

Board of Education Summary
March 16, 2010
School Board Meeting

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

Chairman Washington called for the approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved

Pledge of Allegiance

Media properly notified

Invocation

Students from Bluffton Elementary Students presented the invocation. The chorus from Bluffton Elementary sang two songs, *The Color of the Wind* and *Don't let the Music Stop*.

Points of Celebration

Points of Celebration – March 16, 2010

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Last Thursday evening was very, very special for 50 Beaufort County seniors who were honored at our District's first-ever Senior Scholars Banquet. The very elegant and well-planned event honored our very brightest students. Criteria for selection as a senior scholar included: no grade of 85% or below, a 3.5 grade point average or above, and in the top 10% of their graduating class.

The students and their parents and guests enjoyed dinner at the Hampton Hall Clubhouse graciously sponsored by Voyager Expanded Learning, Pearson Education Associates, Jostens, Inc., R. L. Bryan, and Best Buy. Entertainment was provided by the Hilton Head Island Seahawk String Ensemble and the Battery Creek High School Senior Choir. Scholar Emma Harshberger from Bluffton High School read a poem and Mr. Elijah Heyward III, Beaufort High School graduate, and a graduate of Yale University Divinity School Class of 2007 and Hampton University Class of 2005, was the keynote speaker.

Scholars also enjoyed numerous prizes graciously donated by area businesses and were individually recognized by Dr. Alford and members of the Board of Education. Special thanks to all who had a role in this wonderful evening.

Mr. Dennis Vernon, photography instructor at Bluffton High School, is a featured artist in the highly competitive Palmetto Hands 2009-2010 Traveling Exhibition. This exclusive show features 28 pieces of exceptional quality work, fine crafted by artisans throughout the state and sponsored by the South Carolina State Museum. Congratulations, Dennis.

Mr. John Drafts, Athletic Director of Battery Creek High School, has been named Athletic Director of the Year for our region. It is a significant and distinct honor to be nominated because it demonstrates the respect the other AD's have for the overall quality of the school's programs. John has a significant history with the District as AD and Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Battery Creek. He has also been the lead person on setting up scheduling and purchasing equipment for Whale Branch Early College High School. Congratulations to Mr. Drafts!

I am very proud to share with you that two Beaufort Middle School science staff members have been selected to attend the Science PLUS Institute at Roper Mountain this summer. Ms. Elandee Thompson, 8th grade science teacher, will be studying Earth Science and Ms. Donna Moore, BMS science coach, will be studying Human Anatomy.

Congratulations also to two of Beaufort Middle School students Anika Lattimore and Paige Inglis who represented Beaufort Middle in the Special Olympics North American National Invitational Tennis Championships this week. They competed with students across the United States. Anika brought home one gold and two silver medals, as well as, the best sportsmanship award. Paige won one gold and two bronze medals. We are very proud of Anika and Paige.

Congratulations to Hilton Head Island High School science teacher Kathryn Weatherhead who is the recipient of the 2010 Textbook Excellence Award from the Text and Academic Authors Association. The chosen text co-authored by Ms. Weatherhead is, *Ap Environmental Teacher Manual and Student Lab Manual*, 1st Ed. Ms. Weatherhead will be honored by the Association at their awards ceremony in June.

Mossy Oaks Principal, Donald Gruel, reports that three of his students recently won highest honors in this year's WordMaster Challenge – a national language arts competition entered by approximately 220,000 students annually. Competing in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, fourth grader Jamie Correll and fifth graders Brandon Berry and Esther Lawrence all earned PERFECT scores in the year's second meet. In the entire country, only 132 fourth graders and 275 fifth graders achieved perfect scores. In addition a number of students also did extremely well in the competition (please note the screen with names). Many thanks to Caroline Pettigrew and Cindy Keyserling, our teacher – coaches for helping the WordMaster students.

Congratulations to the WBMS Robotics team for a fantastic performance on Saturday, March 6, 2010 @ Clemson University, FIRST (For Inspiration in Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Smart Move Challenge . The team competed in four areas (Robot design, Robot Performance, Research Project , and Teamwork) against 79 schools from across SC. WBMS placed 2nd in Teamwork and had an overall ranking of 18 out of 79. Hats off to the following student who showed gracious professionalism in competition (List on screen). The team would like to thank Mrs. Salters and Mrs. Saunders for volunteering their service throughout the Robotics season and all parents who joined us for the trip to Clemson. Ms. Lois Lewis and Mr. Edward Williams, Coaches, would also like to thank the Beaufort County School District along with the Administration of WBMS for helping the students with this accomplishment.

Three Hilton Head Island High School teachers have been chosen by the International Baccalaureate Organization to serve as examiners. Dora Fletcher, Chris Gray, and Duncan Aspinwall-Winter will grade papers by students from around the world. It is a very high honor to be chosen as an examiner by IBO and we congratulate these teachers on this accomplishment.

The Virtual Enterprise class at Hilton Head Island High School is hosting their “Grand Opening” of the SWAG Surf Shop on Thursday morning with a Ribbon Cutting by Mrs. O’Nan. Their website is up and running and they are ready to sell – virtually that is. Virtual Enterprise students learn how to create, implement and run a business. The students are planning to attend the South Carolina Virtual Enterprise Trade Fair in Columbia, SC on April 12-13 where they will compete in the booth competition and newsletter competition.

