

Board of Education Summary
October 5, 2010
School Board Meeting

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

Vice Chairman, Bob Arundell made a motion accept the invitation to participate with Childs & Halligan and other school districts in sharing the cost for the firm to participate in an effort to reform the school finance system from now through the end of the 2011 legislative term. The amount is not to exceed \$7500. Motion passed.

Vice Chairman, Bob Arundell made a motion that the Chairman direct a committee of the board to meet with County Council and attorneys to 1) look at the possibility of a major lobbying effort to proactively lobby to change the funding formula and 2) provide research and recommendations related to legal and litigation options. Motion passed.

Chairman Fred Washington called for the approval of the agenda

Earl Campbell made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Media properly notified

Invocation

The invocation was given by 5th grade AMES students from Beaufort Elementary School

Points of Celebration

A few weeks ago, Tennille Scheriff was named our District's Teacher of the Year. With his honor came peer honor and recognition and the use of a beautiful BMW for an entire year! For the past five years, Hilton Head Automotive's, **Tom Fitzgerald**, has generously provided the auto lease for our Teachers of the Year. For his unwavering generosity, we would like to honor Tom this evening.

More than 2500 students from throughout Beaufort County descended upon Bluffton High School last Saturday to participate in an outstanding College Fair. This superb event was a joint project between the University of South Carolina Beaufort and our District and featured 70 schools. Schools in attendance were from as far away as the University of Michigan and Syracuse University and those closer to our area such as Clemson, Emory, USC, Winthrop and the Citadel. Participating students were given a guide to query the college admission representatives and required to visit at least three schools by their guidance counselors. The fair was not just for the students. A special parents' session was held in the early evening to cover scholarship and financial aid materials. Community feedback from the event has been extremely positive. For USCB's outstanding organizational role in planning this event, we would like to salute **Monica Williams** for her event coordination.

The Beaufort County Foundation for Educational Excellence Fund's grants committee met recently to evaluate 59 creative and innovative teacher mini-grant proposals. After hours of

deliberation, fourteen teachers and their eleven projects were chosen to be funded. Congratulations to the following for their winning grant proposals:

A total of \$4981.94 was given during this grant cycle. Our Beaufort County community will have the opportunity to help with funding these grants through two upcoming foundation events: the annual Foundation Fund Drive later this fall and the annual Foundation Fundraiser in the spring. The spring event will be held on Friday, April 29th at the Mall at Shelter Cove. Many thanks are extended to our Foundation Committee for their hard work on behalf of the children and teachers of our Beaufort County Schools.

Wonderful news has been received by Lady's Island Elementary School. Lady's Island Elementary received their official letter that they are now an ABC (Arts in Basic Curriculum) Site. The ABC Project is a statewide collaborative initiative that strives to provide leadership to achieve quality, comprehensive arts education (in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing) for all students in South Carolina. It is cooperatively directed by the South Carolina Arts Commission, the South Carolina Department of Education, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Winthrop University.

This honor comes with a grant of \$5000 this year. The grant money will be used to implement a strong arts curriculum and to integrate this curriculum into the general classroom curriculum. Examples of this include paying for Artists-in-Residence to work with the students, arts supplies for teachers and students, as well as professional development for the faculty to better integrate the arts into their everyday lesson plans.

This distinction also provides access to the most experienced educators in the field of Arts Integration. Lady's Island Elementary School already has a reputation for being strong in the arts, with specialists in Drama, Dance, Music, and Visual Arts. Now they are focusing in on strengthening their integration of the arts into the classrooms. Arts integration is important because when children learn their curriculum through the arts, they are more focused and are more likely to retain the information.

Lady's Island Elementary is one of only thirty-one ABC sites in the entire state of South Carolina. To qualify for this distinction, the school must have completed a Five Year Strategic Arts Education Plan and demonstrate a strong commitment to the arts. Lady's Island Elementary is excited about this wonderful opportunity as they continue to strive for excellence in academics and the arts!

In more great news from our schools, Robert Smalls Middle School and Battery Creek High School have been authorized as Middle Years Programme (MYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization. This prestigious designation involved significant time and commitment by the administration and teachers of these schools and we applaud them all. According to the IB Organization, a Middle Years Programme designated school, "provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers.

The programme consists of eight subject groups integrated through five areas of interaction that provide a framework for learning within and across the subjects. Students are required to study their mother tongue, a second language, humanities, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical education and technology. In the final year of the programme, students also engage in a personal project, which allows them to demonstrate the understandings and skills they have developed throughout the programme.

