

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: December 8, 2015

Chair Mary Cordray called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, there was a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation for employment listed on the November 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015 personnel ratification report. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance and performance by the Bluffton Middle School Symphonic Band.

Motion to approve agenda. Approved.

Points of Celebration

From Superintendent Moss:

Character Education Student of the Month (October)

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. Then they move on to compete for Character Education Student of the Month for the entire school district. The character word for October, "courage," is defined as "Doing the right thing in face of difficulty and following your conscience instead of the crowd." We are happy to announce our Character Education Student of the Month for October for Southern Beaufort County, August Rios, a sixth-grader at Bluffton Middle School. After being nominated at his school based on academic performance, leadership and overall achievement, and after his information was vetted by a panel of district administrators, he was selected for Northern Beaufort County. August, would you and your family please come forward to be recognized?

Character Education Students of the Month (November)

The character word of the month of November was "respect" and "gratitude." "Respect" is defined as "Showing high regard for an authority, other people, self and country. Treating others as you would want to be treated. Understanding that all people have value as human beings." "Gratitude" is defined as "The quality of being thankful and the readiness to show appreciation." Tonight, we celebrate two Character Education students for the month of November. The first student selected for respect and gratitude is Beaufort Elementary's Byron Crosby. Byron is described by his Montessori teacher, Ms. Rachel Hickman, with these words: Byron is a caring, kind member of our learning community. He strives every day to treat others with kindness and to be a helpful friend. Byron, would you and your family please come forward? The second student is Hilton Head High School senior, Curtis Johnson. Curtis is a senior is described by teachers as being courteous, kind and hard-working. Curtis was injured during a football game and faced reconstructive knee surgery. Although this ended his football season, he persevered and supporting his teammates by serving as a team manager to show his gratitude for the team and coaches. He also kept his focus on positive paths without doubting his ability to be successful. Curtis, would you and your family please come forward?

TIME for Kids Magazine – Amera Mitchell

Just one week ago, Bluffton Elementary School received an email expressing excellent news for one of its talented writers. TIME for Kids magazine contacted the school with word that Amera Mitchell, a fourth-grade student, had written a wildlife debate response that had been chosen to be published in TIME For Kids. Her essay about why nations should allow hunting in order to pay for wildlife conservation was quite impressive. I commend and congratulate Amera's teachers for providing Amera with the foundation to become a young published author. Amera, would you and your family please come forward?

BLHS Personal Finance

Sixty-five Bobcat Personal Finance students competed in the South Carolina Fall Finance Challenge. Four BLHS Personal Finance students earned the state championship. Six teams involving 24 Bluffton High students placed in the Top 16 teams of the 99 teams competing in the state! Congratulations to Bluffton High's Personal Finance students and to their director, Mr. Wolfe, for their outstanding accomplishments. The state championship team is Caroline Rose, Karyn Wilson, Haley Hubner and Hannah Hundley. Would the team and Mr. Wolfe please come forward? If any other members are present, would you please stand to be recognized?

BLHS Youth in Government

Bluffton High School's Youth In Government students competed in the State Youth In Government Conference held at the Statehouse in Columbia. They received several outstanding honors, including bills signed by the governor, the RTI conference scholarship (which is given to only five of 1,400 delegates), and the outstanding attorney award, just to name a few. I would like to invite their advisor, Erin Reichert, to come forward and talk more about this outstanding group. Following her remarks, would all of the members please come forward?

HHHS Athletics (Cross Country)

Now we celebrate our state champion girls and boys cross country teams. This year, Hilton Head Island High School's girls cross country team accomplished the following victories: region champions, individual region champion, state champions, individual state champion, six all-region runners and five all-state runners. The boys cross country team accomplished the following victories: region Champions, individual region champion, state champions, five all-region runners and seven all-state runners. These are the third consecutive state championships for the girls and boys teams. Would they please come forward to be recognized?

BLMS PTO donation

Now we would like to recognize the Bluffton Middle School PTO for its generous donation of nearly \$2,000 to the Bluffton Middle School First Lego League Robotics team to assist with competition registration and travel. Would the representative of Bluffton Middle School's PTO please come forward to be recognized?

BLHS DECA

Now I'll ask Principal Mark Dievendorf to come forward to acknowledge the Bluffton High School DECA team. (Dievendorf announced that 72 of 74 competitors qualified for the state competition. Two students were elected as state officers. Mr. Dievendorf introduced advisor Libby Ferrato to introduce the students.

