

## **Board of Education Summary**

**July 17, 2012**

### **Public Session:**

Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

In action from Executive Session, the Board approved the termination of an employee.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Washington recognized the passing of former teachers and a board member.

### **Invocation**

Rev. Rivers presented the invocation

### **Points of Celebration** (presented by Dr. Truesdale)

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my honor to begin this evening by honoring two outstanding members of our Whale Branch Early College High School family – Corporal Daniel Allen, Student Resource Officer, and Geraldine Henderson, Guidance Counselor. Corporal Allen is the recipient of the 2012 Eric Bamberg State School Resource Officer of the Year and the Lowcountry Region School Resource Officer of the Year. This is the third time in four years that an SRO serving in our district's schools has received the state award.

The South Carolina Association of School Resource Officers also honored Mrs. Henderson for her role in the School Resource Officer Program and named her the 2012 Educator of the Year. Mrs. Henderson is the Chairman of the Guidance Department at Whale Branch Early College High School.

I would like to call Officer Allen and Mrs. Henderson forward to receive Certificates of Achievement from the school district and Board of Education. (Certificates)

What would we do without the generosity of our community partners?! Tonight we would like to honor two outstanding organizations in our communities. As you may be aware, the district will hold its 2012 Back-to-School Expo on Saturday, July 28, at Whale Branch Early College High School and on Saturday, August 4, at Bluffton High School. Helping us underwrite the event is Hargray Communications. Hargray has generously donated items totaling nearly \$30,000, including volunteer and student shirts, giveaways for students – backpacks, Kindle Fires and Wal-Mart Gift Cards -- and food for the event. Moreover, Hargray has also generously donated \$2,499 to the Hilton Head Island High School Girls' Golf Team. It is my honor to present a certificate of appreciation to Hargray representative Becca Ross.

Our second community partner is Parents Anonymous of South Carolina, Inc. Parents Anonymous is the oldest child abuse prevention organization in the United States dedicated to supporting families and

building safe communities for children. Parents Anonymous of South Carolina, Inc. has donated \$1,500 to be earmarked for food at the Back-to-School Expo.

We are very fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers each year that give of their time, treasures and talents to improve our district and touch the lives of our teachers and children. Last Wednesday, one of our most dedicated volunteers, Mrs. Jan Davis Vater, was honored at the State Board of Education. Mrs. Davis Vater is the recipient of an Honorable Mention for the State Board of Education's Individual Volunteer of the Year Award. Tonight, we would like to add to that honor by presenting Mrs. Davis Vater with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of service to our schools. She has served as a member and leader for 11 years on school PTO's, SICs, and in special capacities. Most recently Jan served as the first Chairman of the Foundation for Educational Excellence. Thank you, Jan, for all that you do for our schools, teachers, and most importantly, for our children.

Since we last met, our teachers, students and staff have been very busy – and it's summertime!

Summer Institute at Battery Creek High School was the place to be for nearly 1,000 teachers. The three days of professional development were most successful and featured nearly 150 class offerings. It was a time to learn and to stretch capabilities. Many thanks are extended to our ISD Department and the Summer Institute Committee headed by N'Kia Campbell. Bravo.

The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) held its first South Carolina Induction Symposium at the Citadel last month for first-year teachers. The symposium offered 30 presentations and showcased the talents and wisdom of two of Beaufort County's exceptional principals, Matthew Hunt of Whale Branch Middle School and Gretchen Keefner of Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts. Their topic was "Words of Wisdom from the Field" and focused on professionalism and integrity in and out of the classroom. Thank you so much for representing our district at this very first induction symposium.

The Sea Island School for the Arts and Academics (SISA2) commenced yesterday at Bluffton High School. This annual (21-plus years) two-week event for academically and artistically gifted students in grades 4-9 has enrolled 320 students, 100 more than last year! SISA2 Junior for rising students in grades 4, 5 and 6 is offering nine workshops the first week and 10 in week two. SISA2 for rising students in grades 7, 8 and 9 has nine workshops the first week and eight the second week. According to SISA organizers Margaret Rushton and Jennifer Woods, most of the students who signed up for the first week also signed up for the second week. Classes explore a wide variety of topics ranging from music offerings and dance to art and science.

Virtual Learning is a happening thing all over the county this summer! The district's eight-week Virtual Summer School program, currently in its third year, is aimed at helping students maintain or accelerate their academic skills over summer vacation. Enrollment has increased dramatically, from 2,000 students during the first session in 2010 to nearly 2,800 students this summer. Of this summer's students, about 2,200 are participating from their homes and 600 more are participating at community centers through partnerships with the district and the Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, the YMCA of Beaufort and the Neighborhood Outreach Centers in Bluffton and Hilton Head. The district placed 34 refurbished desktop computers in Boys & Girls Clubs, 25 computers at the YMCA of Beaufort and 40 computers in the Neighborhood Outreach Centers. The machines, which were retired from district schools last year and refurbished, will remain at the community centers during the upcoming school year so students can access homework and computerized learning programs while attending after-school programs.

