

Board of Education Summary – December 13, 2011

Mr. Washington called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

From Executive Session, the Board approved to accept the donation of approximately 7 acres of land located behind Lowes at the corner of Salem Road and Burton Hill Road for a permanent site for the Riverview Charter School.

A second motion approved by the board from Executive Session was the motion to enter into contract with the McNair Law firm for the period of November 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for State Educational Funding Assistance. The motion passed with Mr. Rivers voting against.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the removal of the November 4, and 15th minutes, and the removal of the Quarterly Financial Statement.

Pledge of Allegiance

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Invocation

Beaufort Elementary students in Spanish class performed two songs for the invocation.

Statement of Media Notification

Showcase:

Students from Port Royal Elementary School under the direction of Dr. Linda Gibson presented their new school song to the Board. Following their song, Fine Arts Coordinator Margaret Rushton presented a video showcasing Whale Branch Early College High School and Lady's Island Elementary School students, who also wrote new alma maters for their school.

Points of Celebration (as spoken by Dr. Truesdale)

Points of Celebration

December 13, 2011

This is a season of thanks and celebration for all of the wonderful gifts bestowed upon our schools and communities. We have many wonderful people to recognize tonight. I would like to begin by introducing:

- Sofia Cavano, a student at our Hilton Head Early Childhood Center. Sofia's depiction of a Christmas tree was chosen as our District Holiday Card this year. (Certificate of Appreciation to Sofia, who is at the HHI Library)
- We are so very proud of Jessica Smith from Hilton Head Island High School. Jessica has been recognized as a finalist in the YoungArts Program of the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts. Jessica's field of expertise and talent is photography. This is a very important national competition, with more than 5,000 entries representing the finest young artists in the nation. She is one of five students selected in the field of photography and one of 152 students in all arts fields chosen to be a finalist. Jessica will be honored with her fellow finalists at the YoungArts Gala on January 14 in Miami. Jessica is joining us this evening from Hilton Head (Certificate of Accomplishment).
- Erich Greiner is an outstanding young man who is a student at Bluffton High School and a candidate for Eagle Scout. Erich recently completed his Eagle Scout project and presented his "gift" to our school community – the new nature trail at Bluffton Middle School. The BMS Mustang Path winds through the woods at the school and is complete with informational signage about the flora and fauna of the area. Erich, please come forward. (Certificate of Appreciation)
- Community partners – First Citizens Bank is being recognized this evening for a most generous contribution to our Foundation for Educational Excellence. First Citizens recently presented a grant to the Foundation to assist in awarding Innovative Teacher Grants to our teachers. The \$15,000 grant will be given in \$5,000 increments over the next three years. I would like to call our business partners from First Citizens forward – Jay Lovell, Tayloe Lester and Nikki Mason from First Citizens – as well as our Foundation for Educational Excellence Chairman, Jan Davis-Vater. (Certificate of Appreciation).
- Mr. Al Rosen and his fellow members of the Sun City Veterans Association secured our country's freedom through their service in the armed forces. They continue giving to our community by serving as teaching resources in our schools, connecting living history to written history. We thank you for working with our students. Please welcome Mr. Rosen and his wife, Marylyn, and Mr. Jim Quick, former Commander of the Sun City Veterans Association, and his wife, Cheryl. (Certificate of Appreciation)
- It is an honor to announce that 12 Beaufort County teachers have earned the prestigious National Board certification. The National Board process defines the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that symbolize teaching excellence. It was created so teachers could achieve distinction by demonstrating through a demanding performance assessment that they can meet high and rigorous standards for what they should know and be able to do. The addition of 12 new Beaufort County teachers was the year's ninth-highest total among South Carolina school

districts and increased the district's overall total to 139 National Board Certified teachers – 9 percent of the teaching force. I would like to call our new Board Certified teachers forward:

