreed to evaluate her in six areas: (1) academic achievement of students based on 30 goals adopted by the Board for 2009-2010, (2) financial management, (3) facilities management, (4) community relations, (5) human resource services and staffing, and (6) Board relations.

In academics, Dr. Truesdale is the first to say, that after three years, "We are not where we need to be." The Board of Education agrees with her statement.

The 30 academic goals were for BCSD's average scores to equal the State's average scores; 40% of the goals reached state averages and/or Board targets.

Twenty-six of thirty academic goals improved over last year and twelve measures (40%) were above state average. The district average exceeded state averages in six PASS areas. Gaps with state averages have been narrowed in six other PASS areas. On state end of course tests, gaps with state averages were narrowed significantly in English and Physical Science. Also, some areas not included in these 30 academic goals such as early childhood, kindergarten, first and second grade, PASS Science and PASS Social Studies showed excellent improvements. Student achievement is trending in a positive direction but not yet meeting state average in all areas. SAT scores increased thirty points over last year but still did not meet state average. The ninth grade success rate is still too low; however, Battery Creek High School met its target for improvement. However, overall achievement has improved compared to 2007 when BCSD was above the state averages in only 1 of 24 measures on state standardized tests.

Twelve Performance Expectations, with 77 indicators, were all met with the exception of two areas, making 97% of operational goals. Of particular commendation are outstanding management practices in financial and human resource management. Millions in interest dollars have been saved to taxpayers by excellent financial management which has earned and sustained an exemplary credit rating. Attention to hiring well and providing intense training and support to employees has resulted in strong staff to teach and lead our youth. Suspension rates have been reduced by 21% over last year. Over a three year period, suspensions have been reduced 53% by using a positive behavior model.

The Board agrees with Dr. Truesdale's "systems" approach to improving the academic achievement of our students. She is most proud of the "culture of learning" that now exists among all our teachers and staff within Beaufort County School District. With her focus on higher expectations for our students and the professional training of our teachers and staff over the past three years, the Board expects major academic improvements this year.

The Board commends Dr. Truesdale for her outstanding performance in financial management, facilities management, community relations, human resource services and staffing, and Board relations.

While all real property owners do not pay taxes for the school operating budget, all property owners do pay taxes to build new schools. Since July of 2009, six new schools were opened on time and under budget completing our currently planned building program. Building and operating these six new schools to better serve our students while reducing staff by 74 positions demonstrates sound fiscal and personnel management to the community. Additionally, Dr. Truesdale and her team have pursued grants to make up for budget challenges; over \$15 million in competitive grants have been earned by the district in two years.

The specific goal of providing to the Board a detailed plan describing both the existing and planned technical education curricula at all five high schools was not met satisfactorily. The Board believes that every student in the 21st Century must earn a high school diploma and attend at least one year or more of higher education or career training. Having a detailed technical education plan greatly improves the chances that our high school graduates will meet this goal and be prepared to successfully attend college or join the military. Dr. Truesdale has committed to substantial improvements of our technical education curricula at all five high schools and to involve local employers to the benefit of each of our students.

In summary, overall, the Board is extremely satisfied with the instructional leadership and general management skills that our Superintendent has demonstrated.

In recognition of her overall performance, and with an eye to continued improvement over the long term, the Board has agreed to offer the superintendent a contract extension of one year to June 30, 2014.

Vice Chairman Bob Arundell made a motion to adopt the public statement officially and to extend Dr. Truesdale's contract to June 30, 2014. Motion Passed.

Secretary Laura Bush made a motion to remove from the consent agenda October 5 & 19th minutes and add to Board Business Action and Consent Agenda an anonymous donation to purchase enough Lego robotics kits for the third grade classroom at HHISCA \$2500. Motion passed.

Chairman Fred Washington called for the approval of the agenda
Earl Campbell made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Media properly notified

Invocation

The invocation was given by Chairman Fred Washington

Points of Celebration

On October 22, the Instruction Services Department held an excellent and well attended support personnel in-service education day at Hilton Head Island High School. Participants attended excellent classes ranging from CPR to Video production to learning more about curriculum mapping. Our special guest during the lunch break was Dr. Betty Siegel, Distinguished Chair of the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character and President Emeritus at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Siegel's address was inspirational to all who attended. A big thank you is extended to the Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce for partnering with us on Dr. Siegel's presentation.

Congratulations to Bluffton High School's Regional Champion Varsity Football Team and Coaching Staff. The team defeated Hilton Head HS on Friday night, 37-0, and came away with their Region-best 9-1 record. The Bobcats will have the privilege of hosting their first-ever home State Tournament Playoff Game!

The Bluffton High School JROTC Drill Team and Color Guard achieved an overall first place at the Low Country Drill/Rifle League on Saturday. They placed: 1st in Color Guard, 1st in squad with arms, 1st in Individual Exhibition with arms, 1st in Individual without arms, and 3rd in squad without arms. Congratulations to the JROTC drill Team and Color Guard for a job well done.

Bluffton High School is sending four students to the State Special Olympics competition next weekend. Best wishes to Wallace Gamble, Timothy Hall, Taylor Tabor, and Robert Seignious.