Brenda Hunt, our Director of Special Education, is happy to announce that teachers in our district have received over \$17,000 through the Special Olympics Project Unified grants. Monies will be used for special classroom projects. According to the Special Olympics, “The goal of Project UNIFY is to activate youth around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics.”

Beaufort Elementary special needs students have very special friends visiting their classrooms these days. “Murphy” and “Woody,” therapy dogs from the Beaufort Chapter of Therapy Dogs International, bring cheer and love to the classroom every Friday as part of a new pet therapy program. All dogs participating in the program are certified by TDI and have undergone extensive and rigorous testing to ensure that they have the temperament suited to be a therapy dog. While this type of therapy is new to our students, it is often successfully implemented with individuals with various disabilities including autism, physical impairments, and cognitive challenges. The children have responded with great enthusiasm to their new furry friends. Thank you to Therapy Dogs International for sharing their very special ambassadors! Students in the Right Choices Program were recent visitors to the STARBASE Program at the Marine Corps Air Station. The STARBASE Program is designed to introduce students in the 4th – 6th grades to the wonders of aviation, while giving them information about goal setting and healthy lifestyles. The Program’s motto is “dreams = action = Reality.” According to our Director of Alternative Education Programs and Schools, Dee Matthews, “The students were awesome in their behavior, academic success, and in the projects they prepared (rockets fired and space creations).”

Public Conversation

None (under Board Action)

Comment Corrections

A letter was written to the editor indicating that it is unlawful for school officials to send messages home with students about who to vote for. While it may be unlawful for public school staff to send messages home with students about who to vote for, it is certainly appropriate for any citizen, public school employee or not, to encourage others to exercise their privilege and responsibility to vote. We are encouraging our staff to make their authentic voices heard by voting.

Showcase

Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford and Director of Readiness, Kay Newsome gave a presentation on the early childhood creative curriculum.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Washington gave an update on the Illegal Immigrants Joint Initiative Planning Group. The purpose of the Illegal Immigration Joint Initiative Planning Group is to conduct a community education forum to dispense facts regarding legal issues surrounding illegal immigration in Beaufort County. The November 17th forum will focus on specific impact areas; education, health and human services, law enforcement and business communities.

The joint planning group was initiated by Mr. Washington to bring together various segments of county services and governing bodies to dispense facts (and dispel rumors/misinformation) regarding illegal immigration in Beaufort County. The financial impact of illegal immigration is believed to have touched many segments of our communities – schools, hospitals/clinics, law enforcement, social service agencies and businesses. An overriding issue is “to serve (illegal aliens) or not to serve.” At the crux are the various laws governing how an entity either serves or does not serve an individual who is not legally residing in the United States. The intent of the joint initiative is to address and publicize the facts through a community forum and establish a website of information.

Serving on the initiative group are members of Beaufort County Council, town Mayors, legislators, Chambers of Commerce, the public school district, social services and legal entities with deep knowledge of immigration law.

Jim Bequette made a motion that the school board endorse participation in the illegal immigration forum. Motion passed.

Committee's Report

None

Superintendent's Report

School Enrollment and Capacity Data

Superintendent Dr. Valerie Truesdale distributed the school enrollment and capacity data to Board Members per their request at the last Board Meeting.

Program Evaluation Contract Awards: Accelerated Learning Schools and Alternative Schools

Superintendent Dr. Valerie Truesdale distributed the contract award outlining the cost, process and criteria for the Research and Program Evaluation Services.

End of Course Exams

Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford presented results from the End of Course Exams for the high schools. Highlights of the 2010 results included:

* Algebra I – The district's average scale score increased to 79.2 from 77.4 the previous year. The gap between student performance in Beaufort County and students across the state in Algebra I was decreased to.8 from 1.7 the year before. The percent of students passing the End – of-Course exam in Algebra I also increased from 71.2 in 2009 to 73.8 in 2010.

* English I – The district’s average scale score increased to 76.1 from 72.8 the previous year. The gap between student performance in Beaufort County and students across the state in English I was decreased to .8 from 2.7 the year before. The percent of students passing the End – of-Course exam in English I also increased from 59.6 in 2009 to 71.3 in 2010 cutting the gap between state averages from 8.8 percent to 2.4 percent. Both Hilton Head Island High School and Bluffton High School exceeded the state average in English.