- Toni D'Imperio (Beaufort High)
 - Sonya Elliott (Shell Point Elementary)
 - Laura Gottardo (Bluffton High)
 - Lisa Marchetta (Hilton Head High)
 - Karen Penale (Hilton Head Elementary IB)
 - Patricia Schoelkopf (Hilton Head High)
 - Marcela Shiflett (Bluffton High)
 - Suzanne Torgerson (Hilton Head Middle)
 - Amy Trask (Lady's Island Elementary)
 - Dennis Vernon (Bluffton High)
 - Jean Vinel (Bluffton High)
 - Jennifer Weitekamper (Hilton Head High)
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- Sometimes the gifts in our schools come from the outpouring of love and support when a member of our school team is going through adversity. The students and teachers at Coosa Elementary wanted to make sure Mrs. Norris knew they were thinking of her when they sent her this picture just prior to her recent surgery. By the way, Mrs. Norris is doing well.
 - Similarly, students at Robert Smalls Middle School are raising money to help Sheila Fripp a beloved member of the middle school's staff who is hoping to receive a kidney transplant. So far, the students have raised more than \$500 towards the surgery. Way to go for a friend in need!!
 - The Knights of Columbus Council 5026 has donated 36 coats to be distributed to students identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. Students at Shell Point were all smiles recently as they received their new coats. Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for providing warm coats for these students!
 - I hope that you have all enjoyed going to our annual holiday celebrations at our schools and out in the community. Our students are so very talented. There have been concerts galore, drama productions and many excursions to area nursing homes and retirement facilities where our students have been spreading holiday cheer. Many thank-yous to our students and their teachers for preparing so very hard and doing such a fine job. We are very proud of you all!
 - A delegation of eighth- and ninth-graders from H.E. McCracken Middle School to the South Carolina Youth in Government recently completed their first convention in Columbia. **Seventeen McCracken students** participated in the "mock" State House of Representatives and the State Senate. **The McCracken delegation received a "Premier**

Delegation Award" - one of only four given to the middle schools participating. In addition, Spencer McAllister received the "Outstanding Statesman" award. The team also received 2 "Outstanding Bills" awards given to Sean Greiner and Hannah Hundley and to Emily Nowlin and Gaby Pollina. So in their first year, five out of 17 students received awards, and the entire delegation received a "Premier" Award. Fantastic!

- **Bluffton High School Principal Mark Dievendorf reports that his Youth in Government participants had a great time on the high school Level. Highlights of the convention for them included:**
 - Named Premier Delegation 2011
 - Three bills signed by the Youth Governor
 - Outstanding Senate Bill: Jason Guo & Katie Ryan
 - Outstanding Statesman in the House: Alex Burch
 - National YIG Conference Delegate Katie Ryan
- Students in the BETA Club at Hilton Head Island High School raised \$1,000 to send “Hannah” to be a Princess for a Day at Disney World. The fund-raising event was held in conjunction with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Here we see Hannah receiving her check from the students.
- Students and teachers at Red Cedar Elementary School will learn to cook tasty, nutritious meals with \$2,000 worth of cookware thanks to a grant made possible through the Partnership for a Healthier America and Honorary Chair, First Lady Michelle Obama. The grant for cookware came from the “Chefs Move!” initiative. Congratulations!
- World Boxing Champion and Beaufortonian Joe Frazier was memorialized recently at a service in Beaufort attended by many friends and family members. Because of Mr. Frazier’s close ties to the Battery Creek area, family members stopped by Battery Creek High School to talk to students about Joe Frazier during impromptu assemblies. We are most grateful for engaging and teaching our students about this most important world athlete.
- Beaufort County Council honored the Students Against Destruction Decisions (SADD) organization at Battery Creek recently naming November 30 as SADD Day in the county.
- Lady’s Island Middle School held their Literacy Night recently, and Principal Mona Lise Dickson reports that it was a great event with more than 250 people in attendance. According to Ms. Dickson, “This was a great night for emphasizing literacy, family and school building as one and a chance for the students to see their teachers in a different light.” Teachers dressed as book characters.

Six Hilton Head Island Elementary students were selected recently for the SC Honor Choir:

- Carson Copeland
- Sarah Feldman
- Mikaela Langs
- Miranda Ludewig
- Caitlyn Owen
- Mackenna Stenhammer

To be selected for the state choir is a huge honor and testament to exemplary instruction for these six elementary school musicians and their teacher, Ms. Karen Osborne.

- Congratulations to the BHS Voices and Director Jordan Norris for having 18 students selected to the South Carolina All-State Chorus. (Names on screen)
- Karen Metropolis, media specialist at Hilton Head High School, and Nohora Garzon, Bilingual Liaison, held a special Saturday morning session for parents to learn how to sign up for school fusion and how to access the information it provides. Because of language barriers, some parents are unable to obtain and use information from our schools. Thanks to special sessions, language and technology barriers are overcome. Great job!
- Students at Broad River Elementary School were treated to a read-aloud session by Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling recently. Mayor Keyserling read his book, *The Pink Dolphin*, and presented a copy of the book to the school's library.
- Bluffton High School JROTC cadets known as the Raider Team won top honors against other JROTC teams recently at the U.S. Marine Corps Ultimate Challenge Mud Run. The team of 15 cadets competed against 46 other JROTC teams at the event in Sandy Run. This is the second year in a row they have won the completion. They also placed 11th out of 2,000 teams in the nation, which includes military and civilian groups. Raider teams are made up of fearless and physically fit cadets who compete in various events throughout the year. Bluffton High School has the only Raider Team in the Beaufort County School District. In addition to the mud run, the group participates in state, regional and national Raider competitions.
- Generous students at Red Cedar Elementary students have donated boxes and boxes of candy to be sent to troops overseas for the holidays. Thank you so much for your generosity!
- Broad River Elementary Principal, Constance Goodwine-Lewis has been asked to serve on the International Baccalaureate Regional Council. This regional council advises the IB Americas Director on programming and other issues that pertain to the IB schools in this region, which stretches from Canada to Chile.
- Battery Creek Band Sophomore Tafari Salaam performed as first chair Saxophonist and soloist with the Winterfest High School Honors Concert Band at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah. This is a huge honor for this young musician. Congratulations!

