The Finance Committee of the Board is zeroing in on some very important areas and is to be encouraged in that focus. For now, at the Board level, it is still considered "the dministration's budget" and not the Board's. That's just my opinion, but it's not the first time I've encountered the symptoms. Not my first rodeo.

JOHN DOWLING, AD

DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On May 19, 2019, at 11:56 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

Hi John,

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At what point does our 'new board' accept responsibility?

~Jerry

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We then lose a week of potential further vetting, if there is will to vet at all.

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BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

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On May 19, 2019, at 10:30 AM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

Time for an austerity belt tightening

budget until finances get back on tract. Oh no- how do we do that!

Finance Dept gives the impression

of bill paying without oversight.

Generally finance makes sure the flow of payments are on track with

school budget.

The more you know about these operations the more you become disillusioned about the ineptness of the employees.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 19, 2019, at 10:19 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

I'm pretty sure she got a standing "O" for her not so clever analogy that depicted a chicken sandwich to represent what it would cost to do her voodoo economics. Just more smoke and mirrors to cover up a huge gaffe, oops, and placate the sheeple...an insult to voter intelligence at its finest!! How about coming up with a plan for a realistic budget instead?

<1558275047075blob.jpg>

Time to end good ol' boy politics and deal with the huge problems that threaten the students in this district. Huge amounts of money are being wasted by this bloated budget that could be going to solve the achievement gap, not fatten the wallets of the unethical...where's the FBI when you need them..stay tuned.

fran

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OMG - what a mess! The CFO got

got applause because of announcing the District is on the verge of insolvency? This is nuts for sure. The referendum has nothing to do with operating funds. It's for construction and major repairs.

WOW, even though I can't believe it,

I do believe it.

Thanks for that info Mike. A lot to absorb here.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 9:11 PM, Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> > wrote:

That was in January, all fluffy with campaign promises and unicorns. I supported it and spent a lot of time doing needs assessments traveling around the County. Little did anyone know the deep dark staff secret of a huge $7.7 million hit to reserves which leaves insolvency a reality. We are borrowing money to meet payroll and so called budgeted

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Meanwhile, keep borrowing money to keep the ship afloat. We can add up the damages later, maybe. Real leaders find ways to cut losses and the largest target is personnel and benefits. Real Leaders know where to extract it without a gap to serving students. So far, no furloughs of headquarters staff are on the table. More money will be paid to a new Superintendent to relocate. It's easy to spend money. Real leaders determine how to stop the bleeding before they ask for more money.

The future of the mission to educate students responsibly hangs in the balance. Thank you for your service Board members. Time to hunker down.

With great respect,

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Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for November .019 referendum <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fnews%2fl

ocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,txCXlgpmLPoqJebsb1-mZrkb0fogc9TEXHxm2T_m-_3vvgm4oyDnXcwjl-Q8DaZB07hW4VN73Jp5de6jPmfe__w_vuMuSXY_M_rlZEscD6c9J92_KoGP&typo=1>

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The Beaufort County, South Carolina school board voted to allow interim superintendent Herb Berg to start planni...

Sorry Dr. Berg,

When you stated; the most common characteristic of a successful referendum is unanimous support from the board,... you missed the most important ingredient.

The most common characteristic of a successful referendum Dr. Berg, is unanimous support from the ELECTORATE. Until an in depth forensic audit of our school district has been completed, and proof that taxpayer dollars are being carefully spent with diligent board oversight...there will be no new money.

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Until trust is regained by getting rid of Compass and the former McNair (who conveniently now has a new name), there will be no support for a referendum by any thoughtful voter.

BTW: how can the board vote on a budget when they have no information as to the efficacy of the myriad licensed programs on which the district currently spends million of dollars?

Or to put it another way, where is Bonnie Almond? She is MIA just when she's needed the most!!

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Thank you for an excellent and thoughtful post Lyn,

I could not agree more on your compliments to Fran and Richard.

Regarding:

These new school board members may have to learn a tough lesson in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum. Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a new Supt. to do this in such a short time without some positive oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district.