Also it is very worthy to note that Wallace Gamble (Vicki Malone's student) and Rashawn Young (a former BLHS students) are two of only eleven Horseback riders from The United States that were chosen to represent our nation in Special Olympic Equestrian events in Greece this summer! Congratulations!

The Beaufort High School Media Center recently celebrated Teen Read Week by sponsoring a Bookmark Contest. Our Media Center Teen Advisory Board judged the contest, based on the best illustration of our Teen Read theme, "*Read: Discover New Worlds*," as well as creativity, neatness, and composition. Our student body and staff voted on THEIR favorite, and the winner of that contest, Alexandra Thibault, was dubbed the "People's Choice." The two winners will have "official" READ posters created of them proudly holding their winning bookmarks and posted throughout the school, and the bookmarks duplicated for the student body. Our grand prize winner, Emily Chamberlin, also received a \$25 gift certificate to purchase books!

Also for Teen Read Week, the Media Center sponsored a Poetry Slam, called Poetry and Pizza. During each lunch, poets and their friends came to the media center and read their original works, garnering the admiration of their friends as well as pizza and a drink!

Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts Music Teacher Mrs. Melinda Smith will receive this year's "Teacher of the Year Patriotism Award" by the Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, Hardeeville and Ridgeland Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for her work promoting and supporting patriotism. One of the many reasons that Melinda was selected was her preparation of students for community outreach in activities that celebrate patriotism. Melinda's audition choir "Singers" performed this year at the Town of Hilton Head's Constitution Birthday Party. Melinda will receive her award tomorrow at a luncheon sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution.

One of our country's oldest holiday traditions is the National Christmas Tree Lighting in Washington, D.C. As you may know, the lighting of the National Christmas Tree is done by the President of the United States during a nationwide broadcast. The National Christmas Tree on the "Ellipse" is surrounded by the "Pathway of Peace," 56 smaller, decorated trees representing all 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia. We have just received word that Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts is to decorate the South Carolina tree! Visual arts teachers Beverly Jenkins and Sylvia Pitts will create the ornaments. The students will follow their style and create 26 original tree ornaments. Twenty-five ornaments will be for the South Carolina Tree on the "Pathway to Peace" and ornament number 26 will be hung on a Christmas tree in the White House Visitor Center showcasing each state/territory. I hope you didn't miss "Jungle Book," the fall production at the School for the Creative Arts. Wonderful singing, dancing and acting! Kudos to the children and many staff members who created this masterpiece!

With the district's focus on literacy I can't think of a better book than Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* taken to the stage for our first performance this year! I don't know who had more fun the students watching or the fifth graders! It actually might have been the fifth grade teachers or Mrs. Pitts in her monkey costume or Holly and Patti in their elephant costumes and tap shoes! Seventy-four percent of BCSD students passed the state's high school exit exam on their first attempt in 2010. That represented an increase from 2009's average passing rate of 71.1 percent, an overall increase of 3 percentage points.

Nineteen Beaufort County teachers are recipients of the Palmetto Electric Trust and Palmetto Electric Cooperative Bright Ideas Grants. The Palmetto Electric Trust and Cooperative awarded \$30,095 in the seventh annual Bright Ideas grant program Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29 to winning teachers and their team members. This year, a total of 42 grants will benefit more than 7,000 students in southern Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties.

The Cooperative's Bright Ideas Patrol presented the money where it will be spent – the teachers' classrooms. Representatives from the Cooperative and the Trust greeted teachers with balloons, gift bags and their checks at each school. Next month, the cooperative will host a luncheon at Palmetto Electric's New River facility to honor the teachers and their administrators.

The number of 7th Grade Students eligible for Duke University Talent Identification Program participation has nearly doubled in the past four years! This fall, 296 Beaufort County School District 7th graders have been identified and invited to participate in the Duke University Talent

Identification Program (TIP). The district has experienced a steady increase in eligible students over the past four years from only 168 in 2007-2008 to 296 currently in 2010-2011 while increasing every year.

Comment Corrections

Board Member Jim Bequette made a comment about information circulating in the county regarding incorrect numbers spent per student.

RESPONSE TO FALSE INFORMATION OF SOUTH CAROLINIAS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

The above organization's sole purpose is supporting vouchers and the elimination of public schools as we know them as far as it can be learned from their website. Each year they produce data that is totally incorrect about the cost of public schools. Each year the local online "newspaper", Beaufort Tribune published by George Trask picks it up and publishes it. Early this year Trask was sent the official computation of Beaufort County School cost but refused to publish it.

The above organization recently published data which we compare to the official Beaufort County School data included in the In\$ite report published on the SC Department of Education website:

	Their Data	SC Dept of Ed Data
Enrollment	18,430	19,215
Spending per-student	\$18,436	\$10,505
Instructional spending per student	\$6,352	See below

The fiscal year for schools ends on June 30; however, the law requires that the July and August collection of past due taxes be included in the year that already ended on June 30. Therefore the books are not finally closed until August 31 each year. Then the outside CPA begins its audit in September. The audit report is received in early November and must be at the SC Department of Education no later than December 1. The state then computes the cost per student for each of the 85 school districts in the state. It can be found on their website.