* Physical Science - The district’s average scale score increased to 71.9 from 68.1 the previous year. The gap between student performance in Beaufort County and students across the state in Physical Science was decreased to 2.1 from 4.4 the year before. The percent of students passing the End –of-Course exam in Physical Science also increased from 46.7 in 2009 to 55.1 in 2010 cutting the gap between state averages from 8.8 percent to 4 percent. Hilton Head Island High School exceeded the state average in Physical Science.

Student performance in the newest end-of course exam, United States History, decreased from 2009 to 2010. The district’s average scale score fell from 68.1 to 67.5 The gap between student performance in Beaufort County and students across the state in US History increased from 1.3 to 2.3. The percent of students passing the End –of-Course exam in US History decreased from 37.3 in 2009 to 36.8 in 2010.

Measured by average scale scores, African-American students improved performance from 2009 to 2010 on each of the four exams highlighted by a 3.1 point increase in English I. Hispanic students improved performance during the same time period on three of the four exams highlighted by a 3.7 point increase in Algebra I.

Adjustment of Names of Hilton Head Island Elementary Schools

Chief Administrative and Human Resource Services Officer presented to the Board that Hilton Head Island International Baccalaureate School has requested its name be changed to “Hilton Head Island Elementary, an authorized IB school.” This name adjustment is in keeping with the International baccalaureate school naming guidelines. Also – the Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts has requested its name be changed to “Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts.” This name adjustment is requested to ensure that the school is readily identifiable as an elementary school.

Jim Bequette made a motion to the Board to adopt the name changes per the administrations recommendation. Motion passed.

Teacher Recruitment Report

Chief Administrative and Human Resource Services Officer, Dr. Jackie Rosswurm presented Performance Expectation 6:A.1 – Recruit and hire top-quality employees of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Rosswurm reported the percentage of minorities hired for the 2010-2011 school year is 20.1%, up from 12.8% in 2009-2010.

Riverview Plan for Increasing Diversity in Staff and Board Leadership Positions

Chief Administrative and Human Resource Services Officer, Dr. Jackie Rosswurm presented an update for Riverview Plan for Increasing Diversity in Staff and Board Leadership Positions.

Update on TAP Grant

Superintendent, Dr. Valerie Truesdale updated the Board on the TAP Grant received where successful teachers at 10 Beaufort County Schools will be rewarded with performance-based bonuses thanks to a federal grant meant to help train and reward teachers in high-need areas.

Board Business Action

Inclusion of Daufuskie Island School with School for Creative Arts

Vice Chairman, Bob Arundell made a motion to approve the recommendation by administration to establish a formal relationship between Daufuskie Island School and the Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts. This would include the test scores of Daufuskie Island students rolled into that of Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts with one annual school report card. Motion passed.

Approval of Daufuskie Foundation Historical Tour Signs

Board Member George Wilson made a motion to approve the request for placing a historical marker on two of the Beaufort County School District owned properties on Daufuskie Island, one at Jane Hamilton School and the other at the Little White Schoolhouse. Motion passed.

Inclusion of Davis Elementary School with Whale Branch Elementary and Name of James J Davis Elementary School

Board Member George Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendation by administration and change the name from James J Davis Elementary School to James J Davis Early Childhood Center. Motion passed.

Riverview Plan Update

Board Member Earl Campbell made a motion to approve the Riverview Plan update. Motion passed.

Title 1 Supplemental Educational Services (SES) – Appropriation of Funds

Vice Chairman, Bob Arundell made a motion to approve the appropriation of funds. Motion passed.

Proposed Change in Nepotism Policy

Board Member, Jim Bequette made a motion to approve the Nepotism Policy then Board Member, Jim Bequette made a motion to table the motion and discussion.

New Business

Board Member, Earl Campbell made a statement that he was concerned that contractors are still being awarded to contractors out of town and not local contractors, minority contractors and women contractors. Earl Campbell made a motion to have administration bring more information regarding minorities that are being awarded contracts using the 8% funds.

Consent Agenda

Board Secretary, Laura Bush made a motion to add to the consent agenda the performance expectations PE 3.B.3, PE 4.1, PE4.7, PE 9.1, 9.2 and 9.4 and donations from Wal-mart at the next meeting. Motion passed.

Vice Chairman, Bob Arundell made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.

September 21, 2010 Minutes
Monthly AE/Home Schooling
Human Resources Status Report

Meeting Adjourned