May I request you send the above to all our school board members? I agree...they still don't get it. Our 'New Board' needs to understand; the victims of the boards lack of fiscal oversight and managerial responsibilities are and will continue to be...the students.

Jerry

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:00:14 PM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> > wrote:

Fran: you and Richard are the best informed citizens when it comes to this school districts operation.

Keep up the good work!!

These new school board members

May have to learn a tough lesson

in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum.

Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a

new Supt to do this in such a short time without some positive

oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district,

Regards,

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 10:48 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

How's this for a blast from the past. I wrote this to the whole board on Dec 9, 2017 at 1:29 PM:

"What I find extremely interesting and troubling is:

* Firing auditing firm Greene, Finney & Horton, which had given the district a clean audit report in January, and Compass Municipal Advisors, the financial firm that has Thomas' brother-in-law as a partner.

The fact that Compass, a firm that Moss and Crosby put a lot of trust in has been fired, is just another reason for a complete independent audit. "

The board didn't listen then..will they now?

fran

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:10:42 AM EDT, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> > wrote:

Jerry,

I don't think the idea of Oversite has really registered with some of the Board Members as of yet. If you listen to our public conversations, you will hear some of the newer members say things such as "We must Trust our Superintendent", or "They are the Professionals" or in the case of a 25 year veteran of the Board "Don't tie the Superintendent's hands". There's a big difference between an Advisory Council and a Governing Body.

I've heard this before, in the Moss era. I don't know, but I suspect, that you might have heard similar sentiments in Berkley County.

Trust but verify. Challenge every assumption. Ask why? Questions are not accusations.

You are well represented.

JOHN DOWLING

DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On May 18, 2019, at 9:27 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

** 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. **

Let's connect the dots. How much of this sounds familiar?

The Berkeley CFO was under FBI investigation, just as Moss was/is.

Rebate checks,... P-Cards come to mind.

Overpaid for some construction projects,... hence the current FBI investigation.

Unnecessary and extravagant junkets,... in our case unidentified travel expenses on Transparency Reports.

And what a coincidence; Our school district has relied heavily on Heizer and Nurick for years as our bond counsel and advisor,... just as Berkeley did.

But wait, there's more!

School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The Colletonian <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district-audit-finds-p-card-problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dIwAR21MyW5PIm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,gdE9UQY643JGfTGB2gZiqUKCxuo1PDlkEtkKN7KaQG6hfIMSj9aa93UcslO5uG9__fF3C6OxWn8_MWwLxI1iu_TGLQ3cgV1eDcuIrjfnsPnq&typo=1>

School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The Colletonian

School district audit finds more P-Card problems

Thank you JoAnn for bringing this important information to the surface. Where is our Firewall against fraud?

When will our 'new board's' fiduciary duties kick in?

Before any more talk of another referendum, our board should be talking about an Audit.

Rest assured, the 'old electorate' will not grant the 'new board' any more money until completion of a procurement audit of the school district's funds, including a random audit of the district's P-Cards demonstrating current school dollars are being spent wisely, legally with complete transparency.

At the very least I agree with the Representative from Dist. 6 urging [reconsidering] doing business with Heizer and Nurick until there's a resolution to the allegations.

Once again I am proud to be able to sign off as,

G.A. Smith

Well represented in Dist. 11.

~Jerry

On Friday, May 17, 2019, 4:27:10 PM EDT, Rick Caporale <rpc1@hargray.com <mailto:rpc1@hargray.com> > wrote:

John:

You might want to consider keeping them at arm's length with regard to any potential referendum.

However, in fairness to everyone, I have to admit I have always had a great deal of faith and trust in Frannie Heizer,

My only problem with that company is David Tigges. I wouldn't do business with him personally on a bet.