- Former Hilton Head Island school student and Bluffton High School graduate Luis Ruiz was a recent visitor to Hilton Head High, where he spoke to students about scholarships available through the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Thank you for sharing this important information!
- Beaufort-area schools actively participated in the recent Festival of Trees. Over at Beaufort Middle School, 6th-grade students in the Environmental Science Exploratory class worked with the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. "Beautiful Beaufort Under the Sea" was the BMS entry, and it received a first place award! Most materials for the ornaments came from recycled bottles, as well as old DVDs and CDs, which we were asked by Beaufort County to recycle. Other participants included Beaufort High and Lady's Island Elementary.
- As giving is the deeper meaning of our holiday season, I would like to thank the many members of our school district family who dug deep in their pockets and pledged or gave more than \$48,000 to the United Way. During these tough economic times, it's a sacrifice to give so generously. Of particular note, I would like to recognize Mossy Oaks Elementary School's teachers and staff, who gave more than \$6,000. Thank you so very much!

And in closing, I would like to tell you a wonderful Holiday story from Mossy Oaks Elementary. Staff and families at the school's winter performance last night witnessed a special event – the homecoming of First Sgt. Kevin Jameson. His daughter, Kyla Neal, a fourth-grader, sings with the Mighty Oak Singers, and through the efforts of her grandfather and the school she was given the surprise of her life when her dad arrived early from his deployment in Iraq (both of her parents are deployed). At the close of the performance, Principal Donald Gruel called Kyla down to the front to talk about a conversation he had with Kyla several weeks ago about both her parents being deployed. Mr. Gruel then presented a huge surprise to Kyla and her grandmother (who didn't know her son had returned) when the curtains opened and there stood her father. This was a moment we will never forget, as the family hugged and the audience stood gave this soldier a well-deserved standing ovation.

Following the Points of Celebration, a short video highlighting the fall Championship Sports Teams of middle and high schools was presented. Dr. Truesdale called coaches and team members forward to be recognized.

Public Conversation

Members of the public spoke on various personnel and school issues.

Showcase:

Jim Foster, Director of School and Community Services, spoke about the recent successful Principal Shadow Day. He introduced Beaufort Public Works Director and Friendship Baptist Church Pastor Isaiah Smalls, who shadowed Lady's Island Elementary School Principal Marvelle Ulmer. Mr. Smalls commented on the many "hats" principals have to wear each day. He praised the initiative, as it gave the public a look inside a school and the complexity of the role of the principal.

Superintendent's Report:

Ms. Martha Bryan of Webster-Rogers CPA firm presented the Annual External Audit Report. According to Ms. Bryan, the District has had a clean audit for the 12th year in a row. She talked about the deficit caused by lack of collections. She explained that the shortfall last year was not because the district exceeded its budget but because collections were not what were expected. She said Beaufort County has the lowest collection rate of those districts she has audited. Mrs Bryan went over various facets of the audit, including single audit areas, federal fund audits, and procurement procedures.

Dr. Sean Alford went over the 2012-2013 school calendars. Board members had several questions regarding days off as they relate to the Heritage Golf Tournament and schools in the southern part of the county and Extended Learning Time days. Following discussion, the Board voted to table the decision.

Board Business Action

The Board approved the 2012 Board of Education 2012 Schedule of Meetings.

The Board awarded a contract for the district's Wide Area Network to Hargray Communications.

Consent Agenda:

The Board approved the following:

- November 4 and 15, 2011 Board Minutes
- Quarterly Financial Statements
- 2013 – 2017 Five-Year Plan and Capital Budget
 - P.E.8.3 Review School Boundaries
 - P.E.8.4 Establish a Cycle of Renovation and New Construction
- Monthly HR Status Report
- Monthly AE/Home Schooling

The Board adjourned at 7:49 P.M.