

Superintendent's Board of Education meeting summary

Two-day work session, January 10-11, 2014

Day 1, January 10, 2014

Chairman Evans convened the first day of the Board's two-day work session at 9:00 a.m. and the agenda was approved.

Dr. Moss introduced Moryah Jackson, Director of Education Initiatives for New Carolina. Ms. Jackson presented the Transform SC initiative, which was launched May 1, 2013, in Columbia. New Carolina's goal is to adjust the structure of South Carolina's educational programs to fit today's needs and technology. It takes the approach of increasing the state's per capita income by recognizing key industry and employment "clusters," then aligning educational clusters by engaging businesses and leaders. The goal is to create a competency-based educational program instead of credit-based for all districts in the state by networking with students, teachers, administrators and superintendents, and altering the policies that define the current structure. Board members asked questions and discussed the presentation. To learn more about New Carolina and Transform SC, visit their website: <http://www.newcarolina.org/>.

Communications Director Jim Foster presented a draft of the district's strategic plan, with five components developed by action teams of educators and community members. The five main components of the draft plan were Purpose and Direction, Resources and Support Systems, Teaching and Assessing for Student Learning, Documenting and Using Results for Continuous Improvement, and Governance and Leadership. The Board recommended several changes in wording and asked that those revisions be made and the plan be presented for Board approval at its next meeting.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads presented a variety of Performance Expectation Stipulations reports, including Foster Technology Use, Evaluate Instructional Programs, Continuous Improvement, Involve Parents/Staff in Curriculum, Evaluate Textbooks, and Professional Development. Board members raised questions and provided discussion on key points.

Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White presented preliminary budget projections and considerations for the 2014-15 school year. Ms. White said that between now and July, revenue estimates will become more precisely defined. She gave a brief preview of the budget process and outlined opportunities for public participation.

Chief Student Services Officer Gregory McCord gave an update on the district's alternative education programs throughout the district. He reported on Right Choices (high school), Right

Choices (middle school), and Springboard, all of which are considered Promising Students Programs (PSP) that have served about 150 students so far this year. Right Choices Administrator Susan Guillen presented achievements from the PSPs.

Day 2, January 11, 2014

Chairman Evans convened the second day of the Board's two-day work session at 9 a.m.

Technology Services Officer Ross Hendrix and Director of Instructional Technology Christine Robinson updated the board on the implementation of mobile computer instructional technology in the district's schools, the status of "one-to-one" pilot initiatives at two schools where all students were assigned iPad computer tablets, and plans to expand the availability of personal devices for all students in grades 3-12.

Dr. Moss presented proposed plans to reconfigure Robert Smalls Middle School to accommodate students in grades PreK-8. The proposed configuration would separate younger students from older students during the school day. Design work would begin in February, construction would take place during the months of June and July, and students and staff would begin using the upgraded facility in August. Students would be assigned based on new attendance zones to be approved by the Board, and there would also be a choice program available.

Board members then began a wide-ranging discussion on Board priorities and Board committee activities.

Chairman Evans went through public comments and questions from a recent roundtable discussion meeting with School Improvement Council members from across the district. Individual comments and concerns were referred to Board committees where appropriate.

Chairman Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.