Rick

From: Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 2:55 PM
To: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >
Cc: gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> ; info@windrunnerstables.com <mailto:info@windrunnerstables.com> ; rpc1@hargray.com <mailto:rpc1@hargray.com> ; jdpc@hargray.com <mailto:jdpc@hargray.com> ; bisi@roadrunner.com <mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com> ; eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> ; gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> ; jiaco@wtoc.com <mailto:jiaco@wtoc.com> ; efarrell@islandpacket.com <mailto:efarrell@islandpacket.com> ; bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Attachment

This is a serious cloud hanging over their heads. Should we reconsider doing business with them until there's a resolution to the allegations?

JOHN DOWLING

DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On May 17, 2019, at 2:46 PM, Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> > wrote:

All,

I recently shared the below information with our Board. As you know, Berkeley County School District's CFO (Brantley Thomas) was recently imprisoned for embezzlement, fraud, etc. The Berkeley County School Board is suing a number of folks on the periphery, such as:

- Their auditing firm, Greene, Finney, & Horton LLP

https://www.berkeleyind.com/news/bcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm/article_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,RxoO9yLsLiZsPN-AL6cjv64xsc2uZdzLcxwfYp4xwhaqV__35icisNrfOgk6WSBkgTHJ5LEfleODGFnnUV27TuCvhj48APxpW0P3lfPSWtf9_44tJeVI1uTEMow,&typo=1>

- Their bond counsel and advisor, Frannie Heizer and Brian Nurick

I am attaching the complaint against Heizer, Nurick, and others for your review. Basically, the complaint asserts the imprisoned CFO could not have succeeded with such an intricate web of deception and fraud without the aiding and abetting of Heizer, Nurick and some others. The law firm representing the Berkeley County School Board is Smyth Whitley LLC. Lawyer, Joshua Whitley serves on the Berkeley County Council and is the Council's Finance Committee Chairman.

Feedback welcomed after you read the attached complaint.

JoAnn Orischak

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

<berkeley-school-complaint-against-advisors-030619.pdf>

Sent from my iPad

<1558275047075blob.jpg>

<1558275047075blob.jpg>

From: jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Dowling, John R; fran bisi
Cc: Marilyn Bullard; Mike Gleason; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Smith, William C; Campbell, Earl; Campbell, Melvin P; Gwozdz, Christina S; Robine, Cathy G; Orischak, Josephine A; Geier, Richard P; Fidrych, Patricia; Striebinger, David R; Crosby, Tonya V; Berg, Herbert M; Saunders, William H; Bennett, Terry G; Joan Deery; Rick Caporale; David Lauderdale; Murphy, Reggie D; Mock, Lori N; Liz Farrell; Richard Bisi; Thenerve. org Rick
Subject: Re: Attachment

I wish to go on record as requesting not only my elected Beaufort County School Board Representative, but all school board members abstain from or vote against a budget they are unable to see in it's entirety.

Moss is gone and so is his majority. If as board members you want to move the district forward, this would be a good place to begin.

G.A. Smith
Feeling disenfranchised in Dist. 11.

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 1:06:00 PM EDT, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com> wrote:

If they ("the professionals") consider the board to be only an advisory body, why perpetrate the sham of having you vote at all..what's the point if only to present the illusion of "transparency"? The fact that you have only superficial knowledge of the budget should be exposed publicly at the meeting when you are called on to vote.

fran

On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 12:11:54 PM EDT, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

For the past ten years or so, the prevailing wisdom has been that the Board does not "micromanage" by getting into the detail of the Administration's Operation (Budget, Personnel, etc). This is called Strategic Governance. It can work, but only with rigorous Oversight. The previous Administration and Board "discouraged" real oversight, with the Administration stage managing any attempts at it by those who were working for reform.

The result is that the Board has developed an attitude and belief that it is more of an advisory function, that we have to "trust the professionals" and accept the Superintendent as the "12th Member of the Board". The concept of a Governing Body has been watered down to an extreme. We discussed the budget for nearly two hours Thursday before it dawned on some that we should make Motions and not just state opinions.

The Finance Committee of the Board is zeroing in on some very important areas and is to be encouraged in that focus. For now, at the Board level, it is still considered "the administration's budget" and not the Board's. That's just my opinion, but it's not the first time I've encountered the symptoms. Not my first rodeo.

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