One hundred eighty-six students from across the district participated in DaVinci Days last week for the artistically gifted and talented. The students spent 4 hours delving deeper in their arts area – strings, theater, chorus, dance, and visual art. There was no cost for students, for expenses were covered by SC Dept of Education Gifted & Talented funds.

Workshops were held from 9-1 on two school campuses, H E McCracken Middle and Robert Smalls Middle. Quite a few attended courses that most appealed to them rather than limiting their selection to those closest to where they live or attend school. This enabled students to meet and work alongside others across the county who share the same arts interests.

Hilton Head Island High School's Robotics Team recently participated in the Florida Regional Robotics Competition. According to John Quindlen, Robotics Advisor, it was an interesting meet. The robot performed well and was noticed by other teams. This was obvious because for the first time other teams actually had specific strategies in place to try and neutralize the robot's capabilities. Westminster Academy from Fort Lauderdale, FL, chose Hilton Head as a finals alliance partner along with Quincy Public Schools from Quincy, MA. This is the first time Hilton Head made finals as a separate team. Hilton Head's robot was one of only 5 robots that was able to accomplish five of the six tasks in the challenge. No robot accomplished all six of the tasks. Congratulations to the Hilton Head teamand the robot!!

We have a great picture from New York City and our Beaufort High School Inner Voices Ensemble performing at Lincoln Center at the New York City Jazz Festival. The young man pictured on the bass is Beaufort High School grad, Willie Harvey, who is majoring in bass jazz in Queens, NY.

Today was the first day of PASS Writing. According to Dr. Sean Alford, Chief Instructional Services Officer, the students were confident, the teachers were confident and we are looking forward to a great second day.

Another point of celebration, the 7th grade students at Whale Branch Middle School created the "Who Am I?" book. This is a collection of student writings based on a unit that integrates the academic with the visual arts and creative writing. Students brought to life the imagery and characters that appeared in the Low Country of SC during the Columbian Exchange.

Public Conversations

Lt. Col. Derek Richardson from the Marine Corps Air Station addressed the school board regarding the area where the Riverview Charter School is considering purchasing property.

Two members of the Kiwanis Organization public spoke to the board regarding the dictionary project to the students in Beaufort County North of the Broad. The group would like to make this an annual project.

Riverview Charter School was called to make their presentation to the school board. The chairman of the Riverview Charter School indicated that she was not prepared to make the presentation and asked for an extension.

Comment Corrections

None

Showcase

Chris Poe, Director of School Facilities, presented an update on the construction of Bluffton Middle School. The construction is on time and within budget and will be ready to open for fall 2010.

Chairmen's Report

Chairman Washington reported he was the speaker at the League of Women's Voters meeting on March 10th.

Committee Report

Mr. Campbell gave a report on the minority contract committee.

Mr. Wilson gave a report on the legislative meeting he and Mr. Bequette attended in Columbia, SC. He noted the funding there is lacking and more cuts are expected.

New Business

Motion made to change the School Board work session from April 23rd and 24th to April 30th and May 1st. Motion was amended to April 16th and 17th. Motion fails and the School Board work session will remain as originally scheduled, April 23rd and 24th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jackie Rosswurm, Chief Administrative and Human Resource Officer, gave a report on the student assignment of the Island West Community from Oaktie Elementary to Pritchardville Elementary. The school board discussed the issue and expressed concerns regarding the request from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). A motion was put on the table to go back and ask OCR to reconsider the request and let the Island West Community remain at Oaktie Elementary because it is only a two-percent difference.

Phyllis White, Chief Operational Services Officer, made a request to the board to consider allowing Port Royal Elementary to establish an afterschool care for students in partnership with the YMCA. A motion was made to have the administration enter into an agreement with the YMCA for an afterschool program at Port Royal Elementary contingent upon the contract adhering to district guidelines and policies.

Chris Poe, Director of School Facilities, presented a status report of renovations in the district. Facilities Planning and Construction is well underway with planning for the summer 2010 renovation projects. Teams of architects were developed and general contractors to complete the summer project tasks.

Dr. Jackie Rosswurm, Chief Administrative and Human Resource Services Officer, and Jennifer Staton, Risk Manager, gave a status report on insurance coverage for property and liability and worker's compensation.

Board Business Action

- Pritchardville Colors/Mascot Approval – Approved. The mascot for Pritchardville Elementary School is the Sea Turtle and the colors are Navy, Kelly Green, and Yellow and the uniform colors are Navy, Kelly Green, Yellow, and White
- Pritchardville/Okatie: Island West Student Assignment – Request for OCR to reconsider

- PRES YMCA – Moved for the administration to enter in a contract with the YMCA and to bring back to the school board for approval.
- Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds – 8% - Approved
- Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Refunding Bonds - Approved

Consent Agenda

- Donation from Hargray of \$2,500. to Hilton Head High School, Gold Team
- Donation from the Hilton Head Barber shoppers of \$1,500. for Microphones

Adjournment