

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: June 16, 2015

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

After coming out of executive session, the Board took no actions.

Motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Orischak requested the removal of the consent agenda item pertaining to the Island Recreation Center. Agenda approved.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Rivers.

Points of Celebration (delivered by Superintendent Moss)

Two weeks ago we celebrated the Class of 2015 at ceremonies held at all five of the district's high schools. Board members attended all of the graduation ceremonies, and I could tell by the expressions on your faces that you were enjoying the festivities almost as much as the students and their families.

The Class of 2015 was a very special class indeed. This year's 1,091 graduating seniors earned a record \$30 million in college scholarships. That record scholarship total represents a \$3 million increase over last year and is a dramatic improvement from \$11.1 million just five years ago. Battery Creek High had the best percentage improvement in scholarship totals, followed by Whale Branch Early College High.

Across the district, members of the Class of 2015 have acceptance letters in hand from more than 100 colleges and universities across the nation.

The kind of improvement we saw with the Class of 2015 is certainly encouraging, and it says a lot about the commitment of our students. It demonstrates that they understand the value of additional education after high school, and also that they're willing to work hard to get that education and have successful careers. Seniors in the Class of 2015 also owe tremendous debts to their parents, teachers and school leaders who supported them from their first day of kindergarten until the moment they walked across those stages last week.

We won't know until later what percentages of this year's graduating seniors are going to college, or going into the military, or going into the workforce. And we won't have their test score data until later this year. But we do know enough today to commend our 1,091 new graduates for a job well done – and to congratulate them for it. Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Public Conversation

No public comments.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Evans said that last Thursday was the second meeting with the Ed Specs committee concerning the addition to Riverview. The ACE Transition team also met for a second time, and Mr. Evans said that he felt that meeting went very well.

Mr. Campbell asked who would be responsible for purchasing new equipment at ACE, and Mr. Evans responded that the legislative delegation might be approached concerning funding. Ms. Orischak said

that if ACE were to offer college-level CATE courses, there might be more funding opportunities. Any funding from Beaufort County would be on a per-pupil basis.

Committee Reports

ACE: The ACE Board met and appointed interim director Jerry Henderson to the permanent position. Contract negotiations are not yet concluded and will be discussed at the next Board meeting on Thursday, June 25. The vote to select Mr. Henderson was unanimous.

Community Outreach and Legislative Advocacy: Mr. Campbell asked if Chairman Evans could communicate with the legislative delegation to see if its members would respond to the Board's request for a meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. Orischak stated that the committee has no meetings planned unless Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads wishes to schedule one.

Finance and Operations: Mr. Roth said that at the last meeting, Lady's Island Middle School students presented an impressive plan to construct an art gallery on site. The committee approved the gallery's budget but asked that the design be revised to give school faculty a better view of the gallery at all times, for security purposes. The committee approved the debt plan as presented and also authorized the issuance of tax anticipation notes. The committee approved giving authorization to the superintendent to approve budget transfers for implementing the salary study and approval to transfer rental income to fund a future storage facility at the district office.

Human Resources: Mr. Rivers said the committee met on June 9 and approved PE. 6 as presented, along with a proposed pay plan growing out of the salary study that Dr. Moss and Alice Walton presented to the committee.

Student Services: Ms. Evva Anderson said that the committee met on May 26 and went over PE.7 and approved going forward; reviewed the master calendar, which will come back with recommendations; discussed a revised plan for voluntary and involuntary assignments to Right Choices; and discussed Board reports for student competitions and how that would work. The committee's next meeting will be June 26 to discuss revisions to the district's Student Code of Conduct.

Superintendent's Report

Random Student Drug Testing

General Counsel Drew Davis presented a proposed administrative regulation that would implement a random drug-testing program for students. Mr. Davis discussed findings related to drug abuse in Beaufort County and noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has authorized random drug screening of students who participate in voluntary school activities, such as athletics and other extracurricular activities. Mr. Davis discussed the program goals, which are to educate students, deter use and abuse, identify participating students and provide opportunities for counseling and treatment. He explained which students would be subject to testing (student athletes beginning August 2015; students who participate in other voluntary extracurricular activities beginning August 2016; and students with campus parking permits beginning August 2017). Parents of students in grades 7-12 may choose to have their children participate in the random drug testing program. Mr. Davis took questions from Board members about the drug testing program. The Board voted 9-1 to endorse the program, with Mr. Rivers voting against because adult employees would not be tested.

Board Business

Salary Study

Dr. Moss presented the Board with a salary study for Beaufort County School District classified employees that included the proposed annual salary ranges for 809 positions. Dr. Moss took questions from Board members. Motion to approve the pay plan was approved 9-0.

Following a request from Ms. Orischak, Dr. Moss presented a review of an earlier Finance Committee meeting discussion concerning expansion plans at the Island Recreation Center and challenges posed by increasing enrollment at Hilton Head Island Middle School and Hilton Head Island High School, both of which are already at capacity.

New Business

Ms. Orischak requested that a discussion of putting English 1 in middle schools be placed on a future agenda. The item will be routed to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

Consent agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Approved.

Ms. Bush thanked the staff for placing a marker at the location of the former Robinson Junior High school on Hilton Head.

Mr. Evans congratulated the staff on the \$30 million in scholarships earned by the Class of 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.