The Beaufort High School High Altitude Balloon Club released a 1,500-gram balloon with a parachute and capsule that contained two cameras recently. In just three hours, the balloon climbed to more than 100,000 feet before bursting about 10 miles west of Allendale. The parachute gently dropped the capsule to a field near Girard, Georgia, about a hundred miles away from the launch site in Beaufort. From 100,000 feet, the capsule's cameras clearly show the curvature of the earth. The photos can be viewed on line (link is on district website).

### **Public Conversation**

Corporal Allen spoke about a public meeting sponsored by the Sheriff's Department scheduled on St. Helena's Island to address increased violence in the area.

### **Showcase**

Mr. Greg McCord reported on the new "Amended Charter School Act Provision" pertaining to charter school students and extra-curricular activities. The new state law covers students who are homeschooled or attend a charter school. Specifically the state law says:

### **Section§ 59-40-50**

(C)(3)(a) A charter school is eligible for federally sponsored, state-sponsored or district-sponsored interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, grants, and recognition programs for students, educators, administrators, staff, and schools to the same extent as all other public schools.

(b) A charter school student is eligible to compete for, and if selected, participate in any extracurricular activities not offered by the student's charter school which are offered at the resident public school he would otherwise attend. A charter school student is eligible to compete for, and if selected, participate in an activity governed by the South Carolina High School League offered at the resident public school he would otherwise attend if the league governed activity is not offered at the student's charter school.

(c) A charter school student is eligible for extracurricular activities at the student's resident public school consistent with eligibility standards as applied to full-time students of the resident public school.

(d) A school district or resident public school may not impose additional requirements on a charter school student to participate in extracurricular activities that are not imposed on full-time students of the resident public school.

(e) Charter school students shall pay the same fees as other students to participate in extracurricular activities.

(f) Charter school students shall be eligible for the same fee waivers for which other students are eligible.

*Section 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.*

*Ratified the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012. Approved the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.*

***To be eligible to participate in a school's extracurricular activities, a charter school student must:***

Be a resident of the district and provide proof of residency to the Superintendent or his/ her designee;

Complete an application to participate in Beaufort County School District extracurricular activities prior to the commencement of the activity involved;

Meet applicable academic, attendance, and behavioral requirements to participate in district extracurricular and/or student activities, including applicable requirements for interscholastic activity participation set for in S.C. Reg. § 43-244.1;

Participate at their residentially assigned school, and be responsible for payment of all fees and expenses associated with participation in the activity charged to student participants enrolled in the district.

Not have available a similar activity or program offered by or through the charter school in which he or she is enrolled.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Performance Expectations: Dr. Dereck Rhoads presented the following Performance Expectations for Board approval:

P.E. 1.4 Maximize Instructional Time – The board had several questions and comments regarding tardiness.

PE 1.7 Engage Parents/Community

PE 1.12 Improve Instructional Programs

PE 2.4 Enhance Staff Voice

Phyllis White presented PE 14.0 – Public Use of Facilities. The Performance Expectation is in compliance.

Jackie Rosswurm presented an update on the South Carolina Public Charter School District's newly approved Bridges Preparatory Academy. The new charter school is sponsored under the South Carolina Charter Schools Act and will not be part of the Beaufort County School District, but instead will be a school of the Public Charter School District. As a result, the district will have no more responsibilities with respect to Bridges Preparatory than it does to a school of another school district, with four exceptions:

1. The district has the right to appeal the Public Charter School District's approval of Bridges Preparatory.
2. The district must allow a charter school student to participate in (at least try out for) extracurricular activities offered at the district's school where the charter school student is zoned to attend if the charter school does not offer a similar extracurricular activities.
3. The district must offer charter schools a right of first refusal respecting any of its buildings declared surplus and that the district seeks to sell.
4. The charter school must adhere to the same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights requirements as are applied to public schools operating in the local school district in which the charter school is located.

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. Evans reported on plans for the September 7 State of the School's Breakfast. Dr. Betty Molina Morgan, Executive Director of Grad Nation will be the guest speaker.

## **Board Business**

The Board accepted the following donations: \$30,000 (estimate) from Hargray for Back-to-School Expo items; \$2,499 from Hargray for Girls' Golf Team at Hilton Head High School; and \$1,500 from Parents Anonymous for food at Back to School Expo.

Ms. White and Facilities Director Robert Oetting reviewed a list of proposed routine maintenance projects that will be further discussed at the Board work session July 18-19.

The Board awarded contracts for grounds contracting (non-athletic fields) to GCA (Battery Creek, Bluffton, Beaufort, and Whale Branch clusters) and Valley Crest (Hilton Head cluster). The Board awarded athletic field maintenance contracting to Valley Crest. Board members and staff expressed their disappointment that smaller vendors did not participate in the vendor process.

The Board approved the 2012-2013 Work Plan.

**The Board Approved the Consent Agenda of the April 17, 2012 Minutes – 9 and 10 & audit removed all agreed**

**The Board Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.**