

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: Joint Board/SIC Meeting December 5, 2019

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to approve the agenda (approved).

Board and SIC members broke out into groups by cluster to address three questions:

1. What is working well in your schools?
2. What could be done better?
3. How can the Board of Education help?

Each group reported out on its discussion.

Battery Creek/Whale Branch Cluster

Q1

1. SIC cluster meetings in BCHS are well received, meet as a group and cluster and then breakout into schools
2. Grade-level teams that collaborate once a month
3. Title 1 schools and funding allocate \$1000 for classrooms for teachers to use
4. Cluster working on culture
5. Uses social media well
6. Has BCHS band
7. Mentor program (especially for new teachers) SIC involvement
8. New P and AP at Shanklin

Q2

1. Teacher recruitment earlier
2. New teachers familiar with demographics
3. Resource shortage for new ESOL students (teachers and translators)
4. Staffing resources based on need, not on numbers
5. Lack of mental health counselors
6. Parents need to know what counselors are available (or not) at schools
7. RSIA has 103 ESOL students and no translator to deal with parents; have to send parents to district office for translation
8. Discipline – protocol, professional development, socioemotional training

Q3

1. Continue joint meetings
2. Board members visit schools
3. Board members participate in community activities

Beaufort Cluster

Q1

1. Principals having principal cluster meetings to share vision and determine needs
2. Promote one another's schools (cluster newsletter)
3. Good feedback from induction teachers on support they are receiving
4. Star Mentor recognition program

Q2

1. Must keep teachers
2. Salaries
3. Affordable housing
4. Increasing rate for unused leave (currently at \$10/day)
5. Stipend or bonus at end of school year for first couple of year teachers
6. Classes without certified teachers
7. Subs bring home less than \$70/day
8. Resigned/retired teachers can't/won't for sub pay
9. Retired teachers can't make over \$10k a year
10. 4x4 schedule without certified teachers

Q3

1. Increased presence by Board members in classrooms/schools
2. Build into school calendar half-day school planning (Wednesdays)
3. 195-day contract protected for PD/planning/workdays
4. Stay positive
5. Stay focused on students

Hilton Head Cluster

Q1

1. Arts integration
2. School choice b/t HHSCA and IB (especially at earlier age)
3. Collaboration among cluster leaders
4. Culture at middle school has improved
5. Students mentor other students

Q2

1. Community school communication POC
2. Technology plan to be followed by all

Q3

1. Facilitate community events
2. Attend school events
3. Use of technology – evaluate programs and spending
4. Sick leave pay

5. Sub shortage
6. Teacher recruitment
7. Student achievement

Bluffton Cluster Group 1

Q1

1. Teachers and administrators
2. Preparation/afterschool prep for EOC
3. Communication b/t family and school, teachers and students, administration
4. PTO
5. Academic programming and variety
6. Clubs
7. CATE
8. LIM
9. Using scheduling well – period for clubs
10. School spirit
11. Incentives for responsible behavior and academic achievement

Q2

1. Vertical planning and collaboration
2. Expand online course offerings
3. Identifying special ed programs
4. Additional counselor and social workers
5. Communicate with community not involved
6. Engage Hispanic community
7. Teacher retention
8. Staff retention
9. Continuity across district – after-school care cost, discipline, equity, CATE, security

Q3

1. Safety
2. Start school earlier
3. Treat district staff with respect
4. Board needs to stay out of the way and let professionals do their job
5. Transportation issues
6. Listen to the students

Bluffton Cluster Group 2

Q1

1. Leadership
2. Communication (text messages preferred)
3. Academics

Q2

1. Counselors and social workers
2. Volunteers - something like Purposity to manage volunteers
3. Mentoring program, train and organize volunteers better
4. Fund content coordinators better

Q3

1. Budget with county council
2. Salaries for paraprofessionals
3. Training
4. One video a month of board members
5. Attending school functions
6. Provide key bullet points of board meeting accomplishments on FB
7. Board model legislative breakfast for teachers

Future topics

Bring clusters together to figure out how to help each other.
Make-up days – consider taking Veteran's Day off

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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