Character Education Student of the Month

Dr. Moss introduced Principal Adrienne Sutton to acknowledge Michael C. Riley Elementary School's Kevin Lagos Juarez for winning the Character Education Student of the Month Award.

Board member Evva Anderson announced that the Realtor's association held a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for supplies for elementary students throughout the district.

Public Comment

A community member voiced her concern about economic development issues, a possible local sales tax referendum and the superintendent's estimates of facilities needs.

Comment corrections

Dr. Moss said that he did not participate in any enrollment projections at the North Carolina school districts mentioned by the community member during public comment.

Chairman's Report

Chair Mary Cordray said that the Board will set the agenda for the first January Board meeting on Monday, December 14, at 4 p.m.

Committee Reports

ACE – The committee has not met recently and normally doesn't meet in November or December. The Jasper County School board had taken no action regarding ACE.

Legislative Advocacy – The committee attended the SCSBA Legislative Conference on Hilton Head, and Mr. Campbell discussed some agenda items from that meeting. The committee met yesterday.

Curriculum and Instruction – The committee met and discussed PE 1.1 and 1.10. The next meeting will be in January.

Finance and Operations – The committee met December 8 to receive the annual financial report for the district. General consent to accept the report. The next meeting will be held January 11 at 4:30 p.m. at the DESC to discuss revised operational services and administrative regulations review. Will discuss PE 8 monitoring, review of CIP plan and enrollment projections, and gas utility easement approval.

Human Resources – The committee met last December 3 and discussed language for an ethics policy. The next meeting will be January 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Student Services – The committee has not met since its last meeting. The next meeting will be December 15 at 4:30 p.m. at Beaufort High.

Ms. Cordray announced that the Hilton Head Board members will host a town hall meeting at Palmetto Electric on December 15 at 6 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Moss presented the Board with information on the federal ESSA legislation, a revision of the No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate next week.

Dr. Moss announced that half of the \$1,000 locality supplement for employees would be distributed on Friday.

Affordable Housing Presentation by Bluffton High School students of Justin Robinson's Civil Engineering and Architecture class. The students presented a research report indicating that the county's cost of living is higher than other counties in South Carolina that compete with Beaufort County for teachers. The students presented the Board with preliminary designs for one-, two- and three-bedroom homes for teachers.

Dr. Rhoads presented the Board with achievement gap data. He discussed the "Zap the Gap" goals for our district. Laura Bush said that it is time for a call to action, called the data alarming and requested a plan from staff to improve academic achievement for minority students and reduce achievement gaps. Dr. Moss answered Board members' questions and listened to their suggestions.

Board Business Action

Motion to move remaining agenda items to after Board members' discussions with School Improvement Council members.

Phyllis White introduced representatives of the auditing firm of Elliott Davis Decosimo who presented the district's annual audit results. The Charleston-based auditing firm told the Board that its four-person team had found no weaknesses or deficiencies in the school district's internal financial controls during the 2014-15 fiscal year and no findings of noncompliance with state or federal laws. Motion to approve the audit. Approved.

The Board met with School Improvement Council members to discuss a range of topics that included the locality supplement, teacher turn-over rates and substitute teachers. Board members reported on the feedback they received from SIC members.

Motion to extend the meeting to 8:50. Motion approved.

General Obligation Advanced Refunding Bond: Motion to authorize the issuance of a general obligation advanced refunding bond not to exceed \$35 million.

Motion to authorize the submission of applications for E-rate category 1 services for E-rate funding year 2016. Motion approved.

Motion to approve PE 1.1 Annual Student Achievement report. Approved.

Motion to approve PE 1.10 Instructional Time. Approved.

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

Motion to accept a diversity statement and goals, second reading. Approved.

General Counsel Drew Davis presented the Board with changes to BCR7, then took questions. Motion to hold second reading during a January Board meeting. Approved.

Motion to extend the meeting until 9 p.m. Approved.

Mr. Davis presented the Board with the first reading of BCR16, Conflicts of Interest. Ms. Cordray said that she and Joseph Dunkle were not prepared to make a recommendation for the conflict of interest policy's nepotism wording. Motion to defer first reading of BCR16 to January. Approved.

Motion to adjourn. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53.

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: <http://www.bcgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>