Here is a simplified breakdown of the official cost per student for 2009:

INSTRUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT:

Classroom teacher, books, and classroom supplies	\$6.092 per student
Guidance and counseling	260
Library including computers for students	192
Extracurricular (music, drama, sports etc)	242
Student Health & Services (Nurses in every school)	246
Curriculum Development & training	400
Program Development	23
Specialist required by federal unfunded mandate for educating every handicapped student	<u>62</u>
Subtotal	\$7,515

OPERATIONS:

School bus transportation	236
Food Service (no offset for student and teacher payments)	407
Safety	58
Facilities Upkeep, maintenance, utilities	1,067
Data Processing (accounting, grades, reports etc)	251
Business Operations (accounting, contracts, personnel etc)	<u>191</u>
Subtotal	2,210

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

School Principals, Asst. Principals & office	602
Program Management	93
Superintendent and School Board	61
Legal	<u>24</u>
Subtotal	780

TOTAL COST PER PUPIL

\$10,505

Their misinformation indicates that the Beaufort County School District (BCSD) has a long history of under-reporting “their” budget to taxpayers. This is totally false. The District puts quarterly financial reports on their website which compares each line item of the budget to actual spending year-to-date. This report also includes capital spending for each and every item where money is being spent even down to items well below \$5,000. Then the audited financial report at the end of the year is on the website which compares each item of the budget to actual spending.

Yes, the District proudly has a reserve or fund balance in excess of \$10,000,000. To maintain our outstanding bond rating of A, the rating agencies expect a reserve of about 15% of the following year’s spending. BCSD ended the 2010 school year with an unaudited reserve of 18%. Beaufort County Government, itself, has a reserve of 21% with a stated goal of 25%. BCSD purposely built this reserve to its current position for the opening three new schools last year and the opening of three more this year.

Depending upon collections, two to five million dollars of that reserve will be spent this school year. It is interesting to note that BCSD has the lowest tax millage rate in the state of SC.

The official SC Department of Education reports capital spending and debt service spending but it is not included in the cost per student. As a former CPA and corporate financial executive I computed depreciation on the buildings, equipment and furnishings using Internal Revenue guidelines. This was done late last year and should you consider the wearing out of buildings and equipment it would add about \$700 to the cost per student.

I would like to know what the lavish taxpayer perks are that the so called South Carolinians for Responsible Government mentioned. When I look at my income for the time devoted to the school District, I net less than 20 cents per hour. Also when we go the Columbia to lobby our legislators, we drive in a school SUV that has over 100,000 miles upon it. We leave around 6:30 in the morning to arrive by 9:00 AM; spend the day in discussions with our representatives and drive home that evening. If only a couple of us go we drive one personal car and can be

reimbursed at 45 cents per mile which is a dime below the IRS deductible rate. Yes, we do get a breakfast upon arrival from the SC School Board Associations during a briefing about school issues currently before the House and Senate.

Showcase

Dr. Terry Hitch and Vicki Goude presented an update on the Dominie benchmark Reading Assessment.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Washington thanked Board member Joan Deery for chairing the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee.

Committee Report

None

Superintendent's Report

Chief Human Resource and Administrative Services Officer, Dr. Jackie Rosswurm, presented Performance Expectations 6.A.2 and 6.A.4 – Employee Retention and Employee Retention Improvement Report and Employee Exit Interview Report.

Chief Human Resource and Administrative Services Officer, Dr. Jackie Rosswurm, presented Performance Expectation 5.10 – Protect the District, Board, and staff from legal liability as much as possible.

Student Services Officer, Dr. Cynthia Hayes, presented Performance Expectation 1.11 – Implement Character Education programs in all schools.

Chief Operational Services Officer, Phyllis White, presented an update on Local Preferences in the Model School procurement Code.

Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford, presented Performance Expectation 1.1 - the Annual Student Achievement.

Informational Items under the Superintendent's Report included: Academic Points of Celebration and Beaufort County School District Arts Events Calendar

Board Business Action

Board Member Jim Bequette made the motion to add a clause to PE 6.5 so that all major vendor and construction contracts will reflect such a change in policy: *Inform the Board when an immediate family member of the Superintendent, Executive Leadership team, Principals, Facilities Planning and Construction Officer, Procurement/Contracting personnel, is being employed with a major contracted service or construction vendor.* Motion passed.

Secretary Laura Bush made a motion to accept the donation for St. Helena Elementary School for assistance with classroom libraries. Motion passed.

Vice Chairman Bob Arundell made a motion to accept the anonymous donation for HHISCA for the third grade robotics lab. Motion passed.

New Business

None

Consent Agenda

Update on Virtual Summer School

Measures of Academic Data Progress Report

District Calendar

Minority/Women Business Enterprise Update and Update on Local Contractors

Human resources Status Report

Monthly AE/Home Schooling

Confidential Student Information

Review Discipline Policy

Distribute Discipline Policy

Involve Employers in career Education

Any Disruptions in School Day

Vice Chairman Bob Arundell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the previous changes. Motion passed.

Adjournment